

Policy & School Recommendations for Transgender Participation

The Southern Illinois Jr. High School Athletic Association approves this policy and process to address the participation of transgendered students in all SIJHSAA state final series in athletics.

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions will be in place:

- *Transgendered: a person whose gender identity doesn't match the sex assigned to him or her at birth.
- *Intersex: a person who is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy and / or chromosome pattern that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.
- *Gender Identity: a person's deeply-felt internal sense of being male or female.
- *Gender Expression: a person's external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine (dress, speech, mannerisms, social interactions, etc.)

Privacy Statement: All discussions and documents at all levels of the process either by a member school, appeals panel, and/or SIJHSAA shall be kept confidential unless specifically requested by the student and family.

School Procedure:

- 1) The student and/or parents shall contact the school administrator or athletic director and their member school notifying them that the student has a different gender identity than listed on the student's school registration card or birth certificate and that the student wishes to participate in athletics in a manner consistent with their gender identity. The school shall collect the following for the participation ruling:
 - a. Gender identity used for school registration records
 - b. Medical documentation (hormonal treatments, sexual re-assignment surgery, counseling, medical personnel, etc.)
 - c. Gender identity related advantages for approved participation
- 2) Once the school administrator has collected the relevant information, the member school shall contact the SIJHSAA office in writing of the request for the ruling, the student's gender identity, and the selected athletics that the student would like the opportunity to participate in if they are selected through the team try-out process.
 - a. Once the student is approved, participation is granted through the duration of their junior high/middle school career, it does not need to be annually renewed.

SIJHSAA Procedure:

SIJHSAA will make final rulings on student participation. The SIJHSAA may establish a group of medical personnel to act in an advisory role when reviewing rulings. Appealing parties should provide the following documentation:

- 1) A current transcript and school registration information
- 2) Documentation of the student's consistent gender identification (e.g. affirmation statements from student, parent/guardian, and/or health care provider)
3. Any other pertinent documentation or information

The SIJHSAA will respond to the member school in writing the decision of the participation ruling. If the request is not approved, Article XII of the SIJHSAA Constitution shall govern all appeals.

Areas of Awareness:

Have a plan in place

Use correct names/pronouns – according to student’s self-identification

Gender appropriate restrooms accessibility

Locker room accessibility

Educational training for teachers, counselors, coaches, administrator and students on transgender sensitivity in relation to student

Manner of dress according to gender identity

Access to resources and accurate information