

**Policy number: 10**

**Version 1: January 2021**

**To be reviewed: November 2024**

**Person responsible: Principal, School of Sport Education NT**

### **Introduction**

The School of Sport Education NT acknowledges the right of all students to have access to opportunities within school sport programs. The School of Sport Education NT lists inclusivity as one of its values and aims to ensure programs are inclusive.

Sport provides physical, social, emotional and mental health benefits for all, regardless of race, culture, gender identity or disability.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students, regardless of race, culture, gender identity or disability are provided with participation opportunities in School of Sport Education NT programs. It aims to provide guidance to schools and regions in regard to school sport program participation.

### **Policy**

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

The School of Sport Education NT will work with State Sporting Organisations and the existing school sport structures to ensure participation opportunities are provided for all students to play sport in settings where students with disabilities compete against able bodied students, and in settings where they compete against other students with a disability.

It is important that the first level of entry to school sport is inclusive. This level provides valuable integrated opportunities for all students to play sport with their peers. Where practical, schools should ensure that minor modifications are made to the rules at the first level of entry to better include all students. This is best done using a common sense approach to participation and competition.

The School of Sport Education NT is also committed to providing opportunities for students with disabilities to compete in sport and will work with Total Recreation and Disability Sports Northern Territory to ensure that competition opportunities will exist for students with a disability.

#### **Transgender Students:**

The School of Sport Education NT has an inclusive approach to transgender students playing sport competitively. Schools should be encouraged to support their participation.

Under the terms of the Northern Territory Ant-Discrimination Act, 1992; up to the age of 12 years, all students can participate in any sport including non-competitive or mixed gender sports and events. Students participate in the gender they identify with.

Should participation in sports competitions be at an elite competitive level then an intersex or gender diverse student aged 12 and over may be excluded having regard to the strength, stamina or physique requirements of the sport.

Students 11 years or younger will be permitted to compete in School of Sport Education NT programs as the gender to which they identify.

Students aged 12 years and over:

- Transgender students should only be excluded from participation in competitive school sporting activities on the basis of their gender identity in exceptional circumstances and where the strength, stamina or physique of players results in unfair advantage.
- Any decision to exclude a transgender student will only be made after considering the particular circumstances of the student in consultation with the school and parents.

Full participation in sport should be the ultimate goal where possible.