

# National Scholastic Athletics Foundation

## **National Scholastic Athletics Foundation Transgender Participation Policy & Procedure**

The National Scholastic Athletics Foundation (NSAF) is an athlete-centric organization focused on providing national level competitions and developmental programs to American high school-aged track and field athletes. The NSAF supports diversity and inclusion in all aspects of track and field and cross country, and promotes programs that offer unique opportunities to participate and grow in and through the sport. The aim of this policy and procedure is to provide transgender athletes an avenue to participate in a safe and fair manner in NSAF's programs, including the New Balance Nationals Indoor and Outdoor.

- Upon receipt of a qualified entry into an NSAF competition or written request from a concerned athlete (or parent / guardian if the athlete is a minor), the NSAF will evaluate that athlete's participation in the requested event. Requests will be confidentially evaluated on a case-by-case basis in compliance with HIPPA law and will be specific to the athlete's personal circumstances. Included in the evaluation process will be an Eligibility Committee comprised of at least one medical professional, event director, active age-appropriate coach, and lawyer. The Committee has the right to request any information they believe relevant to the evaluation including, but not limited to interviews with the athlete and / or the athlete's parents or guardian and / or the athlete's coach(es); and a review of relevant medical and legal records.
- As a part of the applicant athlete's entry or written request for accommodation, must be a statement affirming the gender identity of the applicant athlete. While the request must be submitted by a parent / guardian if the athlete is under age 18, the athlete may also submit a personal statement in support of his / her request. The applicant must provide a confirmation of gender identity from a medical professional and if applicable, must provide any information related to the athlete's transition status and / or intent. Such communication should be sent to [eligibility@nationalscholastic.org](mailto:eligibility@nationalscholastic.org).
- Applicable discrimination laws and non-discrimination policies will be considered, as will all existing constitutional law.
- The integrity and fairness of the competition shall be considered and protected.
- The applicant must achieve the applicable entry guideline in a competition in which the athlete competed in the gender category he / she wishes to compete in at the NSAF competition being applied for.
- Applicants must agree in writing to comply with all aspects of the NSAF's eligibility determination.
- Pre-Pubescent athletes may be granted eligibility to participate in their affirmed gender.

Post-Pubescent athletes will be eligible for participation after completing their transition providing the following:

- Male-to-Female (MTF) athletes shall have completed their surgical anatomical changes, including the appropriate sex reassignment, and obtained legal recognition of the newly assigned sex from the appropriate authorities including USATF and any other involved and / or relevant sports governing bodies; a sufficient amount of time has passed after the gonadectomy; and / or hormone therapy has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient amount of time to minimize gender-related competitive advantages. A MTF athlete who is not taking hormone treatments related to gender transition may not compete in female competitions.
- Female-to-Male (FTM) athletes have completed the gender-confirmation surgery if desired, and the athlete is in good health, and has been cleared by their surgeon to compete. Legal recognition of the newly assigned sex has been obtained from the appropriate authorities, including USATF and any other involved sports governing bodies; and if hormone therapy is desired, it is being monitored by a medical doctor and is not being used in a way to enhance athletic advantage. A FTM athlete who is not taking testosterone related to gender transition may compete in male competitions.

### **Additional points**

- Athletes may not switch back and forth between male and female competition / competitive gender. Athletes will not be permitted to “change back” to their previous competitive gender once their application has been approved and they have been granted the requested competitive eligibility.
- Athletes must comply with the World Anti-Doping Code, WADA International Standards, US Anti- Doping Code, and/or USADA Standards.

## Definitions

Gender-related terms are defined in various sources. The National Scholastic Athletics Foundation has not adopted any specific gender-related definitions, but rather, provides these simple definitions to offer a general understanding of ‘transgender’ and terminology used within this policy.

- **Biological / Anatomical Sex:** The physical characteristics typically used to assign ones gender at birth, such as chromosomes, hormones, genitalia and reproductive organs.
- **Female-to-Male (FTM):** A transgender person who was born with a female body, but who identifies as a male.
- **Gender Identity:** One’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.
- **Male-to-Female (MTF):** A transgender person who was born with a male body, but who identifies as a female.
- **Puberty:** The stage of adolescence during which a child’s body develops into an adult body, becoming physiologically capable of sexual reproduction. This includes hormonal and morphologic changes. On average, girls begin puberty at ages 10–11; boys at ages 11–12. Girls usually complete puberty by ages 15–17, while boys usually complete puberty by ages 16–17.
- **Sexual Reassignment:** Surgical procedures that change one’s body to conform to a person’s gender identity.
- **Transgender:** Describes an individual whose gender identity does not match 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 changing one’s name, taking hormones, having surgery, or changing legal documents to reflect their new gender.