

ECB update on transgender participation in women's cricket - FAQs

Q: When does the change come into effect?

A: *This measure applies with immediate effect.*

Q: Why is this change happening now? What's changed?

A: *This is a complex area, and we have given it extensive consideration, addressing new information as it becomes available. We have adopted an approach until now where people have been able to compete in recreational cricket according to the gender with which they identify, ensuring recreational cricket is as inclusive and welcoming a sport as possible. However, we have now taken advice as to the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, and are acting on that.*

Q: What does this mean for Recreational Cricket Boards?

A: *We would encourage Recreational Cricket Boards to publicise the regulation change to clubs and leagues and signpost players and clubs to sources of specialist support if required. Wherever possible, we would also encourage colleagues to reach out directly to players where they know support may be required or welcomed.*

Q: What does this mean for Leagues?

A: *We urge leagues to inform clubs of the ECB's policy and to consider their own regulations in the context of the new advice.*

Q: What does this mean for Clubs?

A: *We understand the significant impact this may have on players affected and their clubs. We also know how important teams and team-mates are to supporting others in challenging situations. Clubs will no longer be able to field transgender women in their women's or girls' teams. We acknowledge you will know best how to support team-mates who are impacted by this but if you need further signposting to sources of support, please write to feedback@ecb.co.uk where the email will then be directed to the relevant member of ECB staff.*

Q: Does this apply to all age groups?

A: *Yes. Where we refer to eligibility for women or men, this can be taken to include girls and boys.*

Q: Does it apply to all cricket matches?

A: *This measure applies to all cricket matches.*

Q: What cricket can a transgender woman now play?

A: *Transgender women can play in mixed or open cricket.*

Q: What does this mean for transgender men ('biological women') and their eligibility to participate in women's cricket?

A: Our updated regulations have eligibility based on biological sex, regardless of gender identity. This means that transgender men and non-binary people assigned female at birth are eligible play in women's cricket.

Q: Why is this impacting transgender women even if they have been welcomed into teams and/or leagues?

A: We have sought to make recreational cricket as inclusive as possible, which is why the previous regulations were based on the gender with which a person identifies. However, the Supreme Court ruling may have legal implications which as a responsible governing body the ECB has to consider. Cricket is already a sport where men and women do compete in the same teams in open and mixed cricket, and transgender women will continue to be welcome in our sport in open and mixed matches.

Q: Does this just apply to recreational cricket, or to professional cricket as well?

A: This applies to both, however we don't expect it to have any material impact in the professional game given the existing regulations for professional cricket – at tiers one and two of the domestic women's structure, and in The Hundred women's competition – were already changed for this season to bring eligibility criteria into line with the ICC's policy for international cricket. This means that someone who has gone through male puberty was not eligible to play professional women's cricket already.

Q: Can a transgender woman still use a woman's dressing room? Will the ECB be updating the current changing room guidance?

A: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued interim guidance which is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/interim-update-practical-implications-uk-supreme-court-judgment>

This states that in workplaces and services that are open to the public:

- Trans women (biological men) should not be permitted to use the women's facilities and trans men (biological women) should not be permitted to use the men's facilities, as this will mean that they are no longer single-sex facilities and must be open to all users of the opposite sex*
- In some circumstances the law also allows trans women (biological men) not to be permitted to use the men's facilities, and trans men (biological woman) not to be permitted to use the women's facilities*
- However where facilities are available to both men and women, trans people should not be put in a position where there are no facilities for them to use*
- Where possible, mixed-sex toilet, washing or changing facilities in addition to sufficient single-sex facilities should be provided*
- Where toilet, washing or changing facilities are in lockable rooms (not cubicles) which are intended for the use of one person at a time, they can be used by either women or men.*

Fuller guidance is expected to be published by the EHRC in the summer, and the ECB will provide further guidance once this has been published.

Q: How can these changes be implemented at such short notice?

A: We have a responsibility to act promptly upon receipt of legal advice, and believe it is right to introduce this measure immediately given the season starts this weekend for

many teams. We appreciate this is short notice, and understand it will be disappointing news to any teams and players impacted, but believe it is right that we act swiftly. We will work with our Recreational Cricket Boards, leagues and other cricket organisations to implement these changes as smoothly as possible.

Q: We have a transgender woman in our women's team. What do we do now?

A: We would encourage you to offer them your own support and signpost them to other sources of support where required. We would also encourage clubs to welcome them into teams which may compete in open or mixed matches.

Q: What support is available for transgender player(s) who are impacted by this?

A: People can contact feedback@ecb.co.uk and the email will be passed to a relevant member of ECB staff who can discuss their individual circumstances and the support which they might require. Alternatively, if preferred, the ECB will connect individuals to LGBTQ+ organisations who are also able to provide support.

Q: What happens if a women's team still fields a transgender woman in a match?

A: This should be handled under the most relevant rule of the league or competition, which is likely to be player eligibility.

Q: What does this mean for the ECB Disparity Regulations?

A: The Disparity Regulations apply irrespective of someone's sex or gender, where there is a disparity which poses a risk of serious injury occurring. This will continue to operate in the same way.

Q: How does this change fit with the ECB's ambition of being the most inclusive team sport?

A: We remain committed to being the most inclusive team sport. However, as a governing body, the ECB has a responsibility to pay attention to the legal position. Transgender players are still welcome in cricket. All clubs should welcome transgender women to play open or mixed cricket, to coach or to volunteer in our sport. We maintain that abuse or discrimination has no place in our sport and are committed to ensuring that cricket is played in a spirit of respect and inclusivity.