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## US Olympic Committee Enforces Ban on Transgender Women in Women's Sports, Aligns with Federal Directive

July 24, 2025

– Categories: General News



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The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has formally barred transgender women from competing in women's sports, following a policy update that enforces new federal standards introduced under President Donald Trump's administration.

The move reinforces long-standing concerns among athletes and advocates for women's sports about fairness and competitive integrity.

The USOPC, America's governing body for Olympic and Paralympic sports, cited Executive Order 14201, signed in February, as a guiding directive behind the policy change. This order, titled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," mandates that federal institutions, including athletic organizations with congressional charters like the USOPC, uphold biological distinctions in sex-based competitions. The order aligns with the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act, which governs the framework for amateur sports in the U.S.

In a statement updating its Athlete Safety Policy, the USOPC stated: "The USOPC will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities e.g., the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and federal law."

USOPC President Gene Sykes and CEO Sarah Hirshland further acknowledged the shift in a memo sent to Team USA athletes and staff, as first reported by ABC News. "As a federally chartered organization, we must comply with federal expectations," the memo read. The committee declined to provide further comment when approached by reporters.

The executive order extends beyond national teams and impacts international participation. It directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to enforce compliance across all relevant institutions and explicitly calls for the State Department to deny visas to transgender women seeking to compete in U.S.-hosted events. This includes the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, where Trump has vowed that only biological females will be allowed in women's categories.

While the move has been welcomed by many within women's sports for defending competitive fairness, it remains controversial among progressive groups. Critics argue that it marginalizes a small group of transgender athletes, fewer than ten across over half a million competitors in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sports, according to testimony before the Senate last December.

The IOC's current policy allows for transgender participation under specific medical and performance-related criteria, but Trump's directive has urged a more restrictive standard at

the national level. The pressure on international governing bodies may continue to grow as more nations revisit policies concerning fairness and inclusion in elite sports.

Supporters of the ban argue it is a necessary correction to ensure equal opportunities for female athletes, a message increasingly resonant in a global sporting landscape grappling with gender identity debates. With the USOPC now enforcing this framework, American policy may serve as a model for other countries considering similar reforms.