



ENFORCEMENT OF THE GENDER MAXIMUM DURING GAMEPLAY: A RESOURCE FOR REFEREES

At the end of this resource, there is a glossary that explains any potentially unfamiliar terms.

Although gender diversity on rosters is an important and intrinsic element to the spirit of quidditch, USQ does not wish to force our players into situations that would be uncomfortable and/or where they would have to involuntarily out their identity. We understand that for referees this can be a difficult topic to broach during a game, so we have created this resource for both referees, as well as teams, in order to make these situations as comfortable as possible.

The pre-game meeting should be used as a way to bring up any issues or concerns captains have about the gender minimum; for example, if they have a player whom they fear will be mis-identified by a referee. This meeting both allows players who wish to do so to self-identify their gender as well as ensures that referees are aware of any possible cases of mis-identification so that it will not have to be brought up during a game.

The following are just a few examples of combinations of players that follow the gender maximum rule:

- 3 Male, 3 Female
- 4 Male, 2 Female
- 4 Female, 2 Male
- 3 Female, 1 Agender, 2 Male
- 4 Male, 1 Female, 1 Agender
- 2 Male, 1 Genderfluid, 2 Female, 1 Genderqueer



With so much action on the pitch, enforcing the gender maximum may not be a head referee's top priority during game play. As a result, the enforcement of the gender maximum often relies on captains as well as assistant referees (both bludger referees and goal judges). For example, you could tell your assistant referees that when they see teams make substitutions they should check all aspects of legality, including that the gender maximum is being maintained. When play is not concentrated on their side of the pitch, assistant referees may look around to make sure that both teams are maintaining the gender minimum.

For assistant referees, this should be one aspect of the game you should pay attention to while refereeing, even if your head referee does not explicitly tell you to do so during the pre-game meeting.

As head referee, you are setting an example for your assistant refs as well as making the quidditch pitch a space where trans* and non-binary individuals (refer to the glossary of terms on Page Three of this resource for explanation of various trans* and non-binary identities) can feel comfortable.

IN SHORT

- Do not publicly announce/question a player's gender identity
- Talk with teams before the game to make sure that you and your referees do not misidentify a player's gender in the case of a possible infraction of the gender rule
- Remind teams that the pre-game meeting is the time to bring up any issues or concerns a team might have regarding the gender minimum. Ideally, all captains/coaches will understand this, but it is never a bad idea to remind captains at the beginning of a tournament.
- Example language: "Remember that if any teams have any individuals who worry they may be misidentified during the game, please update me before the beginning of the match."
- Use respectful, gender-neutral language ("players of all genders" as opposed to "male and female players").



When applicable, asking people which pronouns they prefer and using their preferred pronouns. Some examples of pronouns include: she, he, ze, he, her, hir, zir, they.

All of this contributes to a quidditch pitch where everybody can feel comfortable playing quidditch and can focus on competition and playing their best game!

CONTACTS

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If you experience any situations at a tournament that you feel should be addressed by a future policy/resource, please e-mail Sarah with details and we will work on looking into how that issue should best be handled in future situations.



GLOSSARY

SEX – This refers to the biological/physiological traits that define individuals.

GENDER – This refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, etc. that define individuals. This can change drastically between societies, as it is completely dependent on the social environment.

CIS (i.e. cisgender / cissexual) – This is a Latin term which means “on the same side [as]” and is used in gender theory to describe those whose sex and/or gender assigned at birth matches their gender identity.

TRANS (i.e. transgender / transsexual) – This is another Latin term which means “on the opposite side [of]” and is used to describe those who do not identify with their sex and/or gender assigned at birth. Some trans* individuals choose to undergo a medical transition (Hormone Replacement Therapy) to feel more comfortable in their bodies, while others do not or cannot due to money / social situations / etc.

INTERSEX – This term may describe someone who was born with multiple sets of genitalia (such as ovaries/a uterus as well as testes), which does not allow their sex to be distinctly defined. The term “intersex” is preferred to the derogatory term “hermaphrodite.”

GENDER BINARY – This refers to the classification of gender in two distinct categories, in this case “male/masculine” and “female/feminine”. The gender binary is problematic because it assumes that there are a finite number of genders with which you can identify when gender can be best viewed as a sort of spectrum.

GENDER IDENTITY – This refers to one’s understanding of their gender.
Gender Expression/Presentation – This refers to how someone may express and externally present their gender – masculine, feminine, neither, varying levels of the two, etc.



AGENDER/GENDERLESS/GENDER-NEUTRAL – Someone who identifies as agender or genderless does not identify as any specific gender.

GENDERQUEER – One who identifies as genderqueer does not identify as cisgender and may identify as agender, genderfluid, or something else entirely.

GENDERFLUID – Someone who is genderfluid has a gender identity which changes through genders (though not necessarily all of them, allowing for an infinite number of specific identities).

FTM – Refers to an individual who was female assigned at birth (FAAB) but who identifies as male.

MTF – Refers to an individual who was male assigned at birth (MAAB) but who identifies as female.

For more detailed information about gender and sex, please consult the following resources:

[Genderbread Person 2.0](#)