**#RainbowLaces FAQs**

**What’s Rainbow Laces all about?**

Rainbow Laces is a campaign first created by Stonewall to tackle homophobia in football. Their research found that seven in ten football fans who'd attended a match had heard or witnessed homophobia on the terrace and 43% of fans still thought football was an anti-gay sport. They sent out 100,000 pairs of laces to individuals in schools, universities, leagues, and clubs, and won support from high-profile teams including Arsenal and Manchester City.

**Why is scottish**athletics **getting involved?**

We are proud of how welcoming our sport is. It is easy to think that it ‘goes without saying’ that everyone is welcome in athletics, but the fact remains that homophobic language and behaviour still exist in society as a whole. For that reason, we believe there is a real benefit in saying clearly, out loud, that the world of athletics is a place in which *everyone* is welcome, whatever their sexuality.

**Why is it taking place at the Age Group Champs?**

The #RainbowLaces campaign is a simple, light-hearted way of getting across an important message.

Stonewall Scotland knows from its research that young people hear homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language from primary school onwards, and unfortunately this kind of language can also find its way into sport. Stonewall’s research has found that:

* Young people are especially vulnerable to homophobia in sport. Almost a quarter of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils are bullied during sport, and boys are more than twice as likely to be bullied as girls.
* Two thirds (68 per cent) of gay pupils say they don’t like team sports.
* Homophobic language is heard as early as primary school, with phrases like “that’s so gay” commonly heard in playgrounds (Stonewall, School Report 2012).
* This exclusion can mean these pupils do not gain the physical and mental benefits of sport. That exclusion can go on to last a lifetime. We want to help change that.

The #RainbowLaces campaign is designed to bring a positive message of inclusion to people of all ages.

We want everyone involved with athletics not only to *hope* that they are welcome in the sport, but to *know* it.

**How do I take part?**

Just pick up a pair of #RainbowLaces when you arrive at Grangemouth. Then

* **Tie** your shoes with your rainbow laces
* **Tweet** a photo of you wearing them
* **Hashtag** it #Rainbowlaces
* **Win!** We’ll pick our favourite photos and you can win prizes including Scotland vests and Glasgow 2014 bibs autographed by Eilidh Child.

**Who are Stonewall Scotland?**

Stonewall Scotland are based in Edinburgh but they work across Britain and around the world to support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people and stamp out prejudice.

Stonewall was founded in 1989 to put equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people on the mainstream agenda. Since then they have lifted the ban on gay people serving in the armed forces, helped introduce equal marriage and worked to tackle bullying at school and in the workplace.