



New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association Transgender Policy Guidelines



This policy document is the recommendation by NZSSAA Executive on transgender participation.

It is recommended that NZSSAA adopt the Athletics NZ Transgender and Transsexual Participation Policy document which is currently in draft.

Please note the section on children and teenagers aged 12-18 years does not completely cover our NZSSAA age groups which go from athletes having turned 13 by December 31 to being under 20 on December 31 in the year of competition. Nonetheless the principles and approach contained in that section would apply to our competitions.

We have discussed an approach to participation in our Track and Field, Road Race and Cross-Country championships and recommend the following as guidelines:

From a competition perspective at school level, we should not expect athletes to be involved in any hormonal modification, either male or female, or any other required World Athletics criteria to determine acceptability as a male or female competitor.

If a school recognises the student as transgender, then they enter the athlete into the gender they identify with but with the expectation that the NZSSAA Entries Coordinator be informed, in confidence, of their status so that appropriate consultation can take place on the likelihood of the athlete/s progressing through qualification to finals.

There would be no need for identification of transgender athletes during participation in the qualifying process.

Track & Field Events

When it comes to participation in Track & Field finals, we recommend applying similar rules to those we have for international athletes competing at our championships:

1. When transgender athletes qualify for finals, the following will occur;
 - a. In laned track events (excluding 800m) if there are less than 6 cisgender (birth gender identifying) athletes in the final a B final will be run.
 - b. In the 800m at least 6 of the 8 qualifiers will be cisgender athletes and the number of qualifiers increased if necessary to include transgender athletes up to a maximum of 10 qualifiers. Only when this does not cover all transgender qualifiers will a B final be run.
 - c. In non laned track events either 14 of 16 or 12 of 14 will be cisgender athletes depending on whether 3 or 2 heats were required with 2 (or more if necessary) places going to transgender athletes.
 - d. In field events cisgender athletes will be at least 6 of the 8 qualifying for 3 extra trials with 2 (or more if necessary) places going to transgender athletes.
2. Transgender athletes who medal will receive the appropriate medal as will the top 3 cisgender athletes.
3. Where records are broken by a transgender athlete they will be shown as a TG record with the Cisgender record still standing. Cisgender NZSSAA records will not be invalidated by the participation of a transgender athlete in the event but it is understood that this may not apply to a possible Athletics NZ or World Athletics Record.

Cross Country and Road Race Events

The same understandings will apply with the athlete/s entering the gender they identify with and, where medals (and certificates) are concerned, the appropriate recognition will be made to both transgender and cisgender placegetters.



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NZSSAA Teams

- a. For selection in our Championship 'Paper' teams the same principles will be followed
- b. For teams chosen to compete internationally the rules of competition for that event will be followed although representations on behalf of Transgender athletes' participation will be made with intention of making NZSSAA selection opportunities available where possible.

It would be the intention of NZSSAA to maintain the athlete/s privacy as much as possible although it is recognised, as athletes proceed in the competition toward finals and medalling, that awareness of their status will become more public.

NZSSAA undertakes to manage that in the most appropriate ways possible so as to make involvement in our sport a positive and enjoyable experience for the athletes concerned.

Island and Regional/Zones Secondary Schools Events

Although NZSSAA has no formal jurisdiction when it comes to Zones/Regional or Island Secondary events it would recommend

- a. representation at the Regional/ Island championships be that they can be entered in the grade and gender they qualified in as can the other placed cisgender athletes.
- b. There is no problem if they all qualify but if they don't then it's very appropriate to apply for an exception to the event coordinator.
- c. The transgender athlete would have to be aware that should they be reaching finals and achieving placings that there will be some awareness of their position.