

TRANSGENDER POLICY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION



**INTERNATIONAL
ICE HOCKEY
FEDERATION**

This Transgender Policy came into effect on 1 January 2018.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The term '**Transgender**' is used in this Policy to refer to individuals whose gender identity (i.e. how they identify) is different from the sex designated to them at birth (whether they are pre- or post-puberty, and whether or not they have undergone any form of medical intervention).
- 1.2 The International Ice Hockey Federation (hereinafter referred to as "the IIHF") as the international federation responsible for the global governance and regulation of the sport of Ice Hockey, has adopted this Policy in order to facilitate the participation of Transgender athletes at the international level of the sport in the category of competition that is consistent with their gender identity, in accordance with the following imperatives:
 - 1.2.1 The IIHF needs to establish conditions for participation in the sport of Ice Hockey, including eligibility categories, that (a) protect the health and safety of participants; and (b) guarantee fair and meaningful competition that displays and rewards the fundamental values and meaning of the sport:
 - (a) IIHF wants its athletes to be incentivised to make the huge commitments required to excel in the sport, and so to inspire new generations to join the sport and aspire to the same excellence. It does not want to risk discouraging those aspirations by permitting competition that is not fair and meaningful.
 - (b) Most relevantly for present purposes, because of the significant advantages in size, strength and power enjoyed (on average) by men over women from puberty onwards (due in large part to much higher levels of androgenic hormones), and the impact that such advantages can have on sporting performance, it is necessary to have separate competition categories for males and females in order to preserve the safety, fairness and integrity of the sport, for the benefit of all of its participants and stakeholders.
 - 1.2.2 The IIHF wishes to be as inclusive as possible, to impose only necessary and proportionate restrictions on eligibility, and to provide a clear path to participation in the sport for all:
 - (a) The IIHF recognises that Transgender athletes may wish to compete in Ice Hockey in accordance with their gender identity. The IIHF wishes to encourage and facilitate such participation, on conditions that go only so far as is necessary to protect the safety of all participants and to deliver on the promise of fair and meaningful competition offered by the division of the sport into male and female categories of competition.
 - (b) The eligibility conditions established in this Policy are driven solely by the desire to guarantee fairness and safety within the sport. In no way are they intended as any kind of judgement on or questioning of the gender identity or the dignity of any Transgender athlete.
 - 1.2.3 The need to respect and preserve the dignity and privacy of Transgender athletes, and to avoid improper discrimination and stigmatisation on grounds of gender identity. All cases arising under this Policy must be handled and resolved in a fair, consistent and confidential manner, recognising the sensitive nature of such matters.

- 1.3 This Policy is based on the principles set out in the IOC's Transgender Guidelines (the current version of which can be found at www.olympic.org/medical-and-scientific-commission). As such, they reflect a broad medical, scientific and legal consensus as to the approach required to achieve the imperatives identified above. Since the Policy is intended to operate globally, regulating the conditions for participation in international-level events, it is to be interpreted and applied not by reference to national or local laws, but rather as an independent and autonomous text, and in a manner that protects and advances the imperatives identified above.
- 1.4 This Policy will come into effect on 1 January 2018, and will apply both to cases arising prior to that date and to cases arising after that date. It will be subject to periodic review to take account of any relevant scientific or medical developments, and may be amended from time to time by the IIHF, with such amendments to take effect from the date specified by the IIHF when it issues the amendments.
- 1.5 In the event an issue arises that is not foreseen in this Policy, it will be addressed by the IIHF in a manner that protects and promotes the imperatives identified above.
- 1.6 Capitalised terms used in this Policy have the following meanings:
- CAS** means the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Compliance Officer** means a person who is appointed by the IIHF to act on its behalf in matters arising under this Policy.
- Expert Panel** means a panel with appropriate knowledge and expertise, appointed by the IIHF to perform the functions set out in this Policy.
- The IIHF** means the international federation for the sport of Ice Hockey.
- IIHF Competition** means an event that is organised, sanctioned or otherwise recognised by the IIHF.
- IOC** means the International Olympic Committee.
- Member National Association** (herein after referred to as "MNA") means a national entity that is a member of or is recognised by the IIHF as the entity governing Ice Hockey in that nation.
- Policy** means this Transgender Policy, as amended from time to time.
- Transgender** has the meaning given to that term in clause 1.1.
- Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions** has the meaning given to that term in clause 3.2.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1 This Policy establishes the conditions enabling Transgender athletes to compete in IIHF Competitions in the category of competition that is consistent with their gender identity. Further guidance on certain medical aspects of the Policy can be found in Appendix I.

- 2.2 A Transgender athlete who wishes to participate in an IIHF Competition agrees, as a condition to such participation:
- 2.2.1 to comply in full with this Policy;
 - 2.2.2 to cooperate promptly and in good faith with the Compliance Officer and the Expert Panel in the discharge of their respective responsibilities under this Policy, including providing them with all of the information and evidence they request to assess his/her compliance and/or monitor his/her continuing compliance with the eligibility conditions referred to in this Policy;
 - 2.2.3 (to the fullest extent permitted and required under all applicable data protection and other laws) to the collection, processing, disclosure and use of information (including his/her sensitive personal information) as required to implement and apply this Policy effectively and efficiently;
 - 2.2.4 to follow the procedures set out in clause 7 to challenge this Policy and/or to appeal decisions made under this Policy, and not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with that clause; and
 - 2.2.5 to submit to the IIHF the Transgender Compliance Confirmation Form (see Appendix 2) in which he/she provides written confirmation of his/her agreement with clauses 2.2.1 to 2.2.4 as a part of the Eligibility Application.
- 2.3 An athlete may revoke at any time, with or without giving reasons, the consent that he/she has granted in accordance with clause 2.2. In that event, the athlete will be deemed to have withdrawn any claim to satisfy the eligibility conditions for Transgender athletes set out in clause 3.
- 2.4 Every person and entity under the jurisdiction of the IIHF (including any person who brings him/herself within the jurisdiction of the IIHF by providing information to the IIHF pursuant to clause 5.4 of this Policy):
- 2.4.1 is bound by and must comply in full with this Policy, including in particular (where information is provided to the IIHF pursuant to clause 5.4) only providing accurate and complete information, and not providing any information in bad faith or for any improper purpose; and
 - 2.4.2 must cooperate promptly and in good faith with the Compliance Officer and the Expert Panel in the discharge of their respective responsibilities under this Policy.
- 2.5 Each MNA must cooperate with and support the IIHF in the application and enforcement of this Policy in relation to IIHF Competitions.
- 2.6 It is recommended that each MNA adopts its own regulations to determine the eligibility of Transgender athletes to compete in events taking place under its own jurisdiction. At the level of national championships (or similar), it is recommended that this Policy is followed. At lower levels, however, less stringent eligibility requirements may be imposed, where appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, however, anything that the MNA does (or does not do) at national level will not affect the eligibility of Transgender athletes to compete in IIHF Competitions. That will instead be determined exclusively by reference to this Policy.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

3A. Eligibility conditions for Transgender male (i.e. female-to-male) athletes

- 3.1 Transgender male athletes are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.
- 3.2 Transgender male athletes are eligible to compete in the female category so long as the transgender male has not begun any form of hormone treatment.
- 3.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a Transgender male athlete who decides to undergo hormone treatment will not be eligible to participate in the female category of competition at an IIHF Competition after that treatment has commenced, unless and until clause 3.5 applies.

3B. Eligibility Application procedure for Transgender male (i.e. female-to-male) athletes

- 3.4 In order to be eligible to participate in the male category of an IIHF Competition, a transgender male athlete shall submit to the Compliance Officer (Richiger@iihf.com), at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the IIHF Competition in which the transgender male athlete wishes to compete, an eligibility application containing the following:
 - a) The completed Transgender Compliance Confirmation Form (see Appendix 2);
 - b) A written and signed declaration, in a form satisfactory to the Compliance Officer, that his gender identity is male; and
 - c) If the transgender male desires to compete in the female category in accordance with clause 3.2, a written and signed declaration, in a form satisfactory to the Compliance Officer confirming that the transgender male did not undergo any form of hormone treatment.
- 3.5 As soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of such declaration, the Compliance Officer will issue a written certification of that athlete's eligibility to compete in the male category of competition in IIHF Competitions.

3C. Eligibility conditions for Transgender female (i.e. male-to-female) athletes

- 3.6 To be eligible to participate in the female category of competition at an IIHF Competition, a Transgender female athlete must satisfy the following requirements (together, the **Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions**):
 - 3.6.1 she must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Expert Panel (on the balance of probabilities), in accordance with clause 4, that the concentration of testosterone in her serum has been less than 5 nmol/L¹ continuously for a period of at least 12 months; and

¹ For purposes of this Policy, all measurements of serum testosterone levels must be conducted by means of liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry. The decision limit of 5 nmol/L is a conservative one and is based on (among other things) Handelsman et al, *Circulating Testosterone as the Hormonal Basis of Sex Differences in Athletic Performance*, Endocrine Reviews (in press, 2018) and references cited within that paper. The decision limit also takes into consideration that, for clinical purposes, the Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline for Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons recommends that transgender females should have serum testosterone levels of less

- 3.6.2 she must keep her serum testosterone concentration below 5 nmol/L for so long as she continues to compete in the female category of competition.

3D. Eligibility Application procedure for Transgender female (i.e. male-to-female) athletes

In order to be eligible to participate in the female category of an IIHF Competition, the transgender female athlete shall submit to the Compliance Officer (Richiger@iihf.com), at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the IIHF Competition in which the transgender female athlete wishes to compete, an eligibility application containing the following:

- a) The completed Transgender Compliance Confirmation Form (see Appendix 2);
- b) A written and signed declaration, in a form satisfactory to the Compliance Officer, that her gender identity is female;
- c) A test result from at least 12 months but not earlier than 14 months prior to the athlete's first competition which indicates that the transgender female athlete's total testosterone level in serum was below 5 nmol/L;
- d) An affidavit from a medical professional stating that the transgender female athlete's total testosterone level in serum has been below 5 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to the athlete's first competition;
- e) For each season that the athlete wishes to compete in IIHF Competitions, a test result from not earlier than 3 months prior to the athlete's first competition of the season which indicates that the transgender female athlete's total testosterone level in serum was below 5 nmol/L; and
- f) A comprehensive medical history and all other available evidence to demonstrate her satisfaction of the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions.

3E. Provisions applicable to all Transgender athletes

- 3.7 For the avoidance of doubt, no athlete will be forced to undergo any medical assessment and/or treatment. It is the athlete's responsibility, in close consultation with his/her medical team, to decide on the advisability of proceeding with any assessment and/or treatment. However, deciding not to do so may have consequences in terms of the athlete's eligibility to participate in IIHF Competitions in the category of competition that is consistent with his/her gender identity, in accordance with this Policy.
- 3.8 For the further avoidance of doubt, the following are not required in order for a Transgender athlete to compete in the category of competition at an IIHF Competition that is consistent with his/her gender identity (because such requirements are not relevant to the imperatives identified above):
- 3.8.1 legal recognition of the athlete's gender identity as the athlete's sex; or

than 50 ng/dL (i.e. approximately 1.7 nmol/L) (Hembree et al, *Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline*, J Clin Endocrinol Metab, November 2017, 102(11):1–35).

3.8.2 surgical anatomical changes.

- 3.9 Once a Transgender athlete has satisfied the relevant eligibility requirements and has started participating in IIHF Competitions in the category of competition consistent with his/her gender identity, he/she may not then switch back to participating in the other gender category in IIHF Competitions unless and until (a) at least four years have passed since the first IIHF Competition in which he/she participated as a Transgender athlete; and (b) he/she satisfies all of the conditions for eligibility to compete in the other gender category.
- 3.10 For the avoidance of doubt, the eligibility conditions for Transgender athletes set out in this clause 3 operate without prejudice to all other eligibility requirements that are applicable to all athletes (Transgender or otherwise) under the rules of the IIHF, which must also be satisfied at all relevant times. In particular, nothing in this Policy is intended to undermine or affect in any way any of the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code, of the WADA International Standards (including the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions), or of IIHF's anti-doping rules. Nothing in this Policy will be deemed to permit, excuse or justify non-compliance with any of those requirements, including (without limitation) any requirement for an athlete to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption for the use of a substance on the WADA Prohibited List, such as testosterone, spironolactone or GnRH agonists.²

4. ASSESSMENT BY THE EXPERT PANEL

- 4.1 A Transgender female (i.e. male-to-female) athlete who wishes to compete in the female category of a competition at an IIHF Competition must submit the transgender eligibility application declaration to the Compliance Officer, along with a comprehensive medical history and such other evidence as is required to demonstrate her satisfaction of the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions, including evidence addressing any of the factors set out at clause 4.4 that are applicable to her case. The athlete is responsible for ensuring that the information provided is accurate and complete, and that nothing relevant to the Expert Panel's assessment of the case is withheld. The athlete must also provide the appropriate consents and waivers (in a form satisfactory to the Compliance Officer) to enable her physician(s) to disclose to the Compliance Officer and the Expert Panel any information that the Expert Panel deems necessary to its assessment.
- 4.2 The Compliance Officer will review the submission and, after communicating with the athlete and/or the athlete's physician to remedy any obvious deficiencies, will refer the file to the Expert Panel for assessment in accordance with the following provisions of this clause 4.
- 4.3 The Expert Panel will assess cases referred to it by the Compliance Officer to determine whether the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions have been met (or, if not, then what else the athlete must do to satisfy those conditions). It may make such enquiries or investigations as it considers necessary to carry out the required assessment effectively, including (without limitation) requesting further information from the athlete or the athlete's physician and/or obtaining additional expert opinion(s).

² See, e.g., the WADA Transgender Athletes TUE Physician Guidelines, available at www.wada-ama.org.

- 4.4 In making its assessment, which will be based on the guidance set out in Appendix I to this Policy, the Expert Panel will take into account all relevant and reliable evidence, including (without limitation) as to:
- 4.4.1 the athlete's age;
 - 4.4.2 any transgender surgeries the athlete has undertaken, including the date(s) of any such procedures and whether they took place before or after puberty;
 - 4.4.3 any other relevant treatment the athlete has received (including any pre- or post-reassignment treatment), including the dosage and frequency of such treatment;
 - 4.4.4 the levels of testosterone in the athlete's serum during the relevant 12-month period, as well as the current level of testosterone in the athlete's serum; and
 - 4.4.5 the results of any pre- or post-reassignment monitoring.
- 4.5 If the Expert Panel has any concerns about the adequacy of the evidence provided by the athlete on any particular point, it must give the athlete a fair opportunity to try to address those concerns before it comes to its final decision.
- 4.6 The Expert Panel will complete its assessment as soon as is reasonably practicable in all of the circumstances of the case. However, in no circumstance will the IIHF or any member of the Expert Panel be liable for any detriment allegedly suffered by the athlete or anyone else as a result of the length of time taken by the Expert Panel to complete its assessment.
- 4.7 Once it has completed its assessment, the Expert Panel will send its decision in writing to the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer will then send the decision in writing to the athlete (with a copy to the athlete's physician).
- 4.7.1 If the Expert Panel decides that the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions have not (yet) been met, it must explain in writing the reasons for its decision. Where applicable, it should also specify what else the athlete may do in order to satisfy those conditions (including, for example, maintaining the concentration of testosterone in her serum at less than 5 nmol/L for a longer period; other treatment; monitoring; reporting; and further reviews).
 - 4.7.2 If the Expert Panel decides that the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions have been met, the Compliance Officer will issue a written certification of that athlete's eligibility to compete in the female category of competition in IIHF Competitions. That eligibility will be subject in every case to the athlete's continuing satisfaction of the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions, including continuously maintaining her serum testosterone at a concentration of less than 5 nmol/L. The Expert Panel may specify particular means (e.g., further treatment, monitoring and/or reporting) of achieving and/or demonstrating such continuing compliance. In any event, the athlete must produce, on request, evidence satisfactory to the Compliance Officer of such continuing compliance.
- 4.8 The Expert Panel's decision will be final and binding on all parties. It may only be challenged by way of appeal in accordance with clause 7.

5. MONITORING/INVESTIGATING COMPLIANCE

5.1 The Compliance Officer may monitor an athlete's compliance with the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions at any time, with or without notice, whether by random or targeted testing of the athlete's serum testosterone levels (and the athlete agrees to provide whereabouts information and blood samples for this purpose, and also agrees that any samples that she provides for anti-doping purposes and/or any anti-doping data relating to her may also be used for this purpose) or by any other appropriate means.

5.2 In addition to the general power to monitor continuing compliance with the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions, the Compliance Officer may investigate, at any time:

5.2.1 whether an athlete who has not filed a declaration under this Policy is a Transgender athlete who needs to establish his/her eligibility to compete in a particular competition category in accordance with this Policy;

5.2.2 whether (because of a subsequent change in circumstances, subsequent learning or experience, or otherwise) it is necessary to require a Transgender athlete who has previously been determined to satisfy the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions to undergo further assessment by the Expert Panel to determine whether she still satisfies those conditions; and/or

5.2.3 any circumstances indicating potential non-compliance with this Policy;

and in such cases the athlete in question must cooperate fully and in good faith with that investigation, including (without limitation) by providing blood samples upon request. Where necessary to safeguard the fairness and/or integrity of competition and/or the safety of the competitors, the Compliance Officer (acting on behalf of the IIHF) may provisionally suspend the athlete from competing in IIHF Competitions pending resolution of the matter, provided that in such cases all reasonable endeavours should be used to complete the investigation as expeditiously as possible. Any such provisional suspension may be appealed in accordance with clause 7.2.1.

5.3 Only the Compliance Officer may initiate an investigation under clause 5.2, and he/she should only do so in good faith and on reasonable grounds based on information derived from reliable sources, such as (for example) the affected athlete him/herself, the MNA to which the affected athlete is affiliated, results from a routine pre-participation health examination, or data as to serum testosterone levels and/or other data obtained from analysis of samples collected for anti-doping purposes.

5.4 The dignity of every individual must be respected. All forms of abuse and/or harassment are prohibited. In particular (but without limitation):

5.4.1 Any person or entity (including, without limitation, any other athlete, official or MNA) that provides information to the Compliance Officer for consideration under this Policy is under a strict obligation:

- (a) to ensure that the information is accurate and complete; and
- (b) not to provide any information in bad faith, to harass, stigmatise or otherwise injure an athlete, or for any other improper purpose.

5.4.2 No stigmatisation or improper discrimination on grounds of gender identity will be tolerated. In particular (but without limitation), persecution or campaigns against athletes simply on the basis that their appearance does not conform to gender stereotypes are unacceptable. Any such conduct will be considered a serious breach of this Policy.

5.5 Where the Compliance Officer or the Expert Panel determines that a Transgender female athlete who has previously been declared eligible to compete in the female category of competition in IIHF Competitions has failed to maintain her serum testosterone level at a concentration of less than 5 nmol/L, she may not compete in the female category of competition in IIHF Competitions until such time as she demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Expert Panel that she has maintained her serum testosterone below 5 nmol/L for a new continuous period of at least 12 months.

6. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

6.1 Where:

6.1.1 an athlete competes in an IIHF Competition in a category of competition for which he/she has not satisfied the eligibility conditions set out in this Policy;

6.1.2 a Transgender athlete who has been determined to be eligible to compete in the female category of competition in an IIHF Competition, and has not renounced that eligibility, fails to cooperate fully and in good faith with the efforts of the Compliance Officer to determine her continuing compliance with the Transgender Female Eligibility Conditions;

6.1.3 an MNA, coach, trainer, agent or other person or entity has been complicit in a breach of or non-compliance with this Policy by an athlete;

6.1.4 a person or entity breaches clause 5.4; and/or

6.1.5 there has been any other breach of or non-compliance with this Policy;

The IIHF may take disciplinary action against such person/entity in accordance with the IIHF Disciplinary Code.

6.2 In such disciplinary proceedings, an athlete may not challenge the validity of this Policy or of any decision made under this Policy. Instead such challenge may only be brought by way of challenge or appeal in accordance with clause 7.

6.3 In such disciplinary proceedings, the sanctions that may be imposed, depending on all of the circumstances of the case, will include (without limitation):

6.3.1 a caution, reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;

- 6.3.2 the disqualification of individual results obtained by the athlete at IIHF Competitions, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, ranking points, prize money, or other rewards awarded to the athlete based on those results;
- 6.3.3 a specified period of ineligibility to participate in IIHF Competitions;
- 6.3.4 a fine; and/or
- 6.3.5 if the breach involves more than two members of a national representative team of a MNA, or if there are multiple breaches involving such a team, appropriate sanctions on the team and/or the MNA (e.g., disqualification of team results; imposition of a period of future ineligibility to participate in IIHF Competitions; a fine).

7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 7.1 The validity of this Policy may only be challenged by way of ordinary proceedings filed before the CAS and/or as part of an appeal to the CAS made pursuant to clause 7.2.
- 7.2 The following decisions (and only the following decisions) made under this Policy may be appealed to the CAS, in accordance with this clause 7:
 - 7.2.1 a decision by the Compliance Officer to suspend the athlete provisionally from competition pursuant to clause 5.2 may be appealed by the athlete, in which case IIHF will be the respondent to the appeal;
 - 7.2.2 a decision by the Compliance Officer or the Expert Panel that the athlete may not compete in the category of competition in IIHF Competitions that is consistent with his/her gender identity may be appealed by the athlete, in which case IIHF will be the respondent to the appeal; and
 - 7.2.3 a decision by the Expert Panel that the athlete may compete in the category of competition in IIHF Competitions that is consistent with his/her gender identity may be appealed by the IIHF, in which case the athlete will be the respondent to the appeal.
- 7.3 Any such challenge or appeal will be conducted in the English language and will be governed by IIHF regulations (in particular this Policy) and subsidiarily by Swiss law. The CAS will hear and determine the challenge/appeal definitively in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. Pending that determination, the Policy under challenge and/or the decision under appeal (as applicable) will remain in full force and effect unless the CAS orders otherwise.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 All cases arising under this Policy, and in particular all athlete information provided to IIHF under this Policy, and all results of examinations and assessments conducted under this Policy, will be dealt with in strict confidence at all times. All medical information and data relating to an athlete will be treated as sensitive personal information and the Compliance Officer will ensure at all times that it is processed as such in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information will not be used for any purpose not contemplated in this Policy, and will not be disclosed to any third party save (a) as is strictly

necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this Policy; or (b) as is required by law.

- 8.2 The IIHF will not comment publicly on the specific facts of a pending case (as opposed to general descriptions of the process and science involved) except in response to public comments attributed to the athlete or the athlete's representatives.
- 8.3 Each member of the Expert Panel must sign an appropriate conflict of interest declaration and confidentiality undertaking in relation to his/her work as a member of the panel.

9. COSTS

- 9.1 The costs of any medical assessment, examination, treatment, monitoring, reporting, and any other costs involved in complying with the Policy will be borne by the relevant athlete. The standing costs of the Expert Panel will be borne by IIHF.

10. MUTUAL RECOGNITION

- 10.1 Where a Transgender athlete from another sport wishes to participate in the sport of Ice Hockey, IIHF may elect to recognise and give effect to the eligibility decision of the international federation of the other sport with respect to that athlete, provided that it is consistent with the principles set out in the IOC's Transgender Guidelines and in this Policy.

11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 11.1 In no circumstances will the IIHF, any member of the Expert Panel, or any of the IIHF's employees, officers, agents, representatives and other persons involved in the administration of this Policy be liable in any way in relation to acts done or omitted to be done in good faith in connection with the administration of this Policy.

APPENDIX 1: MEDICAL GUIDELINES

CONTENTS

- 1. General background medical information**
- 2. Guidance on monitoring serum testosterone levels in transgender female (male-to-female) athletes for eligibility purposes**
- 3. Guidance on the method for measuring serum testosterone levels for eligibility purposes**

The application of the Policy will necessarily be highly individualised and specific to the circumstances of the particular case. These medical guidelines are intended to provide some general guidance on certain medical aspects of the Policy, to assist with their application in practice.

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND MEDICAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 Gender identity refers to an individual's self-perceived gender. This may be different to the individual's sexual anatomy, chromosomal sex, gender role or sex recorded at birth.
- 1.2 Because some children who present as transgender will not in fact be so as adults, early medical treatment carries significant risk. The issue is problematic because individuals who wish to avail themselves of transgender treatment will find it easier at a younger age, prior to the need to reverse opposite sex characteristics developed in puberty. A paradigm to address the tension is to use GnRH analogs (or progestins) that delay puberty in a reversible fashion until a longer term plan is in place. GnRH analogs would be started at the first visible signs of puberty or approximately Tanner 2. Note that pre-pubertal children do not require any medical intervention.

Diagnosis

- 1.3 Diagnosis of transgender identity is usually straightforward among adults. Whether or not a given individual with a transgender identity wants to address the incongruence is a very personal decision and may be influenced by a variety of factors.
- 1.4 In order to avoid a psychiatric condition confounding the situation to such a degree that gender identity is not clear, a mental health provider is normally included on the medical management team to confirm the absence of such a confounder and to assist with transition-related stress (which can be significant).

Medical treatment

- 1.5 For transgender individuals who seek medical intervention, the most effective treatment strategy is generally to change the individual's appearance to align with gender identity.
- 1.6 The mainstay of medical treatment is hormone therapy. Many transgender individuals will also seek gender-affirming surgical interventions, with choices influenced by (among other things) access to care, technical aspects of the specific surgeries, and personal elements that must be customised to the specific patient.
- 1.7 Hormone treatment of transgender individuals follows conventional hormone paradigms, with the same concerns and effects as are seen when using the same hormones for other purposes.

- 1.8 As referenced at clause 3.6 above, it is also important for transgender athletes to consider whether any medical treatment sought requires them to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption for the use of a substance on the WADA Prohibited List (such as testosterone, spironolactone or GnRH agonists). Further information can be found in the WADA Transgender Athletes TUE Physician Guidelines, available at www.wada-ama.org.

Transgender male (female-to-male) treatment strategy and typical regimens

- 1.9 Typically, hormone treatment for transgender men (female-to-male) consists of administration of testosterone to bring the serum testosterone level up from the female range to the male range. The doses required are similar to those used for treatment of hypogonadal males. Testosterone is administered parenterally (either intramuscularly or subcutaneously) or transdermally (via gel, solution or patch).
- 1.10 A typical testosterone regimen is as follows:

Parenteral

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Testosterone esters (enanthate, cypionate, mixed) | 50 – 250 mg IM or SC every 1-3 weeks |
| • Testosterone undecanoate | 750 or 1000 mg every 8-12 or 10-14 weeks |

Transdermal

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Testosterone gel, cream or solution | 50 – 100 mg/day |
| • Testosterone transdermal patch | 2.5 – 7.5 mg/day |

- 1.11 Most transgender men who seek medical intervention will also want chest reconstruction surgery (mastectomy) to create a male chest. However, most transgender men will not seek genital reconstruction surgeries (phalloplasty or metoidioplasty) because of the high rate of complications, the cost (in countries where it is not part of general healthcare), and the potential for multiple surgeries (Kailas et al, Endocr Pract. 2017; 23).
- 1.12 Transgender treatment guidelines have expressed concern of possible malignancy risk in female reproductive tissues exposed to androgens for long periods. This is one reason why transgender men have commonly elected to have hysterectomy and oophorectomy early in treatment. However, because there are no data demonstrating the cancer risk, there has been a downward trend in the frequency of such surgeries.

Transgender female (male-to-female) treatment strategy and typical regimens

- 1.13 For transgender women (male-to-female), the strategy is to decrease serum testosterone levels from the male range to the female range. Although more invasive than medicine alone, the easiest way to achieve the goal conceptually is with a gonad-removing surgery (orchidectomy which may or may not be part of a genital reconstruction surgery, i.e. vaginoplasty). Surgery is then followed by estrogen replacement therapy appropriate for age to feminise and to protect bone health over time.
- 1.14 For transgender women treated medically, the typical hormone treatment consists of estrogen supplementation and an androgen-lowering or -blocking agent.

- 1.15 Multiple estrogen options exist. The most popular are 17 beta estradiol and conjugated estrogens (although these are not used in Europe). Depending on the individual, doses may be double to quadruple those typically given to post-menopausal women. The doses sometimes need to be higher still for individuals with testes present in order to achieve serum testosterone levels in the female range.
- 1.16 There are reports that the thrombogenicity of estrogens can be mitigated if oral administration is avoided. Although the data are not conclusive, transdermal and injectable estrogens are recommended in some countries. While transdermal estradiol is easy to monitor, injectable estradiol is more difficult to monitor than oral estrogens. The strongest data regarding estrogens relate to increased thrombogenicity with oral ethinyl estradiol specifically. Therefore, current guidelines discourage its use in favor of the other agents available.
- 1.17 One anti-androgen is spironolactone, used because of its long-term safety profile arising from its 50-year history as a potassium-sparing diuretic to treat hypertension. Higher doses are used than are required for blood pressure control, with doses of approximately 200 mg/day not unusual and doses as high as 400 mg/day sometimes observed (in divided doses if needed for the patient to tolerate).
- 1.18 Another commonly-used anti-androgen is cyproterone acetate. Cyproterone acetate is more expensive in some countries than spironolactone, and it is not available at all in some countries. Recently, cyproterone acetate has been associated with slight elevations in prolactin levels not observed with other androgen-lowering agents.
- 1.19 A third anti-androgen is depot GnRH agonist therapy, used for transgender children following the regimens typical for precocious puberty. However, GnRH agonist therapy can be very effective in lowering serum testosterone levels for adult transgender women as well. There are no long-term safety data for GnRH therapy in such patients. Its use is further limited by being substantially more expensive than either spironolactone or cyproterone acetate, as well as being administered parenterally when the other two are administered orally.
- 1.20 Some transgender women may also use the androgen-blocking drug finasteride, a 5 α -reductase inhibitor that (among other things) is intended to mitigate male-pattern baldness.
- 1.21 A typical regimen for transgender women is as follows:

Estrogens

Transdermal

- Estradiol transdermal patch (new patch placed 1-2 times per week) 0.025 – 0.2 mg/day
- Estradiol gel 1-2 mg/day

Parenteral

- Estradiol valerate or cypionate 2 – 30 mg IM every 1-2 weeks
- Polyestradiol phosphate 80 mg every 3-4 weeks

Oral

- Estradiol 2.0 – 8.0 mg/day
- Conjugated estrogens 2.5 – 10.0 mg/day

Testosterone lowering or blocking agents

- Spironolactone 100 – 400 mg/day
- Cyproterone acetate 25 – 50 mg/day
- Gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist 3.75 – 11.25 mg SC monthly (longer interval regimens are common too)
- Finasteride 1 – 5 mg/day

1.22 Many transgender women will supplement medical treatment with gender-affirming surgeries such as (1) facial feminisation surgeries (especially sought by transgender women transitioning later in life after having been exposed to male androgen levels for a longer time period); (2) breast augmentation surgery; and (3) genital reconstruction surgery. Although society has tended to focus on genital surgery as the defining gender-affirming surgery, transgender individuals demonstrate great heterogeneity in surgical choices. Notably, less surgery may be sought than previously expected, and a higher priority than commonly appreciated may be placed on visible surgeries like facial feminisation procedures and breast augmentation rather than on genital surgeries (Kailas et al, *Endocr Pract.* 2017; 23).

Monitoring of medical treatment

Transgender male (female-to-male) monitoring

- 1.23 One concern for testosterone therapy is an increase in haematocrit (with a possible increased thrombosis risk). This risk is greatest with excessive testosterone dosage. Patients may also be advised to be aware of mood changes, including more aggressive behaviour.
- 1.24 The typical monitoring regime includes indicated clinical examination, including blood pressure and laboratory testing every 3 months when making changes to the regimen and then every 6-12 months thereafter. Usual monitoring includes measurement of serum testosterone (to determine success of therapy), haematocrit, and lipid profile.
- 1.25 Malignancy screening must include all body parts present regardless of whether or not they are associated with one sex or another (for example, Pap smears and mammograms if required for transgender men who still have cervix and breasts, respectively).

Transgender female (male-to-female) monitoring

- 1.26 The biggest concern for estrogen therapy is an increased thrombosis risk, which can lead to deep venous thromboses, pulmonary embolism, or stroke. There are no data for other estrogen-dependent health concerns, although many practitioners monitor classic estrogen-sensitive laboratory values including prolactin and triglycerides.
- 1.27 Anti-androgen therapy of any sort may result in decreased libido. Spironolactone is a potassium-sparing diuretic which means that sensitive individuals may have unacceptable rises in their potassium levels which could be dose limiting.

- 1.28 Usual monitoring of transgender female hormone regimens includes measurement of serum testosterone (to determine success of therapy), estrogen level (estradiol), prolactin, potassium (if spironolactone is used), and triglycerides. The typical monitoring regime includes indicated clinical examination and laboratory testing every 3 months when making changes to the regimen, and then every 6-12 months thereafter.
- 1.29 Malignancy screening must include all body parts present regardless of whether or not they are associated with one sex or another (including prostate cancer surveillance even for transgender women who have had genital reconstruction surgery).

References

1.30 The following (non-exhaustive) references may be of interest:

- Fung et al, *Differential Effects of Cyproterone Acetate vs Spironolactone on Serum High-Density Lipoprotein and Prolactin Concentrations in the Hormonal Treatment of Transgender Women*, J Sex Med 2016; 13: 1765e1772.
- Hembree et al, *Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline*, J Clin Endocrinol Metab, November 2017, 102(11):1–35.
- Irwig, *Testosterone therapy for transgender men*, Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2017; Apr;5(4):301-311.
- Kailas et al, *Prevalence And Types Of Gender-Affirming Surgery Among A Sample Of Transgender Endocrinology Patients Prior To State Expansion Of Insurance Coverage*, Endocr Pract. 2017; 23.
- Mamoojee, Yaasir et al, *Transgender hormone therapy: understanding international variation in practice*, The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, Volume 5, Issue 4, p243-246, April 2017.
- Saraswat et al, *Evidence Supporting the Biologic Nature of Gender Identity*, Endocr Pract. 2015; 21: 199-204.
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health, Standards of Care, available at www.wpath.org.
- www.uptodate.com/contents/transgender-men-evaluation-and-management
- www.uptodate.com/contents/transgender-women-evaluation-and-management

2. GUIDANCE ON MONITORING SERUM TESTOSTERONE LEVELS IN TRANSGENDER FEMALE (MALE-TO-FEMALE) ATHLETES FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES

- 2.1 As discussed above, for transgender women there are a number of different treatment strategies to decrease serum testosterone from the male range to the female range (the most definitive being gonad-removing surgery). The typical clinical monitoring regime is detailed above.

2.2 For eligibility purposes, under the Policy an IF may monitor an athlete's compliance with the transgender female eligibility conditions at any time, with or without notice, whether by random or targeted testing of the athlete's serum testosterone levels, or by any other appropriate means.

2.3 Monitoring programmes will necessarily be highly individualised and specific to the circumstances of the particular case, and should ideally be put in place with the support of an endocrinologist/gynaecologist experienced in the field. Particular factors to consider might include:

- Whether the athlete is pre- or post-puberty.
- Whether the athlete has undergone orchidectomy.
- The type of medical treatment used by the athlete. For example, an orchidectomised athlete may require only a limited amount of monitoring. Athletes using daily oral spironolactone (e.g. Aldactone) or cyproterone acetate (e.g. Androcur) in the form of oral daily capsules will likely need to be monitored more closely than athletes using depot gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists (e.g. Trelstar) administered every 1-3 months. Athletes using GnRH agonists may in fact achieve consistently very low levels of serum testosterone (<1 nmol/L). Note that athletes may exhibit serum testosterone fluctuations depending upon the type of testosterone-lowering or -blocking agents used and their compliance with daily medications.
- The physiological demands of the sport and the likely performance-enhancing effect of testosterone.
- The level at which the athlete is competing.
- Other information collected during the course of establishing and maintaining eligibility (for example, any evidence of medication non-compliance, previous loss of eligibility, or other risk factors).

2.4 In some cases, the laboratory data obtained from an athlete's routine clinical follow-up might provide an acceptable or sufficient level of monitoring. In other cases, additional monitoring may be required.

2.5 By way of example only, the following testing frequencies could be considered in the case of regular and stable hormone treatment (although each case must be considered on its own merits):

Orchidectomised athlete	1 time/year
Spironolactone/cyproterone acetate	3-4 times/year
Depot GnRH agonists	1-2 times/year

3. GUIDANCE ON THE METHOD FOR MEASURING SERUM TESTOSTERONE LEVELS FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES

3.1 For purposes of the Policy, all measurements of serum testosterone levels must be conducted by means of liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (e.g. LC-MS/MS or LC-HRMS), which provides much better specificity than traditional immunoassay methods.

- 3.2 The method used must be validated by the laboratory carrying out the test, and must also be accredited to the ISO/IEC-17025 or 15189 international standard by a recognised accreditation body that is a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). These requirements may be met by clinical laboratories as well as by WADA-accredited laboratories. IFs can contact the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission for laboratory recommendations.
- 3.3 The method used must comply with assay performance criteria, including a measurement uncertainty (estimated during method validation at testosterone concentration levels close to the threshold of 5 nmol/L) of not more than 20%.
- 3.4 The performance of the method must be monitored through participation of the performing laboratory in appropriate proficiency testing (PT) and/or external quality assessment scheme (EQAS) round(s).
- 3.5 It is recommended that serum samples be collected using standardised sample collection procedures (for example, those used for anti-doping purposes). Such procedures might include the following:
- It is recommended that samples are collected in the morning (as testosterone concentration in serum decreases during the day).
 - Venous blood should be collected, with the athlete remaining in a normal seated position with feet on the floor for at least ten minutes prior to providing the sample. Samples should not be collected within two hours of any physical exertion.
 - A collection tube containing a clotting agent and a gel separator should be used e.g. BD Vacutainer SST-II Advance (an 'A' sample only will be sufficient, but an IF may decide to collect an 'A' and 'B' sample if it so wishes).
 - The sample should be transported to the laboratory in a refrigerated state. The sample should not be allowed to freeze and temperature should preferably be maintained between 2-12°C (ideally around 4°C). A temperature data logger should be used to record the temperature of the sample during transport.
 - The sample should arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sample collection. The sample should be centrifuged as soon as possible on arrival and stored frozen if it cannot be analysed immediately.

APPENDIX 2: TRANSGENDER COMPLIANCE CONFIRMATION FORM



TRANSGENDER COMPLIANCE CONFIRMATION FORM

In order to apply for Eligibility in accordance with the Transgender Policy of the International Ice Hockey Federation (“the Policy”), the athlete that is applying for Eligibility to compete in IIHF Competitions, hereby agrees:

1. To fully comply with the Transgender Policy of the International Ice Hockey Federation;
2. To cooperate promptly and in good faith with the Compliance Officer and the Expert Panel in the discharge of their respective responsibilities under this Policy, including providing them with all of the information and evidence they request to assess his/her compliance and/or monitor his/her continuing compliance with the eligibility conditions referred to in this Policy;
3. To the fullest extent permitted and required under all applicable data protection and other laws, to the collection, processing, disclosure and use of information (including his/her sensitive personal information) by the IIHF as required to implement and apply this Policy effectively and efficiently; and
4. To follow the procedures set out in clause 7 of the Transgender Policy of the International Ice Hockey Federation to challenge Policy and/or to appeal decisions made under this Policy, and not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with that clause.

An athlete may revoke at any time, with or without giving reasons, the consent that he/she has granted in this Form. In that event, the athlete will be deemed to have withdrawn any claim to satisfy the eligibility conditions for Transgender athletes set out in clause 3 of the Policy.

(Name athlete)

(Signature athlete)

(Date)