



IRF Policy for Transgender Athletes

Approved September 29, 2023

Effective January 1, 2024

Purpose

The International Racquetball Federation (IRF) supports diversity and inclusion in all aspects of Racquetball and promotes programs that offer a wide variety of opportunities to participate in the sport. The International Racquetball Federation has developed this policy in a proactive effort to help guide and support members of the Racquetball worldwide community. The goal of this policy is to provide transgender athletes an avenue to participate in Racquetball and to do so in a fair manner.

Who is covered by this policy?

This policy applies to transgender individuals who desire to participate as representatives of their National Federations in IRF sanctioned events.

The IRF cannot authorize or evaluate transgender participation at the national level. All National Federations must comply with this policy during participation in sanctioned IRF events.

Application Process

A transgender athlete must provide the following:

1. A written declaration statement to their National Federation declaring themselves transgender and notifying the National Federation of their declared gender identity. This declaration cannot be changed for four years from the date of approval.
2. Relevant legal records (e.g., National ID or passport).
3. A statement provided by a medical provider (e.g., licensed medical professional) stating that the individual is transitioning or has transitioned.
4. Additional documentation, as applicable, under Eligibility Criteria in this policy.

It is the responsibility of the National Federations to notify the IRF of the participation of any transgender athlete to be entered in any IRF sanctioned event and to provide documentation per items 1-4 above.

The IRF reserves the right to request additional information as necessary from a National Federation in conjunction with the application steps and eligibility criteria identified in this policy.

Utilizing the requirements provided herein, the IRF has the right to limit participation and may impose other guidelines or restrictions, which may include but are not limited to, limiting the eligibility period and follow-up requirements.

Eligibility Criteria

Pre-Pubescent Athletes: A pre-pubescent athlete may be granted eligibility to participate in their affirmed gender so long as they submit a written declaration statement and a statement provided by a medical provider (i.e., a licensed medical professional). This request may or may not require parental consent for minors depending upon applicable law.

Post-Pubescent Athletes: A post-pubescent athlete who completes the application process herein will be eligible for participation, provided they comply with the following:

1. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category. It is the responsibility of athletes to be aware of current WADA/USADA policies and file for appropriate Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) as necessary.
2. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:
 - a. Prior to participation in a sanctioned IRF event, the athlete must demonstrate that their total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for 12 months.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Current testosterone levels signed off by a licensed medical professional must be submitted to the IRF through their National Federation 60 days prior to participation in any IRF event.
 - d. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by random or for-cause testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete may not compete in the female category before demonstrating 12 months of compliance. Such athlete may compete in male divisions as a female where allowed by event general policy.

Application Review Procedures

After the National Federation has provided the information listed under the application process in this policy, the IRF Policies Commission, in consultation with medical professionals, will evaluate the requested participation in the sanctioned event. Requests will be confidentially evaluated. National Federations will be notified of the evaluation results.

Applications and inquiries should be directed to IRF Director Mauro Grandio Buzaleh.
(maurograndio@internationalracquetball.org)

Athlete Rights and Obligations

Athletes who do not comply with all aspects of the application and eligibility determination process will not be permitted to participate in IRF sanctioned events under the gender of their declaration.

Should an athlete be declared ineligible to compete as their declared gender, the National Federation will be notified of the reasons and steps, if any, required to establish desired eligibility. Once an athlete believes they have achieved all requirements, the National Federation may submit a new declaration for review.

If an athlete has applied for but has not been approved as eligible for female category competition, the athlete shall be eligible to compete in male category competition.

If a minimum of three applications for participation of transgender athletes are received, the creation of a corresponding category will be evaluated.

Definitions of Common Transgender Terminology

Gender Identity: An individual's internal psychological identification as a male or female.

Gender Expression: Ways in which an individual represents or expresses their gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, etc.

Transgender: Describes an individual whose gender identity does not correspond with the person's biological sex. Transgender is not related to sexual preference; a transgender person may be attracted to the same sex or the opposite sex.

Transition: The period during which a person begins to live as a new gender. Transitioning may include but not be limited to name change, hormone ingestion, surgery, and/or changing legal documents.

National Federation Delegates and Presidents, please contact IRF Director Mauro Grandio Buzaleh with any questions: maurograndio@internationalracquetball.org

The IRF reserves the right to revise/update this policy as necessary.

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