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## 1. Introduction

This policy sets out TTE's position on the inclusion of transgender and non-binary people in table tennis.

Table Tennis England prides itself on being an open sport that anyone can enjoy and we want to ensure that we are welcoming, accessible and attractive to everyone. We celebrate the diversity and inclusivity of our sport.

- 1.1 Table Tennis England 'TTE' operates [Regulated Competitions](#) including [Tournaments](#).
- 1.2 Table Tennis England 'TTE' regulates the participation of competitors in table tennis regulated competitions as set out in The Laws of Table Tennis.
- 1.3 TTE has developed this policy, due to the recent Supreme Court Ruling alongside the latest guidance from the UK Sport Transgender Workshop. TTE reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time and in the case of any legal, scientific or other relevant developments.
- 1.4 This policy will come into effect on 4 June 2025 (the 'Effective Date').
- 1.5 This policy exclusively concerns eligibility to play in regulated competition by TTE (as defined in the Articles and relevant Regulations). The responsibility for (among other things) for fairness or rebalancing of physicality during activities including competitions and events, e.g. training and development sessions, lies entirely with the activity-organiser.
- 1.6 Members agree to:
  - 1.6.1 comply in full with this policy, insofar as applicable to them;
  - 1.6.2 cooperate promptly and in good faith with TTE's People Team in the discharge of their responsibilities under this policy, including providing them with all the information and evidence they request to determine and/or monitor eligibility under this policy; and
  - 1.6.3 the lawful collection, processing, disclosure and use of information (including their sensitive personal data) as required to implement and apply this policy effectively and efficiently.
- 1.7 A player may revoke at any time, with or without giving reasons, the consent that they have granted in accordance with paragraph 1.6. In that event, the player will (where relevant) be deemed to have withdrawn any claim to satisfy the eligibility conditions for Transgender or Non-Binary Players set out in this policy.

## 2. Interpretation

- a) **Affiliated Member** means an individual affiliated to TTE.
- b) **Affiliated Organisation** means a County Association, Local League, club or other organisation that is affiliated to Table Tennis England (TTE).
- c) **Board** means the English Table Tennis Association Limited Board of Directors (TTE Board), and any reference to person holding a Board position will be in relation to this Board of Directors. (f) **CEO** means the TTE Chief Executive Officer, or such person exercising such delegated functions.
- d) **Non-regulated Competition or Event**: Competitions & Events which are not regulated by Table Tennis England, and which may or may not involve our membership base
- e) **Non-Binary**: Non-Binary refers to people whose gender identity does not sit comfortably as 'male' or 'female'. Non-Binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.
- f) **Ranked**: An individual who holds a national ranking attained through a regulated competition

- g) Regulated Competition or Events (TTE Events): Events regulated by TTE
- h) Externally Regulated Competitions or Events such as; WTT Series, ETTU Events, ITTF Events, CGF Events and BOA Events will follow the relevant bodies policies
- i) Gender for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 is based on biological sex, meaning a person's sex as recorded at birth
- j) Transgender or Trans: A broad inclusive term referring to anyone whose personal experience of gender extends beyond the typical experiences of those of their assigned sex. This can include:
  - a. Trans/Transgender girl/woman, A Transgender girl/woman is a male- to-female Transgender person who was assigned male at birth but has a female Gender Identity
  - b. Trans/Transgender boy/man, A Transgender boy/man is a female-to- male Transgender person who was assigned female at birth but has a male Gender Identity

### 3. Scope and Definitions

3.1 The Supreme Court has ruled that references to “sex”, “man” and “woman” in the Equality Act refer to biological sex (a person’s sex at birth). TTE has taken into consideration this recent ruling and as for the purposes of regulated competition gender shall be referred to as follows.

- a) Transgender man – a term used to describe someone who is assigned female at birth but identifies and lives as a man;
- b) Transgender woman – a term used to describe someone who is assigned male at birth but identifies and lives as a woman.

3.2 This Policy specifically relates to trans people who play or seek to play table tennis in regulated events. It does not specifically apply to trans people who are coaches, match officials, volunteers or have any other role within the sport of table tennis, although TTE also expects all affiliated organisers to apply the same principles of inclusion to any such individuals.

3.3 This Policy does not apply to any table tennis covered by the Talent & Performance Eligibility Regulations or to any other table tennis competitions, events or tournaments which are not governed by TTE.

### 4. Eligibility Requirements – Regulated by TTE

Gender	Requirements
<b>Eligibility for the Men – Regulated Competition or Events</b>	
Male	Eligible to play in the Men’s categories
Transgender male (female to male transition)	Eligible to play in the Men’s categories
Non-Binary (biological sex at birth - male)	Eligible to play in the category of their biological sex
Transgender female (male to female transition)	Eligible to play in the category of their biological sex
<b>Eligibility for the Women – Regulated Competition or Events</b>	
Female	Eligible to play in the Women’s categories

Non-Binary (biological sex at birth - female)	Eligible to play in the category of their biological sex
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## 5. Eligibility Requirements – Non-Regulated

5.1 Any player wishing to participate in table tennis at a local/grassroots level including in any non-regulated competition or event may do so, without restriction. There are, therefore, no conditions regarding any individual playing in a non-regulated competition or event in accordance with their self-determined or affirmed gender in these competitions and events. Any Transgender or Non-Binary player in the first instance is recommended to approach their affiliated organisation for support if required.

## 6. Gender within table tennis

6.1 For the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, regulated table tennis is a gender-affected activity of a competitive nature where the physical strength, stamina and/or physique of average women puts them at a disadvantage compared to average men. Accordingly, the law permits sports governing bodies (1) to organise separate sporting competitions for men and women, and (2) to impose restrictions on the eligibility of Transgender and Non-Binary players to participate in sport if such restrictions are necessary to secure (1) the safety of competitors, and/or (2) fair competition.