



Procedures for Transgender People Competing in Domestic Competition

Purpose

To describe the procedures for notifying a change of gender and for transgender people to compete in domestic single sex or mixed sex competitions.

Notifying a change of gender

Whenever possible, alterations to a player's gender in the Croquet England database should take place outside the normal playing season and prior to entering any competitions in the forthcoming season. A player will be able to alter their entry in the Croquet England database, which should automatically update all the other database records.

All documentation revealing information about a person's past or present gender reassignment status will be managed in accordance with Croquet England's policies regarding the management of sensitive and confidential information and in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and, where relevant, the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

A designation of change of gender cannot be reversed for at least 3 years.

Entering a single sex or mixed-sex domestic event

All enquiries should be passed to Croquet England's nominated person who will be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or someone appointed by him/her who has sufficient seniority and knowledge of the issue to manage it appropriately.

Croquet England's nominated person will undertake all communication with the individual concerned, only sharing information with members e.g. clubs and the Croquet England office on a 'needs-led' basis allowing them to manage player registration. Anyone involved should understand the confidentiality obligations that are associated with handling such a matter.

Using the processes shown in Table 1, Croquet England's nominated person will decide if a transgender person is likely to have any significant physical advantage over people of the same birth sex and therefore, if they can enter in a single sex event or play in their affirmed gender as a partner in a mixed sex event.

Disputed decision

If the decision made is disputed, by the transgender person in question or by any other member of Croquet England, then a complaint should be formally lodged with Croquet England's nominated person. A vice-president of Croquet England and a medical representative appointed by Croquet England will consider the evidence on a case-by-case basis as described in Table 1.

Appeals process

Any decision made in relation to an individual can be appealed, in which case it will be considered under Croquet England's Complaints Procedure. An appeal must be lodged at least 4 weeks in advance of a competition in which the transgender person is entered. The appeal will be adjudicated upon before the start of the event.

A formally lodged complaint or an appeal, by a member or associate of Croquet England, that is considered to have been lodged mischievously or in breach of Croquet England's policies of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion or Anti-Bullying could give rise to a misconduct complaint which will be dealt with in accordance with Croquet England's Complaints Procedure.

References

[Policy for Transgender People Competing in Domestic Competitions](#)
[Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#)
[Anti Bullying Policy](#)
[Complaints Procedure](#)

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Reason for Change/Description: References linked

Table 1

Affirmed gender	Domestic croquet competition	Further information	Process to determine eligibility in the case of disputed decision or an appeal
Any transgender male (female-to-male transgender person)	May compete in his affirmed gender in any male or mixed- sex domestic competition.	There is a consensus that transgender men and boys, even after a considerable period of time on testosterone therapy, do not usually have an unfair physical advantage over other men or boys, and therefore should be allowed to compete in male and/or mixed-sex domestic competitions as male.	Verification of identity should be no more than is required of any other player.
Transgender woman – aged 16 or over (male-to-female transgender person)	May compete in her affirmed gender in female or mixed-sex domestic competitions by satisfying Croquet England’s nominated person that she has no physical advantage over other birth sex women.	Policy options for transgender women focus on the physical advantage, real or perceived, of transgender women over other women (birth sex) as well as the safety of competitors. After the age of 16 transgender women can receive cross-sex hormones, which can alter a person’s body to further fit with their gender identity. The effects of these hormones are only partially reversible, so they are not offered to people under the age of 16. Once a person reaches the age of 18 they can then begin the process of gender confirmation surgery e.g. gonadectomy which results in no further production of male hormones. Not all transgender women choose, or are able, to undergo gender confirmation surgery. For	<p>In the case of an appeal, it must be made clear to the transgender woman or girl that she is not entitled to play in female or mixed-sex domestic competitions in her affirmed gender until such time as she has provided evidence that the criteria set out by the Croquet England have been met to its satisfaction. The transgender woman (and her legal guardian if under 18) should be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclose sufficient information from her GP and/or Consultant to Croquet England (and any other information, records or other material as Croquet England may require from time to time) to allow it to ascertain that hormone therapy has been administered in a verifiable manner or the date of her gonadectomy and that a medical representative deems that this has minimised any gender-related advantages in competitions.

		<p>female or mixed-sex domestic competitions a transgender woman should only need to demonstrate that hormone therapy has minimised any gender-related advantage that she may have previously had. The minimising of any gender-related advantage either through hormone therapy or following gonadectomy should be the only necessary criteria for inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information will need to demonstrate that the hormone treatment will have reduced her blood-measured testosterone level to that of the affirmed gender for an appropriate length of time and that this is in line with any anti-doping regulations. • Croquet England should also be permitted to refer back to the GP and/or Consultant to clarify or verify any details. This will ensure that the transgender person is managing the information that is shared with Croquet England and will assist in ensuring the individual's right to privacy. <p>Verification of identity or age should be no more than is required of any other player.</p>
<p>Transgender girl – under 16, (male-to-female transgender person)</p>	<p>Either</p> <p>she may compete in her affirmed gender in any female or mixed sex domestic competition</p> <p>Or</p> <p>she may compete in her birth gender in any male or mixed sex competition</p>	<p>Any transgender girl under 16, pre- or post-puberty, may choose whether to compete as a female (affirmed gender) or as a male (birth gender). However, having once chosen to play in her affirmed gender she may not revert to her birth gender for 3 years or until she is 16, whichever is the sooner.</p>	<p>No appeals will be accepted in relation to children under 16 years of age, other than in relation to contravention of the 3 year rule.</p> <p>Verification of identity or age should be no more than is required of any other player.</p>