



USA LACROSSE RECOMMENDED PRACTICES AND POLICIES FOR THE INCLUSION OF TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY YOUTH ATHLETES

USA Lacrosse seeks to foster a national lacrosse community that encourages understanding, appreciation, and acceptance of all within its membership, volunteer base, and staff. Further, USA Lacrosse believes that broad representation and participation add significant value to the lacrosse experience of each of us, and that these valued experiences are enhanced by embracing underrepresented and underserved communities.

- Official USA Lacrosse Inclusion Statement

INTRODUCTION

USA Lacrosse has developed this Policy and Recommended Practices for the Inclusion of Transgender and Non-Binary Youth Athletes in a proactive effort to help guide and support members of the lacrosse community. The goal of this policy and the related recommended practices is to provide transgender and non-binary youth athletes an avenue to participate in competitive lacrosse, while also assisting local organizations with the tools to establish appropriate policies and procedures for transgender and non-binary athletes. These guidelines are applicable to transgender and non-binary youth athletes (under 18) who desire to compete in local lacrosse competition below the elite level.

Elite athletes (over 18) have the opportunity to qualify for the U.S. National Team and represent the United States in international competition. Eligibility for transgender and non-binary participation at USA Lacrosse elite level will be governed by all applicable policies and criteria established by the governing bodies with jurisdiction over international competition: the International Olympic Committee (IOC) World Lacrosse (WL) the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and U.S. Olympic and Paralympics Committee (USOPC).

As the policy of inclusion of transgender and non-binary is largely determined on a state-by-state basis, we recommend you always refer back to state and federal law. USA Lacrosse cannot and does not regulate transgender participation either on a statewide basis or at the local level. It is the goal of USA Lacrosse, however, that these recommendations for transgender and nonbinary inclusion will assist local lacrosse organizations and other lacrosse-related professionals in making informed decisions regarding transgender participation matters. USA Lacrosse supports the inclusion of transgender athletes in sports aligned with their gender identity and the ability for non-binary athletes to choose their team or game.

RECOMMENDED POLICY

A transgender youth athlete should be allowed lacrosse participation in accordance with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the athlete's birth certificate or other records and regardless of whether the athlete has undergone any medical treatment. Team or league



policies should not prevent an athlete from electing to participate in an activity according to their gender identity.

This means an athlete who is assigned female at birth but has a male gender identity should be allowed to participate in male events and an athlete who has been assigned male at birth but has a female gender identity should be allowed to participate in female events. And athletes identifying as non-binary can choose to participate in either game. This policy will be in place for USA Lacrosse run events and is recommend for adoption by independent youth lacrosse leagues and events.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Below are suggestions for coaches, officials, and administrators to assist in their interaction with transgender and non-binary lacrosse athletes.

1. At all times, teammates, coaches, and others should respect the confidentiality of transgender and non-binary athletes. Discussion or disclosure of an individual's transgender status should only take place after expressed permission is given by the individual or their parents.
2. In all cases, teammates, coaches, and all others should refer to transgender and non-binary athletes by the athlete's preferred name. Similarly, in all cases, pronoun references to transgender and non-binary athletes should reflect the athlete's gender and pronoun preferences.
3. Teams, programs, and host sites should allow transgender athletes to access locker rooms and bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.
4. Leagues should work with officials to enforce the zero-tolerance policy and educate them to support and protect transgender and non-binary athletes in instances of discrimination or bullying either from other players or the sidelines.
5. Teams should provide training to their coaches, staff, and regular volunteers regarding their responsibilities to prevent, identify, and respond to bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Such topics should include terms and concepts of gender identity and expression and bystander intervention strategies related to bullying. Be prepared to address discriminatory behavior, based on any perceived or actual gender identity or gender expression of an athlete. The team or program should make available these policies and educational resources to parents.

Additional Resources:

Transgender Law Center – State Laws and Policy Map
<http://transgenderlawcenter.org/equalitymap>

National Collegiate Athletic Association LGBTQ Resources:
<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/inclusion/lgbtq-resources> International Olympic Committee (IOC) Transgender Policy: <http://www.olympic.org/ioc>



Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Transgender Resources:
<http://www.glaad.org/transgender/resources>

Human Rights Campaign Transgender Resources:
<http://www.hrc.org/resources/category/transgender>

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