

Eligibility of transgender players in mixed or women's events



The EBU notes the existence of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA), and the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits discrimination based on a number of “protected characteristics” including gender reassignment. We are also aware of guidance that was given by the then Department for Culture, Media and Sport in its 2005 document “Transsexual people and sport”, which specifically referenced bridge as an activity where no exception, in relation to single-sex sporting events, should apply.

This legislation and guidance leads the EBU to the policy that qualification to play in events restricted by gender will usually be based on the gender with which the player identifies. If necessary, the determining factor for a player wishing to play as a different gender to that of their birth or that on their passport, will be the possession of a Gender Recognition Certificate. However, players will not routinely be asked to produce such a certificate.

This policy will apply not only to competitions run by the EBU but also for qualification to represent England in international events. However the EBL and the WBF do not currently have policies covering the participation of transgender players and we look forward to them clarifying the position of transgender bridge players, after which we might need to review our position as regards international qualification.

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