

# GENDER IDENTITY POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

## SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION

SIRA policies relate to participation in competition. State and federal laws and guidelines relating to issues around facility use, access, general program participation and travel policy must be adhered to, as well as each college or university's existing policies.

**POLICY:** All competitors are eligible to compete in the SIRA Championship Regatta events based on their expressed gender identity. This is irrespective of the gender listed on the participants' birth certificate or student records, and regardless of whether an individual has undergone any medical treatment.

For SIRA purposes, the gender listed on the USRowing membership profile indicated when signing the required participant waiver shall apply. An individual may go through USRowing's posted procedures to seek a change in the listed gender.

[Note: As of 12 June 2018, the USRowing waiver requires an identification by sex, not by gender. Discussions with the organization have yielded assurances that they agree this should change and will be in the near future. Also note that Regatta Central automatically transcribes the sex chosen on the waiver to its rosters, but identifies those transcribed choices under gender. Until USRowing's waiver language is changed, individuals cannot be determined to have self-identified.]

### OPERATING PRACTICES

No individual should be challenged directly with questions regarding gender identity. No individual should be publicly identified as involved in gender identity processes. **If a question arises during an event, the individual should be allowed to participate as entered and any changes in a crew's advancement, placing or awards should be dealt with after the event following the proper appeals process has been completed.**

Any petitioner questioning a competitor's gender must go through the procedures instituted by USRowing. The burden of proof in any challenge to an individual's gender identity rests with the petitioner.

All communications surrounding issues arising from these or other gender identity policies or procedures shall be kept confidential.