

GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Maine Principals' Association is committed to providing all students with an equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In furtherance of this commitment, the MPA has adopted the following policy related to the participation of students whose gender identity differs from the student's sex assigned at birth.

1. Definitions:
 - a. Gender identity is defined as a student's innate sense of their gender, which may be the same as or different from the sex assigned at birth.
 - b. A transgender student is defined as a student whose gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth. For example, a transgender person who was assigned female at birth may identify as male, a combination of male and female, or neither.
 - c. A non-binary student is defined as a student whose gender identity does not conform to traditional binary beliefs about gender being exclusively either male or female.
 - d. A cisgender student is a student whose gender identity matches the sex assigned at birth.
2. A student who wishes to participate in MPA sponsored interscholastic athletics must declare their gender identity to their member school if their gender identity differs from the student's sex assigned at birth. The member school shall have the sole authority to determine gender identity assignment for the purposes of athletic registration and participation in MPA sponsored events. No medical records or official documents shall be requested or required to establish a student's gender identity.
3. A transgender student shall be eligible to participate in accordance with either their birth sex or in accordance with their gender identity, but not both. For example, a transgender student who was assigned male at birth may play field hockey in the fall but cannot tryout for the boys' basketball team in the winter (assuming they continue to identify as female). Similarly, a transgender student who was assigned female at birth may try out for the boys' basketball team but may not try out for the girls' basketball team if they are cut from the boys' team.
4. The existence of male/female gender divisions on most teams creates a need for a non-binary student to determine which gendered team they feel most closely aligns with their gender identity. Alternatively, a non-binary student may select the gendered team on which they feel most comfortable participating. Factors that the nonbinary athlete may take into consideration include established camaraderie with fellow athletes, personal safety, and/or privacy concerns. The member school will help to determine, through counseling and discussions with the student, the student's status regarding gender identity. Once a nonbinary student decides to participate in a sport different from the student's assigned sex at birth, the student will be eligible to participate in sports offered for the selected gender, following the same rules as a transgender student.
5. If a transgender or non-binary student has not yet declared their transgender or non-binary status, this policy shall not apply. If a transgender or non-binary student, at some point during their high school career, no longer identifies as a transgender or non-binary student, this policy shall not apply. In either case, the student will be eligible to participate as a cisgender student.