



# UNION COUNCIL MOTION

## Title of motion:

HUSU should create a policy to protect and support trans+\* students in sport at the University of Hull.

## Hull University Students Union Notes:

1. HUSU acknowledges that National Governing Bodies (NGBs) are in charge of their sport's rules and that BUCS organises British universities and college sports.
2. HUSU acknowledges physical activity not only has a positive effect on physical, emotional and mental health, it also has a positive impact on student experience at university. British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) have released a paper on this.<sup>1</sup>
3. HUSU acknowledges that, for some groups, participating in physical activities and sports can have various barriers which make it difficult to engage and, therefore, have a negative impact on their physical, emotional and mental health. Trans and non-binary individuals may find barriers when trying to participate in sports or physical activity. These barriers can include 'inadequate changing facilities, revealing and heavily gendered sport clothing, body dissatisfaction and fears around not being accepted by others.'<sup>2</sup>
4. HUSU acknowledges that some NGBs and organisations do not have clear inclusion policies that our trans and non-binary students can look to and this may lead to them becoming unsure whether they can participate in that specific sport. Many that do suggest that certain hormone levels/gender reassignment surgery is required for gender identification.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bucs.org.uk/resources-page/the-value-of-university-sport-and-physical-activity-pdf.html>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncsem-em.org.uk/research/mental-health-and-wellbeing/projects/barriers-to-physical-activity-in-transgender-and-non-binary-populations/>

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5. HUSU acknowledges that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) plan to wait until after Tokyo Games to publish transgender guidelines. For now, they are continuing on with the consensus statement published in 2015.<sup>3</sup>
  6. HUSU acknowledges that, under the Equality Act 2010, it is lawful 'for sports organisations [to restrict] participation' of trans+ individuals from sporting competitions where it can be argued that physical strength, stamina or physique are important factors in the outcome.<sup>4</sup>

## Hull University Students Union Believes:

HUSU has a duty to create a safe and welcoming environment in sport regardless of gender identity. At the moment, HUSU does not have a policy to protect and support trans and non-binary students to compete and train within the Athletic Union. Despite the limited direction from some NGBs and organisations, HUSU's policy should help allow trans and non-binary individuals to feel like they can join sports teams that best fits their gender identity. This will encourage wide spread accountability and inclusivity of the AU rather than encouraging individual sports clubs to show support for our trans and non-binary students. It can work alongside the HUSU Zero Tolerance Policy to ensure clubs are being accessible and inclusive and that individuals are not being discriminated against. When sports clubs encounter accessibility issues for trans and non-binary students at higher competition levels (such as BUCS), HUSU should then work to lobby these NGBs or organisations to make clearer or more inclusive policies.

### Recommendations/suggestions:

- Continue to follow HUSU's zero tolerance policy to LGBT+ discrimination, harassment and/or bullying.<sup>5</sup>
- Create mandatory ally training for committee members that can also be accessed and recommended to other members

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<sup>3</sup>[https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Commissions\\_PDFfiles/Medical\\_commission/2015-](https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Commissions_PDFfiles/Medical_commission/2015-)

[11\\_ioc\\_consensus\\_meeting\\_on\\_sex\\_reassignment\\_and\\_hyperandrogenism-en.pdf](https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Commissions_PDFfiles/Medical_commission/2015-11_ioc_consensus_meeting_on_sex_reassignment_and_hyperandrogenism-en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/gender-reassignment-discrimination>

<sup>5</sup> [https://f26b28a85d2eb48fc868-6a2f52aa3cf6badfffa90bae09b876ab.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Zero\\_tolerance\\_Dec\\_2019\\_FINAL\\_new\\_brand.pdf](https://f26b28a85d2eb48fc868-6a2f52aa3cf6badfffa90bae09b876ab.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Zero_tolerance_Dec_2019_FINAL_new_brand.pdf)


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- Holding committee members and coaches accountable in regard to understanding the LGBT+ issues/policies in their sport and their NGB.
  - Continue to promoting any and all events surround LGBT+ inclusion in sport such as LGBT+ History Month, Rainbow Laces Day, individual awareness days/weeks such as National Coming Out Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience and International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.
  - Ensuring committee members know where to signpost individuals to appropriate internal and external services to support LGBT+ students.
  - Ensuring that the Allam Sports Centre and all sporting facilities on campus continues to provide gender neutral/accessible changing and showering facilities
  - Ensuring that the Union and University are keeping up to date with the protection policies in line with the equality act.
  - Ensuring staff, clubs, committee members, members and coaches understand and use pronouns and gender inclusive language.

### **Hull University Students Union Resolves:**

1. HUSU should create a policy to protect and support trans+ identifying students in sport at the University of Hull.
2. This policy should be reviewed by the President of Sports/role involving sports yearly alongside the trans representative and the President of Inclusivity and Diversity/role with a similar remit to make sure that the policy/paperwork information is still up to date and correct.
3. Sports Zone will approve the policy and when it is finished it will be brought back to Union Council for ratification.
4. To lobby BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) and NGBs (National Governing Bodies) if they do not have clear inclusive guidelines for trans+ individuals to participate in sport.

**Proposer:** Sian Doherty (President of Sports)

**Seconder:** Mx Luciani Angel O. Roelofs (Trans Student Representative), Evie Kyte (President of Inclusivity and Diversity), Sam Mills (AU Participation and Engagement Officer)



\* Trans+ refers to all gender minorities, including trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, intersex etc.

For more information on other SU's trans inclusion in sport policies/strategies see links below:

LUU -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1otmvsP4XaDxoIVTdSyuz99UIUqzldtOm/view>

LSU -

[https://2d53b4ae7710437ef402-16882fd0dd682351953626d6bea9fe405.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/ODAFAB6F\\_Inclusion\\_of\\_Transgender\\_and\\_Non-Binary\\_Students\\_in\\_Activities.pdf](https://2d53b4ae7710437ef402-16882fd0dd682351953626d6bea9fe405.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/ODAFAB6F_Inclusion_of_Transgender_and_Non-Binary_Students_in_Activities.pdf)

Anglia Ruskin -

<https://www.angliastudent.com/pageassets/represent/execcommittee/may16/EC10616-Trans-Inclusion-in-Sport-Strategy.pdf>

Uni of Manchester -

<https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/resources/trans-inclusion-in-sport>