

# International Precision Rifle Federation (IPRF)

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## Gender Equality and Fair Competition Policy

### 1. Definitions

“Gender-affected sport” refers to a sport in which physiological characteristics associated with sex may materially affect performance outcomes.

“Male puberty” refers to the developmental process beginning at Tanner Stage 2, associated with increased testosterone and resulting physiological changes including increased muscle mass, bone density, and strength.

“Ladies Category” refers to the protected competition category established under this policy.

“Open Categories” refers to all competition categories open to all athletes regardless of sex or gender identity.

“Proportionate means” refers to a measure that is appropriate and necessary to achieve a legitimate aim, and where no less restrictive alternative is sufficient.

### 2. Legal and Regulatory Basis

This policy is adopted as a proportionate means of achieving the legitimate aim of ensuring fair competition in a gender-affected sport.

The IPRF has considered alternative eligibility frameworks, including hormone-based criteria and case-by-case assessments, and has determined that these do not adequately mitigate performance advantages associated with male puberty.

This policy is based solely on sport-specific performance considerations and is not intended to define or limit gender identity.

### 3. Fair Play and Competitive Equity

Precision Rifle is a gender-affected sport in which physiological traits developed during male puberty may materially influence performance.

To preserve fairness and meaningful competition, the IPRF maintains categorisation structures designed to ensure equitable conditions of competition.

## **4. Competition Categories**

The IPRF establishes the following categories:

- Ladies Category (protected)
- Open Categories (including Open, Factory, Limited, Junior, Senior, MIL/LE)

Open Categories are accessible to all athletes regardless of sex or gender identity.

## **5. Eligibility for the Ladies Category**

Eligibility is based on the absence of physiological advantages associated with male puberty.

An athlete must not have experienced male puberty (Tanner Stage 2 or beyond).

The IPRF determines that the effects of male puberty are significant, enduring, and not sufficiently mitigated by hormonal or medical interventions.

## **6. Inclusion and Participation**

The IPRF ensures that all athletes have the opportunity to compete through Open Categories.

No athlete shall be excluded from participation in IPRF competition on the basis of sex or gender identity.

## **7. Non-Discrimination**

The IPRF prohibits discrimination, harassment, or victimisation of any participant.

All individuals are entitled to dignity, respect, and equal access to opportunities.

## **8. Verification and Confidentiality**

Where eligibility is questioned, the IPRF may request relevant documentation.

All information will be treated confidentially and handled in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

Misrepresentation may result in disciplinary action.

## **9. Consideration of Alternatives**

The IPRF has considered hormone-based and case-by-case approaches and determined they do not sufficiently ensure fairness.

Such approaches introduce inconsistency and do not adequately mitigate advantages associated with male puberty.

## **10. Review**

This policy will be reviewed periodically in light of scientific and legal developments.

## **11. Adoption**

This policy is adopted by the IPRF Board and applies to all sanctioned competitions.

## **Appendix A: Sporting Rationale**

Precision rifle competition requires management of heavy equipment, recoil control, and sustained physical stability.

Male puberty is associated with physiological traits that provide advantages in these areas.

Competition data demonstrates consistent performance disparities supporting the need for a protected category.