

EMBRACING 2SLGBTQI+ INCLUSION IN THE SKYDIVING COMMUNITY

Written on behalf of the CSPA Women's Initiative Committee (WIC)

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Skydiving, a sport defined by freedom, courage, and connection, has the power to be a model of inclusivity. As awareness of equity and diversity continues to grow across Canada, the skydiving community is uniquely positioned to champion 2SLGBTQI+ inclusion. Doing so strengthens our culture, enriches our sport, and ensures that every participant feels welcome in the sky.

2SLGBTQI+ is the Canadian acronym for diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. It includes Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people, with the “+” representing additional identities. Canada places Two-Spirit first to honour Indigenous Peoples and their longstanding gender-diverse traditions.

Diversity is the foundation of a vibrant and resilient community. By embracing 2SLGBTQI+ inclusion, the skydiving world benefits from the wide range of perspectives, lived experiences, and strengths that individuals bring. This diversity fuels creativity, innovation, and a sense of shared purpose. When people feel valued and respected, they are more likely to contribute fully — elevating the entire sport.

For many 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, finding environments where they feel safe and supported can be challenging. By intentionally fostering inclusion, the skydiving community ensures that everyone — regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression — can participate without fear of discrimination or exclusion. This not only broadens participation but also builds a culture grounded in respect and belonging.

Skydiving is more than a sport; it is a transformative experience that can profoundly impact personal well-being. For 2SLGBTQI+ participants, knowing they are welcomed and affirmed enhances both their enjoyment and their mental health. Inclusive environments reduce isolation, build confidence, and create supportive networks that help individuals thrive both in and out of the sky.

Everyone in the skydiving ecosystem has a role to play. Coaches and instructors can model inclusive language, offer individualized mentorship, and create psychologically safe learning environments. Facilitators and organizers can design accessible education and events that reflect shared community values. Dropzone owners and operators can lead cultural change by embedding equity into policies, staff training, and physical spaces. These actions, taken collectively, shape a sport where every person feels seen, respected, and empowered.

Promoting 2SLGBTQI+ inclusion is not only a matter of equity — it is an investment in the future of skydiving. Whether you are guiding a student, planning an event, or shaping the dropzone experience, every choice contributes to a more inclusive and vibrant community. By embracing diversity and fostering acceptance, skydiving can truly be a sport where everyone, regardless of identity, feels the freedom to rise.

Let's make this commitment together and build a skydiving community where every individual can thrive.