

UNION COUNCIL MOTION

Title of motion:

HUSU should actively encourage AU sports that have separate teams for men and women to have men's/women's/ladies in their club's name.

Hull University Students Union Notes:

1. HUSU acknowledges that there are more than two genders.
2. HUSU emphasises that the use of gender in club titles is merely for the team name and not a restriction for those who identify as trans and non-binary from participating (please see trans+ inclusion in sport motion and future policy – students should be able to play the sport they want for the gender they personally identify with).
3. HUSU acknowledges that this does not involve all AU teams such as mixed teams/sports without gendered titles/teams that have already adopted this.
4. HUSU acknowledges that this is a wider issue of equality and inclusivity in sport and should be a stepping stone that leads to future campaigns of gender neutrality when it comes to club names.

Hull University Students Union Believes:

1. AU sports that do not use "men" in the team name but their female counterpart use women's/ladies team may lead to the women's teams being viewed as "less than" or "inferior" to their male peers. This argument is made clearly in the article titled 'Let's Stop Calling It Women's Sport' by Kate Palmer in 2019 she states that 'we should not settle for the default position that football, for example, is what's played by men and there is something else called "women's football" that needs to be differentiated. The connotation, almost inevitably, is that the "women's" version is the inferior brand.'¹
2. AU teams that have a men and women's team should both use the labels of men or women's/ladies to support the fact that one is not "better" than the other.
3. This should not be an issue as many men's teams already do this (e.g. Men's Hockey and Men's Lacrosse).

¹ https://www.sportaus.gov.au/media-centre/news/lets_stop_calling_it_womens_sport

4. It will show solidarity over sports clubs at HUSU to ensure that all sport is seen as equal regardless of gender.

Hull University Students Union Resolves:

1. HUSU should actively encourage AU sports that have teams for men and women to have men's/women's/ladies in their club's name.
2. HUSU should acknowledge this is a wider issue and hopefully this will lead to future campaigns continuing to strive for equality and inclusivity in sport.

Recommendations on what teams can do to support this:

- Placing the letter M, W or L in their titles (e.g. HUMHC & HULHC)
- When purchasing kit ask for the title to include Men's, Women's or Ladies (e.g. Men's Cricket and Women's Cricket)
- Introduce/advertise themselves as the male [insert sport] team and the women's/ladies [insert sport] team.

Suggestions for future endeavours:

- Encouraging clubs to adopt club names rather than gendered titles (e.g. Hull Hustlers/Women's Basketball, Hull Hawks/Men's Basketball).
- Suggesting merging men's and women's teams to create one club as to remove gender labels.

Proposer: Sian Doherty (President of Sports)

Seconder: Ellis Leonard (President of Activities), Lucy Tune (Student), Jenny Berthelemy (Representative for Women in Sport), Kate Robinson (AU BUCS Officer), Hebe Shepherd (AU Inclusivity and Diversity Officer)