

BWF Statutes, Section 1.2.9:

INTERIM TRANSGENDER POLICY

In Force:

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Introduction

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is committed to promoting inclusivity, fairness, and a level playing field for all athletes. Recognising the need for further research and understanding on transgender participation in badminton, this document presents the BWF's interim position in relation to its framework for transgender athletes, while research is conducted.

To guide its work, the BWF follows the principles included in the 'IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations' ([linked here](#)).

As an international sports federation, the BWF is supportive of inclusive sports, where all can participate regardless of their physical characteristics. Yet, in elite sports, where players depend on their sports performances to make a living, the principle of fairness is paramount. This document is only applicable for participation at BWF-sanctioned tournaments, i.e., the highest level of competition within badminton.

Interim Policy Position

According to scientific research, men, physiologically and on average, have more power and stamina than women¹, which has relevance when addressing the question of the participation of transgender players. Through research, the BWF seeks to explore this hypothesis in order to arrive to a final policy position.

While research is carried out and until a position is reached, the BWF will assess the inclusion of transgender athletes on a case-by-case basis.

Such assessment will take into account criteria such as:

- the player's sex at birth as an initial guiding principle,
- the player's level, potential and playing history (all of which, prior to transition),
- variables related to the player's transition (such as age and timeline of transition, type of treatment).

Research and Consultation

The BWF has commissioned research and sought expert opinions to inform future policy. This research aims to gain a better understanding of the physiological and competitive advantages or disadvantages that may be associated with transgender participation in badminton. We intend to ensure transparency, integrity, and inclusivity in the research process, actively involving athletes (including transgender, where possible), medical professionals, and relevant stakeholders. Involvement of transgender players is particularly challenging due to the few such players exercising and competing in badminton at a high level, which makes it more difficult to derive conclusive and reliable science-based conclusions.

Inclusivity

The BWF is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where athletes of all gender identities can participate in badminton. We recognise the importance of respecting the rights and experiences of transgender athletes and are committed to developing a policy that reflects this inclusivity while upholding the fairness and integrity of the sport.