

BUCS Transgender Policy

Following a recent request from a member concerning the eligibility of a transgender student to play netball, and the recognition that BUCS does not have a policy for transgender participation, further investigation has taken place and the Advisory group is asked to consider and make its recommendations on the following proposal.

Introduction

BUCS vision to enhance the student experience through sport should apply to all students, irrespective of race, colour, sexual orientation, disability, age or marital status. This discussion relates to homophobia and transphobia in sport, and resolves to tackle any incidences of homophobia or transphobia in BUCS sport, and to assist members with any issues around eligibility to compete as a result of gender reassignment.

The Sports Charter.

The Sports Charter was launched in 2011 by the Home Office, with the support of LOCOG, the ECB, RFL, RFU and The FA, and has subsequently been signed by almost every NGB, Sport England, Sport Scotland and Sport Wales, and a handful of BUCS member institutions.

The Sports Charter states the following:

Tackling Homophobia and Transphobia in Sport

The Charter for Action

- We believe that everyone should be able to participate in and enjoy sport –whoever they are and whatever their background.
- We believe that sport is about fairness and equality, respect and dignity. Sport teaches individuals how to strive and succeed, how to cope with success and disappointment, and brings people together with a common goal.
- We are committed to making these values a reality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We will work together, and individually, to rid sport of homophobia and transphobia.
- We will make sport a welcome place for everyone – for those participating in sport, those attending sporting events and for those working or volunteering in sports at any level. We will work with all these groups to ensure they have a voice, and to challenge unacceptable behaviour.

Rules and regulations implications

As an organisation which delivers over 50 sports, BUCS does not have the expertise in every sport to review and agree a single policy which works effectively in every situation. BUCS therefore recommends that where transgender issues arise, then the policy of each national governing body for that sport should be adopted with respect to any eligibility issues. These policies may take the following into consideration:

- Legal recognition of acquired gender
- Gender recognition certification
- Timescales post gender reassignment surgery

In cases where domestic NGB's have not adopted a policy, then the international federation regulations should apply. Where international federations do not recognise gender reassignment, then BUCS will make a decision based upon a reasonable assessment of the sport against another sport played in similar conditions and subject to similar rules.

Further Information

The Home Office website provides some useful information and guidance for any member which may need further information on this matter. The website is found at this address:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/lgbt/transgender-equality/>

BUCS, December 2012.