

IAGLMA Support Statement

The International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists (IAGLMA) reaffirms our unequivocal support for the Gay Games and the Federation of Gay Games. IAGLMA (formerly Homosexuals in the Martial Arts – HiMA) has worked in the LGBT sports community since 1990 and affirms its commitment to empowerment and emancipation through martial arts, self defense, martial arts Seminars, tournaments, participants' workshops and officials' certification clinics that have proven to benefit the martial arts and the international LGBT community at large.

IAGLMA asserts its commitment to the goals as stated in our Mission and Vision Statement.

IAGLMA also supports inclusive all-styles tournaments and sporting events that promote the IAGLMA and Gay Games Principles of participation, inclusion and personal best as well as:

- promote gender parity,
- include participants with special needs, including HIV positive individuals and those with other life-altering conditions,
- promote inclusion of participants over 50,
- promote inclusion of participants from the transgendered community,
- include individuals at all levels of martial arts training and abilities, throughout the event as competitors, officials, teachers.

IAGLMA continues to support all martial arts, sporting and community events and organizations that demonstrate active commitment to and support for this philosophy.

IAGLMA Vision Statement

- To foster and augment the emancipation, empowerment and self-respect of lesbians and gays throughout the world and to engender respect and understanding from the non-gay world through multi-style martial arts and self defense education and outreach on local, national and international levels.
- To form an information network and provide a safe and inclusive environment for all lesbian, gay and supportive martial artists.
- To create a forum for the inclusion, education and sharing of all styles of martial arts techniques, philosophies, and personal experiences.
- To ensure gender parity for women.
- To ensure the inclusion of the specific needs and disabled community.
- To offer martial arts and self defense educational and outreach programs to the lesbian and gay community and to the general public.
- To continue our role as a director organization of the Federation of Gay Games and to work in partnership with the Federation and all Gay Games Host Organizations to

ensure that open, inclusive, multi-style martial arts seminars and tournaments are included in all Gay Games events.

- To form liaisons with and offer education, information and assistance to traditional martial arts governing entities in furthering our goals of inclusion, respect, safety and the attainment of one's personal best for the lesbian and gay martial arts community at all local, national and international martial arts and multi-sport events.