



Discrimination law and sport

Northern Territory

Legislation

The Northern Territory *Anti-Discrimination Act* promotes equality of opportunity for all people in the Territory by protecting people from unfair discrimination and other prohibited conduct and providing remedies.

How does the legislation apply to sport?

Sport is not a specific area of public life that is covered by the *Anti-Discrimination Act*. However discrimination in sporting activities could be unlawful if it occurs in the area of clubs, work or education because of personal characteristics (grounds) listed below:

- age
- breastfeeding
- impairment
- irrelevant criminal record
- irrelevant medical record
- marital status
- parenthood
- political opinion, affiliation or activity
- pregnancy
- race
- religious belief or activity
- sex
- sexuality
- trade union or employer association activity
- association with a person who has, or is believed to have, an attribute referred to in this section.

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What do I need to know about the grounds and areas covered?

Under the NT *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

- To be covered by the legislation clubs must have 30 members or more and supply alcohol.

Useful information

When is discrimination permitted?

Under the NT *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

- A club established for a group with an attribute under the Act may exclude people not belonging to that group provided the club is established to preserve either a minority culture, or prevent or reduce the group's disadvantage;
- Clubs can discriminate on the basis of sex if they were formed to provide services for one sex;
- Participation can be restricted in competitive sporting activities to:
 - either men or women, if the restriction is reasonable having regard to the strength, stamina or physique requirements of the activity. However this exemption does not apply to sporting activity for children who have not attained 12 years of age
 - people who can effectively compete
 - to people of a specified age or age group or
 - to people with a general or specific impairment.
- If a club / association/ organisation, has sought and been granted specific exemption under the Act.

Resources

Where can I get further information or resources?

If you'd like more information about unlawful discrimination, or you'd like to make a complaint, contact the [Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission](#).