

# US LGBT Soccer Transgender Participation Policy

Soccer is a gender impacted sport of a competitive nature where the physical strength, stamina or physique of average persons of one sex could put them at a disadvantage compared to average persons of the other sex as competitors in a soccer match. US LGBT Soccer promotes gender inclusion by allowing people to self-identify. The gender that a player identifies with is considered to be that player's gender. US LGBT Soccer reserves the right to restrict play of any competitor on the grounds it is strictly necessary to pursue a legitimate aim, namely securing fair competition and safety of other competitors.

Any person playing soccer may play in a match involving men. There are therefore no conditions regarding any individual playing in a match under their reassigned/affirmed gender when participating in play designated for men, or men and women.

Males, unless identified as Transgender male, are not permitted to play in female designated play. Transgender females are welcome in women's competition on the basis their identity is sincerely held. To clarify, Cis males (gender identity that matches the sex that they were assigned at birth) are not permitted to play in women's leagues, all other gender identities are permitted and will be held to the standard of being a sincerely held identity.

When play is designated as coed, the identity to which a player sincerely holds will be the gender recognized for the purpose of gender minimums and limits on the field of play. If the player does not identify as a gender within the common binary, the team will alternate gender designated positions to be nonconforming gender positions. For example, a 7v7 team required to field 3 male and 3 female players plus a non-gender specific goalie, would designate:

1 female position as nonconforming if 1 person does not identify with a sincerely held gender

1 male and 1 female position if 2 persons do not identify with a sincerely held gender.

1 male and 2 female positions if 3 persons do not identify with a sincerely held gender.

The process to alternate would continue in this pattern. For the purposes of subbing on and off the field, only the gender position altered can sub in for the nonconforming position. This procedure prevents someone from having to conform to a gender when they do not identify as one.

We reserve the rights aforementioned to ensure safe and fair competition. Our mission is to reduce the barrier to play soccer in the LGBT Community. If there is doubt to the sincerity of the gender held, US LGBT Soccer will exercise great discretion and seek additional documentation that shows the identity is sincerely held. We identify as an organized recreation soccer entity. As a LGBT community organization not pursuing amateur or professional standards of play, our policy reflects a model of warmth and acceptance for all.

There may be sanctioned events by other organizations and bodies of the sport who have a different policy. We will strive to work with those organizations to accept our standards of play or communicate policy differences. This policy is designed for Recreation Leagues.



## **US LGBT Soccer**

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**Additional References or Policy:**

International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA):

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc\\_76b96547c2904a27a928165800a11698.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc_76b96547c2904a27a928165800a11698.pdf)

The World OutGames [http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc\\_7b1ae1602497400397ff125e25aa7036.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc_7b1ae1602497400397ff125e25aa7036.pdf)

US Soccer Federation Policy:

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc\\_d4601f281da449648ca4c60d0d81a526.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/2bc3fc_d4601f281da449648ca4c60d0d81a526.pdf)

UK: The Football Association's (FA):

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/policies/equality/lgbt-football>