

## USA VOLLEYBALL GENDER COMPETITION POLICY

The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as a member of the gender noted on their birth certificate. The goal of the USAV policy is to permit athletes to compete in the gender with which they identify, while minimizing any competitive advantage which may accrue. Athletes who wish to compete as a member of the gender opposite that recorded on their birth certificate must duly notify USAV of their intent, and provide appropriate medical documentation of their status to the USAV Gender Committee (GC) at least six weeks prior to the competition in which they wish to participate. Sufficient documentation must be provided to permit the GC to determine that the applicant has taken the necessary steps to transition to their adopted gender. At a minimum, this should include medical records documenting the athlete's intended sexual reassignment (including physicians' and psychotherapists' statements, record of hormonal therapy, and the response to such therapy). The GC reserves the right to consult and share relevant information with medical experts, as deemed necessary.

Hormone therapy is a critical component of sex reassignment, but treatment with sex hormones may potentially provide transsexual athletes with an unfair competitive advantage. For this reason, the USAV GC requires that transsexual athletes provide documentation of appropriately managed therapy at the time of initial application to compete. If the athlete is approved to compete as a member of their adopted gender, periodic submission of test results documenting hormonal levels in response to ongoing treatment may be required by the GC. The GC will therefore be responsible for tracking transgender athletes once registered, in addition to serving as the point of contact for all inquiries regarding these participants. The expense of any required testing will be the responsibility of the athlete.

Current transsexual testing requirements are as follows:

**Female to Male, all age groups (prepubertal, pubertal, and adult)** All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request. Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal male reference range for their age group.

### **Male to Female:**

All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request.

Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal female reference range for their age group.

**Age 12 and Under (Prepubertal or Youth)** No restriction if seeking to play on a female team.

**Age 13-18 (registered as a Junior, including a 19 year old still in high school) (Pubertal or Adolescent)** Testosterone levels must be within normal female reference range (for the age range) for a minimum of 6 months preceding the application to participate.

**Age 18 and Over (registered as an Adult)** Testosterone levels must fall within normal adult female reference range for a minimum of 1 year prior to the application to participate.

To receive a gender ruling or ask any questions, please contact the USAV Gender Committee at [ChairGenderCom@usav.org](mailto:ChairGenderCom@usav.org).