

Participation in Badminton by Transgender and Non-binary Players – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Policy

Why has the policy been updated?

The Badminton England Policy for Transgender Badminton Players was approved in 2015 and updated in 2019. It is now appropriate to update this policy to take account of existing validated research and the Sports Councils' Equality Group Guidance for Transgender Inclusion in Domestic Sport

<https://equalityinsport.org/docs/300921/Guidance%20for%20Transgender%20Inclusion%20in%20Domestic%20Sport%202021.pdf>

When does the policy come in to effect?

The policy was adopted by the Board on 3rd August 2023, meaning everyone will need to comply from this date.

When will the policy be reviewed?

We recognise that this is a developing area of policy with new research being published and changing societal attitudes. As such, we will review this policy annually before the start of each competitive season to ensure that up to date research and best practice is considered.

Do all affiliated clubs, leagues, County Badminton Associations, and players have to adhere to the policy?

All Badminton England affiliated clubs, league and County Badminton Association and players must adhere to the policy.

We would recommend that all clubs and leagues adopt this policy regardless of their affiliation status.

What support will I receive to help me understand and adhere to the policy?

Resources, webinars, and guidance will be provided to help everyone involved in badminton, especially competition, understand the changes and be prepared to carry out their roles effectively.

How do I share a concern or ask a question relating to the policy?

Questions or concerns relating to the policy should be submitted to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk

Competition

I am unsure what the policy means for the session I run?

Any queries about the policy should be directed to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk

I am unsure what the policy means for my tournament or competition?

Any queries about the policy should be directed to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk

If I play within the open category, how can you make up a doubles pair?

Within doubles, partners must be of the same assigned sex at birth. In the female category, both female players must have been assigned female at birth.

For mixed doubles, partners must be of a different assigned birth sex.

I've noticed there are still references to men's singles and men's doubles – When will this change to open category?

Badminton England is working through this category change as a sport, and it will be a gradual change as many tournaments already have opened their entries. Consequently, there will be a period of transition from men's to open categories, and therefore you will see some references to 'men's' appearing on documents and within competition following 3rd August 2023. We recognise this is a significant change and want to work with the badminton community on the transition. Badminton England will also work closely with tournament organisers and other workforce to support them to put in provision to accommodate these changes.

I'm eligible for the female category but I would like to play within the open category – Is this possible? And how can I do this?

Badminton England is currently working with Tournament Software and our membership provider to understand how this can best be facilitated. In the meantime, please direct all enquiries to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

What are the eligibility rules for transgender and non-binary players competing with Badminton England's National Schools Championships?

The government is expected to release Transgender Guidance in Schools imminently – Once this has been published, Badminton England will update these FAQs as appropriate.

Concerns about application of policy

What should I do if I believe this policy is being breached?

If you believe the policy is being breached, please report this with full details to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

I am unsure if someone is being truthful about their sex assigned at birth – What do I do?

Please do not approach the person directly as any presumption, whilst legitimate, may be unfounded and cause harm. Questions or concerns relating to the policy should be submitted to inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk

I am a tournament organiser and have received a concern relating to the gender of a player – What do I do?

The player should not be challenged on the day. Following the event, any concerns should be raised to Badminton England by contacting inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

I am involved in badminton and have a concern relation to the gender of a player – What do I do?

Any concerns should be raised to Badminton England by contacting inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

I believe I am being discriminated against because I identify as a transgender female/transgender male/non-binary – What do I do?

Badminton England believes that transgender and non-binary players should be able to access badminton without fear of discrimination or prejudice. People who identify as transgender or non-binary have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Badminton England operates a zero tolerance policy on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. Any concerns should be raised to Badminton England by contacting inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

I believe my child is being discriminated against because they identify as a transgender female/transgender male/non-binary – What do I do?

Badminton England believes that transgender and non-binary players should be able to access badminton without fear of discrimination or prejudice. People who identify as transgender or non-binary have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Badminton England operates a zero tolerance policy on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. Any concerns should be raised to Badminton England by contacting inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk.

Gender identity

A member of my club would like to change their gender identity – How can I support them?

Guidance and support is available at Badminton England's [Inclusion Hub](#). Specific guidance relating to non-binary players can be found [here](#)

A transgender player plays/would like to play at our club – How can I support them?

Guidance and support is available at Badminton England's [Inclusion Hub](#). Specific guidance relating to non-binary players can be found [here](#)

I would like to change my gender identity – How do I do this?

Players can update their gender identity on the membership system by logging into their profile and updating the equality tab. Once a player has chosen their gender identity, they are committed to that gender for the duration of the badminton season (September to August).

Changing facilities

What is Badminton England's policy on transgender and non-binary people's use of changing rooms?

Due to majority of badminton taking place in public facilities, Badminton England does not set a changing room policy for players. The facility is responsible for this so if you have queries about changing room usage, Badminton England recommends speaking to the facility about its designated policy. We will continue to engage with those third party providers to ensure best practice and guidance for the safe use of changing facilities and toilets is adopted.

If you have a safeguarding concern, you should contact the Badminton England Safeguarding Team via safeguarding@badmintonengland.co.uk

Other

I have a query that is not covered by the FAQs. What should I do?

We recognise a number of challenge will emerge as this policy is implemented locally. We are working through some of these challenges to support local delivery and will update these FAQs as appropriate. If you have any queries, questions, or concerns, please contact inclusion@badmintonengland.co.uk