

# **THE BRITISH SAMBO FEDERATION POLICY FOR TRANSGENDER INCLUSION IN DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS**

The British Sambo Federation (BSF) believes in the right of transgender people to take part in and achieve their potential in the sport of Sambo. This policy has been produced to clarify rules and responsibilities pertaining to transgender athletes in Sambo and to create a clear framework for participating in BSF sanctioned events. As much as possible, this policy follows the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) transgender Athletes guidelines (Attachment 1), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidelines, as presented in the Statement of the Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism (Attachment 2) and the UK Sports Councils Guidance for Transgender Inclusion in Domestic Sport (Attachment 3).

## **1. APPLICATION**

1. The term “Transgender” is used in this policy to refer to individuals whose gender identity (i.e., how they identify) is different from the biological sex assigned to them at birth (whether they are pre- or post-puberty, and whether or not they have undergone any form of medical or surgical intervention).

2. This policy applies to all officially sanctioned BSF events. Affiliated Federations are responsible to establish their own national transgender policies, which govern their competitions.

3. This policy establishes the conditions enabling transgender wrestlers to participate in BSF Competitions in the style that is consistent with their gender identity.

4. In the event that an issue arises, which was not foreseen in this policy, it will be addressed by the BSF in a manner that protects and supports the imperatives of the policy.

5. All cases arising under this policy, and in particular all wrestler information provided to the BSF under this policy, and all results of examinations and assessments conducted under this policy, will be dealt with in strict confidence at all times. All medical information and data relating to a wrestler will be treated as sensitive personal information and the BSF will ensure at all times that it is processed as such in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information will not be used for any purpose not contemplated in this policy, and will not be disclosed to any third party except (a) as is strictly necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this policy; (b) as is required by law or (c) an official request of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

## **2. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**

Eligibility conditions for male-to-female Transgender samboist

2.1. To be eligible to participate in BSF Women’s competitions, a male-to female transgender wrestler must satisfy the following requirements:

(a) she must provide a written and signed declaration, in a form satisfactory to the BSF, that her gender identity is female; and

(b) she must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the BSF that the concentration of

testosterone in her serum has been less than 10 nmol/L<sup>1</sup> continuously for a period of at least 12 months (with the requirement for any longer period to be based on a confidential case-by-case evaluation, considering whether or not 12 months is a sufficient length of time to minimise any advantage in women Sambo competition), and that she is ready, willing and able to continue to keep it below that level for as long as she continues to compete in the women's category.

2.2. If the BSF determines that the above eligibility conditions have been met, the BSF will issue a written certification of that competitor's eligibility to compete in BSF Competitions. That eligibility will be subject, in every case, to the competitor's consistent compliance with and continuing fulfilment of the above eligibility conditions, including (without limitation) to continuously maintaining her serum testosterone at a concentration of less than 10 nmol/L.

2.3. To avoid discrimination, if an athlete is deemed ineligible for BSF competitions, the competitor should be eligible to compete in the male BSF Competitions.

### **Eligibility conditions for female-to-male Transgender wrestler**

2.4. To be eligible to participate in BSF Men's Competitions, a female-to-male transgender wrestler must provide a written and signed declaration, in a form satisfactory to the BSF, that his gender identity is male. As soon as it is reasonably practicable, following receipt of such declaration, the BSF will issue a written certification of that wrestler's eligibility to compete in BSF Competitions. In order to avoid ambiguity, a female-to-male transgender wrestler will not be eligible to participate in Women's Competitions once they have commenced hormone treatment.

### **Conditions applicable to all Transgender wrestlers**

2.5. Once a transgender samboist has satisfied the eligibility requirements and has started participating in BSF Competitions that is consistent with his/her gender identity, he/she may not then switch back to participating in the other gender category in BSF Competitions unless and until (a) at least four years have passed since the first BSF Competition in which he/she participated as a transgender wrestler; and (b) he/she satisfies all of the conditions for eligibility to compete.

2.6. It should be clear that, the eligibility conditions for a transgender competitor specified in this policy, operate without prejudice to all other eligibility requirements that are applicable to all wrestlers (transgender or otherwise) under the rules of the BSF, which must also be satisfied, at all relevant times. In particular, nothing in this policy is intended to undermine or affect, in anyway, any of the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code, of the WADA International Standards (including the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions), or of the FIAS Anti-Doping Program. Nothing in this policy will be deemed to permit, excuse or justify non-compliance with any of those requirements, including (without limitation) any requirement for a competitor to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) for the use of a prohibited substance, such as testosterone.

2.7. Transgender wrestlers may be granted a TUE only after their eligibility and gender has been established and confirmed by the BSF.

2.8. The final decision on the transgender eligibility should be reflected in his/her membership book.

### **3. MONITORING/INVESTIGATING COMPLIANCE**

1. The BSF may review or monitor a competitor's compliance with the transgender eligibility conditions at any time, with or without notice, whether by random or targeted testing of the competitor's serum testosterone levels (and the competitor agrees to provide serum samples for this purpose, and also agrees that any samples provided for anti-doping purposes and/or any anti-doping data relating to him/her may also be used for this purpose), or by any other appropriate means.

3.2 In addition, the BSF may investigate, at any time:

(a) whether a competitor who has not filed a declaration under this policy is a transgender wrestler who needs to establish his/her eligibility to compete in accordance with this policy.

(b) whether (because of a subsequent change in circumstances, subsequent learning or experience, or otherwise) it is necessary to require a transgender competitor who has previously been determined to satisfy the transgender eligibility conditions to undergo further assessment by the BSF to determine whether he/she still satisfies those conditions. and/or

(c) any circumstances indicating potential non-compliance with this policy; and in such cases the competitor in question must cooperate fully and in good faith with that investigation, including (without limitation) by providing serum samples upon request.

3.3 To avoid abuse, only the BSF may initiate an investigation under paragraph 3.2, and the BSF should only do so in good faith and on reasonable grounds, based upon information derived from reliable sources, such as (for example) the affected wrestler him/herself, results from a routine pre-participation health examination, or data as to serum testosterone levels and/or other data obtained from analysis of samples collected for antidoping purposes.

3.4 The dignity of every individual must be respected. All forms of abuse and/or harassment are expressly prohibited. In particular (but without limitation):

(a) Any person or entity (including, without limitation, any other competitor or official) that provides information to the BSF for consideration under this policy is under a strict obligation (i) to ensure that the information is accurate and complete; and (ii) not to provide any information in bad faith, to harass, stigmatise or otherwise injure a competitor or for any other improper purpose.

(b) No stigmatisation or improper discrimination on grounds of gender identity will be tolerated. In particular (but without limitation), persecution or campaigns against competitors, simply on the basis that their appearance does not conform to gender stereotypes, are unacceptable. Any such conduct will be considered a serious breach of this policy, which is, without prejudice, subject to any action the BSF may take under any applicable Regulations, Code of Conduct and/or Welfare Policy.

3.5 Where the BSF determines that a male-to-female transgender wrestler who has previously been declared eligible to compete in the women's Sambo Competitions has failed to maintain her serum testosterone level at a concentration of less than 10 nmol/L, she may not compete in the women wrestling style in BSF Competitions until such time as she demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the BSF, that she has maintained her serum testosterone below for a new continuous period of at least 12 months.

## **NOTES**

This document will be subject to review in light of any scientific or medical developments that come to light.

For purposes of this policy, all measurements of serum testosterone levels must be conducted by means of tandem mass spectrometry..

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) transgender Athletes guidelines
2. International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidelines, as presented in the Statement of the Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenism
3. UK Sports Councils Guidance for Transgender Inclusion in Domestic Sport