**Experiences in Sport for LGB Women Across Europe – Research Notes**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1012690209102639>

p73- Lesbians viewed as more “masculine” and so are more prone to play “masculine” sports (in comparison to gay men). P74- some sports, such as ice hockey, where women can be out but may still face homophobia or heteronormative if they are “butch” (sexualisation of women in sport??). p75-growth in participation levels for all LGBT+ in LGBT+ specific groups. Idea that to play football as a woman they should be “butch”, and those who are not are assumed to be straight. P78- little difference in participation levels between straight and LGB women. Slight difference between sports they partake in (see table on p79). P80-88% heard homophobic language, not always directed at them. More than half of female respondents out in their sport. Out less in sports than in work environments.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1012690211420487>

p706- “Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport” (Sport England, 2004) relevant? Questions tend to be raised around women’s sexuality when they partake in traditionally “men’s” sports. Idea of “masculinising” women. Sport as one of the most hostile environments for lesbians. P707- evidence of preferring men for coaches, women’s sporting events being sexualised – consider sport uniform and how it differs for men and women. P709- lesbians hiding their identity by acting “anti-gay”, did not “force” their sexuality on others. Risks of losing jobs or sponsorships, but pressure from fans to be out and a role model. P710- lesbian coaches just trying to fit in rather than challenge heteronormative and homophobic behaviours. P715- warned by governing body to “be very careful about being gay around these young girls”, idea of inappropriateness of lesbian coach for a female team, despite no links between sexual identity and being a paedophile. Lesbians as “sexual deviants”. P717- lack of equality in sports (including BAME, LGB women, etc.). Homophobic language used as the norm, goes unchallenged. Suggestion that women have to work harder to be appreciated and accepted in sport than male counterparts.

<https://datapress-files.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/londonsport/dataset/lgbt-inclusion-in-sport/2018-11-15T12%3A00%3A00/LSR59%20Council%20of%20Europe%20-%20LGBT%20Inclusion%20in%20Sport.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA34OJCNUVXSUMRHGO%2F20200130%2Feu-west-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20200130T100856Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-Signature=5effb11ce340fd9e92442bf31284c9347ff50b2e74dc8a1c2e71c2103cc60c4c&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host>

p11- sport as a gendered environment, sex-segregated by societal beliefs of gender differences, what way a man should act and a woman should be. P14- lack of visibility of LGBT+ sports people. Idea that there will be a “lesbian scandal” which will ruin women’s sport. Fear that lesbians will “recruit”. Lesbians considered less skilled in their sport and less able to coach to as high a standard as men, or even straight women. P16- need for all coaches to be aware of homophobic language and be equipped to deal with this appropriately. p33- significant growth in LGBT+ sports groups across Europe, campaigning for LGBT+ rights through sport. LOOK AT: “European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation” & “Football Against Racism in Europe”

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10413200209339009?needAccess=true>

p28- LGBT+ inclusive clubs allowed to feel included and safe, and be out and proud. P33- gay games takes away fear of discrimination. Like to be around people like them. Learn more about their own community. Allowed to feel more positive about their sexuality. P37- inspired and empowered by the games to promote social change in their own sport where it is less inclusive, with risk of discrimination. Feel more positive and comfortable in their identity, wanting to come out.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17430437.2013.821255?needAccess=true>

p1326- belief that women don’t have the same skill and knowledge of sport that men do. P1327- sport as an overall homophobic environment for all participants, if they are or are perceived to be LGBT+. P1328- women in sport constantly having to decide if it is safe to disclose sexuality. Fear that if they are “passing” as straight and they stand up against homophobia, that they will then be outted as a result. P1331- any discussion around dealing with discrimination was very worst case scenario, rather than every day homophobia which sports people are more likely to face. P1332 – focus on making all players the same in terms of skill, but do not celebrate the differences of individual players. Lesbian women being made to feel inferior to men, that they are encroaching on a “mans” space. Women seen as less physically able, or lack understanding about sport. P1333- Assumptions that women cannot be head coaches, example of opposition coach coming over and immediately went to male assistant coach rather than female head coach. Gendered language as slurs and insults in sport. P1334- When a woman does something wrong, their gender is to blame, but this is not the case for men. P1335- concerns that a lesbian coach will be a paedophile. Women labelled as “dykes” based off appearance. P1336- unable to take their partners to games/competitions for fear of exposure. Perceptions of women’s clubs being “gay sports”. P1337- change in attitude and ways people behave around them when a woman comes out. Reports of women using the sexuality (straight) to get ahead, where lesbians would not want to, nor should any woman have to. P1338- LGB coaches getting asked inappropriate questions about their personal life. Reiteration of lesbians being paedophiles in sport, where men are not assumed immediately to be. P1339 – subject to unfair treatment as a lesbian coach.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14660970.2011.568108?needAccess=true>

p422- creation of Gay games to create a safe space for LGBT+ people. P424- women who compete in “male” sports are seen as pushing the boundaries of femininity, and so are perceived to be LGB, regardless of their own identity. Homophobia is so ingrained in male football that it then seeps into female football, from heterosexual women player. P425- women’s football is seen as more inclusive than men’s because of the amount of LGB players, and work towards challenging gender norms. P428- lack of inclusivity can put women off sport from a young age. Women’s own experience of woman’s football is that it is mostly gay. Arguments of “queering” the sport to make it more accessible for all LGB women, regardless of skill level – more social than competitive. P431- can be a very supportive environment for coming out. P434- argument that LGBT+ only groups are exclusionary. Lack of connection to sports can lead to further misgivings around LGBT+ in sport.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1179/ssa.2012.6.1.141>

p141- Historically : societal beliefs of man being strong and aggressive, while women are to be weak and submissive, and if they do not meet the expectations, they are shunned as unacceptable. Sport is used to reinforce these gender roles. P142- tradition that women who accomplish in sport are suspect immediately to be LGB, met with prejudice and discrimination from stereotypes and stigma. P143- ie. Billie Jean King remained closeted for fear of losing her career. Divisions between lesbians and straight women in sport, feel that lesbians taking part in that sport immediately labels all players as LGB. More athletes are coming out as LGBT+ is more widely accepted, though still a stigma in some areas of sport. Theory that the younger generation is more accepting of LGBT+ community, so young teams may be okay with playing with an LGBT+ player but their coach may not be. P144- historically lesbians coaches who faced discrimination left organisations quietly and did not fight their corner as it felt like a losing battle. P145- stereotype that sportswomen had to be butch to be “accepted” in their sport. Nowadays, women are “allowed” to look more feminine while still being successful in their sport – therefore not assumed immediately to be LGB.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/1357332980030202?needAccess=true>

p146- Sport as an arena for institutionalised homophobia. P147- heterosexuals are the norm and have more privileges than LGBT+ in society and even more evident in sport. P150- LGBT+ all grouped together and assumed to be of the same level and so should be left in that group and not spread out to “mainstream” sport. Some LGBT+ made to participate in homophobia to get their sexuality a secret – internal conflict. Young women dropping out of sport for fear of being perceived to be LGB, or forced out the closet before they are ready to come out. Idea that there is a huge divide between heterosexual and LGB women, focus on the differences rather than similarities they have, which can be quite exclusive. P151- LGB women don’t feel safe or comfortable coming out to their teams, fear of losing jobs/sponsorships. LGB women feeling the need to conform to heteronormalities. P152- some experiences of homophobia off the pitch, rather than in their own team on the pitch. Homophobic comments not necessarily aimed at the LGB player, but as a general slur for poor performance, stereotype of being gay as a bad thing. Idea that a woman who plays sport well is an anomaly, and they must be a man/masculine. Idea of lesbians being women who want to be a man. P153- LGB need to remain silent to protect themselves and their sporting careers. 37% of LGB women respondents used sport as an escape from heterosexism – used as an excuse for not having a boyfriend. Women being forced to come out, rather than in their own time when they are ready. P154- often lesbians are seen as the problem in sport, rather than homophobia and heteronormality. P155- Gay Games were seen as scandalous, that is was an abomination for “queers” to take part in sports. Assumptions of concerns around sexually explicit behaviours, drug and alcohol abuse, and pervisions.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00336297.2003.10491808?needAccess=true>

p329- ways in which female sports people are used in advertising, showing their “feminine” side. Though sports promote the inclusion of women, there is underlying messages about the exclusions of LGB women. P335- take into account that LGB is only 1 part of a woman’s whole identity, though often seen to overshadow all other identities. Despite there seeming to be hoards of LGB women in sport, many are very much hidden in the closet in their sport. Existence is made to feel invisible. P336- Younger generation of LGB athletes learn to remain closeted as well, lack of LGB women sports role models. Negative images and stereotypes associated with LGB sportswomen. P337- belief that butch women must be LGB, therefore “feminine” women must be straight. Need to label athletes as either masculine or feminine, there is no grey area. Creates a divide amongst women in sport. LGB “acting” straight in sports. P339- LGB coaches scared of coming out for fear of losing their job or standing in their sporting community. However, another study found that LGB women who volunteered their sexuality had positive experiences. P340- being LGB is still considered a taboo subject in sport and so can attract attention, wanted or not. Women who were out in the sport felt more comfortable in their sexuality, living authentically and having a better pedestal to fight heterosexism and homophobia from.

<https://blgbt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/NGB-review.pdf>

p3- LGB women show higher levels of sport participation than gay men. P5 – 30.8% of heterosexual women take part in sport once a week, while 38.7% lesbian and 33.4% bisexual women take part in a weekly sport. More likely to take part in individual sports, rather than team.

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/rainbow_laces_toolkit_2018.pdf>

p12- 1 in 8 LGBT avoid the gym for fear of discrimination or harassment. P14- 1 in 7 LGBT pupils bullied in PE. P22- importance of LGBT+ role models in sports.

<http://www.sportni.net/sportni/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/A_Literature_Review_of_Sexual_Orientation_in_Sport.pdf>

p9- majority of research is focussed on identity and experiences of LGBT+ people, particularly around notions of women/femininities and men/masculinities. P10- underrepresentation of Bisexual and trans\* in sports research. Gender stereotypes at the core of homophobia in sport, underpinned by societal beliefs of gender and sexuality. P29- higher awareness of lesbians in sport, but bi-erasure is quite prominent. P39- media suggestions of bias of lesbians in sport being favoured over heterosexual players, based off the stereotype that lesbians are more “masculine” and ergo a stronger/better player? P41- LGB women coaches and PE teachers remaining closeted, started by Section 28, and continuing to this day, for fear of discrimination, loss of respect, accusations of being a paedophile. P49- sports which appear lesbian dominated gain a stigma of having to “be gay to play”.

<http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Out-for-Sport-Report.pdf>

P19- Open LGB discrimination, sports teams bragging about being “a lesbian-free team”, making it uncomfortable/unsafe for LGB women to come out in sport. P23- Sports professionals felt LGB women are less likely to experience HoBiT, but suggestions made that it is still prominent among many sports for women. It may not be targeted at them, but is heard and are aware of it. P24- stereotype that any woman who plays sport is a lesbian, so attempts to heterosexualise women’s sports, erases LGB women’s identities within sport. P57- LGB women appear to be more visible in sport than gay men. P65- notion that an LGBT+ sports club is unsafe for children (idea that LGBT+ are paedophiles). P110- half of LGB women under 20 y.o. have self harmed, with 16% attempting suicide. 1 in 5 say they have an eating disorder and are 5 times more likely to have taken drugs. Suggestions that sports could help lower these rates, but stigma and stereotypes, fear of discrimination, stops young women from attending.

<https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/Final%20Out%20in%20Sport_NEW_web.pdf>

p5- gay & bisexual men more likely to go to the gym while LGB women more likely to participate in rugby. 17% of LGBT students in team sports are not out. Almost half find the sport culture alienating or unwelcoming. Over 40% had negative experiences in school sports so do not wish to participate in college/university sports as an adult. P16- bisexual women have lower rates of sport participation than lesbians. P17- LGB women more likely to be out to everyone or their peers and teammates only, compared to trans\* and male counterparts. However, they are also the least likely to be out to coaches or management alone. They are also the group which feels most comfortable being open about their sexuality in sport. P21- 1 in 5 put off by gendered sports, and 1 in 10 felt uncomfortable in the uniform. There were higher rates among the Trans\* respondents. P22- some sports have environments which are hypermasculine, which can discourage LGBT+ people from partaking, though this is combatted within mixed team sports. 12.8% LGBT+ felt changing and shower facilities were not inclusive and felt uncomfortable or unable to use these areas safely. Definite fear of HoBiT abuse in changing areas which puts LGBT+ people off sport. P25- most prominent barrier to sport for all LGBT+ people is the culture, that sports are not welcoming or safe for LGBT+ community, as well as societal expectations of what men and women should and should not be doing, in relation to sports. Previous experiences of sport, particularly in school, have an impact on a person’s likelihood to take part in sports as an adult.

<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/pride-sport-sport-physical-activity-and-lgbt-report-2016.pdf>

p4- 56% of LGB women were not active enough to maintain good health, compared to 45% of general population. P6- 82% LGB women experienced homophobic slurs in sport. 82% of LGB young women, and 59% of LGB adult women participate in sport in the UK, higher than male counterparts. P8- 67% of bisexual women under 22 y.o. were not out to their team, 73% for lesbians. Fear that they would not be accepted in their sport after coming out. Half of LGBT+ sports coaches kept their sexuality hidden within their coaching role, though half were out in their own workplace. Fear of a negative response. P13- clubs who offered men’s, women’s and mixed teams struggled to fill the women’s and mixed teams, feeling that a lack of acceptance of LGB women impacted on the numbers joining their club. Though not the same for all clubs, possibly sport-dependant?