



## Transgender Legislation in Pennsylvania

### *Position Statement*

updated February 2, 2023

PRPS affirms the right of all people to equal access to all park and recreation programs and services, without discriminatory or exclusionary rules, bullying or other consequences.

PRPS affirms that all individuals are worthy of respect, no matter how “differently” they may appear, function or believe, contrary to common or majority appearances, functions or beliefs.

PRPS recognizes the controversy of the transgender sports issue as recently expressed in PA General Assembly, and wishes to de-escalate its politicization, and invite civil discussion on deeply-held differences of opinion.

PRPS recognizes that all sports have rules, set by their governing agencies that establish eligibility, competitive scoring, rules of engagement, etc. Such rules of competitive athletics can and do evolve as each sport does.

The [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (NCAA), the [Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletics Association](#) (PIAA) and other similar agencies have the authority to establish what constitutes fairness in their sports. By engagement in play under their system, competitors agree to abide by the established rules.

PRPS asserts that state government ought not to intervene with such self-governed rules of the competitive stakeholders.

PRPS affirms that unhealthy competition in sports play thrives on scarcity and fear, attaining validation and attention, diminishing others, and winning at all costs. In contrast, healthy competition advances the entire field of endeavor, boosts personal and team potentials, honors mutually held values, and the worth of progress toward goals.

Overall societal changes, issues and trends are larger than any one person, organization or faction can in themselves alter. PRPS urges a calm, coherent discussion on a way forward, because any team, neighborhood, community, society or people divided among themselves cannot thrive.

PRPS urges all people to work to extend the concept of fairness beyond language, labels, biases, and discriminations, to strive toward tolerance, compromise, collaboration and ultimately unity in our diversity, and healthy competition in all life arenas