# **TENNIS SPECIFIC** CONSIDERATIONS

Tennis has historically grappled with homophobia, reflected in discriminatory attitudes and exclusionary practices towards LGBTQ+ players. Despite some progress, challenges persist, including sporadic derogatory remarks and insufficient support systems. The sport has seen positive shifts with openly gay players and advocacy, yet there remains a need for broader acceptance and institutional change to fully embrace the diversity this sport deserves.

## **TENNIS SPACES**

Thinking about the spaces • Locker Rooms that are specific to tennis and taking action in those • spaces is a direct way to . apply allyship principles to

- **Away Games**
- On the Court
- **Club Culture**

## **COMMON ISSUES**

- "Closet culture"
- Micro-aggressions
- Classism / Financial barriers

your sport.

White fragility / representation

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Why are there no openly gay players in tennis?
- History of homosexuality in tennis
- Tennis swerves homophobia debate
- Tennis players surveyed on LGBTQ+ attitudes

#### A LACK OF PRIDE

One of the most glaring obstacles to LGBTO+ inclusion in tennis is that the sport lacks openly gay players; this is largely due to persistent homophobia, societal stigma, and fear of backlash from sponsors and fans. This environment discourages athletes from coming out, reflecting broader sports culture issues around acceptance and inclusivity. Addressing cultural backlash starts with teams, players, and clubs working on incorporating inclusive best practices on and off the court.







