

# *Policy and Procedures for transsexual people playing in hockey competitions*



**ENGLAND  
HOCKEY**

## **England Hockey's Policy and Procedures on Transsexual People Playing in Hockey Competitions**

**Approved 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, updated August 2013**

### **Introduction**

England Hockey (EH) is committed to the principles of equality in sport. EH aims to ensure that all people within the hockey family, irrespective of their age, gender reassignment, disability, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including ethnic origin, nationality and colour), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in hockey at all levels and in all roles.

EH will ensure that there will be open access to all those who wish to participate in any aspect of hockey activities and that they are treated fairly, equally and with respect.

Under current English legislation, hockey, as a gender-affected sport, may be regulated by EH in respect of the participation of a transsexual person.

EH wishes to try, as far as is possible, to permit transsexual people to compete in their affirmed gender while balancing this with its role in providing fair play and competition and protecting the integrity of women's, men's and mixed gender, competitions.

In addition to those wishing to compete, it also has a responsibility to protect those who may be staff or spectators, and who may be transsexual people, or perceived to be so, or associated with them, such as family members. However this particular document focuses only on players, or would-be players, in hockey competitions.

This policy uses a number of terms associated with transsexual people and hockey. We recognise that there are considerable differences in those that are used, and we have adopted the following terms.

### **Transgender person**

The term transgender person or trans person are umbrella terms to cover a number of specific terms such as transsexual men, transsexual women, intersex people, androgynous and polygender people, cross-dressing and transvestite people.

### **Gender reassignment**

Gender reassignment is one of a number of protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 and is the process of transitioning from one sex to another. This legislation prohibits discrimination against a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process, or part of a process, for the purpose of reassigning their sex.

## Transsexual person

This term refers to someone with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. We use the term transsexual man to describe a female-to-male transsexual person and transsexual woman to describe a male-to-female transsexual person. This is not the same as a cross-dresser, or transvestite people, nor is it the same as sexual orientation.

## Scope

EH is the National Governing Body for the sport of hockey in England. Therefore this policy and procedures relate solely to activity within this territory. EH is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout hockey at every level in England. It is the responsibility of EH to apply the rules of hockey and regulate participation of persons as competitors in hockey matches to ensure that it provides fair competition and has due regard for the safety of all competitors. It runs and organises a range of competitions to suit the needs of all players. EH would expect players to play at an appropriate level.

This policy covers competitions sanctioned by the EH Board; it includes competition managed and organised by its members, County and Regional Associations, and affiliated leagues and clubs, referred to as **domestic competitions** in this paper.

The policy also covers the eligibility and selection of transsexual players to represent England in international competitions, referred to as **international competitions** in this paper.

For the avoidance of doubt, the word competition is defined as activity where the result (winning and losing) has a meaningful outcome.

EH's Policy and Procedures on Transsexual People Playing in Hockey Competitions apply to all individuals involved, whether paid or in a voluntary capacity. Everyone in hockey has a responsibility to ensure that transsexual people are treated with dignity and respect and that they are treated fairly.

## Guidance and legislation

The practices and procedures within this policy and documentation are based on the principles contained within English legislation and take the following into consideration:

- Equality Act 2010.
- IOC Guidance on Sex Reassignment 2004.
- Data Protection Act 1998.
- Gender Recognition Act 2004.

## Policy and Procedures

### EH's policy on transsexual people competing in domestic hockey competitions or seeking eligibility to represent England in international competitions

- *Any transsexual male (female-to-male transsexual person) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any male, domestic hockey competition or mixed gender competition in his affirmed gender; or*
- *Any transsexual woman (male-to-female transsexual person) over the age of 16 recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic hockey competition or mixed gender completion in her affirmed gender as long as she can satisfy EH that any gender-related advantage has been minimised by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender; or*

- Any transsexual girl (under 16 and post puberty) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic hockey competition or mixed gender competition in her affirmed gender subject to an individual case-by-case review, if required, by EH; or
- Any transsexual girl (pre-puberty) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic hockey or mixed gender competition in her affirmed gender subject to confirmation of her stage of pubertal development.
- Any transsexual person shall be permitted to participate in their birth gender if they have not started hormone treatment.
- Any transsexual player recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment is eligible to represent England in international competitions as long as they comply with the IOC's policy on sex reassignment as follows:
  - a) Any transsexual female who has undergone, or is undergoing sex reassignment surgery from male to female before puberty should be regarded as female. This also applies to transsexual males who should be regarded as boys and men (male). If any individual meets the relevant requirement they can be eligible for selection to represent England in international competitions. This should be conditional on the individual presenting with legal recognition of their affirmed gender.
  - b) Any transsexual person recognised under English law who has undergone gender reassignment after puberty can be eligible for selection to represent England in international competitions in their affirmed gender under the following conditions:
    - Surgical anatomical changes, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy have been completed two years before seeking eligibility;
    - Legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities; and
    - Hormone therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantage in hockey competitions.

This is summarised as follows:

Affirmed gender	Domestic competition	International competition
Any transsexual male	May compete in any male or mixed gender domestic competition in their affirmed gender.	May represent England in international competition if he is compliant with IOC policy
Transsexual woman – over 16	May compete in any female or mixed gender competition in their affirmed gender:  by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender this is confirmed annually  May compete in any male or mixed gender competition if she has not started hormone treatment	May represent England in international competition if she is compliant with IOC policy
Transsexual girl – under 16	May compete in any female or mixed gender domestic competition subject to an individual	May represent England in any international competition if she

<b>and after puberty</b>	case-by-case review undertaken by the EHB  Or  If she has not started hormone treatment she can play in any male domestic and any mixed gender competition as male.	is compliant with IOC policy
<b>Transsexual girl – before puberty</b>	May compete in any female or mixed gender domestic competition in her affirmed gender subject to confirmation of her stage of pubertal development.	May represent England in international competition if she is compliant with IOC policy

## **EH's procedure to determine eligibility for transsexual people to play in domestic hockey competitions**

### **For all transsexual women**

- All enquiries must be passed to EH's Ethics and Compliance Manager.
- All documentation revealing information about a person's past or present gender reassignment status will be managed in accordance with EH's policies with regards to the management of sensitive and confidential information and in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and, where relevant the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- Anyone involved will understand the confidentiality obligations that are associated with handling such a matter.
- EH will undertake all communication with the individual concerned only sharing information with the County Hockey Association and/or the league or club on a 'needs-led' basis allowing them to manage player registration.
- In order to determine compliance with this policy EH's Ethics and Compliance Manager, the Director responsible for Governance and a medical representative appointed by EH will consider the evidence on a case-by case basis.
- A transsexual woman or girl shall not be entitled to play in female, domestic competitions in her affirmed gender until such time as she has provided evidence that the criteria set out have been met to EH's satisfaction.

### **For transsexual women over the age of 16**

- The transsexual woman (and her legal guardian if under 18) will be asked to permit their GP and/or consultant to disclose sufficient information to EH (including such other information, records or other material as EH may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain that hormone therapy has been administered in a verifiable manner and that this has minimised any gender-related advantages in hockey competitions. This will need to demonstrate that the hormone treatment has reduced her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender; hormone-related treatment must be verified annually to ensure its validity;

### **For transsexual girls (under 16 and post puberty)**

- The transsexual girl and her legal guardian will be asked to permit EH to undertake an individual case-by-case review. This will involve a review meeting with the transsexual girl, her advocate (e.g. parent, social worker, a representative from a LGBT young people's group such as Intercom in the south west) and a representative from EH. Their role will be to agree a way forward for the young person based on her individual circumstances and to manage everybody's expectations and with due consideration for fairness.

## For transsexual girls pre puberty

- The transsexual girl and her legal guardian will be asked to permit their GP and/or Consultant to disclose sufficient information to EH (including such other information, records or other material as EH may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain the girl's stage of pubertal development. This is subject to an annual review.

## The EH's procedure to determine eligibility for transsexual people to represent England in international competitions

- All enquiries must be passed to EH's Ethics and Compliance Manager.
- All documentation revealing information about a person's past or present gender reassignment status must be managed in accordance with EH's policies with regards to the management of sensitive and confidential information and in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and, where relevant the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- Anyone involved will understand the confidentiality obligations that are associated with handling such a matter.
- EH will undertake all communication with the individual concerned only sharing information with international competition organisers in order to allow it to verify the status of the transsexual person.
- The transsexual person (and her legal guardian if under the age of 18) will be asked to permit their GP and/or consultant and the Gender Recognition Panel (where appropriate) to disclose sufficient information to EH (including such other information, records or other material as EH may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain that the conditions that have been set by the IOC have been met. Namely:
  - *Any individual undergoing, or undergone, sex reassignment of male to female before puberty should be regarded as girls and women" (female). This also applies to individuals undergoing, or undergone, female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).*
  - *Individuals undergoing, or undergone, sex reassignment from male to female after puberty (and vice versa) be eligible for participation in female or male competitions, respectively, under the following conditions:*
    - Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy two years previously; and*
    - Legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities; and*
    - Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantages in sport competitions.*
- In order to determine compliance with this policy EH's Ethics and Compliance Manager, Director responsible for Governance and a medical representative appointed by EH will consider the evidence on a case-by case basis.
- A person shall not be entitled to represent England in international competitions in their affirmed gender until such time as they have provided evidence that the criteria set out above have been met to EH's satisfaction.

## Roles and Responsibilities

All hockey organisations should:

- Treat the transsexual person with dignity and respect.
- Explain the policy and procedures and ask his or her view on how to proceed. Explain that there are no restrictions on participating in training or informal matches.
- Respect the private and confidential nature of the person's situation.
- Agree with the transsexual person how information is to be shared with others if this is necessary.

- Take prompt and decisive action against anyone in the organisation whose behaviour or language is inappropriate or offensive to or about transsexual people. Disciplinary procedures should be employed to manage this.
- Ensure a Code of Conduct is publicised indicating your zero-tolerance policy towards all bullying/harassment of people with protected characteristics.
- Ensure that any training the organisation undertakes with regards to equality covers transsexual people and the policy as well as the general equality policy.

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### **Ethics and Compliance Manager contact details**

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