

THE
trans
THREAT TO
Womens Sport

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



Not a week goes by without an account of another female being impacted by biological males encroaching on their sport.

Boys identifying as girls in NSW state high schools and winning the athletics championship; stealing from the girls their opportunity to represent their school at district, state and national competitions.

Or the 35-year-old national male sporting champion who is transitioning to a female identity. He will undoubtedly win in the female category as there is no way the top female athletes, aged only 18 years old, can come close to him. He has been through male puberty, has all the advantages of muscle mass, bone density, lung capacity and blood volume that no amount of hormone treatment can reduce.

This is not a matter of feelings or appearances. This is about scientific, biological reality. To say so is not hate speech.

Girls and women deserve a safe playing field. A fair playing field. Girls and women deserve a fair go in sport.

This ebook has been designed to equip you with the facts to enable you to defend the girls and women in your life who are committed to training, competing and enjoying the sports they love.

Kirralie

HERE ARE FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TRANSGENDER THREAT TO WOMEN'S SPORT:

- 1 Women's Sport: why is it important?**
- 2 Laws now prioritise transgender people instead of women**
- 3 Sport Australia prioritise transgender athletes over women**
- 4 Contact sports - a dangerous mix**
- 5 The threat to female athletes' careers**



BONUS MATERIALS

Compare the pair: male vs female world records!

1

Women's Sport: why is it important?

Women's sport exists to create a level playing field for biological women to participate in organised sports. It recognises the biological differences between males and females.

Physical differences between male and female bodies – especially from puberty onwards – give transwomen an advantage when they compete in the women's category.

Typically, men are taller, stronger, have larger lung capacity, broader shoulders, narrower hips, lower body fat mass, more haemoglobin and higher testosterone levels than women.¹

Even when testosterone levels are artificially lowered as part of medical 'transition', biological males retain various physical advantages which gives them an unfair advantage in sport.

At elite level, **female sport celebrates and showcases the best of what a female body can do.** Even a community level, separate female sporting events are needed to give women and girls a sporting chance in meaningful competition.

The unrestricted inclusion of male-bodied athletes in female sports significantly undermines the purpose of having separate sporting events for women in the first place:

"It is well-understood by physical scientists, and by athletes, coaches and governing bodies, that if elite sport didn't set aside, maintain and support a separate category for girls and women based on inherent differences between the sexes, the best athletes – the ones we see and celebrate – would always be boys and men."²



Laws intended to protect women now prioritise transgender and gender diverse people instead

The *Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (the “SDA”) was enacted to promote equality between women and men in Australia.³

The SDA recognised that women could be disadvantaged as a result of their sex-specific reproductive functions and biological differences to men. It also recognised that sometimes a law that treats men and women as exactly the same might actually work to disadvantage women. “Legitimate differential treatment” between men and women – such as in sport – is sometimes necessary to secure fair outcomes for women.

However, in 2013, the SDA was amended. The prohibition against discrimination on the grounds of “sex” was extended to also prohibit discrimination on the basis of “sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status”. At the same time, the biological definitions of “woman” and “man” were removed from the Act.⁴

The law still acknowledges that “it is legitimate to recognise that biological differences between men and women are relevant to competitive sporting activities”. Sporting bodies are allowed

to “legitimately” discriminate between men and women in “situations in which strength, stamina or physique are relevant.”

The problem is that “women” are not defined by female biology anymore; the law cannot distinguish between biological women and transgender women. This means that sporting bodies that want to maintain the integrity of women’s sporting competition cannot exclude transwomen because they are male. They have to argue on a case-by-case basis that particular transwomen are **too strong, have too much stamina or are too big** for the women’s category.

Excluding players on the grounds that they are too good undermines the common principle that sporting teams should be selected on merit and introduces a nonsensical criteria that runs contrary to the objectives of competitive sport.

The rights of women are now in contest with new rights created for transgender and non-binary individuals.



In 2013, the Sex Discrimination Act was amended and the biological definitions of “woman” and “man” were removed from the Act.⁵

Sport Australia's transgender guidelines prioritise transgender athletes over biological women

In order to provide guidance to sporting organisations about the effects of the 2013 amendments to the SDA, Sport Australia has endorsed the Australian Human Rights Commission's ("AHRC") **2019 Guidelines for the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport** ("the Guidelines").⁶

The Guidelines tell sporting organisations that participation in sport should be based on a person's affirmed gender identity rather than their biological sex.

Whilst claiming to provide guidance about the operation of the SDA, the Guidelines arguably have the effect (if not the intention) of creating 'soft law' which resolves any ambiguity or uncertainty in the SDA exclusively in favour of transgender and gender diverse minorities.

The Guidelines fail to acknowledge that rights claimed on the basis of sex are sometimes in contest with those claimed on the basis of gender identity. At the same time, every matter in which the interests of transwomen and women are in contention is decided in favour of the former (ensuring that "gender identity" trumps "sex").

Rather than consulting widely with the community, **Sport Australia and AHRC engaged in "targeted consultations". They refuse to identify the organisations they consulted.**

As the title suggests, the Guidelines are intended to maximise "inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport". They do not consider the issues this raises for women at all.

Photo: Gabrielle Ludwig, 52-year-old transgender basketball player



4 Transwomen athletes and contact sports – a dangerous mix

Female athletes expect sporting codes to prioritise the safety of their players.

In October 2020, World Rugby became the first international federation to oppose trans inclusion in the female game, based on injury predictions and studies showing that drugs to suppress testosterone in line with International Olympic Committee rules have only a limited affect in decreasing the physical advantages of a male body.

The regulations, which cite 49 scientific studies, point to male physical advantage in terms of muscle mass, strength and power and conclude:

“Given the best available evidence for the effects of testosterone reduction on these physical attributes for transgender women, it was concluded that safety and fairness cannot presently be assured for women competing

against transwomen in contact rugby.”⁷

The release of World Rugby’s transgender guidelines prompted calls for Sport Australia to reconsider its own guidelines. Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Senator for Tasmania explained:

“Sport Australia has conceded that World Rugby’s findings of a potential 30% increase in head injury risk to women when playing against transwomen ‘may be correct’ but refuse to reconsider their own guidelines in light of these findings. They seem to suggest we need to see some more women getting head injuries before they reconsider their actions.”⁸

The onus should be on those promoting inclusion of biological males in contact sports to demonstrate that this is not a threat to women’s safety.



Photo: Fallon Fox,
transgender MMA fighter

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The threat to female athletes' careers

Participation in sport is an important way for girls and women to develop the discipline and skills that help contribute to career success, both on and off the field.

Trans inclusion threatens not only women's sporting achievements, but limits the career opportunities that would normally flow from this.

Some girls who would succeed in competition with other girls will be denied the rewards of success when they compete against boys. Without success in their sporting achievements, discouragement is the obvious result, as girls are passed over for team places, leadership positions, scholarships, prize money and sponsorship opportunities.

In Connecticut in the United States, the laws currently allow athletes to compete on the basis of gender identity, rather than biology.

Two biologically male athletes – Andraya Yearwood and Terry Miller,⁹ whose bodies are unaltered by puberty blockers or hormones – were allowed to compete in the state girls' track and field events in 2019 because they identify as women. In 2017 and 2018, Miller had competed in the boys' division without notable success. In 2019, between them, Yearwood and Miller took 15 women's state championship titles. In 2016, these had been shared among nine different girls.

Selina Soule, a female athlete from Connecticut, who failed to qualify at the state championships where Yearwood and Miller placed first and second in her event has explained:

"Between us girls, it's not always the same girl [who wins] each time but when these two athletes participate it is always one of them who is winning the race... it should be that the girls are fighting for first and second place versus fighting for third and fourth place... **when we are all at the start line, we all know that these two athletes are going to win.**"¹⁰

The physical advantage of biological males not only helps ensure their success, it makes it more likely that a single competitor will succeed in multiple events. This means that the inclusion of a single biological male in women's sports has the potential to displace multiple females, disproportionately curtailing the ability of biological girls to qualify and compete for college scholarships.

Photo: Selina Soule



Links

- ¹ <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-release/eligibility-regulations-for-female-classifica>
Coleman, <https://quillette.com/2019/05/03/a-victory-for-female-athletes-everywhere/>
- ² <https://quillette.com/2019/05/03/a-victory-for-female-athletes-everywhere/>
- ³ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2004C06708>
- ⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2013A00098>
- ⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2013A00098>
- ⁶ https://www.sportaus.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/706184/Trans_and_Gender_Diverse_Guidelines_2019.pdf
- ⁷ <https://www.world.rugby/news/591776/world-rugby-approves-updated-transgender-participation-guidelines>
- ⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/2067887946766818/videos/3363245593794493>
- ⁹ <https://www.thecollegefix.com/female-athlete-alleges-retaliation-by-coach-because-her-mother-complained-about-transgender-policy/>
<https://dailycaller.com/2020/02/13/connecticut-transgender-sue-selina-soule/>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.thecollegefix.com/female-athlete-alleges-retaliation-by-coach-because-her-mother-complained-about-transgender-policy/>

Compare the pair: male vs female world records!

EVENT/SPORT	Male	Female
Swimming		
100m Freestyle	46.91	51.71
200m Breaststroke	206.67	219.11
Athletics		
100m Sprint	9.58	10.49
400m	43.03	47.60
1000m	2.11.96	2.28.98
Half Marathon	58.18	1.06.11
Marathon	2.01.39	2.15.25
High Jump	2.45m	2.09m
Long Jump	8.95m	7.52m
Shot Put	23.12m	22.63
Javelin	98.48m	72.28
Hammer Throw	86.74	82.98

EVENT/SPORT	Male	Female
2018 Dakar ATU Sprint Triathlon African Cup (At least the top 15 men beat the best woman)	58.10	108.48
Rowing		
Light weight Single Scull	6.56.36	7.51.79
Single Scull	6.38.31	7.20.12
Double	6.05.16	6.44.15
Quad	5.35.31	6.08.96
Eights	5.24.31	6.00.97
Weightlifting		
	56kg lifts 305	58kg lifts 244
	62kg lifts 327	63kg lifts 236
	77kg lifts 379	75+kg lifts 300
Fastest Tennis serve	263kms/hr	210kms/hr
Ski Jump Normal Hill	259.3m	246.6m
Speed Skating 500m	34.41	36.94
Kayak Single	35.197	39.864
In Olympic Cycling for road racing and time trials women only race half the distance.		
In Olympic Cross Country Skiing Men race 15km, Women only 10km, even in the sprint men do 1.4km while women only do 1.2km		

LINKS

Athletics

<https://www.iaaf.org/records/by-category/world-records>

2018 Dakar ATU Sprint Triathlon African Cup (At least the top 15 men beat the best woman)

https://www.triathlon.org/results/result/2018_dakar_atu_sprint_triathlon_african_cup/321905

Rowing

<https://worldrowing.com/event/2018-world-rowing-championships/>

