

Questions Regarding USTA's Athlete Eligibility Policy Updates

What has changed in the updated USTA policy?

Due to a mandate from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), athletes who previously competed in the female Competition Category, but do not meet the definition of "woman" or "girl," as defined by Executive Order 14201, are no longer eligible to participate in sex-specific USTA events designated for women or girls.

What is the USTA position on transgender athletes?

While the USTA athlete eligibility policy has changed due to the USOPC mandate, our belief remains the same: tennis is and will continue to be for everyone. Inclusion has always been a USTA core value and we remain committed to making tennis available and accessible to all who wish to participate.

Why did the USTA change its policy?

The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) updated its policy in mid-2025, aligning with Executive Order 14201, requiring athletes who wish to compete in women's sports to have been identified as female at birth. The USOPC required all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to adopt this definition or risk sanctions, including the potential loss of National Governing Body status.

Where and to whom does this policy apply?

This policy applies to all USTA and USTA Section events ("USTA Events") where sex-specific play is offered and affects all current and prospective athletes who participate in sex-specific USTA programming.

What are the consequences for the USTA of not complying with the USOPC requirement?

Failure of an NGB to adopt the definition may result in sanctions imposed by the USOPC, including the potential loss of its status as an NGB.

When did the updated USTA policy come into effect?

The updated policy took effect on December 1, 2025.

How was the change communicated?

The policy updates were shared with USTA staff, Board, committee members, volunteers, and others who are potentially affected by the change in policy, in addition to publishing the revised policy on the USTA website in advance of the effective date. This is consistent with the USTA process for communicating new or updated policies, regulation, or rule changes.

Can Transgender athletes participate in USTA Events?

Yes, however, for sex-specific events, Transgender athletes must compete in either the gender category of their sex assigned at birth, or in the Men/Boys Category.

How are challenges to an athlete's eligibility made?

Any challenges to athlete eligibility should be addressed to USTA National by emailing eligibility@usta.com. Affected participants who disagree with the determination have the right to file a grievance against National.

What is the process if a challenged athlete is harassed by other athletes?

As with any form of harassment, a grievance may be filed in the appropriate jurisdiction, i.e. Section or National. Depending on the nature of the claim, the harassment may also be a violation of USTA's [Safe Play Conduct, Policies & Guidelines](#) and the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has the exclusive authority to address Sexual Misconduct, including Sexual Harassment. To make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, please visit uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/. For additional information on how to make a report, please visit usta.com/safeplay/report.