

24th June 2020

Dear [Athlete]

We are a group of New Zealanders passionate about preserving biology-based eligibility standards for participation in female sports, and would like to ask for your support.

You may be aware that in 2015 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) relaxed the eligibility criteria for male-born transgender people to compete in female sport, only requiring a transwoman to reduce Testosterone to 10nM for at least 12 months in order to compete as a 'self-identifying' woman. This is still 6 to 12 times the average female (0.8nM), and completely ignores the physical advantages in speed, height, stamina and strength that a male-born athlete will have. Allowing transgender athletes to compete in female competitions is unfair, plain and simple.

Unfortunately, under pressure from activists, many sporting organisations have deferred to the IOC's rules rather than making their own policies on sex classification in their sports. Existing International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidelines on the eligibility of transgender athletes will remain in place for Tokyo 2021, amid an ongoing consultation process, and the inability to make a change while qualification for the Olympic Games is taking place. In the meantime, the status quo is that fully intact males who have gone through male puberty and retain all the advantages of the increased lung and heart capacity and muscle density that this brings, are winning spaces and opportunities from female athletes.

As you well know, sport is meaningless without fair competition, which is why there are separate categories for disabled people, for children, for men, and for women. While everyone has the right to play sport, no one has the right to play in any category that they choose, but unfortunately, a desire to be inclusive is having unintended negative consequences for women and girls, who are losing fair and meaningful competition at all levels of female sport. Separate sporting categories are needed to ensure that women and girls have fair competition and do not face competitors who have the physical advantages that come with being born male.

We are part of an international coalition of women's organizations, athletes, and supporters of women in sport who assert that male athletes should not compete in female sports. We'd love to pull together a critical mass of athletes in NZ who are willing to speak out about this unfairness to help the IOC understand how crucial it is that they suspend the 2015 transgender guidelines for Tokyo 2021 and proceed with a thorough, balanced, and equitable consultation about participation in female sports. You are welcome to find more info on our website: [www.savewomenssport.co.nz](http://www.savewomenssport.co.nz).

We understand that the backlash from trans activists, who quickly shut down any discussion with accusations of bigotry, makes being a lone voice on this matter incredibly scary.

However, if we allow the current cancel culture to shut down this important conversation, it will be at the ongoing cost to female athletes. Therefore, if we find enough athletes willing to add their voice, would you publicly support us either through adding your name to a joint statement, signing our petition or speaking out about this issue? And do you know any other former or current athletes who might be willing to lend their support too?

Until such time as we can form a critical mass of athletes willing to support our cause, please rest assured that your details will remain confidential. Please feel free to contact me either via email or phone, and I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards