



Who Run The World? GIRLS!

As Queen B has stated, girls run the world and PUL is following suit. **PUL has officially decided to follow Ultimate Canada and move to the WFDF mixed gender Ratio Rule A (aka gender parity) for the 2019 season.** In PUL this will affect all team-based leagues and start in 2019. This ratio rule may or may not apply to tournaments and hat/draft leagues. Before we go any further, any references to men, women, male or female include players that identify as such for matching gender ratio purposes as per the Ultimate Canada Inclusion Policy.

What is Rule A (Section A7.2, WFDF Rule of Ultimate 2017)?

Before the start of the game (after Carbon Flip for PUL) an additional disc flip happens with the winner selecting the gender ratio for the first point. For the next two points the ratio will be reversed (points 2 and 3). For the two points after this, the ratio must follow the first point (points 4 and 5). This pattern of alternating the ratio every two points, repeats until the end of the game. Halftime has no impact on this pattern.

Rationale

- **Gender equity is important** – ‘nuff said right?...not quite. Ratio Rule A produces near equal time for female and male athletes and encourages the gender ratio of mixed teams to include equal numbers of athletes who identify with each gender.
- **Get with the program** – The [World Games](#) is currently using Ratio Rule A, as well as the Australian Flying Disc Federation, Ultimate Canada. Many high schools and both recreational and competitive leagues across Canada have adopted it as well. We’re [ahead of the AUDL](#), though.
- **Encourage and support** – Ratio Rule A is expected to increase long-term participation of women in the mixed divisions. It also reflects an inclusive culture that PUL is proud of.
- **PUL leadership is in agreement** – The PUL Board, Membership Committee and the Player Development Committee, as well as the captains who attended the Captains Meeting all voted overwhelmingly in favour of adopting the Ratio Rule A: unanimous throughout, with a single abstention.
- **Female players have been asking** – For the past three years, the Membership Survey has included a question on gender parity. Each year, the number of female respondents who see a discrepancy in the way men and women are treated on and off the field has grown – 49% in 2017.

- **We are almost there already** – Winter leagues already run with gender parity. Summer team-based leagues currently include anywhere between 43-45% female players.

League Assistance

PUL is here to help with this transition. Essentially teams that are evenly distributed as 7/7 or 8/8, for male and female respectively are ideal. But there are many ways to go around this. The following is what the Player Development Committee has planned for this year to encourage and support both female players and the Ratio Rule A.

- **Female Engagement and Recruitment** – this is a subcommittee focused on recruiting women into the league and helping teams find players or help create a positive culture on the team they have already established encouraging the development of female players.
- **Women's Clinics** – Skill building clinics specifically for women run by the lovely Steph Wood. Two are proposed, one each for beginner and advanced skills and drills to encourage and assist in developing the skills of the female athletes in the league.
- **Women's Social Night** – that's right, one giant LADIES NIGHT OUT! A time for the ladies in PUL and the community to meet, socialize, have a good time and take over the world! It's important to build relationships, friendships and a community that supports each other on and off the field.

What can you do?

- **Captains:** Recruit! If each summer team recruits one female player, that brings the balance very close to the desired balance. Talk to your teams about how you might be more inclusive toward your female players. Reach out to the Player Development Committee if you anticipate problems meeting gender ratio requirements
- **Players:** [Talk this thing up](#). Talk to team members about how to better support female players. Be vocal about spirit of the game. Interested in helping PUL build? [Contact us](#) and we'll put you in touch!

For Your Information

If you are interested in reading more regarding Ultimate Canada's decision to move to Ratio Rule A or other leagues/news regarding this change please click on the following links.

[Ultimate Canada](#) - Explains UC's rationale for making the move to this rule. Gender Parity is not new to Ultimate Canada - mixed tournaments have had it for a while - but this will be the introduction of this particular model.

[Vancouver Ultimate](#) - Discusses the history of gender ratios in VUL from the very beginning, and the low cost of moving forward, including the introduction of Gender Parity as an option in 2016 and a rule in 2017.

[Equity in Mixed Ultimate](#)- A useful resource hub in promoting gender parity on your team and in your community.