

Policy Statement for:

Transgender Athletes Participation in the 2024 ISKF US Nationals

The organizational Mission and Purpose of the ISKF makes it our responsibility to address current issues that may impact members and current or future ISKF events.

Controversy exists on the participation of transgender individuals in competitive sports, particularly transgender women and girls in women sport events. The controversy also extends to transgender men. The science on the advantages and disadvantages of transgender individuals in competitions is inconsistent and has led to various policies and practices across different sport governing bodies and competitive events.

For this reason, the Pacific Division Planning committee has had a policy adopted for the 2024 US Nationals to provide clarification for participation by transgender individuals. This interim policy, we hope, will help instructors answer questions prior to tournament registration that may have a negative effect on a karate practitioner.

Interim Policy

1. Competitors aged 15 and older, must compete in Kata and Kumite divisions with their sex as assigned at birth.
2. Competitors aged 14 and younger may compete in Kata and Kumite divisions with their gender identity group.

Planning Committee Decisions and Approach to Policy Development

The ISKF Pacific Planning Body for 2024 US Nationals firmly and unequivocally supports transgender rights and recognizes the gender identity of an individual athlete. This commitment is grounded in the ISKF values of inclusion.

ISKF is committed to its value of fair competition which insures that all matches are fair, competitive, and most importantly safe for all participants.

At the present level of scientific knowledge, the ISKF consensus is that allowing older transgender athletes to compete with their gender identity group and not in their sex assigned at birth group, raises health and safety concerns.

The ISKF organization has not established an expert panel with the appropriate knowledge in the areas of medical, scientific and legal consensus to establish permanent rules and regulations. Therefore, we will continue to review literature and policies from other groups on this issue in order to have a greater understanding of the matter, and will update the policy as needed with an emphasis on fairness and equality in competition.

Adopted: June, 2024