

Sports organizations introducing transgender competition bans

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has become the latest governing body in the sports world to enact a policy change around transgender athlete competition. Here's a glance at the most prolific of those that have clarified or altered such rules this year:

U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

Effectively barring transgender women from competing in women's sports, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee announced on Monday that it has an "obligation to comply" with an executive order issued by President Donald Trump. The decree has threatened to rescind funding from organizations that don't obey. The USOPC oversees about 50 national governing bodies, most of which have some influence over youth sports all the way up to the elite levels, raising the possibility rules might need to be changed by local clubs to retain memberships.

INTERNATIONAL CYCLING UNION

The global governing body for cycling announced earlier this month that transgender women who transitioned after male puberty will no longer be able to compete in women's races. The decision followed American rider Austin Killips becoming in May the first openly transgender woman to win an official cycling event.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Penn modified three school records set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas in a decision earlier this month to settle a federal civil rights investigation, including an apology to female athletes "disadvantaged" by her participation on the women's swimming team. Thomas became the first openly transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division I title when she last competed for the Ivy League school in 2022. The Trump administration's broader attempt to block transgender athletes from female sports included the Penn case. The Philadelphia university agreed to restore all individual records to female athletes who lost to Thomas.

WORLD AQUATICS

The global governing body for swimming, formerly known as FINA, announced in June a new "gender inclusion policy" that only permits transgender athletes who transitioned before age 12 to compete in women's events. There are not currently any transgender women competing in elite levels of swimming. World Aquatics also proposed a new "open competition" category, designating a committee to explore over the rest of the year the most effective guidelines for such events.

WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

The global governing body for boxing declared in May that all athletes would



be subjected to mandatory sex testing in order to compete in sanctioned events. World Boxing's announcement specifically mentioned Olympic champion Imane Khelif, the Algerian who won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics last year amid international scrutiny.

The previous governing body for Olympic boxing, the Russian-dominated International Boxing Association, disqualified Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, another Paris gold medal winner, from its 2023 world championships after claiming they failed an unspecified eligibility test. Association officials have declined to answer basic questions about the test.

Khelif has said she was born a female.

BRITISH SPORTS

Following a U.K. Supreme Court ruling in April, the British governing body for soccer issued a ban that took effect in June on transgender women playing on women's teams in England and Scotland. Previously, the British Football Association allowed such participation if the athletes had reduced testosterone levels.

The Olympic rings are reinstalled after being taken down for maintenance ahead of the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the Odaiba section in Tokyo on Dec. 1, 2024.

Eugene Hoshiko/AP photo

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