



SPORT CLIMBING AUSTRALIA

Inclusion of trans and gender diverse people in climbing

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1 Rationale

Amongst its constitutional objects Sport Climbing Australia (SCA) seeks to:

- (a) conduct, encourage, promote, advance, control and manage all levels of Sport Climbing in Australia interdependently with Members and others;
- (b) adopt, formulate, issue, interpret and amend Policies for the control and conduct of Sport Climbing in Australia;
- (c) maintain and enhance standards, quality and reputation of Sport Climbing for the collective and mutual benefit and interests of members and Sport Climbing; and
- (d) have regard to the public interest in its operations.

SCA also has an interest in encouraging participation, and ensuring Sport Climbing activities are conducted on a fair and equal basis.

SCA considers that in order to meet these objects a policy is required to support the inclusion of athletes identifying as transgender and gender diverse.

2 Background

Supporting the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse athletes in climbing will enable SCA to create a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from harassment and discrimination.

SCA considers it has an interest in articulating this policy for the following reasons:

- a) Protecting SCA members, in particular trans and gender diverse members;
- b) ensuring a consistent approach to all individuals who request to compete in SCA events
- c) And providing accurate information to members.

3 Definitions and Terminology

Ally (LGBTQ+): A person who supports, respects and advocates for equal civil rights, gender equality, and LGBTQ+ social movements.



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Bi-gender: A person who fluctuates between two genders typically woman and man or as two other gender identities.

Cisgender or cis: A term to describe a person who identifies with the gender identity they were assigned at birth.

Gender affirmation: The interpersonal process a person may navigate to affirm and express their gender identity. A term commonly used by the transgender and gender diverse community.

Genderfluid: A person whose generally does not identify with having a fixed gender and may identify with a different gender throughout their life.

Genderqueer: An umbrella terms used to describe many different trans and gender diverse identities including and not limited to non-binary, bi-gender, genderfluid and transgender.

Intersex: People who are born with naturally occurring variations in chromosomes, hormones, genitalia and other sex characteristics.

Misgender: When someone is misgendered they are addressed using language that does not align with their gender identity. Intentional misgendering is seen as an act of bullying, harassment and harm.

Non-binary: A person who identifies their gender beyond the binary of man or woman.

Transgender or trans: Someone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Someone who is trans may choose to take steps to affirm their gender but regardless of their choices does not make them any less or more trans. Both Transgender and trans are accepted terms and may be used interchangeably.

Queer: An umbrella term used to describe people who are not heterosexual or cisgender. This term has historically been used in derogatory ways but has more recently been reclaimed and may be used interchangeably to describe the LGBTQ+ community.

Homophobia / biphobia / interphobia / transphobia: Unreasoning fear or hostility, prejudice and discrimination against people who are gay or lesbian / bisexual / intersex / transgender or gender diverse.

4 Anti-discrimination Legislation

Anti-discrimination laws at a Federal and State level offer protection to individuals against discrimination on the basis of a number of characteristics. SCA supports the prohibition against discrimination on the



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basis of sex, intersex status, gender identity and sexual orientation in all Australian States in relation to the provision of services by SCA and its members.

This policy must be read subject to any applicable anti-discrimination legislation in force from time to time.

5 Dress code and uniform

SCA supports all athletes to dress in the uniform that suits them, while allowing them to successfully play and compete. Athletes who identify as trans, gender diverse, non-binary or another gender identity are free to dress in a manner that affirms their gender identity.

6 Facilities

Gendered and all-gender facilities managed by SCA may be used by individuals according to their affirmed gender.

7 Language

Language should be respectful to ensure communication is inclusive and welcoming.

Where possible gender-neutral language should be used to refer to a person whose pronouns are not known.

SCA will use gender neutral pronouns such as they/them/theirs upon request.

For official use athlete's will be asked which pronouns they use.

8 Competition Categories Policy

8.1 Application

SCA will apply this policy only:

- (a) where state anti-discrimination legislation allows; and
- (b) in relation to competitive sporting activities, which does not include:
 - (i) coaching people engaged in a sporting activity;
 - (ii) umpiring or refereeing of a sporting activity;
 - (iii) administration of a sporting activity; or
 - (iv) non-competitive practice of sport.



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8.2 Policy

Evidence of the legal recognition of a person's sex (passport, birth certificate, etc) will generally determine whether SCA allows a competitor to compete as a male or female.

If a person's gender as legally recognised is other than that under which the person wishes to compete, the following conditions shall apply: ^[1]_{SEP}

Personal information regarding gender, sex or sexuality will only be collected if absolutely necessary. Information will only be disclosed if absolutely necessary in accordance with the law (Privacy Act No. 119 of 1988).

Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.

Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:

- a. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
- b. The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition (with the requirement for any longer period to be based on a confidential case-by-case evaluation, considering whether or not 12 months is a sufficient length of time to minimize any advantage in women's competition).
- c. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.
- d. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.

In each case a confidential case-by-case evaluation shall occur and the athlete's medical practitioner consulted only if absolutely necessary.



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9 Support and Contact

For further enquiries please contact SCA directly: info@sportclimbingaustralia.org.au

For support regarding LGBTQ+ issues please contact:

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10 Acknowledgements

Guidelines for the inclusion of trans and gender diverse people in climbing has been written in consultation with ClimbingQTs.

The guidelines and policies have been written to conform with those of the International Olympic Committee and specifically acknowledges the *IOC Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism* (November 2015)