

July Prompt - Kaleidoscope Book Club

Theme: From Rivalry to Romance LGBTQIA+ Stories in Sports

Celebrate summer and the spirit of competition with books featuring LGBTQIA+ characters in the world of sports. Dive into athletic romance, coming-out stories on the field or court, the history of LGBTQIA+ athletes breaking barriers, fierce rivalries that turn into something more or anything else you feel fits the theme. Books should center LGBTQIA+ characters or be written by authors from the community. Fiction, nonfiction, memoir, or romance are welcome. Books from any category—adult, young adult, juvenile—are welcome.

Please note all below titles are currently available in print through consortium sharing (see links). Some titles may be available through Libby or Hoopla, but ebooks/audiobook availability is subject to change.

FICTION

Backhanded Compliments by Katie Chandler. Two rival professional women's tennis players discover they're soulmates when they first touch, and must navigate enemies-to-lovers tension across a full Grand Slam season. (Sapphic, Tennis) *Link to physical copy* [here](#).

Cheer Up: Love and Pompoms by Crystal Frasier, Val Wise, and Oscar O. Jupiter. A graphic novel following an antisocial lesbian who joins her high school cheer squad and falls for a recently transitioned trans girl teammate. (YA Graphic Novel, Sapphic, Trans, Cheerleading) *Link to physical copy* [here](#).

Cleat Cute by Meryl Wilsner. Two US Women's National Soccer Team players — one a rising star, the other the veteran she displaced — become rivals, then teammates with benefits, as they train for the World Cup. (Sapphic, Soccer) ***Arrives soon!***

Fifteen Hundred Miles from the Sun by Jonny Garza Villa. A gay Latinx teen in Texas is outed unexpectedly and finds unexpected connection — and romance — with a boy he meets online, all while navigating family, identity, and his love of soccer. (YA, Gay, MM, Soccer) *Link to physical copy* [here](#).

Game Changer Series by Rachel Reid (*especially Heated Rivalry*). The flagship series of MM gay hockey romance, following players on and around NHL teams finding love, navigating closets, and building found family. (MM, Gay, Bi, Hockey) *Link to physical copy* [here](#).

Home Field Advantage by Dahlia Adler. A bisexual cheerleader falls for the girl who just joined her school's football team. (YA, Sapphic, Bi, Football/Cheerleading) *Link to physical copy* [here](#).

Hot Girls With Balls by Benedict Nguyễn. Two Asian American trans women — rivals in a professional men's volleyball league and off-court lovers — navigate fame, social media, transmisogyny, and the question of who gets to own their own story. A sharp, high-gloss satirical debut. (Trans, WLW, Volleyball) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

How You Get the Girl by Anita Kelly. A former WNBA star agrees to help a high school girls' basketball coach lead her team to victory — and ends up coaching her in love along the way. Features a lesbian MC and a queer ace MC. (Sapphic, Ace Rep, Basketball) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Icebreaker by A.L. Graziadei. College freshman and hockey legacy Mickey James III has the NHL draft locked up — until his infuriating and attractive new teammate Jaysen Caulfield threatens to upend everything, including Mickey's heart. YA MM hockey romance. (YA, MM, Gay, Hockey) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Love at First Set by Jennifer Dugan. A sapphic romance centered on competitive weightlifting, following two women whose feelings grow stronger the harder they train. (Sapphic, Weightlifting) *Arriving soon!*

Man o' War by Cory McCarthy. A YA novel following River McIntyre, an Arab American trans nonbinary swimmer in small-town Ohio, on a multi-year journey of self-discovery, coming out, transition, and true love. (YA, Trans, NB, Queer, Swimming) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

May the Best Man Win by Z.R. Ellor. Trans cheer captain Jeremy challenges his all-star ex-boyfriend — a football star — for Homecoming King, in this YA lovers-to-exes-to-enemies-to-lovers romance. (YA, Trans, MM, Gay, Cheerleading/Football) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

One of the Boys by Victoria Zeller. A newly out trans girl rejoins her old high school football team as a kicker for senior season, and must navigate new friendships, a hypermasculine culture, and figuring out what she wants after high school. (YA, Trans, Football) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Open Era, The by Edward Schmit. The first openly gay man to compete in a Grand Slam battles media attention, mounting anxiety, and his growing feelings for a rival player during an electric two weeks at the US Open. (MM, Gay, Mental Health Rep, Tennis) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Prospects, The by K.T. Hoffman. Gene, the first openly trans professional baseball player, sees his carefully built life upended when his former teammate and current rival Luis is traded to his minor league team — and old feelings complicate everything. (MM, Trans, Gay, Baseball) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Pucking Around by Emily Rath. A sports medicine doctor scores her dream job with a new NHL team — and finds herself navigating an unexpectedly deep and poly connection with three of its players. (Poly, MM, Hockey) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

7/10 Split, The by Karmen Lee. Two women find love in the unlikely setting of a bowling league. (Sapphic, Bowling) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Shore Thing, A by Joanna Lowell. A Victorian romance following a brash trans man and a botanist on a cycling race along the British coast, as their unlikely partnership blooms into love. (Historical, Trans, Sapphic, Cycling) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Some Girls Do by Jennifer Dugan. A closeted gay track star and an openly bisexual girl form an unexpected partnership — and something more. (YA, Sapphic, Bi, Track/Running) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Wake Up, Nat & Darcy by Kate Cochrane. Two women find romance through their shared love of hockey. (Sapphic, Hockey) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

You Should Be So Lucky by Cat Sebastian. A grumpy rookie shortstop stuck in a batting slump and the grieving arts journalist reluctantly assigned to cover him find unexpected solace — and love — in 1960 New York City. A slow-burn historical MM romance. (MM, Gay, Historical, Baseball) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

NONFICTION

All In: An Autobiography by Billie Jean King. Tennis legend Billie Jean King chronicles her groundbreaking career, her fight for gender equality in sports, and her journey as a lesbian public figure. (Lesbian, Sports, Memoir,) *Link to physical copy* [here](#)

Fair Play: How Sports Shape the Gender Debates by Katie Barnes. An examination of contemporary controversies surrounding transgender participation in sports, featuring athletes, policymakers, and researchers from multiple perspectives. (Trans, Sports Journalism, Gender) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*

Let Us Play: Winning the Battle for Gender Diverse Athletes by Harrison Browne and Rachel Browne. Former professional hockey player Harrison Browne recounts his journey as a transgender athlete while advocating for greater inclusion and equity in sports. (Trans, Sports Memoir) *Arriving soon!*

Make It Count: My Fight to Become the First Transgender Olympic Runner by CeCé Telfer. Olympic hopeful CeCé Telfer recounts her path as a transgender athlete, detailing the challenges, triumphs, and barriers she faced. (Trans, Sports Memoir, Track & Field) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*

One Life by Megan Rapinoe. Soccer star Megan Rapinoe shares stories from her athletic career alongside reflections on LGBTQ+ visibility, social justice, and activism on and off the field. (Lesbian, Sports Memoir) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*

The Other Olympians: Fascism, Queerness, and the Making of Modern Sports by Michael Waters. An exploration of early 20th-century transgender and intersex athletes, tracing how shifting ideas about sex, gender, and nationalism shaped modern competitive sports. (History, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Sports) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*

The Race to Be Myself: A Memoir by Caster Semenya. Olympic champion Caster Semenya reflects on her life, athletic career, and highly publicized fight against discriminatory regulations targeting athletes with differences of sex development. (Intersex/DSD, Sports, Memoir, Advocacy) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*

Sporting Gender: The History, Science, and Stories of Transgender and Intersex Athletes by Joanna Harper. A wide-ranging look at the history, science, and personal experiences of transgender and intersex athletes, examining debates about fairness, inclusion, and identity in sport. (Trans, Intersex, Sports, Science, History) *Link to physical copy [here](#)*