

USA Volleyball Gender Identification Policy

The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as a member of the gender noted on their birth certificate. Athletes who wish to compete as a member of the gender opposite that noted on their birth certificate must register with USAV and provide appropriate documentation of their adopted gender to the USAV Gender Identification Committee (GIC) at least 2 months prior to their first USAV competition. Compelling medical documentation must accompany this registration, including medical records and physicians' statements.

The GIC reserves the right to consult and share relevant information with experts, as deemed necessary.

USAV has reviewed and in general agrees with the International Olympic Committee's Stockholm Consensus on transsexual athletes, and therefore requires these athletes meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for competition:

- Hormonal therapy appropriate for the adopted gender shall have been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time (at least two years) to minimize gender-related advantages in sport competitions;
- Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including modification of the external genitalia and gonadectomy.

In addition, USAV requires that a transsexual athlete provide:

- Evidence that the individual's adopted gender has been legally accepted (e.g. a copy of the athlete's driver's license, passport, or a current insurance policy indicating the individual's current gender).

Note that the above conditions apply to individuals undergoing gender reassignment procedures following the onset of puberty. Any individual undergoing gender reassignment prior to the onset of puberty is (for practical purposes) considered to have been born into the postoperative gender.

Once established by the GIC, an athlete's gender of record it will stand for all future USAV competitions. In the event that the gender of an athlete competing in a USAV sanctioned event is questioned, the matter shall be referred to the Tournament Director or Arbitrator. If reasonable discussion cannot resolve the dispute at its inception, the matter will be referred to the GIC, which shall undertake a confidential case-by-case evaluation, as appropriate. While the case is under review, the athlete whose gender is in question may compete in USAV sanctioned events. The GIC shall have the authority to request any and all tests and measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor, according to accepted medical standards.

USAV assumes no liability for the costs involved in this process. Any and all expenses incurred as part of the GIC's confidential evaluation shall be the negotiated responsibility of the parties involved. If the GIC concludes that the athlete in question intentionally and deliberately attempted to engage in gender fraud, the athlete will be suspended from further participation in USAV sanctioned events for a minimum of two years. Frivolous or unfounded allegations of sexual misrepresentation will also be sanctioned. Although the GIC shall serve as the final arbiter for USAV in such matters, an appeal of its findings and decisions may be made within 30 days of their release in accordance with USAV Bylaws.

An Example of the Proposed Process

1. An athlete's gender is felt to be incongruous with the category in which the athlete is competing.
2. The tournament director or arbitrator is informed of the allegations of gender misrepresentation.
3. The TD/A reviews the available documentation and gathers information in an effort to resolve any misunderstandings that prompted the allegation.
4. If unable to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all involved, the case will be referred to the USAV GIC.
5. The GIC will review the available information, and shall have the authority to request further information and / or testing as indicated.
6. Once all requested data is available for review, the GIC will render a formal opinion on the validity of the accusations.
7. If the GIC decides that the athlete has intentionally misrepresented his/her gender, the athlete will be sanctioned. Frivolous or unfounded allegations against an athlete will also be cause for sanction.
8. The GIC's opinion may be appealed within 30 days according to USAV Bylaws.