

# LGBTQ Sports Timeline

*The world of sports has traditionally promoted a culture of heteronormativity along with homophobia/transphobia. Take a look at the LGBTQ journey throughout the years in athletics. Don't forget to further research the points that interest you most!*

**1968:** International Olympic Committee (IOC) requires sex testing for all women athletes; naked athletes are inspected by doctors.

**1972:** Title IX is passed.

**1977:** Renee Richards, a transsexual woman\*, wins a lawsuit against the U.S. Tennis Assoc. when she is barred from competing as a woman in the 1976 US Open.

**1982:** First "Gay Games"; IOC sues to prevent games being called "Gay Olympics".

**1985:** Former Univ. of Pitt. football player Ed Gallagher survives suicide attempts and dedicates life to battling homophobia.

**1985:** Chicago Sun Times article about lesbians in sport – Penn State Women's basketball coach Rene Portland quoted, "I will not have it (lesbianism) on my teams."

**1993:** 'The Last Closet', and hour-long special on gays in sport, airs.

**1995:** CBS golf commentator Ben Wright is fired for making on-air negative comments about lesbian golfers.

*\*Richards identifies as a transsexual woman, a term used less frequently in the community than 'transgender woman'.*



[www.IowaSafeSchools.org](http://www.IowaSafeSchools.org)

Questions about this resource?  
Email [dana@iowasafeschools.org](mailto:dana@iowasafeschools.org)



# LGBTQ Sports Timeline

**1998:** ESPN airs 'World of the Gay Athlete' special.

**1999:** Outsports.com publishes first web page devoted to sports news and information for LGBTQ fans and athletes.

**2002:** The National Center for Lesbian Rights initiates the Homophobia in Sports Project to provide legal and advocacy support for athletes and coaches discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**2003:** IOC guidelines require transgender athletes who have transitioned from male to female (or vice versa) to have reassignment surgery followed by at least two years of hormone therapy in order to be eligible to compete.

**2003:** The NCAA initiates "sexual orientation in sports" training.

**2004:** ESPN hires openly gay reporter LZ Granderson.

**2008:** The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association enacts the first state-wide policy enabling the participation of transgender athletes in high school sports according to their identified gender.

**2008:** Eleven openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual Olympians win a total of seven medals at Beijing Olympics.

**2011:** NCAA adopts transgender athlete inclusion policy.



[www.IowaSafeSchools.org](http://www.IowaSafeSchools.org)

Questions about this resource?  
Email [dana@iowasafeschools.org](mailto:dana@iowasafeschools.org)



# LGBTQ Sports Timeline

**2011:** NBA, MLB, NHL, NFL adopt non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation.

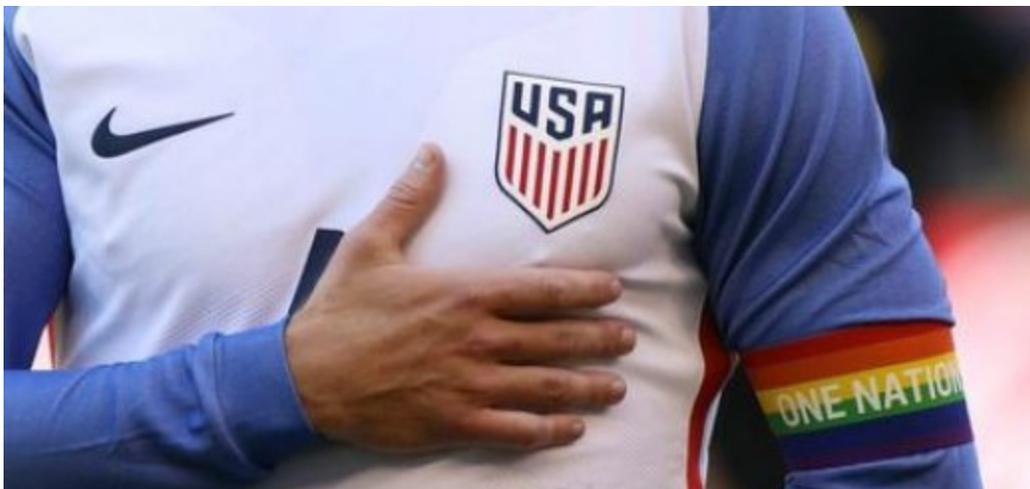
**2012:** Campus Pride releases first ever "Top 10" list of LGBTQ-friendly college-athletics.

**2012:** First LGBTQ Sports Summit is hosted by Nike.

**2016:** Chris Mosier is first transgender athlete to be featured in ESPN's Body Image Issue.

**2016:** IOC advised that transgender athletes can compete without undergoing reassignment surgery.

**2018:** U.S. Soccer partners with You Can Play Project; men and women's National teams wear rainbow numbers on their jerseys to celebrate Pride month.



[www.IowaSafeSchools.org](http://www.IowaSafeSchools.org)

Questions about this resource?  
Email [dana@iowasafeschools.org](mailto:dana@iowasafeschools.org)

