



Transgender and Gender Diverse People Policy for Community and Elite Surfing Competitions in Australia.

FAQ's

Q1: Are Transgender and Gender Diverse people welcome in the sport of surfing?

Surfing Australia seeks to advance equality, diversity and inclusion for surfers in Australia. Surfing Australia welcomes and supports Transgender and Gender Diverse surfers in all roles and facets of our sport.

Q2: Can transgender athletes compete in surfing?

Yes, transgender athletes are currently, and will continue to be, welcome and supported at Community events and Elite events in surfing in Australia.

Transgender men and transgender women have the freedom to surf recreationally and in Community events in their affirmed gender.

At Elite events fairness has been prioritised. There will be a Female Category open to surfers who are female sex at birth and an Open Category for all surfers.

Q3: What does this mean for transgender women and men?

Transgender women, non-binary and gender diverse people who are male sex at birth will be able to compete in the Open Category in Elite events.

Transgender men, non-binary and gender diverse people who are female sex at birth and who have not used hormone therapy treatment (testosterone), will be able to compete in the Female category for Elite events if they choose to do so, or are welcome to compete in the Open category.

In accordance with anti-doping regulations anyone who has, or is using testosterone supplementation will be required to seek Therapeutic Use Exemption to be eligible for the Open Category.



Transgender men and transgender women can participate in Community events as the gender they identify as. Non-binary and gender diverse people can compete in the category which most aligns with their identity at Community competition level.

Surfing Australia's 2024 Rule Book will contain eligibility detail for categories of the respective surfing competition tiers e.g. Community events and Elite events.

Surfing Australia's **Transgender and Gender Diverse Policy as regards involvement in Surfing in Australia** will detail the scope of events and related activities for Elite Events in Australia.

Q3: When does the policy come into effect?

1 January, 2024. There is lead-time allowed to get required information to competitors and event organisers for the next calendar year. Additional training and support will be scheduled for Member Associations to support key stakeholders (e.g. clubs, coaches, competitors etc.).

Q4: Why has Surfing Australia adopted a different policy approach than the International Surfing Association (ISA)?

We looked at why major International Sport Organisations (ISO) in Aquatics, Athletics and Cycling have recently adjusted their policies.

We conferred with subject experts, scrutinised legal frameworks and interrogated research and literature- all considered in context of having a policy appropriate for Australian surfers. We have consulted key stakeholders and interests in formulating our policy.

The importance of gender equity is a fundamental underpinning to assuring Australia's elite female surfers have the same opportunities to achieve and be rewarded in competition as their male counterparts already enjoy.



Q5: What are the implications of this policy for club or Member Association membership?

All Australian surfers are welcome and supported to be members at clubs and associations. Our policies promote equality, diversity and inclusion, while concurrently prioritising fairness where required in competition.

Q6: What does this mean for Surfing Australia teams competing internationally?

To be selected by Surfing Australia for international events in the Womens category, only people who are female sex at birth will be eligible.

Q7: What's the difference between Community Competitions and Elite Competitions in surfing?

Community-level competitions are focused primarily on encouraging participation whilst Elite-level competitions are focused on reward features e.g. representative selection, prize money.

Q8: Will Member Associations and clubs get support to ensure smooth transition of the policy?

Yes, Surfing Australia undertakes to work collaboratively with Member Associations and clubs to support practices and behaviours, especially in competition delivery, that reflect our policy intent.

Q9: What happens if someone breaks policy and enters the Female category?

If Surfing Australia is made aware of a potential eligibility transgression of an Elite event registrant we will respectfully support the individual to provide evidence of compliance with the policy. If the registrant is non-compliant then the event organiser will be advised that the individual is able to compete in the Open category.



Q10: How will you ensure transgender and gender diverse people have good experiences in surfing?

Surfing Australia won't abide any form of harassment or discriminatory behaviour within our setting. Our broader commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion has support personnel, policy and guidelines towards positive and inclusive experiences for all surfers.

Q11: Will this policy be reviewed again?

This policy area has challenged sport globally, especially in recent years. Surfing Australia will review this policy and adjust if and when new information emerges to validate further refinement.

Queries can be emailed to the Sport Integrity manager at info@surfingaustralia.com and will be dealt with confidentially.

