



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL PEARL RIVER CONFERENCE

Transgender and gender non-conforming policy

The transgender policy is constructed as such to prevent any ruling that might render an individual ineligible to compete due to intrinsic factors that are beyond their control.

The Pearl Delta River organization endeavors to provide a safe and supportive environment where trans individuals have the right to participate and experience interscholastic competition, free of discrimination and harassment.

Trans athletes are eligible to participate in interscholastic competition in a manner consistent with their gender identity asserted at school or may participate according to their assigned gender at birth irrespective of hormonal or surgical treatments.

In an effort to protect the rights to privacy and confidentiality, trans athletes are not required to disclose their gender identity or medical history to the PRC organization. Disclosure may become necessary should a trans individual be transitioning and wishes to change gender category during a season, or their participation would adversely affect the competitive equity or could pose a safety concern to self and other participants. As an organization, it is our obligation to consider each individual and their unique situation, while fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment.

Best practices should disclosure become necessary:

- Athletic Director must obtain permission from parents and trans-athletes in order to share pertinent information to host school and /or participating schools.
- Athletic Director should inform host AD (and involved schools) of the situation and provide recommendations on how best to proceed with accommodations ie. Restroom Accessibility.
- Host AD should distribute the information on a need to know basis (based on parents and trans athletes request).
- Host Athletic Director should work toward supporting the accommodations, however potential threats that could place the transgender athlete at risk of harassment or discrimination should be communicated. In such cases, participation may be discussed with the involved parties

Definition and Terminology

Trans(adjective): An umbrella term that describes people with diverse gender identities and gender expressions that do not conform to stereotypical ideas about what it means to be a



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girl/woman or boy/man in society. Trans can mean transcending beyond, existing between or crossing over the gender spectrum. It includes but is not limited to people who identify as transgender, transsexual, cross-dressers (adjective) or gender non-conforming (gender diverse or genderqueer).

Gender identity: Each person's internal and individual experience of gender. It is a person's sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person's gender identity may be the same as or different from their birth-assigned sex.

Gender expression: How a person publicly presents or expresses their gender. This can include behavior and outward appearances such as dress, hair, makeup, body language and voice. A person's chosen name and pronoun are also common ways people express their gender. Others perceive a person's gender through these attributes

Transitioning: Refers to a host of activities that some trans people may pursue to affirm their gender identity. This may include changes to their name, sex designation, dress, the use of specific pronouns and possibly medically supportive treatments, such as hormone therapy, sex-reassignment surgery or other procedures. There is no checklist or average time for a transition process, and no universal goal or endpoint. Each person decides what meets their needs.

Resource:

“Creating Inclusive Environments for Trans Participants in Canadian Sports.” *Canadian Center for Ethics in Sports*, pp. 1–44.

“TRANSATHLETE - Transgender Athlete Policy.” *TRANSATHLETE - Transgender Athlete Policy*, www.transathlete.com/.