

Clarification of gender matchup eligibility for nonbinary and gender-diverse players in the Club Mixed Division

Since 2020, the Gender Inclusion Policy has served as a guiding philosophy for USA Ultimate's policies and practices on gender inclusion. The specific question of how a player matches up in the mixed divisions is not explicitly covered in the policy. The following is intended to clarify any ambiguity in the [2024 Club Guidelines: Section N. Gender Division Eligibility](#).

The club guidelines state that "USA Ultimate will not discriminate on the basis of gender identity, regardless of sex assigned at birth, or any other form of gender expression for whether an athlete matches up against a woman-matching or man-matching player of the opposing team during any given point." While some nonbinary, trans, and gender-diverse players are comfortable consistently matching with the gender-match of their choosing, others may wish to play more flexibly, matching at some times with men-matching players and other times with women-matching players. **For the 2024 Club Mixed season, USA Ultimate affirms that nonbinary, trans, and gender-diverse players can change their matchup as often as every point, though not during a point (in the example of an injury substitution).** Once a matchup is chosen, that matchup will count towards that ratio for the duration of that point.

Additionally, USA Ultimate expects that players who change their matchup during the season, including during a game, are doing so for gender-affirming purposes, and not for the purposes of gaining an on-field advantage. As stated in Section N. Gender Division Eligibility, those who are found to be changing matchup purely for purposes of competitive advantage will be subject to sanctions.

It is best practice in all Mixed Division games for each player on the offensive line to signal their matchup before the pull. Captains should also consider whether there is anything the other team should know before game play begins, in order to best respect the identities and experiences present on each team.