



## **U.S. Association of Blind Athletes Gender Inclusion Policy**

The U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) currently has two competitive divisions for domestic sanctioned events: men's and women's. These divisions default to using the gender binary to determine participation in each division. However, we recognize not all individuals' gender identities are binary, and a gender binary default for participation potentially could make some individuals feel excluded and unsafe.

Within our divisions, as they currently exist, USABA will not discriminate based on gender identity, regardless of sex assigned at birth, or any other form of gender expression for participation in any division. We affirm that people of all gender identities should have the freedom to participate in USABA sanctioned events in the division in which they feel most comfortable and safe based on their gender identity and should be recognized, respected and included at every level of the sport domestically.

We strongly recommend that all organizers, leagues, tournaments, clinics and events adopt this statement as written and create an open and inclusive atmosphere in all blind sports programs.

For more information on supporting your transgender, non-binary and gender-nonconforming teammates, coaches, friends and community members, please reference the links below. (Note: this is not intended to be an exhaustive list.)

[Top Five Tips for Allies of Transgender People](#) (From Transathlete.com)  
[Transgender 101](#) (From the LGBT Sports Coalition Summit)

### **Registration and Participation**

1. In their USABA membership account, every athlete should select the gender identity option that best aligns with their gender identity. The selected gender identity provided in their membership account must match the event competition division in which they plan on participating. Athletes should consider which division they feel most comfortable and safe competing in based on their indicated gender identity.
2. When registering for a USABA sanctioned event, athletes must select to participate in the division that matches their selected gender identity disclosed in their membership account,

### **National Teams**

Athletes trying out and being selected for USABA National Teams will be required to compete in accordance with the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) and/or the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Transgender and Gender Identity Policy.

### **Privacy Statement**

All discussions of gender identity by an athlete, coach, USABA staff and/or USABA volunteer shall be kept confidential unless requested otherwise by the athlete.