



# WCF Gender Policy

Version 2  
Effective Date  
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### **1. Background and Terminology**

The WCF is governed by English Law. As a consequence, the terminology used in this Policy Statement follows English Law and the following terms have the meaning shown.

Gender is the state of being male or female. Non-binary genders are not recognised in English Law.

Gender Identity is the personal sense of one’s own gender. Gender Identity can correlate with a person’s assigned sex at birth or can differ from it.

Transgender: someone who identifies with a gender that is different from the sex that they were assigned at birth. A transgender man is a man who was assigned female at birth; a transgender woman is a woman who was assigned male at birth.

Birth man or woman: means the gender a person was assigned at birth, based on their sexual characteristics identified at that time.

Cisgender: means individuals whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

A competitive sport can be determined to be a Gender Affected Sport and in such case persons of one or other sex, or transgender persons, may be excluded to secure fair competition.

### **2. WCF Policy**

The WCF supports inclusivity, embraces diversity and welcomes all players. It does not wish to impose any undue restrictions on transgender men or women at any of its events, and its regulations and Guidance to hosts should ensure that all players, supporters, volunteers and spectators are treated with respect, and in a manner that reflects the gender with which they identify, when attending WCF events.

In the interests of fairness to the female playing population, and to protect the developmental aspects of these events, only people assigned female at birth may compete in WCF Women’s Championships.

WCF Members and RCOs are otherwise encouraged to adopt inclusive transgender policies for domestic play, that, whilst compliant with local law, ensure that croquet competitions are fair, welcoming and inclusive for everyone.



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### **3. WCF Guidance**

This WCF guidance sets out the considerations affecting the participation of a transgender person in WCF singles and team world championships (“WCF Events”).

All WCF Events are covered by this guidance.

### **4. Eligibility Criteria**

Any player wishing to compete in a WCF Event should only apply for events that are open to the gender they were assigned at birth.

Any player confirmed as female before puberty should be treated as if they had been assigned female at birth.

All WCF events require players to self-declare their eligibility to compete against the criteria set out for each event in the relevant WCF Regulations.

### **5. Appeal procedure**

Should an applicant be refused entry on the grounds of failure to comply with the above eligibility criteria, they may request a review by emailing the Secretary-General within 14 days of being notified that they may not compete.

The matter will follow the same process as set out in the WCFs Code of Conduct Complaint procedure (although this does not imply that the appeal is being treated as an infringement of that policy). The investigator will need to review the evidence submitted and respond within 14 days, or by 7 days before the event start date, whichever is the earlier.

If anyone believes that a player may be ineligible they should contact the WCF Secretary-General in the first instance so that the matter may be investigated.

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<i>Change Log</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Key changes</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> April 2022</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>First publication.</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> August 2025</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Amended per Council Topic 149 - only people assigned female at birth may compete in WCF Women’s Championships.</i>