

# LGBT+ COMMUNITY

Many lesbian, gay, bi and trans people feel that they wouldn't be welcome in sport environments and worry that people may react badly if they share that part of themselves. Taking small steps can make a big difference to welcoming the LGBT+ community into table tennis

## THE BARRIERS

*Below are the key barriers identified by Stonewall's 'Make Sport Everyone's Game' paper:*

- Fear of judgement**
- Homophobic, biphobic or transphobic language**
- Lack of LGBT+ role models**
- Inadequate facilities for trans people**



## BREAKING THE BARRIERS!

- **Be approachable as an organisation and make the effort to find out more about what LGBT+ participants want and ways you can support them**
- **Be confident and positive about making the sport open to everyone**
- **Challenge homophobic, biphobic or transphobic language and include reference to this language in policies**
- **Use posters and displays to promote diversity**
- **Offer changing facilities with cubicals for trans participants and communicate what you have available on your website or posters**
- **Use gender neutral language and avoid stereotypes about what is masculine or feminine behaviour**

You can view our transgender competition guidelines on our website

## INSIGHT

The LGBT+ community are more likely to be active, but are less likely to take part in traditional environments

Other organisations that can provide support; Stonewall; [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)  
LGBT Foundation; [www.lgbt.foundation](http://www.lgbt.foundation)  
Pride Sports; @PrideSportsUK

