

**BC Athletics AGM**  
Saturday August 20th, 2022

**Female Athlete Director Report**  
Rebecca Dutchak

**Item(s) of Note:**

**1. Issue:** *Maintaining the integrity of women's results in competitions while also considering the needs of trans female athletes.*

**a. Female Athlete Perspective** – Spoke to several biologically female athletes and the following points are a general summary of their perspectives.

- i. Consensus is that biological women do not want trans females competing in the female category of competition because of the genetic advantage trans females have over biological females. (*Note that this is in the form of more testosterone, larger muscles, naturally greater athletic ability, etc.*)
  - a. Perhaps we would lose female athlete participation if trans women are allowed to compete in the female category; the biologically female athletes would be fighting a 'losing battle' per se – morale decreases due to the virtual impossibility of ever winning against trans women athletes. Some women may even turn to doping in order to 'even the playing field'.
- ii. A proposed idea is to create an "open" category. (*However, we, as a provincial sporting organization, would need to consider and discuss the effects of creating a whole new category of competition.*)
- iii. Biological females have no issue having trans women compete in the female category for recreational sporting events, however, when it comes to competition, consensus is that trans women should compete in the male category (or have an "open" category).

**b. Transgender Athlete Perspective**

- i. Even though trans women athletes may not be competing in the protected female category, we must be conscientious of their pronouns. In the article by Athletics Canada titled "[Athletics Canada Shines Spotlight on Transgender Day of Visibility](#)", Ness Murby (a trans male para athlete) states that "*Pronouns cannot be assumed or perceived. We don't know until they've told us and to make any such assumptions is to validate disrespect and runs the risk of being harmful.*" We need to understand and consider that "*using a person's pronouns is one of the smallest ways to*

*acknowledge a person's identity and yet doing so has one of the most profound impacts".*

- ii. I noticed that ways in which BC Athletics is already doing this was when I was prompted to enter my personal information during registration for the Canada Summer Games team. There were separate questions for "category in which you compete in" and "gender". There was also an option titled "prefer not to say" for gender. All these options promote inclusivity and should be applauded.
  - iii. **Important Note:** Unfortunately, I have not been able to speak to a transgender athlete at this time about what they think BC Athletics is doing well with, and what we may need to work on, regarding inclusivity of trans athletes. *If anyone has any ideas how I may get in contact with an athlete who is transgender, please let me know.*
2. **Other Comments:** Currently, there are no other concerns/comments from the general population of female athletes in BC. However, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate all athletes on a successful return to normal competition after the pandemic. BC athletes who represented Canada on the international level (competing at the World Athletic Championships and the Commonwealth Games) this year did phenomenal!