

Our Vision ‘A sport that is open to all and inspires netballers to embrace opportunities and achieve their potential’.

To support the introduction of our policy on Participation and Inclusion World Netball has put together the following range of frequently asked questions and answers.

Why are you putting a policy in place now?

World Netball has been considering this issue for some time and following detailed review of the science and consultation with experts and Members it has determined that International Level Women’s Netball is a gender affected activity and that a policy is required ensure fairness and safety at this level of our sport.

Why is Netball considered a gender affected activity?

A gender affected activity is activity in which the average strength, stamina and physique of one Sex (female) will put them at a disadvantage compared with the other Sex (male).

Can Trans or Non-binary athletes compete in Netball?

It is important to note that this policy relates to International Level Women’s Netball Competition.

Netball remains a sport that is open to all and World Netball will continue to support the development competition structures that embrace the whole of society.

What does this policy mean for Trans and Non-Binary athletes?

In order to ensure fairness and safety World Netball has taken the decision that eligibility for International Level Women’s Netball Competition is restricted to those athletes recorded as female at birth irrespective of gender identity; and transgender athletes who can establish to World Netball’s satisfaction that they have not experienced the biological effects of testosterone at any time Therefore:

Trans Women (those recorded as male at birth) are not eligible to participate in International Level Women’s Netball Competition.

Trans Men (those recorded as female at birth) are not eligible to participate in International Level Women’s Netball Competition unless they can establish to World Netball’s satisfaction that they have not experienced the biological effects of testosterone at any time.

Non-binary athletes who were recorded as female at birth and who have not experienced the biological effects of testosterone at any time are eligible to participate in International Level Women’s Netball Competition.

Non-binary athletes who were recorded as male at birth or have experienced the biological effects of testosterone at any time are not eligible to participate in International Level Women's Netball Competition.

When does the policy come into effect?

8th April 2024

Who has been involved in the Policy creation?

The World Netball Medical Advisory Panel has created the Policy with advice from leading practitioners in their fields.

What should I do if I suspect the policy is being misused at a competition, or I think that a person is competing in a category they are not eligible for?

World Netball recognises that this is a sensitive area, and the welfare of our participants is our primary concern. We therefore request that any concerns be raised post-competition, and it will be investigated in accordance with our policy and procedures. Questions or concerns should be submitted to info@worldnetball.sport. Please note that anyone seeking to use this policy maliciously will be subject to investigation and sanctions under World Netball's Disciplinary regulations.

Will you change your policy in light of new scientific research?

World Netball will review this policy on a rolling basis (with a formal review annually), or sooner if necessary, to ensure we keep up to date with the latest developments, whilst ensuring any policy can be implemented in a practical and meaningful way within our sport.

What are other sports doing about this?

The global sporting community has been grappling with this issue for some time, with various iterations of participation or eligibility policies since 2003. Many sports have recently issued policies whilst others are in the process of considering this issue.

Is the research underlying the Policy robust?

World Netball believes that the research on which it has relied is robust, it comprises many research studies, all of which have been published in peer-reviewed journals and come from multiple distinct research groups around the world.

World Netball is committed to evidence-based decision making and commits to evaluating any emerging evidence that pertains to elements of the Policy. This includes any high-quality research that is published, and which will inform a formal review of the Policy.

Are different countries able to implement their own guidelines independent of the World Netball guideline?

This policy relates to International Level Women's Netball Competition and Members are encouraged to use and apply the guidelines within their own jurisdictions, with the capacity to modify or even not apply these guidelines should they choose to assess the range of factors in a different manner.

Commitment to Equality

World Netball is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and is responsible for ensuring that no athlete, employee, job applicant, office holder, volunteer, consultant or committee or panel member (together "Stakeholders") is unlawfully discriminated against because of a Protected Characteristic, including those of Sex and gender reassignment.

Annual Review

World Netball is committed to the annual review of this policy [and its procedures] to ensure that our approach is consistent with latest guidance, science, information, and studies. This will include, where possible, further dedicated netball specific research into this area.