USBC's Gender Classification Policy

USBC's gender classification is based on IOC guidelines approved in 2015 and subsequent IOC framework on inclusion and non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations announced in 2021.

USBC encourages gender competition categories to be either Open or Female. Open gender competition are inclusive of any gender identity without limitation.

Default gender classification for USBC competition will be determined by birth certificate. Members may petition for a change in gender classification by writing to USBC Headquarters and will be evaluated as follows.

Requirement for a transition to male:
Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.

Requirement for a transition to female:

Transition before puberty.
Individuals transitioning from male to female before puberty are eligible to compete as girls and women (female) until puberty.

Transition after puberty
Those who transition from male to female may be eligible to compete in the female category by submitting an application to USBC. As part of the application, the bowler should request either approval for standard (non-elite) female competition or elite female competition.

Standard (non-elite) female competition conditions:
1. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years 2. The athlete attests that she will only be participating in handicap competition.
3. Member attests she is not eligible for scratch female division of a competition. This includes but is not limited to Junior Gold U15 and above, scholastic, collegiate, PWBA, Team USA and USBC Women's Championships Diamond Division competition.
4. Member attests she is not eligible for USBC Awards or Records in a female category.

Elite female competition conditions:
1. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.

2. The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition.
3. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.
4. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.
5. Athlete must submit declaration from a medical doctor stating to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that her birth gender does not give her a competitive advantage.
6. Athlete must complete an evaluation session at a training facility to capture video of athlete's delivery and ball tracking data. Video and data must be sent to USBC for review.

USBC Rules staff will evaluate the submission and make an administrative determination as to whether the application is approved or if the athlete's birth gender gives her a competitive advantage and the application is denied.

Rules staff may request independent opinions from medical doctors, USBC trained coaches or other experts in making a determination. A determination will be based upon the following criteria:

- Evaluation of whether the biomechanics of the applicant's shot delivery give a competitive advantage due to birth gender.
- Evaluation of whether the applicant's ball tracking data falls within a reasonable range of elite female competition.
  - o For example, if the applicant's rev rate and ball speed are more comparable to elite male athletes than female athletes, the application may be denied.
- Opinions of medical doctors.

If USBC Rules staff denies the application, the athlete may appeal the determination according to USBC Bylaws Due Process Supplement.

If USBC Rules staff approves the application, another member may file a grievance and appeal the determination according to USBC's Due Process supplement to the USBC Bylaws.