



# FAI Transgender Policy



2024 Edition

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2022, the World Air Sports Federation (FAI) and FAI Medico-Physiological Commissions (CIMP) embarked on a collaborative journey to formulate a comprehensive policy centred on fairness, inclusion, and non-discrimination based on gender identity and sex variation. This joint effort aimed to create a well-balanced framework that upholds the values of equality and respect within the realm of air sports.

This policy supports the vision that every individual possesses the inherent right to engage in sports without encountering discrimination, while also being afforded the utmost regard for their health, safety, and dignity. Simultaneously, the integrity of competitive sports, particularly at the highest levels of organized competitions, hinges upon the establishment of a level playing field. It is imperative that no athlete holds an unfair or disproportionate advantage over their peers.

This document underscores the significance of fostering an environment where all participants, regardless of their gender identity or sex variation, can compete on equal footing, free from prejudice or bias. To ensure clarity and understanding, the following explanations are provided:

### 1.1 EXPLANATION NOTE

#### 1.1.1 Cisgender:

This term refers to individuals whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth. For instance, a cisgender man was assigned male at birth, while a cisgender woman was assigned female at birth.

#### 1.1.2 Intersex Variations:

This pertains to differences in physical (external/internal) or hormonal traits that deviate from the traditionally understood characteristics of male or female sexes. Some of these variations may result in higher levels of testosterone, a condition known as hyperandrogenism.

#### 1.1.3 Transgender:

Individuals who identify with a gender that differs from the sex assigned to them at birth are referred to as transgender. For example, a transgender man is someone who was assigned female at birth but identifies as a man, whereas a transgender woman is someone assigned male at birth but identifies as a woman.

### 1.2 POLICY APPLICATION

This policy establishes the conditions under which Transgender competitors may compete in FAI Competitions according to their gender identity.

Should an unforeseen issue arise within this policy, FAI will address it in a manner that upholds and advances the policy's imperatives.

## 2 CONFIDENTIALITY

All cases arising under this policy, including information provided to FAI and examination results, will be handled confidentially. Medical information and data concerning competitors will be treated as sensitive personal information, processed in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information will only be disclosed:

- as strictly necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this policy; or
- as required by law

### 3 ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

The FAI Air Sports Commissions, in collaboration with CIMP, will assess each request individually to determine if competitors possess attributes such as strength, endurance, or body size that could provide a competitive advantage in specific events (air sport, discipline, classes as of FAI Sporting Code and its dedicated sections) categorized as 'strength events.' In events other than these 'strength events,' all transgender athletes are welcome to compete without restrictions. However, the criteria in 3.1 and 3.2 must be strictly adhered to when determining eligibility for male and female competition in FAI 'strength' events. The same would apply to intersex competitors in FAI 'strength' events.

#### 3.1 TRANSITION FROM FEMALE TO MALE:

Individuals transitioning from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction. A written and signed declaration affirming the individual's gender identity as male must be provided to the FAI.

Upon receipt of the declaration, the FAI will issue a written certificate validating the competitors' eligibility to compete as a Man in FAI Events and attempt FAI World and Continental Records.

#### 3.2 TRANSITION FROM MALE TO FEMALE:

Individuals transitioning from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under specific conditions:

- 3.2.1 The competitor must submit a written declaration to [antidoping@fai.org](mailto:antidoping@fai.org) affirming her gender identity as female to the FAI, which cannot be altered for a minimum of 24 months for sporting purposes.
- 3.2.2 Upon submitting 3.2.1, the competitor receives the link for secure transfer of her medical file, through which she must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been consistently below 2.5 nmol/L.
  - 3.2.2.1 If transitioning before the age of 12 or Tanner stage 2, testosterone levels\* must remain below 2.5 nmol/L continuously for at least 12 months prior to competing in the female category.
  - 3.2.2.2 If transitioning after puberty, testosterone levels\* must remain below 2.5 nmol/L continuously for 24 months prior to competing in the female category.

\*All measurements of serum testosterone must be conducted using liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry.

Upon meeting the eligibility conditions as of 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, the competitor will receive a written certificate from the FAI validating eligibility to compete as a Woman in FAI Events and attempt FAI World and Continental Records.

### 4 MONITORING

FAI may monitor a competitor's compliance with the Transgender eligibility conditions at any time, with or without notice, through various means such as random or targeted testing of the competitor's serum testosterone levels. Competitors agree to provide serum samples for this purpose, acknowledging that any samples provided for anti-doping purposes may also be used. Additionally, competitors must comply with all FAI rules and regulations.

## 5 LIMITATIONS

Once a Transgender competitor has met the eligibility requirements and begun participating in FAI Events or attempt FAI World and Continental Records, consistent with their gender identity, they may not switch back to competing in the other gender category unless:

- at 24 months have passed since their first participation as a Transgender competitor, and
- they satisfy all eligibility conditions for the other gender category.

## 6 COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS

This Transgender Policy ensures fairness and safety within FAI sports, upholding the dignity of every individual. All forms of abuse and harassment are strictly prohibited. The policy aims to protect women and men in sport and promote fair competition principles without questioning the dignity of any Transgender competitor.

## 7 WORLD RECORDS

To validate any World or Continental Records, Transgender competitors must comply with the FAI Transgender Policy.

## 8 ADOPTION BY FAI STAKEHOLDERS

This policy applies to International Sporting Events as defined in the FAI Sporting Code General Section 4.1.2.

For National Sporting Events, as defined by FAI Sporting Code General Section 4.1.1, it is recommended that each FAI Member adopt its own rules or transgender policy to determine the eligibility of transgender competitors at events under national jurisdiction. While less stringent eligibility requirements may be imposed at lower levels, these would not affect eligibility for international competitions, which is determined solely by the FAI Transgender Policy and other applicable FAI rules and regulations.

## 9 VALIDITY

Nothing in these guidelines is intended to undermine in any way the requirement to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and the WADA International Standards.

This policy will be subject to review considering any further scientific or medical developments.

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