

National LGBTI Sports Group
Venue: Online
Date: 13th August, 10-11.30am



Present:

Keith Macleod - Engagement Manager, Scottish Hockey
Carolina Sousa E Sa - Inclusion Officer, Badminton Scotland
Eilidh Gibson - Inclusion & Culture Development Coordinator, Scottish Student Sport
Robin Drummond - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Scottish Football Association
Lauren Hall - Equalities in Sport Policy Officer, Active Scotland
Atta Yaqub - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, sportscotland
Hugh Torrance - Executive Director, LEAP Sports Scotland (Chair)
Heidi Vistisen - Policy Manager, LEAP Sports Scotland (note taker)

Apologies:

Francesca Snitjer - Executive and Equalities Officer, scottishathletics
Jack Brodie - Club Development Manager, Scottish Squash
Gary Grieve - National Development Manager, Scottish ClubSport
Alison Lunn - Partnership Manager, sportscotland
Fiona Lilley - Partnership Manager, sportscotland
Angela Robinson - Head of Delivery, Active Scotland
Lizzy Simpson - Sport & Physical Activity Equalities & Participation Manager, Active Scotland

1. Welcome and introductions

Chair welcomed the group and outlined the agenda including apologies.

2. Actions from previous minutes

Action to gather further information on Rainbow Laces will carry over as no further word has been received.

3. Presentation: Scottish LGBT+ Sports Charter - consultation update

The Scottish LGBT Sports Charter was first launched by The Equality Network in 2015 and was welcomed as a key tool for many sports bodies on their equality journey, such as Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs), Local Authorities, Clubs, Local Sports Councils, Leisure Trusts and Sport facility providers. The purpose of the Charter was to visibly support the better inclusion of LGBT people in Scottish sport, and becoming a signatory to the charter was a commitment of support for the charter's 5 principles of inclusion for LGBT people.

In 2023 Equality Network took the decision that they could no longer prioritise working in sport due to the mounting competing priorities across LGBTI+ policy areas. With LEAP having a specific LGBTIQ+ sports remit, it was agreed that the Charter could more appropriately be reviewed here.

LEAP Sports undertook a consultation with the sports sector to assess whether the charter is still a useful tool. This consisted of a session with sportscotland as well as two in person and one online workshop.

Feedback from the consultation workshops showed that the Charter was, and is still seen, as a welcome initiative however there was also agreement that any revised Charter should be clear on accountability and the support available to ensure progress and impact.

The consultation report will now be shared with relevant stakeholders and LEAP will move into the design phase of a revised Charter.

Group members welcomed the presentation with a number of members highlighting the importance of the Charter connecting or linking with the Moving to Inclusion framework. There was also some discussion on whether linking it to other areas of work, such as Football v Homophobia, could be useful in engaging grassroots spaces rather than national bodies only.

Action: LEAP to update the National Group with next steps of the LGBT+ Sports Charter design when available.

4. Non Binary Equality Action Plan

Active Scotland shared that the Non Binary Equality Action Plan annual update report is due at the end of the year. Rebecca Dey who works within the unit responsible for the action plan is due to join the Group meeting in November to provide a further update.

5. Updates by area of focus

Sector development

Scottish Clubsport are hosting their 2024 conference on the 7th September at Perth Racecourse.

The biennial LEAP Sports Conference, Moving to LGBTIQ+ Inclusion, is taking place at Stirling Court Hotel on the 30th October.

Grassroots

Badminton Scotland hosted an LGBT badminton tournament during Festival Fortnight which was a great success. The tournament was hosted in Glasgow with 50 participants playing at different levels. The feedback was really positive with lots of participants saying this was their first experience of competitive badminton.

Festival Fortnight had another successful year with 2100 participants across 117 events hosted at locations across Scotland. 300 participants filled out evaluation forms about their experiences; 90% of participants found their mood or overall wellbeing was improved from taking part and 85% felt more encouraged into taking part in physical activity after attending Festival Fortnight events.

Qeltic Games are taking place on the 31st of August 2024 in Perth. This is a new event launched for Scotland with the hope of expanding the Games next year.

EuroGames in Vienna took place in July with a team of 40 from Scotland travelling to compete. Before heading to Vienna, Team Scotland hosted a kit launch where the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd joined.

Improving knowledge

sportscotland are continuing to support the Scottish Government in the reporting on the Non Binary Equality Action Plan.

Education

Scottish Government school uniform guidance is expected to be published soon, this will include guidance on physical education and sport kit.

6. Other updates

Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week is coming up in the first week of October. The theme for this year's campaign is leadership with activities planned across Scotland. Active Scotland will share a comms guide with relevant stakeholders.

The 2025 UK wide Football v Homophobia Awards are going to be hosted in Glasgow.

7. AOB

None

Meeting closed at 11.30am

Next meeting 4th November, 10-11.30am, online