

LAOUT Gender Equity Town Hall Notes

02.11.2018

The LAOUT & SCYU Town Hall on Gender Equity took place from 2:30-5:00pm on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at USC. The event was hosted and organized by LAOUT & SCYU and attended by approximately 50 people affiliated with ultimate frisbee in Los Angeles

The meeting had 3 goals:

- To leave with a better understanding of the term Gender Equity
- To engage in discussion with other community members
- To allow LAOUT & SCYU hear community opinions on Gender Equity

Agenda:

1. Introductions/Welcome
2. Group agreements
3. Meeting objectives
4. Definitions & common understanding
5. Activity: A Step Ahead
6. Small group discussions (*notes below*)
7. Wrap-up

Potential next-steps & other topics to explore:

More conversation & collaboration	Relationship between Aviators & LAOUT/SCYU	More discussion of intentions/goals of leagues
Concrete next-steps	Age equity	How folks can get more involved in LAOUT (volunteer, engage, etc.)
Public contact information of leaders (LAOUT/SCYU & Aviators)	Regular, anonymous polls from LAOUT for topics like gender equity	Gender equity sub-committee

Notes from small group discussions:

Participants divided into 5 groups based on topics they wanted to discuss.

The notes on defining issues & suggesting solutions for each topic are below

League Structure & Opportunities to Play

Issues

- Lack of field space
- Lack of women to play
- Why we play 4:3 (AR - I forget what this was about. Anyone remember?)
- Women's beach league timing
- Lack of local tournaments for women's club team
- Beginner/entry level player opportunities
- Leagues - play to win? For fun? Conflicting goals with league?
- Creating a welcoming environment
- Preserving pool of players from college
- Women of all ages
- Scheduling

- Clinics, pick-up, create opportunities

Solutions

- Women's hat tournament
- More and safer fields
- Dedicated women's pick-up game
- Communication/scheduling to avoid conflicts, for example between women's league and club tryouts
- Increased PR & outreach
- New player league
- Establish goals of league play
- More clinics, such as before women's league and summer league seasons and before games
- Low commitment, one day events like hat tournaments or clinics, smaller opportunities for women & new players
- Expand ringer rule - 1 beginner on at all times
- Identify beginner friendly pick-up game on website

Resource & Money Allocation

Issues:

- Types of events for expenses: new leagues, clinics, non-ultimate events
- Gender ratio is a problem
- Retention of women long-term

Solutions:

- Discount women's registration
- Media coverage of women's events
- Support of women's events
- Payment of fields
- Support for women's club team
- Club team communication
- Pay for an organizer of women's youth
- College women's tournament

The AUDL Boycott & Alternative National Structures

Issues:

- What is the boycott? Elite players refuse to support the AUDL (playing, social media, etc.) until the AUDL comes up with step by step program
- Problem within the boycott is that it is uncertain what people want to do to make the AUDL equitable
- Elite male players still have opportunities to play high level, while SoCal men have Aviators to play elite ultimate
- Need outside viewership to make USAU more meaningful

Solutions:

- Take opportunities to pair with USAU to combine and have the same vision
- Meaningful, not patronizing opportunities for women to play
- Team event: women's, men's, mixed teams. Each respective discipline plays against others and the "club" that has the most wins, wins

Retaining & Growing Women's Ultimate in LA

Issues:

- College: need for role models and “pushers” to get more women to play club
- Many women leave LA after college which makes it difficult to grow more leadership
- League experiences (negative & mixed)
- Women find competition at the expense of lack of welcoming & community atmosphere of leagues

Solutions:

- Women’s pick-up: sponsored by LAOUT (fields)
 - This would offer less fear
 - Higher community
 - Mentorship based
 - Continuation
- LAOUT support would take the burden off club women solely to foster community
- New LA Women’s club team

Youth & Girls Ultimate Development

Issues:

- Youth sports marketing/opportunities more available for boys
- No space for female youth voices
- Less visibility for female athlete role models
- Less content/reporting/promotion (women’s ultimate generally)
- Not getting enough players & parent buy-in
- Ultimate isn’t logistically available to youth (field space; PE curriculum)
- Education for all players to build a community of allies
- Resources (time, money, etc.)
- Specific roles of female youth players on the field (is ultimate taught in an inclusive manner to youth?)

Solutions:

- Educate coaches re:
 - Equitable, inclusive ultimate
 - Culture of allies
- ID school districts/youth organizations who can help bring ultimate to youth
- Create curriculum for educators (built-in equity/opportunities for girls)
- Communicate with after-school/other youth organizations like Girl Scouts
- Encourage/hire female youth coaches
- Create spaces for female youth voices
- Market ultimate to parents especially as co-ed
- Partner with/support existing organizations (SCYU)