Transgender Policy FAQs

When does the updated IRONMAN Transgender Policy go into effect?

As of March 1, 2023, all IRONMAN and IRONMAN 70.3 events globally will enforce the updated IRONMAN Transgender Policy.

Why has the Transgender Policy changed?

After review of the IOC’s Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations, and with input by from the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board (IGMAB), it was felt that the Transgender Policy implemented by the IOC triathlon governing body (World Triathlon) was consistent with the principles of the IOC’s Framework and that it was appropriate that IRONMAN's Transgender policy align with that of the international governing body of the sport. IRONMAN has provided additional inclusion opportunities for Transgender athletes through the development of the Open division, which allows an opportunity for transitioning athletes who have not met policy requirements to participate in IRONMAN and IRONMAN 70.3 events.

If I was already approved under the previous IRONMAN Transgender Policy, do I need to resubmit my documentation and receive new approval?

Any athlete that has received approval of a gender transition by the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board under the IRONMAN Transgender Policy prior to February 6, 2023 will be required to resubmit supporting documentation per the updated policy. Documentation must be submitted to the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board via IGMAB@ironman.com. Any athlete with prior approval may compete in the approved gender until February 28, 2023.

I am already approved to compete as gender female by World Triathlon, can I register as gender female in an IRONMAN or IRONMAN 70.3 event?

IRONMAN will recognize reciprocal confirmation of Competition Gender status based on approval by World Triathlon. Athletes who have submitted requests for competition in a specific gender and received approval of that request by World Triathlon and remain in compliance with the current World Triathlon policy are required to submit confirmation of such approval to compete in IRONMAN or IRONMAN 70.3 events. Confirmation of approval from World Triathlon should be emailed to IGMAB@ironman.com.

I am a transitioning male to female athlete who has not yet met the requirements of the updated policy to compete as a female. With the four-year “sit out” period for competing in the male category, in what gender and division should I register until I receive approval?

For any athlete formerly identified as male with intent to compete as female, there should be no official change of the athlete’s gender in the event registration form until final approval has been granted by the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board. Any athlete that has not met the requirements of the updated IRONMAN Transgender policy will need to participate in the Open Division until approval is granted by the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board. During an event registration process, please make sure to select “Open Division” as your classification in the registration form. Once the “Open Division” has been selected, an athlete’s gender and age will not be utilized for competition and results purposes.
I am an athlete formerly identified as a female with the intent to compete as a male but I have not yet submitted an approved Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) to the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board. How do I register for an event?

For any athlete formerly identified as female with intent to compete as male, there should be no official change of the athlete’s gender in the Event registration form until final approval has been granted by the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board after submission of a TUE, which has been approved by an athlete’s NADO or IF. Any athlete that has not met the requirements of the updated IRONMAN Transgender policy will need to participate in the Open Division until approval is granted by the IRONMAN Global Medical Advisory Board. During an event registration process, please make sure to select “Open Division” as your classification in the registration form. Once the “Open Division” has been selected, an athlete’s gender and age will not be utilized for competition and results purposes.

What happens when my local National Federation’s Transgender Policy differs from the IRONMAN Transgender Policy?

Until further notice, where there are discrepancies in the Transgender Policy, IRONMAN will request dispensation from the event’s sanctioning National Federation for IRONMAN’s Transgender Policy to prevail. If dispensation is denied, then the Transgender Policy of the National Federation will prevail.

I was approved under the prior policy to compete as female and my prior submission met current policy, why do I need to resubmit?

IRONMAN and IGMAB do not retain information submitted for gender status requests post review and status determination. As a matter of privacy and confidentiality, once an athlete’s submitted information has been reviewed, status determined and communication provided by IGMAB internally to appropriate IRONMAN parties, all records associated with a submission are deleted.