

WFDF Transgender Policy Proposal 2016

Background and Explanation of WFDF Transgender Policy 2016

There has been a growing recognition of the importance of autonomy of gender identity in society worldwide. It is necessary to ensure insofar as possible that transgender athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in flying disc sports competition. Although many governments have moved to protect gender identity, unfortunately there are still many jurisdictions where autonomy of gender identity is not protected. This policy is designed to help protect our transgender athletes' rights to participate as the gender that they identify with at WFDF events.

Anti-Doping education and testing are required of all International Federations participating in the Olympic Movement. Due to this requirement, athletes using any hormonal medical treatments must complete a document called a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) before any WFDF event. This is also true for many other WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) Prohibited Substances that are considered medical treatments for various medical problems. Medical testing, including blood tests, are routinely required with TUE submissions for any WADA Prohibited Substance.

We strive to protect our transgender athletes by creating clear guidelines with minimally invasive requirements for TUE submission. These guidelines were developed by our Medical and Anti-Doping Committee which includes an endocrinologist with experience managing transgender hormone therapy as well as members of the GLBT community. Our policy uses common international standards for hormone level testing. We reviewed multiple organizations' policies, including the IOC frame, in determining competition eligibility for athletes in-transition. With our policy detailed below we aim to balance the transgender athlete's rights with fairness towards competitors.

In addition to protecting transgender athletes' rights to participate, we have adopted an anti-discrimination policy. Any reported discriminatory actions based on gender identity will be investigated by WFDF and sanctions imposed when appropriate.

National Governing Bodies that participate in WFDF may have their own policies and are not required to adopt this WFDF policy.

WFDF Transgender Policy 2016 for medical personnel

WFDF Competition and Anti-Doping Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) policy when determining eligibility of transgender athletes to compete in male, female, and mixed gender competition shall be:

1. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category and to be counted toward the male ratio in the mixed category under the following conditions:

1.1 Before an athlete begins hormone therapy, the athlete may compete in any of female, male, mixed contributing to female ratio, and/or mixed contributing to male ratio without restriction.

1.2 Once an athlete begins hormone therapy, he is only eligible to compete in the male category and to be counted toward the male ratio in the mixed category.

1.3. The athlete must demonstrate that his total testosterone level in serum androgenic hormone levels are not excess of the internationally accepted standard for transgender treatment. A blood test must be shown to demonstrate hormone level at two time points (1) 12 months or more before the event and (2) within 6 months of the event.

1.4 Once an athlete begins hormone therapy, he must submit documentation of his hormone therapy and testosterone level to the WFDF Medical and Anti-Doping Committee (MADC) for evaluation at least 1 month prior to the first WFDF-sanctioned event he participates in. An evaluation by the MADC approving the athlete's eligibility persist as long as the requirement in 1.3 continues to be met.

1.5 Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. If his androgenic hormone levels are found to be in excess of the internationally accepted standard for transgender treatment, the athlete's eligibility for competition may be suspended until androgenic hormone levels are found to be within accepted limits of the internationally accepted standard for transgender treatment for at least 12 months.

2. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category and be counted toward the female gender ratio in the mixed category under the following conditions:

2.1. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of one year.

2.2. The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition. A blood test must be shown to demonstrate that level at two time points (1) 12 months or more before the event and (2) within 6 months of the event.

2.3. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete.

2.4. The athlete must submit documentation of 2.2 and 2.3 to the WFDF Medical and Anti-Doping Committee (MADC) for evaluation at least 1 month prior to the first WFDF-sanctioned event she participates in. An evaluation by the MADC approving the athlete's eligibility persist as long as the requirement in 2.3 continues to be met.

2.5. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for competition in the

female category and be counted toward the female gender ratio will be suspended until the requirements in 2.2 have been attained.

3. Upon formal written request from a concerned athlete (or their parent/guardian if the athlete is a minor), coach, or organizer about an athlete on an opposing team, WFDF MADC will evaluate the situation on a case by case basis.

4. Any reported discriminatory actions based on gender identity will be investigated by WFDF and sanctions imposed when appropriate.

References:

- IOC Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism November 2015
- Adoption of an Inclusive Transgender Policy for USA Ultimate. Submitted by the Competition Committee and Medical Advisory Committee. Adopted by ExComm – 2.15.2012
- SA Gymnastics Policy for Transgender Inclusion Adopted July, 2015

Approved by the WFDF Board of Directors on 20 November 2016.