

USATF Diversity & Leadership Committee Guidelines For Gender Determination Inquiries

USATF advocates for equal opportunity, access and treatment for all individuals. Please review our organization statement regarding this policy: <http://www.usatf.org/About/Privacy---Other-Policies/Transgender-Transsexual.aspx>.

Under USATF policy, an athlete can run under whatever gender the athlete identifies, but should the athlete win an award and there be a protest made by another athlete and/or coach, it will then be up to the onsite officials to make the eligibility determination (*based on documentation provided and in accordance with state law*), and if there are still outstanding issues with this process, the matter would then proceed to a grievance if filed.

The utmost care should be taken to treat the athlete in questions with respect, and follow this following process:

Following is a step-by-step procedure provided by USATF Diversity and Leadership Committee for gender determination at a competition when there is a question/protest regarding an athlete's gender:

Scenario: An individual wants to compete in a specific gender, can event administration deny that request?

- Meet administration must honor that athlete's request and allow the athlete to compete in gender requested
- Any athlete or coach who has been harmed (*e.g. where age group awards and/or prize money are at stake*) has the right to file a protest within the protest period of that meet if they feel they have been harmed in accordance with USATF rule 146 'Protests'.
- Protest first goes to meet referee
- Meet referee can rule based on the documentation provided (*e.g. drivers' license, birth certificate*).
This provided documentation to the referee will be the basis for gender determination for the protest. The requirements vary by state (in accordance with law).
- All applicable appeal procedures should be followed, and if necessary, then a grievance can be filed with the national office.

Officials and event organizers should also be reminded to treat all athletes courteously and professionally (*regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion, etc*)

In cases where gender is at issue, extreme care should be taken to respect the privacy of the parties affected at every step of the process.