

AIM

British Triathlon is responsible for matters such as the Great Britain Elite, Paratriathlon and Age-Group Teams, British and International events. British Triathlon also manages a number of services that are shared with the three Home Nations (Triathlon England, Welsh Triathlon, Triathlon Scotland).

British Triathlon have developed a policy in respect of transsexual people in order to ensure equal and fair competition in all disciplines of triathlon and to ensure the safety of all competitors.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

TRANSGENDER PERSON

The term transgender person or trans person are umbrella terms to cover a number of specific terms such as transsexual men, transsexual women, intersex people, androgyne and polygender people, cross-dressing and transvestite people.

GENDER REASSIGNMENT

Gender reassignment is one of a number of protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 and is the process of transitioning from one sex to another. This legislation prohibits discrimination against a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process, or part of a process, for the purpose of reassigning their sex.

TRANSSEXUAL PERSON

This term refers to someone with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. We use the term transsexual man to describe a female-to-male transsexual person and use the term transsexual woman to describe a male-to-female transsexual person. This is not the same as a cross-dresser, or transvestite people, nor is it the same as sexual orientation.

AFFIRMED (ACQUIRED) GENDER

We use the term 'affirmed' or 'acquired gender' to describe the sex that the person has transitioned/is transitioning to as opposed to that which was assigned at birth.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Gender Recognition Act 2004 (the "Act") allows transsexual people who have taken decisive steps to live fully and permanently in their acquired gender to gain legal recognition in that gender. The Act ensures that transsexual people can now take up their fundamental rights including the right to respect for private and family life and be allowed to live free from discrimination.

2. In practical terms, legal recognition will have the effect that, for example, a male-to-female transsexual person will be legally recognised as a woman in English law. On the

issue of a full Gender Recognition Certificate, the person will be entitled to a new birth certificate reflecting the acquired gender.

3. The Act makes specific provision for sports organisations to prohibit or restrict a person whose gender has become the acquired gender under the Act from participating as competitors in an event or events involving a gender-affected sport. A sport is a gender-affected sport if the physical strength, stamina or physique of average persons of one gender would put them at a disadvantage to average persons of the other gender as competitors in events involving the sport.

4. Such prohibition or restrictions can only be made in order to secure fair competition or the safety of competitors at the event or events.

5. The International Olympic Committee has established a policy for the participation of transsexual people in sports competitions (the “IOC Policy”). As the National Federation for the sport of Triathlon in Great Britain, the British Triathlon Federation has adopted the IOC Policy in respect of participation in triathlon events at an elite or international level.

6. The British Triathlon Federation’s Gender Recognition Policy has been developed in accordance with the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the Equality Act 2010, Sport Council Equality Group (SCEG) policy framework for non-contact sport and the IOC Policy. It recognises the right of an individual who has undergone gender reassignment to participate in sport in their acquired gender whilst ensuring that such participation does not unfairly affect competition and does not affect the safety of fellow competitors.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPETITION

A. Definitions

1. In this policy, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

(a) “Elite Athlete” means an individual competing in an elite category race held in Great Britain or overseas;

(b) “Age Group Representative Athlete” means an individual competing in an age group category race where that individual has been selected to represent Great Britain;

(c) “Domestic Competition” means any event registered with the British Triathlon Federation but excluding all elite category races and those races held in Great Britain restricted to Age Group Representative Athletes;

British Triathlon Federation’s requirement relating to the eligibility of transsexual people to compete in competitions are as follows:

B. Transsexual males

2. Any transsexual male (those who transition from female to male) who are recognised under the Equality Act 2010 as someone who are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment are eligible to compete in his affirmed gender without restriction in any Domestic Competition.

C. Transsexual females

3. Any transsexual female (those who transition from male to female) who are recognised under the Equality Act 2010 as someone who are undergoing or have undergone gender

reassignment can compete in domestic competition under the following guidance set out by SCEG;

(a) Transsexual woman - over 16 and post puberty - may compete in her affirmed gender in female or mixed-sex domestic competition by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender or that she has had a gonadectomy.

Or

She may compete in any male or mixed-sex competition if she has not started hormone treatment.

(b) Transsexual girl - under 16 and post-puberty - she may compete in her affirmed gender in any female or mixed-sex domestic competition subject to an individual case-by-case review, if required, undertaken by British Triathlon.

Or

She may compete in any male or mixed-sex competition if she has not started hormone treatment nor had a gonadectomy.

(c) Transsexual girl - pre-puberty - may compete in her affirmed gender in any female or mixed-sex domestic competition subject to confirmation of her stage of pubertal development.

D. Age Group Representative/Elite Athlete

An individual who has undergone gender reassignment from male-to-female after puberty (and vice versa) may only participate as an Elite Athlete or as an Age Group Representative Athlete under their acquired gender where they meet the following guidelines set out by the IOC:

4. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.

5. 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 her gender identity is female and this declaration cannot be changed for a minimum of four years for sporting purposes.

(b) Hormonal therapy appropriate for the acquired gender has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantages in sport competitions.

(c) For the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category, the athlete must ensure administration of appropriate hormonal therapy.

7. An individual wishing to participate as an Elite Athlete or as an Age Group Representative Athlete under their acquired gender will have their application considered by a Medical Officer appointed by the British Triathlon Federation. For the avoidance of doubt, the Medical Officer will assess the application to ensure that the individual meets the conditions set out in clause 5.

8. An individual whose application pursuant to clause 7 is refused will have the right to appeal that decision to an independent appeals panel established by the Sports Disputes Resolution Panel or similar body.

E. Privacy

9. The British Triathlon Federation (and its officers and staff) and any organisers of event(s) sanctioned by the British Triathlon Federation shall not disclose any information obtained from an individual in accordance with this policy unless:

(a) The disclosure of that information does not enable the individual competitor to be identified;

(b) The individual competitor to whom the information relates has agreed to its disclosure;

or

(c) It is under a legal duty to disclose the information.

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ENDS