

TRANSGENDER GUIDELINES

31 August 2023

1. Introduction

Dorset Squash & Racketball is committed to the principles of equality in sport.

Dorset Squash & Racketball aims to ensure that all people within the squash community, irrespective of their age, gender reassignment, disability, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity or breastfeeding status, race (including ethnic origin, nationality and colour), religion or belief, sex, social status or sexual orientation, have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in squash at all levels and in all roles.

Dorset Squash & Racketball will ensure that there will be open access to all those who wish to participate in any aspect of squash activity and that they are treated fairly, equally and with respect.

Under current legislation, squash as a gender-affected sport, may be regulated by Dorset Squash & Racketball in respect of the participation of a transsexual person.

Dorset Squash & Racketball wishes to try, so far as is possible, to permit transsexual people to compete in their affirmed gender while balancing this with its role in providing fair play and competition and protecting the integrity of women's, men's and mixed gender, competitions.

In addition to those wishing to compete, it also has a responsibility to protect those who may be staff or spectators, and who may be transgender individual, or perceived to be so, or associated with them, such as family members. However this particular document focuses only on players, or would-be players, in squash competitions.

This document uses a number of terms associated with transgender individuals and squash. We recognise that there are considerable differences in those that are used, and we have adopted the following terms.

2. Definitions

- **Squash:** References to 'squash' include all forms of squash (including Squash 57) played at all levels and in all playing environments and facility types.
- **Transgender Person:** The term transgender person or trans person are umbrella terms to cover a number of specific terms such as transsexual men, transsexual women, intersex people, androgyne and polygender people.
- **Gender Reassignment:** Gender reassignment is one of a number of protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 and refers to the process of transitioning from one gender to another. This legislation prohibits discrimination against a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process, or part of a process, for the purpose of reassigning their gender.
- **Transsexual Person:** This term refers to someone with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. We use the term transsexual man to describe a female-to-male transsexual person and transsexual woman to describe a male-to-female transsexual person. This is not the same as a cross-dresser nor is it the same as sexual orientation.
- **Scope:** Dorset Squash & Racketball is the County Governing Body for the sport of squash & racketball in Dorset. Therefore the guidelines and procedures set out in this document relate solely to activity within the County of Dorset. Dorset Squash & Racketball is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout squash at every level in Dorset. It is the responsibility of Dorset Squash & Racketball to apply the rules of squash and racketball and regulate participation of persons as competitors in squash and racketball matches to ensure that it provides fair competition and has due regard for the safety of all competitors. It runs and organises a range of competitions to suit the needs of all players. Dorset Squash & Racketball would expect players to play at an appropriate level.

The document covers competitions sanctioned by Dorset Squash & Racketball; it includes competition managed and organised by all members. The document also covers the eligibility and selection of transsexual players to represent Dorset in Inter County competitions, referred to as **Inter County competitions** in this paper.

For the avoidance of doubt, the word competition is defined as activity where the result (winning and losing) has a meaningful outcome.

Dorset Squash & Racketball's Guidelines and Procedures on Transsexual People Playing in squash & racketball competitions apply to all individuals involved, whether paid or in a voluntary capacity. Everyone in squash & racketball has a responsibility to ensure that transsexual people are treated with dignity and respect and that they are treated fairly.

3. Guidance and Legislation

The practices and procedures within this documentation are based on the principles contained within English legislation and take the following into consideration:

- Equality Act 2010.
- IOC Guidance on Sex Reassignment 2004.
- Data Protection Act 1998.
- Gender Recognition Act 2004.

4. Guidelines and Procedures

- Any transsexual male (female-to-male transsexual person) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any male, domestic squash competition or mixed gender competition in his affirmed gender; or
- Any transsexual woman (male-to-female transsexual person) over the age of 16 recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic squash competition or mixed gender completion in her affirmed gender as long as she can satisfy Dorset Squash that any gender-related advantage has been minimised by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender; or
- Any transsexual girl (under 16 and post puberty) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic squash competition or mixed gender competition in her affirmed gender subject to an individual case-by-case review, if required, by England Squash; or
- Any transsexual girl (pre-puberty) recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment may compete in any female, domestic squash or mixed gender competition in her affirmed gender subject to confirmation of her stage of pubertal development.
- Any transsexual person shall be permitted to participate in their birth gender if they have not started hormone treatment.
- Any transsexual player recognised under English law as someone undergoing, or who has undergone, gender reassignment is eligible to represent Dorset in inter county competitions as long as they comply with England Squash's policy on sex reassignment as follows:

a) Any transsexual female who has undergone, or is undergoing sex reassignment surgery from male to female before puberty should be regarded as female. This also applies to transsexual males who should be regarded as boys and men (male). If any individual meets the relevant requirement they can be eligible for selection to represent Dorset in inter county competitions. This should be conditional on the individual presenting with legal recognition of their affirmed gender.

b) Any transsexual person recognised under English law who has undergone gender reassignment after puberty can be eligible for selection to represent Dorset in inter county competitions in their affirmed gender under the following conditions:

- Surgical anatomical changes, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy have been completed two years before seeking eligibility;
- Legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities; and
- Hormone therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantage in squash competitions.
- This is summarised on the following table

AFFIRMED GENDER	COUNTY COMPETITION	INTER COUNTY
ANY TRANSSEXUAL MALE	May compete in any male or mixed gender county competition in their affirmed gender.	May represent Dorset in inter county competition if he is compliant with England Squash policy.
TRANSSEXUAL WOMAN – OVER 16	May compete in any mixed gender competition. May compete in any female competition by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood- measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender this is confirmed annually May compete in any male or mixed gender competition if she has not started hormone treatment.	May represent Dorset in inter county competition if she is compliant with England Squash policy
TRANSSEXUAL GIRL – UNDER 16 AND AFTER PUBERTY	May compete in any female or mixed gender domestic competition subject to an individual case-by-case review undertaken by Dorset Squash. <i>or</i> If she has not started hormone treatment she can play in any male domestic and any mixed gender competition as male.	May represent Dorset in any inter county competition if she is compliant with England Squash policy
TRANSSEXUAL GIRL – BEFORE PUBERTY	May compete in any female or mixed gender county competition in her affirmed gender subject to confirmation of her stage of pubertal development.	May represent Dorset in inter county competition if she is compliant with England Squash policy

5. Dorset Squash & Racketball's procedure to determine eligibility for transsexual people to play in county squash & racketball competitions.

For all transsexual women

- All enquiries must be passed to Dorset Squash & Racketball Committee
- All documentation revealing information about a person's past or present gender reassignment status will be managed in accordance with Dorset Squash & Racketball's policies with regards to the management of sensitive and confidential information and in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and, where relevant the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- Anyone involved will understand the confidentiality obligations that are associated with handling such a matter.
- Dorset Squash & Racketball will undertake all communication with the individual concerned only sharing information with the league or club on a 'needs-led' basis allowing them to manage player registration.
- In order to determine compliance with these guidelines, Dorset Squash & Racketball's Committee will consider the evidence on a case-by case basis.
- A transsexual woman or girl shall not be entitled to play in female, domestic competitions in her affirmed gender until such time as she has provided evidence that the criteria set out have been met to Dorset Squash & Racketball's satisfaction.

For transsexual women over the age of 16

- The transsexual woman (and her legal guardian if under 18) will be asked to permit their GP and/or consultant to disclose sufficient information to Dorset Squash & Racketball (including such other information, records or other material as Dorset Squash & Racketball may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain that hormone therapy has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a minimum of one year and that this has minimised any gender- related advantages in squash competitions. This will need to demonstrate that the hormone treatment has reduced her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender; hormone-related treatment must be verified annually to ensure its validity;

For transsexual girls (under 16 and post puberty)

- The transsexual girl and her legal guardian will be asked to permit Dorset Squash & Racketball to undertake an individual case-by-case review. This will involve a review meeting with the transsexual girl, her advocate (e.g. parent, social worker, a representative from a LGBT young people's group) and a representative from Dorset Squash & Racketball. Their role will be to agree a way forward for the young person based on her individual circumstances and to manage everybody's expectations and with due consideration for fairness.

For transsexual girls pre puberty

- The transsexual girl and her legal guardian will be asked to permit their GP and/or Consultant to disclose sufficient information to Dorset Squash & Racketball (including such other information, records or other material as Dorset Squash & Racketball may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain the girl's stage of pubertal development. This is subject to an annual review.

6. Dorset Squash & Racketball's procedure to determine eligibility for transsexual people to represent Dorset in Inter County competitions

- All enquiries must be passed to Dorset Squash & Racketball's Committee.
- All documentation revealing information about a person's past or present gender reassignment status must be managed in accordance with Dorset Squash & Racketball's policies with regards to the management of sensitive and confidential information and in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 and, where relevant the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- Anyone involved will understand the confidentiality obligations that are associated with handling such a matter.
- Dorset Squash & Racketball will undertake all communication with the individual concerned only sharing information with County competition organisers in order to allow it to verify the status of the transsexual person.
- The transsexual person (and her legal guardian if under the age of 18) will be asked to permit their GP and/or consultant and the Gender Recognition Panel (where appropriate) to disclose sufficient information to Dorset Squash & Racketball (including such other information, records or other material as Dorset Squash & Racketball may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain that the conditions that have been set by the England Squash have been met. Namely:
 - Any individual undergoing, or undergone, sex reassignment of male to female before puberty should be regarded as girls and women" (female). This also applies to individuals undergoing, or undergone, female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).
 - Individuals undergoing, or undergone, sex reassignment from male to female after puberty (and vice versa) be eligible for participation in female or male competitions, respectively, under the following conditions:
 - i. Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy two years previously; and
 - ii. Legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities; and
 - iii. Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantages in sport competitions.
- In order to determine compliance with this documentation Dorset Squash & Racketball Committee will consider the evidence on a case-by case basis.
- A person shall not be entitled to represent Dorset in Inter County competitions in their affirmed gender until such time as they have provided evidence that the criteria set out above have been met to Dorset Squash & Racketball's satisfaction.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

All squash & racketball organisations should:

- Treat the transsexual person with dignity and respect.
- Explain the guidelines and procedures and ask their view on how to proceed.
- Explain that there are no restrictions on participating in training or informal matches.
- Respect the private and confidential nature of the person's situation.
- Agree with the transsexual person how information is to be shared with others if this is necessary.
- Take prompt and decisive action against anyone in the organisation whose behaviour or language is inappropriate or offensive to or about transsexual people. Disciplinary procedures should be employed to manage this.
- Ensure a Code of Conduct is publicised indicating a zero-tolerance attitude towards all bullying/harassment of people with protected characteristics.
- Ensure that any training the organisation undertakes with regards to equality covers transsexual people as well as the general equality policy.