

Proposed Update to USMS Transgender Policy

In November 2015, the IOC changed their transgender guidelines in order to allow trans athletes to be given the opportunity to compete while ensuring fair competition. Based on the changes in IOC policy, USMS is modifying its policy.

An individual who is already a registered USMS member and begins the transition process to a different gender may re-register in the new gender. The individual is responsible for notifying the membership coordinator at the National Office of the change.

In order for a transgendered individual to compete for official times, the swimmer must have legal documentation in the new gender. Legal documentation of the assigned gender can be validated by the appropriate official authorities (including but not limited to: identification such as driver's license, passport, state identification card). Furthermore, in order for a transgender individual to compete, the following requirements must be met:

1. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.
2. Those who transition from male to female prior to puberty and have been on hormone therapy continuously may compete as females without restriction.
3. A competitor who has undergone male to female gender reassignment surgery after puberty will be eligible for official times as a female at competitions in USMS-sanctioned events under the following conditions:

Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned gender has been administered continuously and uninterrupted in a verifiable manner for a sufficient length of time, no less than one year, to minimize gender-related advantages in sport competitions. Verification requires documentation showing testosterone serum levels regularly measured during the last twelve months that are <10nmol/L.

If these requirements are not met, the swimmer may compete but her times will not be official.

4. A competitor who has not undergone male to female sex reassignment surgery will be not be eligible for official times as a female. However, she can compete as a female, with her times discreetly disqualified in the results.

USMS will not require proof of eligibility be submitted in advance.

Should a swimmer's eligibility be challenged based on gender reassignment, then a confidential case-by-case evaluation will occur. Documentation proving the swimmer meets the requirements put forth in the USMS Transgender Policy will be submitted to the chair of the USMS Rules committee and handled on a confidential case-by-case basis. The Chair of the USMS Rules committee shall appoint an ad hoc USMS committee comprised of members of the USMS Sports Medicine Committee and the USMS Rules Committee. The decision of this committee can be appealed to the full Rules Committee.

Should a repeat challenge be lodged against a swimmer, then the costs incurred by the swimmer shall be covered by the challenger if the swimmer continues to meet the USMS requirements.

USMS acknowledges that this is an evolving area and will provide guidance in these areas as may be necessary.

USMS Rules Committee, September 2016