

United States Curling Association

Transgender Participation in Curling

1. PURPOSE

The United States Curling Association is committed to preventing discrimination against any of its members, including discrimination based on gender identity. The USCA welcomes participation from all curlers in its competitions. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines about the inclusion of transgender curlers in USCA events.

USCA also recommends that curling clubs support transgender curlers in club events. Attached to this Statement in the Appendix are guidelines that clubs should consider with regard to its transgender members and prospective members.

2. DEFINITIONS

Transgender is a term to describe people whose gender identity does not match their birth sex. Gender identity refers to an individual's internal sense of gender. Transgender people often identify as male or female, though some hold that their gender falls outside of the male/female categories. Many transgender people take hormones to change their bodies to more closely match their gender identity. Some undergo sex reassignment surgery. However, not all take these steps; being a transgender person is not contingent upon them.

In this policy, the term male refers to people who identify as men, regardless of their birth sex. The term female refers to people who identify as women, regardless of their birth sex.

3. PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

This policy should not be construed to supersede the policy of another organizing body when athletes compete in an event that is not under the auspices of the USCA.

a. OLYMPIC EVENTS

All events that lead to and include competitions conducted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) must follow the policies established by the IOC with respect to transgender athletes. The IOC's policy, in short, states that those who transition from female to male can compete without restriction. Those who transition from male to female must demonstrate that their total testosterone level in serum is within the legal limit for 12 months prior to her first competition. Full details about the IOC guidelines can be found on their website [here](#).

b. WORLD EVENTS, U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND OOM EVENTS

All events that lead to and include world-level events conducted by the World Curling Federation (WCF) must follow the policies established by the WCF with respect to transgender athletes. These events include Order of Merit events and U.S. national championships. In the absence of WCF guidance, athletes should follow the IOC guidelines on transgender athletes.

c. OTHER USCA COMPETITIVE EVENTS

USCA-sponsored events that do not lead to world-level play must follow USCA policy with respect to transgender athletes. These events include Club National Championships and Arena National Championships. It is the policy of the USCA to be as inclusive as possible in these events, regardless of participants' gender identity. Male-identified curlers will not be denied the ability to participate on men's or boys' teams or as a male member of a mixed gender team. Female-identified curlers will not be denied the ability to participate on women's or girls' teams or as a female member of a mixed gender team. Such USCA-sponsored events will not ask participants to prove their gender identity through hormone testing or by submitting legal documents. (Note that the US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency may still mandate hormone testing for any athlete at any time pursuant to those groups' policies and procedures.)

4. IDENTIFICATION

Competitions may require participants to provide identification; however, transgender individuals may or may not have identification documents that match their gender identity and the names that they generally use. The competition organizers will use the name that the transgender individual prefers in all documents, name tags, uniforms or other materials.

5. FACILITY USE AT USCA-SPONSORED COMPETITIONS

Any person shall be permitted to use changing and restroom facilities according to their gender identity. In some instances, transgender curlers may request gender-neutral facilities to increase privacy. Event host locations should be mindful of the needs of transgender athletes and make such facilities available when possible.

6. CHALLENGES

Should a competitor have a concern that a curler is misinterpreting this policy to gain a competitive advantage, he or she may file a formal complaint as described in Article 15 of the USCA bylaws. Any such complaints will be treated confidentially to protect the privacy of the competitor(s).

APPENDIX

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR THE INCLUSION OF TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

The following are recommended practices provided to assist curling clubs who wish to develop a club policy for the inclusion of transgender athletes.

These recommendations are consistent with USCA values of equal opportunity and the right for all members to participate.

RECOMMENDED POLICY

A transgender athlete member of a curling club should be allowed to participate in accordance with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the athlete's birth certificate or other records and regardless of whether the athlete has undergone any medical treatment. The policy should not prevent an athlete from electing to participate in an activity according to his or her assigned birth gender. This means an athlete who is biologically female but has a male gender identity should be allowed to participate in male events or as a male athlete and an athlete who is biologically male but has a female gender identity should be allowed to participate in female events or as a female athlete.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

- At all times, the club and its members should respect the confidentiality of transgender members.
- At all times, the club and its members should refer to transgender athletes by the athlete's preferred name. Similarly, in all cases, pronoun references to transgender athletes should reflect the athlete's gender and pronoun preferences.
- Transgender athletes should be able to compete and play in club leagues, events and/or bonspiels consistent with his/her gender identity.
- Transgender athletes should be able to use locker rooms, changing facilities, and restrooms that are consistent with his/her gender identity. In some instances, transgender curlers may request gender-neutral facilities to increase privacy. Clubs should be mindful of the needs of transgender athletes and make such facilities available if possible.
- Clubs should consider providing training to their paid staff, if any, and volunteers regarding preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying, harassment, and discrimination as to all of its members, including its transgender members.
- Should a club member have a concern that a curler is misinterpreting this policy to gain a competitive advantage, he or she may file a formal complaint to the club. The handling of such complaints will be pursuant to the club's policies and procedures. For clubs without such policies and procedures, Article 15 in the USCA by-laws can provide a template for handling complaints. Any such complaints should be treated confidentially to protect the privacy of the curlers in question.

Additional resources

American Civil Liberties Union. "Know Your Rights: Transgender People and the Law." Last accessed March 20, 2016. <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/transgender-people-and-law>