



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 trials leading to qualification to represent England in international events. Players should note that the [WBF transgender policy](#) applies to events run by it and says:

The gender of a participant in the WBF Championships should be taken as that shown in the ID/Passport. This is a binding requirement of eligibility to participate in the WBF Championships and Events.

The EBU does not currently have a policy covering the participation of transgender players and we look forward to them clarifying this.

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