

# Boxing champs, Olympic gold medalist rip USA Boxing over transgender policy: 'Girls need to stick together'

USA Boxing says a fighter who transitioned from male to female can compete in the female category under several conditions spelled out in the rulebook

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Boxing champions Ebanie Bridges and Amanda Serrano were among those to rip [USA Boxing](#) over its policies regarding transgender female fighters and their participation against women.

USA Boxing says a fighter who transitioned from male to female can compete in the female category under several conditions spelled out in the rulebook:

The boxer identifies as a female and has completed gender reassignment surgery. The fighter has undergone quarterly hormone testing and gives the organization documentation of hormone levels for a minimum of four years. The fighter's testosterone levels have been below 5 nanomoles per liter 48 months before their first fight, the fighter's total testosterone level must remain below 5 nmol/L through their eligibility to compete against females and the conditions will be monitored and tested at the fighter's expense with a 12-month suspension for failing to meet the standards.

Bridges, who has [been outspoken](#) about the idea of fighting a trans woman, was outraged about USA Boxing's decision. "This is wrong on so many levels,"

the former IBF bantamweight champion wrote on X. "I will never agree to this... it's bad enough having trans women breaking records in other sports like track and field, swimming and power lifting but it's a bit different to them breaking our skulls in combat sports where the aim is to HURT YOU not just break a record...however I think it's wrong in ALL SPORT... I have nothing against trans but can't be skewing the line in sport.... You don't see reference or debates for transmen in sport... cos it's not a threat...

"It ain't just about the test levels what about their bone density and a heap of other biological factors. Cutting ur bits off and adding boobs won't take back the masculine maturity your body has gone thru before you decided u are now a woman."

Bridges said the solution was to have a transgender division in the sport.

"I don't care about 'political correctness' it's politically incorrect to have a man fighting a woman.. and idc that's exactly what it is... this society is too soft.. this is our health and safety. The girls need to stick together or women's sport in 50 years will be filled with male born champions," she added.

Serrano, who is the unified featherweight champion, weighed in.

"Make it make sense! Women who were born women can't compete against women under the same rules as men according to the WBC....BUT men can identify as a woman, transition and then fight us women?" Serrano wrote on X.

All I want is equal opportunity for all. Our bodies. Our decision."

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields also reacted.

"this is idk..... Not the right decision," she wrote.



## **USA Boxing Transgender Policy August 25, 2022**

### **Introduction/Purpose**

USA Boxing presents this policy for members regarding transgender participation in USA Boxing's competitions. The purpose of this policy is to provide fairness and safety for all boxers.

USA Boxing has determined this policy based on the November 2021 International Olympic Committee (IOC) Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations, which remits each sport and its governing body to determine how an athlete may be at a disproportionate advantage compared with their peers, taking into consideration the nature of each sport. This means that the International Federation (IF) for each sport determines the eligibility.

Since boxing's IF has not determined transgender eligibility and boxing is considered a combat sport, USA Boxing's overriding objective is the safety of all boxers and fair competition between all boxers.

### **Transgender Policy**

Minor boxers under the age of 18 must compete as their birth gender in weight classes outlined in the USA Boxing Rulebook. USA Boxing will only communicate with minors with a parent or legal guardian present.

For boxers over the age of 18, USA Boxing follows the guidance of the IOC's 2015 Consensus Meeting decision in Chand vs Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the 2022 United States Olympic Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Medical and Scientific Discussion Pertaining to Transgender Athletes in Sport, which sites studies from the Boston Children's Hospital Sports Medicine and Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. Normal range of testosterone for males is defined as more than 10 nanomoles per litre (10 nmol/L) and normal range of testosterone for females is less than 3.1 nanomoles per litre (3.1 nmol/L).

### **A boxer who transitions from male to female is eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:**

- The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female and has completed gender reassignment surgery.
- The athlete for a minimum of four years after surgery has had quarterly hormone testing and presents USA Boxing documentation of hormone levels.
- The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 5 nmol/L for at least 48 months prior to her first competition (with the requirement for any longer period to be based on a confidential case-by-case evaluation, considering whether or not 48 months is a sufficient length of time to minimize any advantage in women's competition).
- The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 5 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.

- Compliance with these conditions will be monitored by testing at the expense of the athlete. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months. Re-testing of testosterone levels will then be required.

**A boxer who transitions from female to male is eligible to compete in the male category under the following conditions:**

- The athlete has declared that his gender identity is male and has had gender reassignment surgery.
- The athlete for a minimum of four years after surgery has had quarterly hormone testing and presents USA Boxing documentation of hormone levels.
- The athlete must demonstrate that his total testosterone level in serum has been above 10 nmol/L for at least 48 months prior to his first competition (with the requirement for any longer period to be based on a confidential case-by-case evaluation, considering whether or not 48 months is a sufficient length of time to minimize any advantage in men's competition).
- The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain above 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the male category.
- Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for male competition will be suspended for 12 months. Re-testing of testosterone levels will then be required.

All USA Boxing rules and regulations apply including the United States Anti-Doping Agency's (USADA) Rules and Regulations.

Any appeal will follow the USA Boxing's Grievance and Complaint Policy. Additionally, athletes may wish to contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman Office for independent and confidential advice. The Athlete Ombudsman's office is available by email at [athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org](mailto:athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org) or by phone at 719-866-5000.