International Surfing Association (ISA) Transgender Policy

As policies are being developed by various sporting organizations and governing bodies around the world, the ISA has established the following Transgender Policy at the recommendation of its Medical Commission. The ISA is committed to the fundamental principles of fairness and equality of opportunity, and therefore this policy will be reevaluated annually as more research, information, and feedback becomes available.

The authority of the ISA Medical Commission to determine any issue pertaining to the eligibility of a surfer to compete either in a men’s or women’s event under this Rule shall include, but is not confined to, any such issue arising in the case of Gender identification, Sex-reassignment, Hyperandrogenism, Transgender, or Differences of Sexual Development (DSD).

ISA Eligibility by Gender Rule

1. An athlete who was assigned male at birth, and/or who identifies as a man, and has man/male on his passport or national identity card is eligible to compete in a men’s event or as a man in a mixed event.

2. An athlete who was assigned female at birth, and/or who identifies as a woman, and has woman/female on her passport or national identity card is eligible to compete in a woman’s event or as a woman in a mixed event.

3. An athlete who was assigned male at birth, who identifies as a woman, and has woman/female on her passport or national identity card is eligible to compete in a men’s event, or as a man in a mixed event, if she has not met requirements to compete in a woman’s event (such as maintaining testosterone level less than 5 nmol/L continuously for the previous 12 months)

4. An athlete who was assigned male at birth who identifies as a woman and has man/male or “other” or “X” on their passport or national identify card is eligible to compete in a men’s event or as a man in a mixed event.

5. In order to compete in a woman’s event or as a woman in a mixed event, where either:

   A. An athlete who was assigned male at birth and whose gender has changed and identifies as a woman, and/or has woman/female, “other” or “X” on her passport or national identity card:

   or,

   B. The surfer has otherwise been required by the Executive Committee and/or Medical Commission to establish eligibility to compete in a women’s event:

The surfer must satisfy the International Surfing Association Medical Commission that her serum testosterone concentration has been less than 5 nmol/L continuously for a period of the previous 12
months and secondly, meets any other requirements reasonably set by the Executive Committee and/or Medical Commission.

ISA Medical Commission
ISA Executive Committee
October 20, 2022