

## **COLONIAL SWIM LEAGUE PROCEDURES FOR GENDER DIVERSE ATHLETES (5/28/2019)**

*The following procedures are based on USA Swimming practices and converted to meet CSL procedure requirements. These league procedures and league member recommendations are consistent with Colonial Swimming and USA Swimming values of equal opportunity and the right for all members to participate.*

### **DEFINITIONS** (taken from transequality.org)

Transgender: a broad term that can be used to describe people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be when they were born

Gender identity: a person's internal knowledge of their gender

Gender expression: how a person presents their gender on the outside, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, voice or body characteristic

Sex: The classification of a person as male or female based on what our bodies look like at birth.

Gender Diverse: equitable or fair representation between genders, most commonly the ratio of men and women and may also include non-binary gender categories.

### **PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION**

A minor transgender athlete member of a swim team should be allowed to participate in accordance with his/her/their gender identity, irrespective of the sex listed on the athlete's birth certificate or other records and regardless of whether the athlete has undergone any medical procedure.

This means an athlete who is biologically female but identifies as a boy/man should be allowed to participate in men's events and an athlete who is biologically male but identifies as a girl/woman should be allowed to participate in women's events.

When a current minor member athlete transitions and wishes to compete in his/her/their gender identity, the athlete or his/her/their designee should request a change of the athlete's gender in league data base by contacting the CSL Registrar. Once this procedure is completed and notification received from the league of the update, the athlete will be able to be entered and compete in events that match his/her/their gender identity.

Per USA Swimming's Rule Book in article 102.8.1 B "In swimming competitions, the swimmer must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces, except as provided in 205.10.1. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the

shoulder, nor extend below the knee” Any athlete requesting a deviation from this policy must submit a swimsuit waiver to the Colonial Swim League Rules Committee. The current Chair is [GordonDSmith@verizon.net](mailto:GordonDSmith@verizon.net). No exemption to the swimsuit rule will be made that gives a swimmer a competitive advantage (i.e. tech suits). It is important for all members to be aware of state and local laws with regards to appropriate coverage.

## **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS**

1. At all times, teammates, coaches, and all others should respect the confidentiality of an athlete. Discussion or disclosure of an individual’s gender identity should only take place after expressed permission is given by the individual or the individual’s parent or another designee.
2. In all cases, teammates, coaches, and all others should refer to an athlete by the name and pronoun they go by.
3. An athlete should be able to use the locker rooms, changing facility, and restroom that is consistent with his/her/their gender identity. When requested and/or where available, an athlete should be provided access to a gender-neutral bathroom or changing facility (i.e., family restroom, gender neutral bathroom).
4. An athlete should be permitted to dress consistently with his/her/their gender identity, including warm-ups and team gear.
5. Team Reps should identify and publicize available gender-neutral bathroom and changing room options at the host facility upon request from the Visiting Team Rep(s). Where possible, include information about availability and location of gender-neutral facilities in pre-meet communications.
6. Team Reps should be aware of and abide by the relevant state and local laws and the rules of the host facility for meets and practice.
7. Team Reps should provide training to their staff and regular volunteers regarding their responsibilities to prevent, identify, and respond to bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Such topics should include terms and concepts of gender identity and expression and bystander intervention strategies related to bullying.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Trans\*Athlete:** a resource for students, athletes, coaches, and administrators to find information about transgender inclusion in athletics at various levels of play.

[www.transathlete.com](http://www.transathlete.com)

**NCAA Inclusion of Transgender Student-Athletes:**

<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/inclusion/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-andquestioning-lgbtq>

**National Center for Transgender Equality:**

<https://transequality.org/>

**GLAAD Reference Guide (updated 2016):**

<https://www.glaad.org/reference>