

## **Fair Play? Or Unfair Advantage?**

By Julie Concow

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In the last few years, there has been much discussion and debate over the trans debate.

Some would say there is no debate at all, that the science is decided and confirmed.

While others declare that there is little to no evidence to support transgender ideas.

A trans person is someone who feels that their designated gender at birth does not match the gender they believe they truly are.

So, we have many people who feel trapped inside a man's body but really identify as a woman.

Or a person born as an assigned woman at birth but considers themselves to be a man.

***This has been hotly argued between those that believe in trans rights — and those that don't.***

Many trans people have come out online; in blogs or in videos, denouncing their masculine or feminine body and telling the world they are really a man or a woman.

One area where this has caused much deeper conversation is in sports.

We now have many transgender athletes competing in world-class sporting events.

In the case of men who have transitioned to being women, this seems to have caused the most debate.

One of the arguments put forward by trans critics is that trans women who compete with biological women are much stronger and have much greater endurance.

The critics argue that this puts trans women athletes at a much better advantage.

But trans people say that the treatment that trans women have can reduce their male physicality. Therefore, they are less strong than their assigned male at-birth counterparts.

However, in the world of wrestling, there are now transgender women — men transitioning into women — competing against cisgender women. That is, people designated women at birth.

***And the trans women contenders win.***

A female wrestling athlete who competed against a trans woman competitor said that it was like being hit by a train.

The trans woman was far superior in sheer strength and speed.

There is also a case of a cycling event.

A trans woman cyclist competed against several other assigned female at-birth cyclists and won.

On the podium, as the judges are handing out the medals, the trans woman cyclist can be seen towering above the other competitors.

She was much taller, and her legs were a lot more muscular.

There are other cases in sports in running events and weightlifting.

Usually, a trans woman athlete competes against other biological women.

For the trans community, this is a victory. They see this as great progress in terms of inclusion and equality.

But for many other people, for many of the other athletes competing in these events, they see it as unfair.

Professional athletes have voiced their concerns about this. They have sympathy for the trans movement but want all sports to have fair competition.

If women are competing against transgender women, what chance do they have of winning? Very little, it would seem.

This puts the authorities that manage these sporting events in a very difficult position.

On the one hand, they want the sports to be fair.

But on the other hand, they also want the events to be seen as all-inclusive.

***The debate continues — but who will win?***