



## THE COALITION OF ATHLETES FOR INCLUSION IN SPORT

### **The Coalition of Athletes for Inclusion in Sport** Position Statement

### **The Guiding Principles for Inclusion in Sport**

We seek equity of opportunity in sport – a “level playing field” so that each person can compete against the other fairly.

We seek to assure that an inclusive sport system is open to all people, at all levels of participation. We believe that the rules of organized sport have for too long marginalized or excluded people for reasons other than their athletic ability.

Because we value sport, we seek inclusion for the maximum number of people in sport, particularly for those excluded from the narrow definition of what is assumed normal human development.

#### **The Facts**

1. Sport is organized by gender (with rare exceptions, including equestrian events).
2. Gender is individual – it is not fixed or finite. Gender is sociological, biological and physiological.
3. Gender is fluid in both female and male phenotypes, has great variations, and can transition.

#### **The Issues**

1. Is gender a relevant classification in sport?
2. If it is, we must pay attention to gender and how we fairly determine a person’s gender.

3. If it is not, on the basis that gender as a classification is founded on assumptions of male advantage; the result is that women are sexualized beings in sport rather than equal performers and we must develop a fair and inclusive system for the organization of sport.

4. How do we organize sport fairly, when gender is a social condition, rather than a scientific one? We tend to approach sport with our understanding of gender science in a social context, rather than applying physiological science. When physiological science is used, the inaccuracies of our system are quickly identified. Current practices clearly illustrate, that the identification of any one person(s) gender is **impossible**.

### **Recommendations**

1. Eliminate gender testing. Create an individual athlete profile (for all athletes (women and men) that includes measure for androgens.
2. Review the current Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUEi) model to accommodate the diverse body types of athletes to align it with approved changes to androgen measurements.
3. Require each of the International Sport Federations to determine relevant classifications – be they gender (androgen testing on an annual basis of every athlete) or perhaps by weight, age, height, physical differentiations in sight, hearing etc. This must be done in consultation with experts in each area of classification, athletes, sport officials etc.
4. Based on the determined criteria, construct individual profiles on entry of an athlete into the high performance sport system.
5. Classify individual athletes and ensure those playing against each other fall within the same range of classification. This is the system used in the Paralympic Games and, although imperfect, is manageable.
6. Enforcement will be based on appeals by athletes or officials against another athlete.
7. Appeals will be heard by a neutral panel of those determined to have expertise in the relevant classifications, with regard to the human rights of athletes, the principles of transparency and accountability, and with the assurance of privacy and confidentiality.

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