



POSITION STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS IN LACROSSE

Approved by US Lacrosse Board of Directors at the January, 2006

Overview

The issue of gender classifications in lacrosse and whether US Lacrosse has a formal position with respect to gender classifications in lacrosse has been the subject of periodic inquiries received by US Lacrosse. The Executive Committee of the USL Board recommended that the issue be discussed generally and that the Board of Directors consider adopting a formal position with respect to gender classifications in lacrosse following such discussion. The Board voted to adopt the following position on Gender Classification in Lacrosse in January of 2006.

Background

The issue of gender classifications in men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse is largely determined on a state by state basis, and the particular facts and circumstances of each situation will largely determine the outcome. As a result, it is not possible for US Lacrosse to provide definitive guidance on this issue to local youth lacrosse organizations. It is clear that a completely private lacrosse program with no connections to the state (including cities and towns) or federal government is not subject to the equal protection laws. Therefore, if it chooses to do so, such a private program should be able to enforce gender classifications in relation to men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse.

Position

The position of US Lacrosse with respect to gender classifications in lacrosse is as follows:

- A. Lacrosse as a sport encompasses two separate and distinct games, the women's game and the men's game.
- B. US Lacrosse respects and supports the integrity of both the women's game and the men's game and the fact that both tradition and the rules of play for the women's game are intended to limit participation in the women's game to females and tradition and the rules of play for the men's game are intended to limit participation in the men's game to males.
- C. It is the position of US Lacrosse that consistent with applicable laws, participation in the game of women's lacrosse should be limited to females and participation in the game of men's lacrosse should be limited to males. US Lacrosse therefore supports separate teams for males and females, and encourages and supports development of separate programs for both genders at youth, scholastic, non-scholastic, collegiate and post collegiate levels.