

USBC's Gender Classification Policy

USBC's gender classification is based on the federal Executive Order of February 5, 2025.

Default gender classification for USBC competition will be determined by birth certificate (gender assigned at birth).

Female transition to male:

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

Male transition to female:

The Executive Order includes specific direction related to National Governing Bodies that "eligibility for participation in women's sporting events is determined according to sex and not gender identity or testosterone reduction."

Therefore, USBC has paused approvals for transgender female competition.

Standard (non-elite) female competition conditions through July 31, 2025:

USBC rules will continue to allow transgender female inclusion in non-elite female competition until the end of the season on July 31, 2025. This will allow previously approved transgender females who may be participating in recreational bowling leagues and tournaments with average based handicap to finish the season without disruption to their leagues.

Elite female competition:

Only athletes whose biological sex is female (as assigned at birth) may participate in elite USBC certified events in the female competition category. This covers USBC certified scratch female competitions which includes but is not limited to Junior Gold, USBC collegiate, PWBA, Team USA and USBC Women's Championships.