

MODULE

YOUTH SPORTS



The Charter for Gender Diversity in Sports, a project to improve the ability of trans, intersex, and non-binary (TIN) people to participate in sports, was first introduced in August 2021. To make it easier to implement the Charter in practice, educational modules were created for each of the nine points in the Charter. Each module begins by describing a specific scenario, for example:

Have you ever been to a birthday party where you simply felt out of place? You had really been looking forward to the party, but when you arrive, you notice that you just don't fit in somehow. Everyone else seems to be on the same wavelength, telling inside jokes that you don't understand and sharing a similar taste in clothing. Maybe the people are even nice to you, but that doesn't change your feeling that, on a basic level, you don't fit in, and you don't belong there.

This description is followed by a brief analysis:

Trans, intersex, and non-binary (TIN) individuals experience these types of “birthday parties” in many different situations and contexts – including in sports clubs. This is not because the people there “aren’t nice enough” to them, but because these groups or associations are tailored for specific types of people, generally those who are not TIN themselves. Presumably, this is not planned or intentional. But, as a result, some clubs may draw very few TIN participants or even none at all. The same principle applies to working with TIN children and adolescents in sports clubs. For that reason, all educational modules in the Charter – which you can read here – also apply to children and adolescents. Yet the issues described in these modules impact youth in different ways or to different extents, as their lived experiences are different from those of adults. For example, children and adolescents are often prohibited from participating in decisions that affect them. While it is intended to protect them, this power imbalance can lead adults to disregard young people's valid concerns. This educational module on youth sports addresses these concerns and serves as a supplement to the existing modules while highlighting the specific needs of TIN children and adolescents.