



## **JVA Recommended Transgender Participation Guidelines**

The Junior Volleyball Association (JVA) has developed these guidelines to address the participation and eligibility of transgender athletes in JVA member club programs. The policy is derived in part from the already-existing policies of a number of the NHFS member associations and USA Volleyball.

### **Our guidelines seek to balance the important goals of:**

- 1) Equity (since providing equal opportunities in all aspects of club programming is a core value)
- 2) Physical safety (since biological males or androgen-supplemented biological females are typically stronger and faster than biological females)
- 3) Competitive equity (since the ideal of a “level playing field” is an inherent expectation at all levels of sport competition).

### **Guiding principles for the guidelines are as follows:**

1. JVA and its member clubs are committed to the principle that transgender athletes have opportunities to participate in JVA and member hosted activities.
2. Member clubs shall ensure that all athletes have access and opportunities to participate in athletics without discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, or ancestry.
3. Policies governing sports participation for transgender athletes should be formed by sound medical knowledge and scientific validity.
4. The medical privacy of transgender athletes should be preserved.

### **Transgender Definitions**

The following definitions apply to these guidelines:

1. “Transgender” means having a gender identity or gender expression that differs from societal expectations based on gender assigned at birth.
  - a. Female-to-Male (FTM) transgender person means one who was born with a female body but who identifies as a boy or man.
  - b. Male-to-Female (MTF) transgender person means one who was born with a male body but who identifies as a girl or woman.
2. “Gender identity” means an innate sense of one’s own gender.
3. “Gender expression” means external appearance, characteristics or behaviors typically associated with a specific gender.

### **JVA Transgender Athletic Participation Guideline**

The JVA Transgender Policy only addresses bone fide transgender athletes and does not alter existing JVA approved rules prohibiting boys playing on girls teams or girls playing on boys teams outside of stated policies related to youth competition.

Subject to applicable laws and regulations, all MTF athletes over the age of 12 wishing to participate in the gender that differs from their birth gender are required to provide medical documentation to the Club Director demonstrating that their testosterone levels do not exceed the upper limit of the normal range in their desired gender of play for their

age group.

**Privacy Statement:**

Protecting the privacy of transgender athletes must be a priority for all member clubs and their staff. All medical information shall be kept confidential in accordance with applicable state, local and federal privacy laws. All discussions and documentation in each level of the process by the member club and the JVA shall be kept confidential unless the athlete and family make a specific request otherwise.

**Procedures:**

The athlete's member club will be responsible for determining the athlete's eligibility to participate in club and JVA hosted activities. The club's policy shall provide that the athlete and/or parent/guardian are encouraged to notify the club in writing that the athlete is a transgender individual, having a consistent gender identity different than the gender of the athlete's birth certificate. The club shall request and hold on file a copy of the required medical documentation.

**Areas of Awareness for Clubs:**

- Have a plan written, accessible and in place
- Use preferred names/pronouns according to the athlete's self-identification
- Ensure gender appropriate, equitable locker room and restroom accessibility
- Educate coaches, administrators, parents, and athletes on transgender sensitivity
- Permit the athlete to dress according to gender identity.

Additional Information for Clubs and their members:

Transgender Law and Policy Institute's publication: Guidelines for Creating Transgender Policies

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