

Fencing South Australia Incorporated

TRANSGENDER FENCER GUIDELINES

Fencing South Australia Incorporated (FencingSA; FSA) are committed to providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive sporting environment for everyone regardless of their differences. We acknowledge the high value that sports can contribute to physical and mental wellbeing throughout a fencer's lifetime. We are proud to promote equitable opportunities in fencing to ensure all people in South Australia, including people who identify as Transgender, Gender Diverse or Non-Binary, can participate in fencing without fear of stigmatisation or discrimination.

The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify FSA's position on participative competition to create a sporting environment that actively includes the transgender community.

The intent is to inform and educate the fencing community as well as support our fencers and their families. We aim to provide a sporting environment that advocates awareness, sensitivity and ultimately actions within our fencing community that enable individuals to participate in the way that is consistent with their gender identity.

These guidelines are effective immediately from 2022-06-01 and are subject to periodical review & amendment as part of FSA's ongoing commitment to inclusion in our sport.

Fencing is traditionally a sport that is competitively fenced with gender separation (in South Australia, this is dependent on entry numbers per event).

Fencing competitions occur in two divisions in SA, and this is reflected in the type of licence that a fencer has: PARTICIPATIVE or COMPETITIVE.

In PARTICIPATIVE competitions (U9, U11, U13, U15, Open-B), FSA implements the following:

- Fencers who identify as women should be allowed to fence as women; fencers identifying as men should be allowed to fence as men.
- Gender Diverse, Non-Binary players and players partway through a gender affirmation should fence in the category in which they feel most comfortable.

In COMPETITIVE competitions (U17/20, Open-A, Veteran), fencers should note the Australian Fencing Federation's guidelines on transgender competitors (<https://www.ausfencing.org/competitions-2/#aff-faq>).

- State Championships, National competitions/ Championships and International Competitions are covered by these guidelines.
- FSA encourages transgender fencers wanting to compete in competitive competitions to dialogue with FSA for further support.

DEFINITIONS

Transgender

- Commonly abbreviated to 'trans', this is a general term used to describe a person whose gender identity is different to the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender is about how an individual describes their own gender. It is not necessarily about their biological characteristics.

Gender Diverse

- An umbrella term that includes all the different ways gender can be experienced and perceived. It can include people questioning their gender, those who identify as trans/transgender, non-binary and many more.

Non-Binary

- A term used to describe a person who does not identify exclusively as either a man or a woman. Genders that sit outside of the female and male binary are often called non-binary.

MISCONDUCT

In circumstances where a person has concerns about their safety or the wellbeing of others, i.e., a player, coach, or otherwise affiliated individual please refer to the Member Protection Policy (MPP) and contact the Member Protection Officer. Any complaint received in relation to these Guidelines will be dealt with in accordance with the MPP.

DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

Unlawful Discrimination is defined as treating someone or a group less favourably than another person or group because of a particular protected personal characteristic. Requesting, assisting, instructing, inducing or encouraging another person to engage in Unlawful Discrimination is also considered Unlawful Discrimination. Discrimination may be either direct or indirect.

- Direct discrimination occurs when a person treats or proposes to treat someone less favourably because of a protected personal characteristic, which includes sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Indirect discrimination occurs where a person imposes, or proposes to impose, an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that has, or is likely to have, the effect of disadvantaging people with a protected characteristic.
- Harassment is any unwelcome behaviour that is intimidating, humiliating or threatening. It can be expressed or implied, physical, verbal or non-verbal (i.e. visual) as a single incident or repeated behaviour.