MISSION:
You Can Play works to ensure safety and inclusion for all who participate in sports, including LGBTQ athletes, coaches, and fans. You Can Play believes sports teams should focus on an athlete’s skills, work ethic, and competitive spirit, not their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

HISTORY:
In 2012, You Can Play was launched by Patrick Burke of the NHL along with Brian Kitts, a sports and entertainment marketing executive, and Glenn Witman of GForce Sports. Brendan Burke, the brother of Patrick Burke and son of Brian Burke, longtime NHL team executive, made international headlines when he came out as gay in 2009. A few months after he came out, Brendan died in a car accident. You Can Play was founded in Brendan Burke’s honor.

You Can Play’s Director of Professional Sports Outreach, Wade Davis, is a former NFL player and one of the few openly gay men to have played pro sports. Wade was a defensive back for the Tennessee Titans, Washington Redskins, Seattle Seahawks, and two NFL Europe teams.

You Can Play’s Vice President of Program Development, Chris Mosier, is a triathlete and duathlete and the first transgender man to make a men’s US National Team. He is the founder of TransAthlete.com, has advocated for policy change from the elite to the high school level, and is a leading voice in the movement for transgender and LGBTQ inclusion in sport.

PARTNERSHIPS:
Our partners include the National Hockey League (NHL), National Hockey League Player’s Association (NHLPA), National Football League (NFL), Canadian Football League (CFL), Canadian Women’s Hockey League (CWHL), Major League Soccer (MLS), Major League Lacrosse (MLL), National Women’s Hockey League (NWHL), America East Conference, Big Sky Conference, Colorado High School Activities Association, and Canadian Olympic Committee.

EDUCATION & RESOURCES
- You Can Play training for athletes, coaches, and organizational staff
- Speaking events about diversity and LGBTQ inclusion
- Curriculum development and customized Playbooks

PROGRAMS & EVENTS
- You Can Play Nights at professional, collegiate, and community games
- Professional partnership programs, such as the Hi-Five Initiative
- International and regional events (Pride parades, community fairs)

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
- You Can Play videos posted on website and social media
- Crisis communication management
- Media talking points for leagues and partners