

BC WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Transgender Athlete Eligibility Policy

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this document:
 - a) *“Gender reassignment”* – medically-supervised program of treatment to transition a person’s body to align with their gender identity through hormone therapy and/or surgery.
 - b) *“Medical Practitioner”* – A person licensed to practice medicine in Canada who has obtained a medical school diploma (“MD”) and is registered with a province’s College of Physicians and Surgeons.
 - c) *“Puberty”* – The process of physical changes through which a child’s body matures into an adult body, typically beginning in girls around ages 10-11 and in boys around ages 11-12.
 - d) *“Transgender”* – People who have been assigned one gender at birth but who identify with the other gender. In order to align their bodies with their sense of gender, many transgender individuals undergo hormone therapy and/or surgery to transition to the other gender.
 - e) *“Transgender Female”* – Someone who was assigned male at birth, but who identifies and lives as a girl or a woman and who is being treated for gender reassignment.
 - f) *“Transgender Male”* – Someone who was assigned female at birth, but who identifies and lives as a boy or a man and who is being treated for gender reassignment.

Guiding Principle

2. The BCWSA is committed to including and respecting all participants and will implement this policy in a fair and equitable manner.

Purpose

3. BCWSA believes in equal opportunity for all participants. In instances where a transgender athlete wishes to compete in BCWSA-sanctioned activities or events, BCWSA will implement eligibility guidelines in order to ensure a fair and level playing field for all participants.

Competition Streams

4. BCWSA recognizes that certain competition streams (e.g., co-ed) provide a fair and level playing field for all participants, regardless of their gender. When necessary and on a case-by-case basis BCWSA will, at its discretion, designate leagues, events, competitions, or other organization-sanctioned activities as either ‘Competitive’ or ‘Recreational’.

Eligibility Guidelines - Competitive

5. The following guidelines will be used to determine the eligibility of transgender athletes in competition streams that are designated as ‘Competitive’:
 - a) *Gender reassignment before puberty*
 - i. Athletes undergoing gender reassignment of male-to-female shall be regarded as female
 - ii. Athletes undergoing gender reassignment of female-to-male shall be regarded as male
 - b) *Gender reassignment after puberty*

The following conditions will be used to determine the individual's eligibility to compete:

- i. Transgender Females, to compete as a female, must submit documentation from a Medical Practitioner that gender reassignment has been ongoing for at least one year.
 - ii. Transgender Males, to compete as a male, must submit documentation from a Medical Practitioner that gender reassignment is ongoing.
6. Any transgender athlete who is not undergoing hormone therapy for gender reassignment purposes will only be permitted to compete as the gender that was assigned at birth.

Application for Eligibility - Competitive

7. A transgender athlete may initiate the application for eligibility process by submitting documentation from a Medical Practitioner as outlined in Section 5.
8. BCWSA will decide each case based upon the documentation provided and may, with reasonable cause, request additional information. Upon review and acceptance of the documentation, the transgender athlete will be registered as the gender to which they have transitioned or are transitioning. The individual will continue to remain designated as such unless circumstances dictate that a different determination may be necessary.
9. All athletes must be aware that they may be subject to doping control testing pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Transgender athletes are encouraged to contact the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) to determine what procedures, if any, are required to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) related to gender reassignment.

Eligibility Guidelines - Recreational

10. For competition streams that are designated as 'Recreational', a transgender athlete is not required to submit an application for eligibility regardless if the athlete is undergoing gender reassignment or not.

Facility Use – Washrooms and Change rooms

11. When BCWSA has the authority to determine participants' use of washrooms, change rooms, and other facilities, BCWSA will permit transgender athletes who are eligible to compete as a certain gender (per this Policy) to use the facilities of that gender.

Confidentiality

12. The procedures under this Policy are confidential. BCWSA will not disclose to outside parties any documentation submitted by a transgender athlete or any communications with a transgender athlete, except as is necessary for the purposes of implementing this policy.

Ongoing Monitoring

13. BCWSA commits to monitoring ongoing developments regarding national and international participation guidelines for transgender athletes and pledges to review and/or revise this Policy whenever new information becomes available.

Appeal

14. Any decision rendered by BCWSA in accordance with this Policy may be appealed in accordance with the BCWSA's *Appeal Policy*.