

# USSMA TRANSGENDER ATHLETE POLICY

*September 1, 2020 – Draft v5*

## **Goal**

The USSMA supports equal opportunity, athlete support and pay across genders with cisgender divisions in competition. The goal of the USSMA Transgender Policy is to establish guidelines that encourage and facilitate the participation of transgender athletes in USSMA sanctioned events. Additionally, the objective of this policy is to enforce fair and inclusive practices that respect the personal rights and dignity of all athletes.

## **Youth**

This policy applies to athletes 21 years of age and older. Due to the physical and emotional complexity of youth questioning their gender, exploring their gender or undergoing gender transition, all youth athletes' self-declared gender at registration for any USSMA sanctioned event will be accepted at face value. If a youth athlete endeavors to race internationally, they will be subject to the governing policy, which will be the IOC policy until the ISMF has a transgender athlete policy in place.

## **General Rules**

A male-to-female transgender athlete can compete as a female provided the athlete has been undergoing continuous, medically supervised hormone treatment for gender transition for at least one year prior to the event. The athlete should be able to provide documentation, if requested, of serum testosterone levels consistently below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to competition.

A female-to-male transgender athlete can register to compete as a male with no restrictions. A female-to-male transgender athlete can no longer register to compete as a female if the athlete has begun hormone therapy related to their gender transition that includes use of testosterone or any other substance banned in sport.

## **Policy Enforcement**

An athlete's self-declared gender at registration for any USSMA sanctioned event will be accepted at face value. There shall be no basis for, or tolerance of, any challenge of an athlete's self-declared gender unless the athlete is 1) has placed in a podium position (top three) at a USSMA sanctioned event or 2) participating to qualify for a place on the US National Team. If the intention of the athlete is to qualify for the US National Team, and additionally, if the athlete so chooses, race at the ISMF World Championship, the case of the athlete will be reviewed by the USSMA Board and

Medical Committee to determine the best course of action. Currently, there is no ISMF Transgender Athlete Policy. Thus, for guidance on international competition rules, IOC policy will be utilized.

The USSMA shall have the sole authority to review any challenge regarding the gender status of an athlete who has placed in a podium position at a USSMA sanctioned event. Any such challenge must be made in writing to the USSMA Board and Medical Committee with the utmost discretion and respect for the privacy of all parties involved. The USSMA Board and Medical Committee, in its sole discretion, will determine whether there is a legitimate basis for the challenge. The contact email for and challenge or inquires on this matter is [info@ussma.org](mailto:info@ussma.org).

### **Gender Eligibility Status Review**

In the event of a challenge, the USSMA Board may ask for documentation from a medical doctor or healthcare provider certifying that the entrant has undergone continuous, medically supervised hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for gender transition for at least one year prior to the event. Under such review, the athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to the USSMA sanctioned event. Athletes, at their discretion, may provide the medical documentation related to their gender transition to the USSMA Board prior to the event. Any information about the athlete's gender identity and medical information, including any information provided pursuant to this policy, shall be kept strictly confidential.

The final decision regarding the entrant's eligibility to compete within a specific gender category shall be within the sole discretion of the USSMA Board. If it is determined that the athlete is not in compliance with the USSMA's rules for transgender entrants, the athlete's result will not be included in the event's final standings.