



## MIAA Gender Identity Policy Clarification

### **28. Gender Equity and Leadership**

*28.3 The Association will rely on the gender determination made by the student's district; it will not make separate gender identity determinations.*

The MIAA is committed to providing transgender student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in MIAA athletic programs consistent with their gender identity. Hence, this policy addresses eligibility determinations for students who have a gender identity that is different from the gender listed on their official birth certificates.

The MIAA has concluded that it would be fundamentally unjust and contrary to applicable state and federal law to preclude a student from participation on a gender specific sports team that is consistent with the public gender identity of that student for all other purposes. Therefore, for purposes of sports participation, the MIAA shall defer to the determination of the student and his or her local school regarding gender identification.

In this regard, the school district shall determine a student's eligibility to participate in a MIAA gender specific sports team. Accordingly, when a school district submits a roster to the MIAA, it is verifying that it has determined that the students listed on a gender specific sports team are entitled to participate on that team due to their gender identity and that the school district has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics. Students who wish to participate on a MIAA gender specific sports team that is different from the gender identity listed on the student's current school records are advised to address the gender identification issue with the local school district well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for a current sports season. Students are not permitted to try out simultaneously for MIAA sports teams of both genders.

Nothing in this policy shall be read to entitle a student to selection to any particular team or to permit a student to transfer from one gender specific team to a team of a different gender during a sports season. In addition, the MIAA shall expect that, as a general matter, after the issue of gender identity has been addressed by the student and the school district, the determination shall remain consistent for the remainder of the student's high school sports eligibility. The MIAA has concluded that this criterion is sufficient to preclude the likelihood that a student will claim a particular gender identity for the purpose of gaining a perceived advantage in athletic competition.