



## LESSON PLAN

# HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORTS...

### Overview

This group activity can help to make students aware of the consequences of homophobia in sports.

### Goals

- A** • Make students aware of the existence of homophobia in sports and in physical education classes;
- B** • Make students aware of the existence of gender stereotypes in certain sports;
- C** • Explore different ways to react when witnessing or experiencing homophobia.

**Facilitation:** At least one teacher is needed to facilitate this activity

**Target audience:** Students from grades 7 to 11

**Time required:** 30 minutes

**Material:** Robert Pilon's text.

## ACTIVITY

To carry out a discussion between teacher and students about the consequences of homophobia in sports in general, and more specifically in physical education classes by using Robert Pilon's text.

# POSSIBLE SEQUENCE FOR THE ACTIVITY

**A** Question students (before they read the text):

- What comments have you heard about boys that practice sports that we traditionally call 'girl sports' and girls that practice sports that we traditionally call 'boy sports'?
- How does homophobia manifest or show itself in sports?
- What do you think about this kind of language or comments? Explain in detail.
- Give some examples of homophobia that occur in a regular physical education class. Is homophobia more present in certain sports? Is homophobia absent in other kinds of sports?

**B** Read Robert Pilon's text to the students (or have a student read it out loud). Each student should have a copy of the text in hand.

*Note: Sections C and D can be carried out with the whole group or in smaller groups.*

**C** Question students about Robert Pilon's text:

- Robert experienced homophobia while playing volleyball. What were the consequences that this had on his life?
- What impact did joining an LGBT league have on Robert?
- If you were part of Robert's volleyball team at college, how could you have helped or supported him?

**D** Divide the class into teams of 3-4 students so that they can work together to find strategies for teachers, coaches or teammates that witness homophobia, like Robert experienced, whether in the gym, the locker-room or on the fields.

**E** If the activity is carried out with the whole group, the teacher can manage the discussion and taking turns speaking. If the activity is carried out in smaller groups each team should designate a spokesperson that will come back to the larger group to report the group's ideas and strategies.

**F** Present the Code of Conduct to the students.

