

NIAA Transgender Participation Position Statement and Policy

Adopted by Action of the NIAA Board of Control April 6, 2016

This position statement and policy addresses eligibility determinations for students who have a gender identity that is different from the gender listed on their official birth certificates. This Position Statement and Policy is not an NIAA regulation under NAC 386.600 et. seq., but is intended to serve as a guideline to assist member schools and their administrative staff with regard to athletic participation of transgender athletes.

It will be the responsibility of the member school through its principal or equivalent officer/administrator to verify they have followed this policy in accordance with school or district policy when the school submits a roster to the NIAA.

For the protection of competitive balance and the integrity of sports, The NIAA will review athletic eligibility decisions based on gender assignment of transgender student-athletes in accordance with its approved policies and appeals procedures set forth at NAC 386.850 through NAC 386.855.

A student shall be permitted to participate on a gender specific sports team that is consistent with the public gender identity of that student for all other purposes. In making a determination of eligibility, the NIAA will first refer to the position of the student and his or her local school regarding the student's gender identification. The NIAA will require that member schools make a determination of a student's eligibility to participate on a gender specific sports team for a particular season based on the gender identification of that student as reflected:

- (1) in current school records, and
- (2) daily life activities in the school and community at the time that sports eligibility is determined.

The decision may be based on the following types of evidence:

1. Documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents/legal guardians appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, friends and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression; or
2. Any other pertinent documentation or information which the student or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, believe relevant and appropriate.

The NIAA will rely on such a verification to acknowledge that the school and the principal have determined that the students listed on a gender specific sports team are eligible for participation because of their gender identity and that the school has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics.

Students who may be affected by this policy should address the gender identification issue well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for the sports season in which the student intends to participate. Students shall not be allowed to try out for gender specific sports teams that are different from their publicly identified gender identity.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to entitle a student to selection to any particular team or to permit a student to transfer from one gender specific team to a team of a different gender during a sports season.

This position statement and policy supersedes any previous statements issued by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) regarding the participation of transgender students in NIAA sanctioned sports/events.