
Non-Binary Runner Position

Summary

At Run Minnesota, we believe running is a sport where everyone deserves to feel included, respected, and celebrated. Guided by our mission “to make running accessible and inclusive to all,” we continue to commit to creating a space where runners can self-identify to participate in the sport of running as they choose and feel supported as part of a diverse and welcoming community.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Leadership

Run Minnesota recognizes the profound responsibility we hold as leaders in the Minnesota running community. Our commitment to promoting equity and inclusion in running comes with a promise to uphold ethical, moral, and legal principles consistently. We understand that providing platforms for all runners, including those who identify as nonbinary, is essential for fostering a culture of acceptance and inclusion in our sport.

Despite political shifts in the US, there remains a commitment within the running community to provide a nonbinary category across the US. Over 300 events nationwide have implemented and retained a nonbinary category for runners. These events include some of the largest and most prestigious, like the Chicago Marathon, New York Marathon, and Boston Marathon. These efforts demonstrate the ability of the running community to adapt and evolve, creating barriers no longer rooted in exclusion. Run Minnesota stands proudly alongside these organizations by offering participants the opportunity to compete as their authentic selves.

Industry & Legal Standards

Run Minnesota aligns itself with the principles and standards of USA Track & Field (USATF), one of the governing bodies for our sport, as well as all applicable laws at the local and state level where Run Minnesota operates. Following USATF and the governing laws fosters uniformity across events and ensures our policies comply with applicable regulatory requirements as well as the running industry's best practices. To that end, we prohibit discrimination and make all of our decisions through the lens of fairness, ethical responsibility, and compliance. Run Minnesota believes adherence to these standards is a critical measure for advancing equity in running and the mission of Run Minnesota to support every runner without limits.

Policy and Implementation

Run Minnesota has taken concrete steps to bring inclusivity to life. Participants in our programs and events have the option to self-select their gender identity by choosing from “Man,” “Woman,” or

“Nonbinary” on their member profiles and registrations. Furthermore, we’ve implemented a nonbinary category across our programs and community events, ensuring representation for all athletes, from youth participants to elite competitors. Run Minnesota is committed to retaining such categories and operationalizing inclusivity at every level of the organization.

Runners are able to self-identify at the time of registration for the Run Minnesota events. Participants should know that the decision to self-identify as nonbinary is done so in a way that also shows up in the results records for Run Minnesota events. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we partner with trusted technology leaders to power our event registration. Run Minnesota values the privacy of its participants, but it cannot guarantee or always control where the results information is available after a participant self-identifies and finishes a race. Run Minnesota also understands that gender identity is fluid and will work with participants about any requested changes to their participant records or profiles to the fullest extent possible. Moreover, Run Minnesota will communicate with participants about any record updates related to their identity.

We recognize that one's legal name may be different from a preferred name and that government-issued identifications do not recognize this important distinction. Run Minnesota allows participants to utilize a variety of forms of identity verification beyond the government-issued identifications when checking in at our events. As such, if identity verification is required to check in to participate at a Run Minnesota events, the participant may also provide utility bills, school ids with photos, a newspaper article with a photo or any other acceptable form of identification that validates the person's identity for purposes of picking up the bib or otherwise checking in to participate in Run Minnesota events.

Run Minnesota also believes running is a fair and inclusive sport. As such, it follows a policy of non-discrimination and non-harassment in all events and programs. Participants must respect others and observe all event rules. Discrimination or harassment based on gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other legally protected category is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from the event and future events.

To the extent possible, Run Minnesota also provides gender neutral facilities at each event. Participants are encouraged to inform event staff or Run Minnesota leadership if they require any additional accommodations or have concerns regarding facilities.

Conclusion

Run Minnesota recognizes the power and importance of representation in athletics, and we are committed to creating a space where all runners can thrive without limits. We stand by our mission and history of non-discrimination in our continued work to provide an inclusive and safe community for all.

Run Minnesota will continue to act in alignment with both our mission, running industry standards, and applicable laws to ensure that the sport we love remains unparalleled in its ability to unite and inspire people across all walks of life. Together, we can break down barriers and create a more inclusive future for our sport. Let's keep running forward together.

Approved by The Run Minnesota Board of Directors on April 21, 2025.