



## **Synchro Canada Gender Position Paper**

It is the responsibility of Synchro Canada to abide by gender equity. Synchro Canada is committed to provide equal opportunity to both genders for the duration of the athletes' careers\*.

Synchro Canada has prepared this position paper to offer guidelines in areas of interest that have been brought to us by the community:

1. Changing rooms: Host clubs should provide separate changing rooms for males and females for all recreational, provincial and national competitions.
2. Competition categories: the categories remain the same as is presently mentioned in the CASSA rulebook, males and females will compete alongside one another. In addition, results will not be separated out for males and females.
3. Sensitive touch: Clubs who are concerned with the issue of sensitive touch are strongly recommended to sensitize their coaches to choreograph their routines, where males are amongst the athletes swimming on such routine, to address that no opportunity is created for sensitive touch in the choreography.  
In addition, routines are NOT required to have any touch/ connections except at the senior level.  
The issue of sensitive touch is irrelevant with respect to the figure competitions.
4. When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of the same gender and similar age group, with chaperones in separate but nearby rooms.

Clubs can consult with Sport Law & Strategy Group and CAWWS for further information regarding gender equity in sport.

The entire Synchronized Swimming community must work cooperatively to promote an environment that is free of sexual, physical, emotional and verbal abuse or harassment in any form. We recommend that each person participating in a CASSA activity take the following precautions necessary to help ensure a safe environment for all members, staff, volunteers, coaches, officials and participants.

*\* Please note: International standards for World Championships and Olympic Games, eligible events are solo, duet, team, and combination program (World Championships only) are for women only. (FINA rulebook, GR 10.7 Programs)*