

# **US Sailing Policy for Gender Identification in Competition**

Version 1 – June 1, 2026

## **1. Rationale**

The USOPC has determined that, in accordance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. § 220501 et seq., and further pursuant to Executive Order 14201 (which references definitions in Executive Order 14168), which the USOPC has determined to be applicable to National Governing Bodies (“NGBs”), and to ensure compliance with the NGB Athlete Safety Policy, all NGBs must adopt the definition of the Women’s Category as described in Section 3 of this Policy (Policy and Competition Categories) . Failure of an NGB to do so may result in sanctions imposed by the USOPC, including the potential loss of its status as an NGB.

US Sailing will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities (e.g. USOPC and World Sailing, etc.) to ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. § 220501, et. seq.

US Sailing, therefore, adopts the USOPC’s NGB Athlete Safety Policy and has set forth the following Gender Identification in Competition Policy (“Policy”).

This Policy replaces the US Sailing Gender Identification Interim Policy, 13 May 2019.

## **2. Scope**

This Policy applies to all current individual members of US Sailing when competing in a US Sailing organized competition, and to all athletes and teams selected to represent the United States through a US Sailing-approved selection process, including all World Sailing organized competitions and USOPC Delegation Events.

To be eligible for selection to a World Sailing event or USOPC Delegation, an athlete must comply with this Policy.

## **3. Policy and Competition Categories**

Women – Pursuant to the requirements of the Rationale, above, this category/fleet is limited to athletes who were assigned a sex at birth of female.

Men/Open – this category/fleet is for athletes of any sex and/or gender.

Mixed – Athletes must meet the criteria for a mixed crew in accordance with an event’s eligibility criteria and the Competition Categories specified in the Policy.

#### **4. Administrative Application of the Competition Categories**

For the purposes of determining whether a person is eligible to participate in the Women's competition category under the Policy, the individual shall be eligible for the Women's competition category if that person's sex assigned at birth was female. In registering for a competition in the Women's competition category, an athlete represents and warrants to US Sailing that the athlete was assigned as female sex at birth.

It shall be rebuttably presumed that an athlete's representation that they were assigned female sex at birth is correct. The presumption may be rebutted by US Sailing, and only US Sailing. The determination of whether the athlete was assigned as female sex at birth may be established through the person's original birth certificate or other reliable facts.

#### **5. Confidentiality**

All information provided to US Sailing for the Administrative Application of this Policy will be dealt with in strict confidence and under applicable privacy laws. Such information will not be used for any purpose not contemplated in this Policy. It will not be disclosed to any third party unless that disclosure is necessary for the effective application and enforcement of this Policy or is required by law. US Sailing shall not publicly comment on individuals or decisions under this Policy except, in its discretion, it may do so in response to public comments attributed to the individual or the individual's representatives.

For the sake of clarity, this confidentiality clause does not include athlete information that is normally provided to regatta organizers, administrators, and announcers (including but not limited to an athlete's gender, pronouns, and competition category) or included in published results (including but not limited to competition category).

#### **6. Anti-Doping Requirements Remain Applicable**

Nothing in this Policy shall affect an individual's obligation to fully comply with the Anti-Doping Rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), the United States Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA"), the International Testing Agency, the USOPC, World Sailing, or US Sailing. If the use of a substance on WADA's Prohibited List is contemplated in connection with gender expression, then the individual must first obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption ("TUE") from USADA before that substance is used.

Further information on the TUE process can be found [here](#).

#### **7. Code of Conduct and SafeSport Policy**

Abuse, harassment, and/or harmful acts towards any athlete will not be tolerated. All US Sailing members must follow the US Sailing Statement of Ethics and Code of Conduct, and

SafeSport Code at all times and demonstrate the utmost respect and discretion toward all competitors. Please refer to these policies to report a violation.

### **8. Dispute Resolution**

If a US Sailing member has a reasonable basis to believe that another member of US Sailing is not in compliance with this Policy, they may make a report to US Sailing to [compliance@ussailing.org](mailto:compliance@ussailing.org) but are not entitled to any further involvement in the process.

### **9. Future Policy Changes**

US Sailing reserves the right to amend this Policy in its sole discretion at any time with or without notice.

At such time as any amendment to this Policy goes into effect, it shall immediately become the basis on which any athlete's current or future competition category will be assessed, regardless of the athlete's status prior to the new or amended Policy's effective date.

### **10. Assistance with This Policy**

Any person seeking information on the application of this Policy should contact [compliance@ussailing.org](mailto:compliance@ussailing.org).

<b>Policy Approver</b>	<b>Approved Date</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>
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