

## **“We’ve Got to Get This Out of Our Game”: A Reddit Study on the Immediate Reaction to Homophobia in the United Soccer League**

**Authors :** Steffanie Kiourkas

**Abstract :** This study sought to examine fans’ responses to San Diego Loyal player Collin Martin being called a homophobic slur by Phoenix Rising player Junior Flemmings. Fans’ responses were gathered from Reddit comments on a thread posted immediately after the incident. Fans specifically centered their conversations on the homophobic slur, the coaches’ reactions, and the use of homophobia in sports in general. This study identified five themes present in the conversations between soccer fans. The themes generally highlighted critiques of the Phoenix Rising team and head coach, critiques of the use of homophobia in soccer, and support for the San Diego Loyal and hopefulness about the state of society moving forward.

**Keywords :** homophobia, LGBTQ+, United Soccer League, Reddit

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