

LGBTQIA+ Community

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

THE BARRIERS

Below are some key barriers identified in Stonewall's Make Sport Everyone's Game paper:

- Fear of judgement
- Homophobic, biphobic or transphobic language
- Lack of role models
- Inadequate facilities for transgender or transitioning people



Breaking the Barriers

- Be approachable as an organisation
- Challenge homophobic, biphobic or transphobic behaviour
- Offer changing facilities with cubicles for transgender or transitioning participants
- Use gender neutral language and avoid stereotypes about what is masculine and feminine behaviour
- Be confident and positive about making the sport open to everyone

When people come out or identify a wish to reassign their current gender, sometimes it can be the first time they've told anyone. Let people decide how they feel and what, if any, identity they feel they have, and be supportive.

INSIGHT

Pride Sports' Sport, Physical Activity & LGBT report states that 55% of LGBT men, 56% of LGBT women and 64% of LGBT people identifying as something other than male or female were not active enough to maintain good health.



“ In the simplest terms, this is about you as an individual or a club stepping up as an ally and supporter of everyone taking part in sport. It's no more complicated than that.”

- Stonewall

Please note this is just a guide and not an exhaustive list of barriers or ways to overcome barriers individuals may face. It's most important that you speak to your participants to see how you can support their individual needs. For additional support, please contact diversity@tabletennisengland.co.uk