



USA National Karate-do Federation Gender Policy February 2021

USA National Karate-do Federation (USA Karate) deems it necessary to ensure, insofar as possible, that transgender athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in karate competitions. As such, USA Karate's Gender Policy is based on the results and guidelines of the IOC actions and has developed this Gender Policy to be applied to competitors at USA Karate Signature Events, National Team Trials, National Team Camps and any event sanctioned by USA Karate. Eligibility in international competition will be governed by the policies of the Pan American Karate Federation (PKF), the World Karate Federation (WKF), the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

USA Karate incorporates by reference the results of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission's Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism (November 2015).

(Please note this Gender Policy and the guidelines recommended by the IOC are a living document and will be subject to review in light of any scientific or medical developments.)

Transgender Guidelines as recommended by the IOC

- A. Since the 2003 Stockholm Consensus on Sex Reassignment in Sports, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of autonomy of gender identity in society, as reflected in the laws of many jurisdictions worldwide.
- B. There are also, however, jurisdictions where autonomy of gender identity is not recognized in law at all.
- C. It is necessary to ensure insofar as possible that transgender athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in sporting competition.
- D. The overriding sporting objective is and remains the guarantee of fair competition. Restrictions on participation are appropriate to the extent that they are necessary and proportionate to the achievement of that objective.



- E. To require surgical anatomical changes as a pre-condition to participation is not necessary to preserve fair competition and may be inconsistent with developing legislation and notions of human rights.
- F. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to undermine in any way the requirement to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and the WADA International Standards.
- G. USA Karate does not currently provide competitions specifically for people whose gender identity is non-binary. However, USA Karate aims to be inclusive of everyone and will strive to support the fair participation of non-binary participants, which includes, for example, allowing non-binary athletes to choose a gender category to compete in.
- H. These guidelines are a living document and will be subject to review in light of any scientific or medical developments.

Eligibility to compete in male and female competitions.

Gender transition or non-binary selection different from birth sex before puberty.

- A. Individuals who were male at birth and want to compete as female before puberty shall be regarded as girls and women (female).
- B. Individuals who were female at birth and want to compete as male before puberty shall be regarded as boys and men (male).

Gender transition or non-binary selection different from birth sex after puberty.

- A. Those who were female at birth and want to compete as male shall only be eligible to compete in the male category without restriction if:
 - a. The athlete has declared that his gender identity is male.
- B. Those who were male at birth and want to compete as female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:
 - a. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
 - b. The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition.

- c. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.
- d. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.

Eligibility of female athletes with hyperandrogenism

A female recognized in law shall be eligible to compete in female competitions if she has androgen levels below the male range (as shown by the serum concentration of testosterone) or, if within the male range, she has an androgen resistance such that she derives no competitive advantage from said levels as determined by the Medical Committee of USA Karate in its sole and absolute discretion.

To avoid discrimination, if not eligible for female competition, the athlete shall be eligible to compete in male competition.

Compliance

Transgender Athletes must declare in writing a request to be recognized as a transgender athlete. For individuals transitioning from male to female the declaration cannot be changed for 4 years.

Non-Binary Athletes must declare in writing a request to be recognized as a gender different from their sex at birth. For individuals who were male at birth and want to compete as female the declaration cannot be changed for 4 years.

In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the Medical Committee of USA Karate will designate a medical doctor who shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor.

Should an athlete be considered ineligible to compete in the category he/she desires, he/she would be notified of the reasons why, and informed of the conditions he/she would be required to meet should he/she wish to be eligible. The competitor has the right to appeal the determination of gender pursuant to Section 14 of the Bylaws of USA National Karate-do Federation Inc.

If an athlete fails or refuses to comply with any aspect of the eligibility determination process, while that is his/her right as an individual, he/she will not be eligible to



participate as a competitor.

The investigation of a particular case will be conducted under strict confidentiality.

Interpretation of these guidelines will respect the essence of the male/female classification and also guarantee the fairness and integrity of male/female competitions for all athletes.

