

USATF Diversity & Leadership Committee Guidelines For Gender Determination Inquiries

USATF advocates for equal opportunity, access and treatment for all individuals. Please review our organization statement regarding this policy: <http://www.usatf.org/About/Privacy---Other-Policies/Transgender-Transsexual.aspx>.

Under USATF policy, an athlete can run under whatever gender the athlete identifies, but should the athlete win an award and there be a protest made by another athlete and/or coach, it will then be up to the onsite officials to make the eligibility determination (*based on documentation provided and in accordance with state law*), and if there are still outstanding issues with this process, the matter would then proceed to a grievance, if filed.

The utmost care should be taken to treat the athlete in questions with respect, and follow the guidelines below:

The following are some general guidelines, provided by the USATF Diversity and Leadership Committee, for the handling of gender determination issues at a competition when there is a question/protest regarding an athlete's gender:

Scenario: An individual wants to compete in a specific gender, can event administration deny that request?

- Meet administration must honor that athlete's request and allow the athlete to compete in the gender requested.

Currently, the IAAF and the IOC/USOC, and thus USATF, only recognize male/female as gender categories for competition purposes.

Any athlete or coach who has been harmed (*e.g. where age group awards and/or prize money are at stake*) has the right to file a protest within the protest period of that meet if they feel they have been harmed in accordance with USATF rule 146 'Protests'.

Protest first goes to meet referee.

Meet referee can rule based on the documentation provided (*e.g. drivers' license, birth certificate, etc*).

This provided documentation to the referee will be the basis for gender determination for the protest. The requirements vary by state (in accordance with law).

- All applicable appeal procedures should be followed, and if necessary, then a grievance can be filed with the USATF National Office.

Officials and event organizers should also be reminded to treat all athletes courteously and professionally (*regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion, etc*).

In cases where gender is at issue, extreme care should be taken to respect the privacy of the parties affected at every step of the process.