



USA Racquetball Policy for Transgender Athletes

Effective April 25, 2022

Purpose

USA Racquetball supports diversity and inclusion in all aspects of Racquetball and promotes programs that offer a wide variety of opportunities to participate in the sport. USA Racquetball has developed this policy in a proactive effort to help guide and support members of the Racquetball 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 in USA Racquetball sanctioned events.

USA Racquetball cannot authorize or evaluate transgender participation at the club level because USA Racquetball does not own, operate, or otherwise control local clubs. However, a club must comply with this policy during a USA Racquetball sanctioned event.

Eligibility for transgender participation at the international level will be governed by all applicable policies and criteria stipulated by governing bodies including but not limited to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Racquetball Federation (IRF), and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC).

Application Process

A transgender athlete must provide the following:

1. A written declaration statement to USA Racquetball (ed@usaracquetball.com) declaring themselves transgender and notifying USA Racquetball of their declared gender identity. This declaration cannot be changed for four years from the date of approval.
2. Relevant legal records (e.g., driver's license, name change, updated birth certificate).
3. A statement provided by a medical provider (e.g., doctor or licensed counselor) stating that the individual is transitioning or has transitioned.
4. Additional documentation, as applicable, under Eligibility Criteria in this policy.

USA Racquetball reserves the right to request additional information as necessary from an athlete in conjunction with the application steps and eligibility criteria identified in this policy.

Utilizing the requirements provided herein, USA Racquetball 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.

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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 (e.g., doctor or licensed counselor). This request may or may not require parental consent for minors depending on 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. The athlete must demonstrate that their total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for 12 months prior to her first competition.
 - 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 must be submitted to USA Racquetball on an annual basis based on the date of approval. At any time, the athlete may be required to provide current testosterone levels.
 - 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 an athlete has provided the information listed under Application Process in this policy, USA Racquetball will evaluate the transgender individual's requested participation in sanctioned events. Requests will be confidentially evaluated.

Applications and inquiries should be directed to ed@usaracquetball.com.

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 USA Racquetball sanctioned events under the gender of their declaration.

Should an athlete be declared ineligible to compete as their declared gender, the individual 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 athlete may submit a new declaration for review.

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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.

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.

Athletes and Sanctioned Event Directors, please contact the USA Racquetball Executive Director with any questions: ed@usaracquetball.com.