

## **New York State Public High School Athletic Association Transgender Guidelines**

The NYSPHSSAA recognizes the value of participation in interscholastic sports for all student athletes. The NYSPHSSAA is committed to providing all students with the opportunity to participate in NYSPHSSAA activities in a manner consistent with their gender identity and the New York State Commissioner of Education's Regulations.

The Dignity For All Students Act (DASA) prohibits discrimination and/or harassment of students on school property or at school functions by students or employees. The prohibition against discrimination includes discrimination based on a student's actual or perceived sex and gender. Gender includes a person's actual or perceived sex as well as gender identity and expression.

### Definitions:

For purposes of these guidelines the following definitions will apply:

**Assigned Sex at Birth:** the sex designation, usually male or female, assigned to a person when they are born.

**Gender Expression:** the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, activities, voice or mannerisms.

**Gender Identity:** a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or behavior assigned sex at birth.

**Gender non-conforming (GNC):** a term used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations. The term "gender variant" or "gender atypical" are also used. Gender nonconforming individuals may identify as male, female, some combination of both, or neither.

**Sexual Orientation:** a person's sexual orientation and sexual attraction to other people based on the gender of the other person. Sexual orientation is not the same as gender identity. Not all transgender youth identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and not all gay, lesbian and bisexual youth display gender-nonconforming characteristics.

Transgender: an adjective describing a person whose sex assigned to him or her at birth does not correspond to their gender identity.

Transition: the process in which a person goes from living and identifying as one gender to living and identifying as another.

**Privacy Policy:**

All discussions and documentation shall be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law unless the student and the family make a specific request in writing.

**Procedure:**

- 1.The student and the parent(s)/guardian shall notify the Superintendent (or designee) that the student would like the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with the gender he/she identifies as.
- 2.The student's home school will determine the eligibility of a student seeking to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity where the student's gender identity does not correspond to his/her sex assigned at birth.
3. The Superintendent (or designee) will confirm the gender identity asserted for purposes of trying out for an interscholastic sports team through documentation from the parent, guardian, guidance counselor, or from a doctor, psychologist or other medical professional.
4. Once a member school has rendered a determination of eligibility to try out for an interscholastic sports team or teams which corresponds to the student's gender identity the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation in interscholastic athletics. The student must meet all NYSPHSAA standards for eligibility for practice and competition.
- 5.The Athletic Director should notify the NYSPHSAA if any accommodations are needed.

**Appeals:**

All appeals with respect to a District's determination as to eligibility of a transgender student to participate in interscholastic sports will go directly to the Commissioner of Education.

Reference: New York State Education Department: Guidance to School Districts for Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Student.