

# Trans Athlete Policy

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## 1. Embedding British Wheelchair Basketball's Mission and Values

British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB) is committed to enabling a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment across our sport. Our mission to transform people's lives through wheelchair basketball threads through all aspects of participation; from training to competition, supporters to players, from domestic to international competition.

Our values symbolise our unique DNA and the culture of BWB and will be considered in the execution and interpretation of all policies and governance.

BWB's policies support the delivery of world-class governance across the sport and enable the realisation of our commitment to safely and inclusively engage with all participants and deliver both the mission and values of this outstanding sport.

## 2. Data Notice

Personal Data will be handled during the implementation of BWB's policies. This Personal Data will be managed in line with BWB's Privacy Notice.

Please note that there will also be instances where personal data will be shared with third parties outside of BWB, either in carrying out our legal responsibilities or in retaining professional support.

Where the implementation of the Policy concludes in the imposition of sanctions, the individuals name, violation and sanction will be shared with interested parties (inside and outside of the sport) and via the BWB website.

## 3. Purpose of Policy

BWB is committed to equality in terms of opportunity and access to the sport. It is BWB's responsibility to ensure that a fair and safe environment is available for all participants.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear set of principles for the regulation of athletes within the sport, ensuring fair play is maintained throughout. This policy will also outline the processes for athletes who identify as trans or non-binary. This will ensure that BWB's trans athlete process is robust and conducted in an open and transparent environment, with the athletes' welfare front and centre.

This policy covers all BWB National Leagues and Competitions as well as any sanctioned leagues that are operating under BWB rules and regulations.

This policy does not cover:

- International club competitions such as Euro League and the Champions League
- International wheelchair basketball such as competitions delivered by the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)

## 4. Policy Principles

- BWB promises to treat individuals with dignity and respect at all times
- BWB will respect the private and confidential nature of an individual's personal circumstances
- Wheelchair Basketball in the UK is an inclusive sport which allows athletes of all gender identities to compete together.
- BWB will outline how information is shared with others to administer the sport.
- **BWB Rules are established to maintain fair and safe competition for all members**

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following BWB policies and procedures:

[Customer Charter and Complaints Policy](#)

[Disciplinary Policy](#)

[Equal Opportunities Policy](#)

[Data Privacy Notice](#)

[Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Safeguarding Procedures – Adults](#)

[Safeguarding Procedures – Children](#)

[Whistleblowing Policy](#)

## 5. Responsibility

- Individuals are responsible for ensuring that their gender and sex at birth has been inputted into their personal account on the BWB Membership Portal.
- Officials are responsible for administrating classifications points on court.

## 6. Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of all concerned to protect the safety and welfare of all participants involved in the trans athlete identification process. Whether young people or adults are involved in the process, every effort should be undertaken to ensure their welfare is considered and protected.

When communicating or discussing the gender identity of any athlete under the age of 18, communication will also take place with the parent/carer or guardian following safeguarding procedures.

Formal communication from BWB by post or email will be undertaken directly with the parent or guardian and young person should the athlete be under the age of 18.

BWB are aware of a heightened risk of poor mental health to people who identify as trans, non-binary or who are questioning their gender. Information about support for mental health concerns can be found [on the BWB website](#).

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## 7. League and Competition Specific Regulations

This section of the policy will discuss in more detail the process when selecting one of trans man, trans woman or non-binary person on the BWB membership portal. These rules apply to all BWB National Leagues and Competitions as well as any sanctioned leagues that are operating under BWB rules and regulations.

7.1 Trans athletes whose sex at birth is female may compete in female specific competition. Trans athletes whose sex at birth is male may not compete in female specific competition.

7.2 Trans men and trans women are eligible to compete in any male or non-gender specific competition. The team classification total would not increase when the athlete enters the court.

7.3 A Trans male athlete (**sex at birth female**) who has begun or completed the transition process and are therefore taking hormonal medication may not compete in female only specific competition. When competing in non-gender specific competition the team classification total would not change.

7.4 A Trans female athlete (**sex at birth male**) is eligible to compete in any male or non-gender specific competition. When competing in non-gender specific competition the team classification total would not change.

7.5 Non-binary athletes whose sex at birth is female are eligible to compete in female specific competitions.

7.6 Non-binary athletes whose sex at birth is female are eligible to compete in nongendered competitions. The team classification total would increase in line with the regulations for female and junior players specific to that competition.

7.7 Non-binary athletes whose sex at birth is male are eligible to compete in male specific competitions.

7.8 Non-binary athletes whose sex at birth is male are eligible to compete in nongendered competitions. The team classification total would not increase when the athlete enters the court.

The full BWB National Competition Regulations can be found [here](#).

## 8. Licence and Classification Cards

In order for BWB to effectively administer the sport, data sharing between the individual member and match officials is required in relation to information displayed on licence cards.

Licence cards will display the individuals gender identity and sex at birth for officials to appropriately administer the sport.

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## 9. Discrimination and Equal Opportunities

BWB champions inclusion and opportunities for all participants within the sport at all levels.

In accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy, BWB will endeavour to work with all member clubs and organisations to ensure that the culture of the club, organisation or workplace is supportive and welcoming for any trans person.

BWB promotes a zero-tolerance approach to transphobia and have procedures in place to ensure that any unacceptable behaviour and language is challenged appropriately and sanctions and / or educational programmes are implemented to ensure the creation of a safe and welcoming environment for all

Transphobic behaviour should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer or Disciplinary Lead if an incident takes place in a club setting. Should an incident take place at a BWB event, the report should be made to the BWB event lead.

In line with the BWB Codes of Conduct, any discrimination, unfair or unreasonable behaviour or treatment will be taken seriously, and action will be taken in accordance with BWB's Disciplinary Policy.

## 10. Organisations offering further support and guidance

[Equality Standard for Sport](#)

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## 11. Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
British Wheelchair Basketball/BWB	The National Governing Body for wheelchair basketball in the UK
International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)	The Governing Body for Wheelchair Basketball across the world.
Assigned Sex	The sex, male or female, assigned at birth based on physical characteristics
Gender identity or affirmed gender	The gender to which a person identifies or has transitioned or is transitioning, and which is opposed to that which was assigned at birth. Every person has a right to be able to express their gender in a way that is comfortable to them. Always use a transgender person's chosen name.
Non-binary	Someone who defines their gender as falling somewhere in between man and woman; for example, those who are both man and woman, or neither man nor woman, or moving between genders.
Non-gendered	A person who doesn't identify with either male or female gender. In the context of competition this is where gender isn't specified.
Trans	The umbrella term for any person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth, and all cross over identities that challenge the socially constructed border between the genders.
Trans Woman or girl	A person assigned male at birth who identifies with the female gender but has not necessarily transitioned.
Trans Man or boy	Someone designated as female at birth but identifies as male but has not transitioned.
Transition	Someone who is taking or has taken the 4-5-year complex medical process of changing their birth sex and their legal documentation to become the opposite sex.
Transphobia	Discriminatory, abusive, or negative language or behaviour directed towards a transgender person and may include refusal to provide access to services equal to non-trans people. It is as unacceptable as racism, sexism or homophobia.