



USSF POLICY LETTER 07

DATE: July 2021

Inclusion of Transgender Athletes

PURPOSE

To provide guidance on the participation of transgender athletes in USSF-sanctioned events.

This policy was developed with guidance from the International Sumo Federation. The policies of other major amateur sports organizations were consulted throughout its development.

AUTHORITY

USSF By-Laws, Article IV, Section 4.C.

This Policy Letter supersedes all previously dated information on the same subject.

POLICY

Section 1. Eligibility Guidelines

1. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category under the following conditions:
 - a. The athlete has declared that their gender identity is male. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
2. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:
 - a. The athlete has declared that their gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.
 - d. Compliance with these conditions will be monitored by testing from a physician and submitted to the United States Sumo Federation every three (3) months. Additionally, the United States Sumo Federation may request these documents at any point and time, and the athlete must submit them within 60-days from receiving the request. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.
3. Those who transition from male to female, as well as those transitioning from female to male, before puberty are eligible to compete in the category of the gender they identify with without restriction.

Section 2. Application and Review Process

1. Any junior or senior athlete whose gender identity differs from that which was determined at birth and who wants to compete in sanctioned sumo competitions must submit a written request to the United States Sumo Federation (USSF). Requests should be directed to president@ussumo.org.
2. Requests will be confidentially evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the USSF Board of Trustees with input from the Executive Committee. During the evaluation, the USSF may request additional information, including, but not limited to:
 - a. An interview with the athlete and/or the athlete's parent/guardian
 - b. Relevant medical records
 - c. Relevant legal records
 - d. An interview with any USSF member in support of the application upon approval of the athlete under review.

Section 3. Compliance

1. In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the Board of Trustees of United States Sumo Federation will have permission by the athlete, and if underage the legal guardian of the athlete, to speak to and request records from the athletes designated physician. They shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor.
2. Should an athlete be considered ineligible to compete in the category they desire, they will be notified of the reasons why, and informed of the conditions they are required to meet should they wish to be eligible. The competitor has the right to appeal within 30 days of written notice.
3. If an athlete fails or refuses to comply with any aspect of the eligibility determination process, while that is their right as an individual, they will not be eligible to participate as a competitor.
4. Any investigation of an athlete will be conducted under strict confidentiality.
5. Interpretation of these guidelines will respect the essence of the male/female classification and also guarantee the fairness and integrity of male/female competitions for all athletes.

Section 4. Enforcement

1. All directors of USSF-sanctioned competitions are responsible for enforcing USSF policy. Any tournament director who knowingly permits an athlete to compete in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
2. All directors of USSF-sanctioned competition are responsible for enforcing USSF Policy. Any tournament director who does not permit an athlete deemed acceptable by the USSF to compete will be in violation of this policy and will be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Any athlete found to have circumvented USSF policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to undermine in any way the requirement to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) and the WADA International Standards.

This Policy Letter was drafted by Helen Delpopolo and approved by the Board of Trustees: Helen Delpopolo, Andrew Freund, Mariah Holmes, Justin Kizzart, and Ed Suczewski in May 2021.