

## BACKGROUND

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Netball Victoria (NV) is seeing increasing numbers of transgender and gender diverse participants either playing or wanting to play and be involved in netball. NV is committed to promoting principles of equality and ensuring we are respecting the right for all transgender and gender diverse people to have the opportunity to be involved in netball.

NV's new *Policy for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People* was developed in consultation with Proud2Play and the P2P Advisory Board.

The guidelines have been created to assist NV affiliates in setting a standard for the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in compliance with the Federal *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*, and are based on the *Guidelines for the inclusion of trans and gender diverse people in sport (2019)* written by Sport Australia, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports.

## PURPOSE

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As the state's governing body of one of the highest participation sports in the country, Netball Victoria is committed to ensuring our sport is a safe and inclusive space for everyone, regardless of how they identify. We recognise and support all people to participate in the gender category they identify with, or feel most comfortable participating in, regardless of their sex assigned at birth.

The *Policy for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People* is driven by our purpose as an organisation to improve people's lives through our sport, and our belief that participation in netball has the power to unite communities, empower individuals and break down barriers.

This values-led policy is a step towards better reflecting the diversity of our community and Victorian netball participants. NV recognises and respects all gender identities and believes everyone has the right to participate in a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment.

## SUMMARY

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The policy applies to all NV members associated with affiliated netball associations, leagues, clubs, administrators, coaches, umpires, volunteers, players and spectators participating in community netball competitions, and will come into effect as of **1 July 2022**.

The policy states that participants and players are allowed to participate in any NV-affiliated competition or activity in accordance with their gender identity, irrespective of their legal sex classification. NV recognises that gender affirmation can be diverse, and that each person's gender affirmation journey is different. As such, medical or surgical intervention is not required, and participants will not be asked to undergo medical examination for the purposes of gender verification.

NV acknowledges the need to distinguish between community netball and elite netball. Many of NV's pathway competitions and programs align with the national pathway, therefore in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, NV may act reasonably and alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in this policy. Elite pathway programs including the Victorian Netball League (VNL) and Victorian Fury team **do not** fall within the scope of this policy, and should refer to the *Netball Australia Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse Athletes in Australian Elite Netball Competitions Policy*.

NV recognises there is debate over whether a male to female transgender person obtains any physical advantage over other female participants. Sport is about more than just strength – factors such as fitness, training, age, and experience also play a part in making someone a good athlete. NV will not tolerate transphobia, and these debates cannot seek to alienate and exclude trans and gender diverse athletes from the sport of netball.

## MORE INFORMATION

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For more information, including the full policy document and resources to assist you in implementation, visit our website:

[vic.netball.com.au/policies-guidelines](http://vic.netball.com.au/policies-guidelines)

## CONTACT

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If you have any questions about this policy or require assistance in understanding its application, please contact the **NV LGBT+ Support Group**

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