

GUIDELINES FOR GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION

GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION - All students should have the opportunity to participate in CIF activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records. The student and/or the student's school may seek review of the student's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics in a gender that does not match the gender assigned to him or her at birth, via the following procedure below should either the student or the school have questions or need guidance in making the determination.

Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with his/her gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

1. **NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL:** The student and/or parents shall contact the school administrator or athletic director indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the gender listed on the student's school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity.
2. **NOTICE TO THE CIF:** The school administrator shall contact the CIF office, which will assign a facilitator who will assist the school and student in preparation and completion of the CIF Gender Identity eligibility appeal process.
3. **FIRST LEVEL OF APPEAL:** The student will be scheduled for an appeal hearing before an eligibility committee specifically established to hear gender identity appeals. The CIF shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency, including, but not limited to, any unforeseeable late student enrollment. The Gender Identity Eligibility Committee will be comprised of a minimum of three (3) of the following persons one of whom must be from the physician or mental health profession category:
 - A. Physician with experience in gender identity health care and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
 - B. Psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
 - C. School administrator from a non-appealing school
 - D. CIF staff member
 - E. Advocate familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues
4. **DOCUMENTATION:** The appealing student should provide the Eligibility Committee with the following documentation and information:
 - A. Current transcript and school registration information
 - B. Documentation of student's consistent gender identification (e.g., affirmed written statements from student and/or parent/guardian and /or health care provider)
 - C. Any other pertinent documentation or information
5. **SECOND LEVEL OF APPEAL:** An aggrieved student wishing to appeal the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee decision shall file notice of appeal with the Executive Director of the CIF on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee denying the petition. An appeal to the CIF Executive Director shall require the Executive Director to schedule a hearing to commence on or before the tenth (10th) school business day following the date of receipt of the written notice of appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to the petitioned appellant in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, no later than five (5) school business days of that member school prior to the date of the hearing. When there is confirmation of a student's consistent gender identity, the eligibility committee/CIF Executive Director will affirm the student's eligibility to participate in CIF activities consistent with the student's gender identification. The CIF will facilitate the provision of resources and training for a member school seeking assistance regarding gender identity.

For Additional information on Gender Identity, refer to APPENDIX (located on following page)

APPENDIX – GENDER IDENTITY

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. **TRANSGENDER PERSON**

A person whose gender identity does not match the sex assigned to him or her at birth. This cross gender identification is often referred to as gender dysphoria. When the gender dysphoria causes clinically significant distress or impairment, it is sometimes classified as Gender Identity Disorder. A transgender person who is born female-bodied but identifies as male is referred to as a transgender man or a female-to-male transsexual. A transgender person who is born male-bodied but identifies as female is referred to as a transgender woman or a male-to-female transsexual.

2. **INTERSEX PERSON**

“Intersex” is a general term used to indicate a person born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosome pattern that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. This may be the result of several different medical conditions involving chromosomal variations, hormonal variations, ambiguous genitalia, and/or an anatomy that includes both male and female characteristics. The medical term for this condition is a Disorder of Sexual Development of “DSD.” “Intersex” is not the same as “transgender,” although some people identify as both intersex and transgender. However, the two groups may face similar situations in needing to change gender designations for the purposes of participation in school activities.

3. **GENDER IDENTITY**

A person’s deeply-felt internal sense of being male or female.

4. **GENDER EXPRESSION**

A person’s external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions.

CORE VALUES:

The CIF Gender Identity policy has been developed based on the following core values:

- Acknowledging that the CIF policy will likely need to be reviewed and revised to reflect increased medical understanding and evolving societal norms
- Grounding a policy in sound medical practice
- Enacting a policy that will maximize flexibility and privacy with minimal restrictions
- Providing a space for intersex and transgender students to exist and thrive
- Reducing bullying and harassment of students
- Preserving existing practices regarding girls’ participation on boys’ teams as per current CIF policy.
- Recognizing the value of education based athletics for all students
- Emphasizing that participation in education based athletics is not just allowed, but encouraged for all students
- Adhering to California state and federal law regarding gender equity and educational opportunity
- Operating from the presumption that all students will have access to programs and eligibility policies
- Creating a level playing field for all students
- Reducing economic barriers, especially for minority populations
- Addressing the concerns of parents, teachers and coaches through an educational component