

# **GENDER POLICY OF U. S. FIGURE SKATING**

**(Approved by Board of Directors July 6, 2016)**

U. S. Figure Skating Gender Policy incorporates by reference the results of the Consensus Meetings and statements of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission from October 2003, May 2004, January and October 2010, and April 2011; and the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission's Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism (November 2015).

U.S. Figure Skating's Gender Policy is based on the results and guidelines of the IOC actions and meetings referenced above.

*(Please note this Gender Policy and the guidelines recommended by the IOC are a living document and will be subject to review in light of any scientific or medical developments.)*

## **Eligibility to compete in male and female competitions.**

### **Sex reassignment before puberty.**

Individuals undergoing sex reassignment of male to female before puberty should be regarded as girls and women (female). This also applies to individuals undergoing female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).

### **Sex reassignment after puberty.**

- Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.
- Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:
  - The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
  - The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition.
  - 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.
  - Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.

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## **Eligibility of female athletes with hyperandrogenism.**

A female recognized in law should be eligible to compete in female competitions provided that she has androgen levels below the male range (as shown by the serum concentration of testosterone) or, if within the male range, she has an androgen resistance such that she derives no competitive advantage from such levels.

To avoid discrimination, if not eligible for female competition, the athlete should be eligible to compete in male competition.

## **Compliance**

In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the Chair of the Sports Science and Medicine Committee if he/she is a physician or, in the event the Chair is not a physician, his or her designated representative (in most cases this will be the Vice Chair of Medical Service) shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor.

Should an athlete be considered ineligible to compete, she/he would be notified of the reasons why, and informed of the conditions she/he would be required to meet should she/he wish to become eligible again. The competitor has the right to appeal the determination of gender pursuant to Article XXV of the Bylaws of U.S. Figure Skating and Rules GCR 5.04 and GCR 6.01.

If an athlete fails or refuses to comply with any aspect of the eligibility determination process, while that is her/his right as an individual, she/he will not be eligible to participate as a competitor.

The investigation of a particular case will be conducted under strict confidentiality.

Interpretation of these guidelines will respect the essence of the male/ female classification and also guarantee the fairness and integrity of female/male competitions for all female/male athletes.