

Gender Policy for USGA Championships

[Authorization For Release of Information](#)

[Authorization For Release of Medical Information](#)

I. PURPOSE

The United States Golf Association (“USGA”) has developed this USGA Championships Gender Policy (the “Policy”) for the purposes of seeking to assure fair competition for all entrants in a USGA Championship and setting forth the procedures by which a transgendered player may participate in a USGA Championship. The Policy is referred to in the Conditions of Competition set forth in the Eligibility section of entry applications for all relevant USGA Championships. The Policy will be subject to the USGA’s review and adjustment from time to time in light of any scientific or medical developments.

II. PROOF OF GENDER

In any USGA Championship in which it is required that a player is a specific gender (male or female), the player must identify himself or herself during the entry application process as a person of that particular gender. Failure to provide proof of gender when gender has been reassigned, and to comply with the process and procedures set forth in this Policy, may result in disqualification from the Championship. In the event that a player has had gender reassignment surgery at any point after puberty, that player must comply with the eligibility requirements and provide certain documentation to the USGA in accordance with the procedures set forth below. Gender reassignment prior to puberty is not subject to these requirements.

III. PREREQUISITE FOR ELIGIBILITY

The following requirements set forth the eligibility for participation of transgender players in USGA Championships:

Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:

- (i) The player has declared that her gender identity is female. Such declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four (4) years;
- (ii) The player must have undergone gender reassignment surgery (*i.e.*, a gonadectomy) prior to the entry deadline for that specific Championship; and
- (iii) The player must have undergone hormonal therapy and maintained testosterone levels appropriate for the assigned sex in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimize gender-related advantages in sport competitions, as determined by the USGA in consultation with its medical consultant(s).

IV. PROCEDURES & DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBMITTING PROOF OF GENDER-FIRST TIME APPLICANTS

A. As set forth in the Championship entry application, each applicant must comply with this Policy and related procedures. Eligibility to play in a USGA Championship will only be evaluated in connection with a player who has submitted an entry application to play in that USGA Championship. The specific USGA Championship must be identified in writing with the accompanying documentation specified below.

B. The required documentation must be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) via overnight or first-class mail in an envelope marked “Confidential” and addressed to Chief Legal Officer, United States Golf Association, 77 Liberty Corner Road, Liberty Corner, New

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- (i) all clinic notes pertaining to gender reassignment;
 - (ii) all hospital records pertaining to surgical gonadectomy;
 - (iii) all office records documenting related follow-up treatment;
 - (iv) laboratory results supporting acceptable testosterone levels for a minimum of one (1) year prior to competition, and any other medical documentation requested regarding applicable hormonal therapy requirements; and
 - (v) an executed Authorization for Release of Medical Information waiver form allowing members of USGA medical consultant(s) to contact all treating physicians if deemed necessary (form waiver provided below).

In the event that hospital or medical records have been purged or lost, or are otherwise unobtainable, a current physical examination performed by a physician experienced in this type of surgery, a report from that physician, and the documentation referenced in (i) and (iii) above, will be considered and reviewed. USGA reserves the right to request updated laboratory results to confirm acceptable testosterone levels prior to or following the completion of a USGA Championship.

V. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UNDER THIS POLICY

If eligibility for entry in a USGA Championship has been previously approved under this Policy, subsequent USGA Championship entry applications may be accepted without the need to resubmit the documentation relating to the gender reassignment surgery required in Section IV, B. However, USGA reserves the right to request updated laboratory results or other medical documentation to confirm that a player continues to meet the acceptable testosterone levels for a sufficient period of time prior to or following the completion of a USGA Championship.

VI. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If questions relating to a player's compliance with this Policy arise, either prior to or after commencement of a competition, or after a competition has been completed, the USGA may contact the player for verification, and request that the player provide appropriate documentation in accordance with this Policy. A player has seven (7) days after receipt of such a request within which to provide the required documentation to the USGA at the above referenced address. If the competition has commenced, a player may be permitted to continue in the Championship until a determination has been made on the player's eligibility in accordance with this Policy. If it is determined that the player should be disqualified, any award, prize and/or ranking arising from participation in the Championship shall be forfeited. The player shall not be banned from future Championships so long as the player satisfies the requirements of this Policy and related procedures in connection with future Championships.

Questions regarding the process and procedures can be addressed to Chief Legal Officer at (908) 234-2300.

VII. PRIVACY

The USGA will maintain such information and documentation in confidence, with only counsel, the USGA medical consultant(s), the Chairman of the Championship Committee, and limited USGA staff members having the need to know and access to such information and documentation. If the player wants the USGA to release to any golf association or club or other similar entity information confirming that the player has followed the procedures of this Policy and was deemed eligible to play in a particular USGA Championship, the player must (1) execute the USGA's Authorization for Release of Information waiver form (available on the USGA website) and (2) forward the executed Authorization for Release of Information waiver form to the USGA, 77 Liberty Corner Road, Liberty Corner, N.J. 07938, to the attention of the Chief Legal Officer in an envelope marked "Confidential".

The USGA expressly disclaims any ability to limit or prevent third party inquiries made directly to the player or to others. In the event that a third party (other than those specified by the player in accordance with the provisions noted above), including media

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