



Transgendered Athletes Wishing to Compete in an OFA Sanctioned Event

Approval Date: October 14, 2012

The following policy clarifies participation of transgendered athletes undergoing Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for a diagnosed Gender Identity Disorder (GID) and those not undergoing HRT, within competitions sanctioned by the Ontario Fencing Association (OFA).

1. A transgendered male (Female To Male or FTM) athlete taking medically prescribed HRT for a diagnosed Gender Identity Disorder may, for purposes of a competition sanctioned by the OFA, compete on a men's team or male only competition, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team or female only competition.
2. A transgendered female (Male To Female or MTF) athlete undergoing medically prescribed HRT for Gender Identity Disorder may, for the purposes of a competition sanctioned by the OFA, continue to compete on a men's team or male competition but may not compete on a women's team or competition until completing one calendar year of HRT.
3. Any transgendered athlete who is not undergoing HRT may participate in sex separated fencing events **only** in accordance with his or her assigned birth gender.
 - 3a) A transgendered male (FTM) athlete who is not undergoing medically prescribed HRT related to gender transition may participate on a women's team or competition.
 - 3b) A transgendered female (MTF) athlete who is not undergoing HRT related to gender transition may participate on a men's team or competition.
 - 3c) In such cases, the transgendered athlete's identity and dignity will be respected and that athlete will be protected from any form of discrimination from fellow competitors, organizers or judges, as per the OFA's Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

The athlete's responsibilities shall be:

1. In order to avoid challenges to transgender participation, an athlete who has completed, or is in the process of undergoing HRT related to gender transition must submit a request to participate in an OFA sanctioned event in writing to the Executive Director (ED) of the OFA no less than 3 business days before competition. One request is sufficient for documentation and the athlete is not required to submit for subsequent participation unless there is a change in HRT or gender transition status.
2. The request must include a letter from the athlete's physician documenting the athlete's transition status. This letter should identify the prescribed HRT for the athlete's gender transition.
3. Failure to provide documentation will exclude participation.

The Ontario Fencing Association's responsibilities shall be:

1. The Executive Director should review eligibility requirements and procedure for approval of transgender participation. If HRT is involved in the athlete's transition, the Executive

Director would make the athlete aware that the OFA endorses and has formally adopted the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP), which is compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code. The CADP currently identifies testosterone as a banned substance (CADP Article 4.0 The Prohibited List), and outlines Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) rules (CADP Article 5.0 Therapeutic Use Exemption and Medical Review Rules) whereby an athlete must demonstrate the medical need for the use of a banned medication. It is the responsibility of the OFA to ensure compliance by its athletes to the CADP in terms of applicable Therapeutic Use Exemption rules (CADP Article 5.0 Therapeutic Use Exemption and Medical Review Rules). Under CADP Article 5.0, OFA athletes are eligible for a TUE *obtained prior* to the athlete competing while undergoing treatment or may go through a Medical Review process which is completed retroactively in the event of an Adverse Analytical Finding. The Medical Review process does not apply to athletes competing in certain national events outside of OFA sanction or to any international event.

2. All discussions among involved parties and required written supporting documentation should be kept confidential and respect the OFA's and the tournament's organising body's policies in respect to privacy and the collection of personal information, unless the athlete makes a specific request otherwise. All information about an individual's transgender identity and medical information, including physician's information provided pursuant to this policy, shall be maintained strictly confidentially.