



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique

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Lifesaving Sport Gender Inclusivity Position Statement

Position Statement

Gender identity is a protected class under the Canadian Human Rights Act. The Lifesaving Society Canada, National Sport Commission affirms that, within Lifesaving Sport, gender self-identification is an individual's right.

The National Sport Commission affirms that all participants (athletes, coaches, and officials) shall have the absolute right to participate in lifesaving sport following their expressed gender identity.

Due to the binary nature of lifesaving sport competitions, all gender-diverse athletes shall declare their seeding preference (to compete **with** the men or the women) at the time of registration for competition.

Definitions

Gender: refers to the gender that a person internally feels ('gender identity' along the gender spectrum) and/or the gender a person publicly expresses ('gender expression') in their daily life, including at work, while shopping or accessing other services, in their housing environment or in the broader community. A person's current gender may differ from the sex a person was assigned at birth (male or female) and may differ from what is indicated on their current legal documents. A person's gender may change over time.

Rationale

The Canadian Human Rights Act was amended in 2017 through Bill C-16 to add gender identity as a protected class.

This position statement provides clear direction to all those involved in Lifesaving Sport on the requirement to support those who are gender diverse to participate in lifesaving sport in keeping with their expressed gender identity as required by Canadian law.

Implementation

Athletes will be permitted to register in the category (men's or women's), which they see as appropriate.

Athletes are not required to disclose any personal information beyond that required of cisgender athletes, nor can they be required to disclose any medical information.

Athletes will have a straightforward process to inform the Society of their gender identity and preferred pronouns for competition.

Questions on this policy are referred to the Technical Services Committee (TSC) Chair or, in their absence, a member of the Gender Inclusivity working group (GIWG) for real-time support until permanent support exists.

Senior officials (i.e. Meet Manager, Chief Referee, Appeals Convenor, Athlete Liaison, etc.) shall seek guidance from TSC Chair or GIWG members before ruling on gender identity-related matters.

References

- Government of Canada Department of Justice (2021). *Canadian Human rights Act*. Justice Laws – Consolidated Acts. Retrieved from: <http://lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-6/index.html>
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- CBC (2021). *Canada's gender identity rights Bill C-16 explained*. CBC Docs POV. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/cbcdocspov/features/canadas-gender-identity-rights-bill-c-16-explained>
- Statistics Canada (2021). *Gender of a person*. Definitions, data sources and methods. Retrieved from: [Gender of person \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-626-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm)

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 14 June 2021.