

GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NONCONFORMING STUDENTS

The SSNS allows participation for all students regardless of their gender identity or expression. The purpose of this document is to designate a set of guidelines in which student-athletes are able to compete on a level playing field in a safe, competitive and friendly environment, free of discrimination. Fundamental fairness, as well as local, provincial and federal rules and regulations, require schools to provide intersex and transgender student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. These guidelines create a framework in which this participation may occur in a safe and healthy manner that is fair to all competitors.

The SSNS supports:

The Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students as developed by the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Guideline: The student can safely and fully participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with their gender identity.

All students, regardless of their gender identity or expression, should be able to participate in extracurricular activities, including competitive and recreation athletic/sport teams, in a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. Transgender and gender nonconforming students have the right to participate in these activities in the ways that they are safe and comfortable and consistent with their gender identity.

Approach

Students participate in extracurricular activities, including competitive and recreation athletic/sport teams, in ways they are comfortable and according to their gender identity.

Proactively review student athletic policies and procedures to ensure they are inclusive of transgender and gender nonconforming students.

A student's self-identification is the sole measure of the student's gender identity. Requiring a transgender or gender nonconforming student to participate in activities based on the student's sex assigned at birth, status of medical transition or to 'prove' their gender identity (by requiring a doctor's letter, identity documents, etc.) is not acceptable.

Areas of Awareness for Schools:

Have a plan in place.

Use correct names/pronouns- according to student's self-identification.

Gender appropriate restroom accessibility and locker room accessibility. (All students shall have access to locker room facilities that correspond to their consistently asserted gender identity. In locker rooms that require undressing in front of others, student athletes who desire increased privacy for any reason (medical, religious, cultural, gender identity etc) shall be provided with accommodations that best meet their individual needs and privacy concerns. Based on availability and the nature of the privacy concerns expressed, such accommodations could include but are not limited to:

- use of a private area such as a washroom, staffroom, nurses or gym office.
- development of a separate or modified changing schedule.)

Overnight trips – Transgender and gender non-conforming rooms.

Educational training for teachers, counselors, coaches, administrator and students on transgender sensitivity in relation to student.

Manner of dress according to gender identity.

Access to resources and accurate information.

A link to the Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students as developed by the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development can be found at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/>