

## PGA OF AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP GENDER POLICY

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### **I. PURPOSE**

This PGA of America Championship Gender Policy (the “Policy”) shall be effective as of May 19, 2021 (the adoption date of this Policy). The Policy was developed by The Professional Golfers’ Association of America (“PGA”) for the purposes of setting forth the procedures by which a transgendered athlete may participate in a PGA golf championship and seeking to assure fair competition for all entrants in PGA golf championships. The Policy is referred to in the entry applications for all relevant PGA championships.

The Policy will be subject to the PGA’s review and adjustment from time to time in light of any scientific or medical developments.

### **II. PROOF OF GENDER**

For entry into any PGA of America golf championship in which it is required that an athlete is a specific gender (male or female), the athlete must identify himself or herself during the entry application process as a person of that particular gender. Failure to provide proof of gender when gender has been reassigned, and to comply with the process and procedures set forth in this policy, may result in disqualification from the applicable championship.

In the event that an athlete has had gender reassignment surgery at any point after puberty, that athlete must comply with the eligibility requirements and provide certain documentation to the PGA of America in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

Gender reassignment prior to puberty is not subject to these requirements.

### **III. PREREQUISITE FOR ELIGIBILITY**

The following requirements set forth the eligibility for participation of transgender athletes in PGA golf championships:

Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:

(i) The athlete has declared, in a form satisfactory to PGA, that her gender identity is female. Such declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four (4) years following the first date in which the athlete participates in a PGA golf championship as a transgendered athlete;

(ii) The athlete must have undergone gender reassignment surgery (*i.e.*, a gonadectomy) prior to the entry deadline for that specific PGA golf championship; and

(iii) The athlete must have undergone, for at least one (1) year, appropriate hormonal therapy and maintained testosterone levels appropriate for the assigned sex in a verifiable manner

sufficient to minimize or negate gender-related advantages in sport competitions, as determined by the PGA in consultation with its medical consultant(s).

#### **IV. PROCEDURES & DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBMITTING PROOF OF GENDER - FIRST TIME APPLICANTS**

- A. Each applicant that is subject to this Policy must comply with this Policy and related procedures. Eligibility to play in a PGA golf championship will only be evaluated in connection with an athlete who has submitted an entry application to play in that PGA golf championship. The specific PGA golf championship must be identified in writing with the accompanying documentation specified below.
- B. The required documentation must be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) via overnight or first-class mail in an envelope marked "Confidential" and addressed to Chief Championships Officer, 100 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418. All such documentation must be received at PGA no later than five (5) days after the close of entries for the specific PGA golf championship. The documentation, which will be reviewed by the PGA's medical consultant's, must include the following:
  - (i) all clinical notes pertaining to gender reassignment;
  - (ii) all hospital records pertaining to surgical gonadectomy;
  - (iii) all office records documenting related follow-up treatment;
  - (iv) laboratory results supporting acceptable testosterone levels for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the applicable competition, and any other medical documentation requested regarding applicable hormone therapy requirements; and
  - (v) an executed Authorization for Release of Medical Information waiver form allowing members of the PGA medical consultant(s) to contact all treating physicians if deemed necessary (form available [here](#)).

In the event that hospital or medical records have been purged or lost, or are otherwise unobtainable, a current physical examination performed by a physician experienced in this type of surgery, a report from that physician, and the documentation referenced in (i) and (iii) above, will be considered and reviewed. PGA reserves the right to request updated laboratory results to confirm acceptable testosterone levels for a sufficient period of time prior to or following the completion of a PGA golf championship.

All reasonable transitioned status verification processes will be at the expense of the athlete applicant.

The suitability of any documentation presented to evidence any of the aforementioned requirements, is subject to the PGA's sole discretion.

#### **V. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UNDER THIS POLICY**

If eligibility for entry in a PGA golf championship has been previously approved under this Policy, subsequent PGA golf championship entry applications may be accepted without the need to resubmit the documentation related to the gender assignment surgery required in required in Section IV, B. However, PGA reserves the right to request updated laboratory results or other medical documentation to confirm that an athlete continues to meet the acceptable testosterone levels for a sufficient period of time prior to or following the completion of a PGA golf championship.

## **VI. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

If questions relating to an athlete's compliance with this Policy arise, either prior to or after commencement of a competition, or after a competition has been completed, the PGA may contact the athlete for verification, and request that the player provide appropriate documentation in accordance with this Policy. An athlete has seven (7) days after receipt of such a request within which to provide the required documentation to the PGA at the above referenced address. If the competition has commenced, a player may be permitted to continue in the championship until a determination has been made on the athlete's eligibility in accordance with this Policy. If it is determined that the athlete should be disqualified, any award, prize and/or ranking arising from participation in the championship shall be forfeited. The athlete shall not be banned from future championships so long as the athlete satisfies the requirements of this Policy and related procedures in connection with future championships.

## **VII. RECIPROCITY – MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF VERIFICATION AND PENALTIES**

PGA reserves the right to recognize or reject a decision regarding gender verification, and may recognize, modify or enforce a penalty or suspension, that is issued concerning a player that is subject to this Policy either by or on behalf of any other women's golf tours, sporting authorities or government authorities, to the extent that the gender policy of such entity is materially consistent with this Policy, as determined by PGA in its sole discretion. Such other tours and authorities may include, without limitation, the USGA, The R&A, PGA TOUR, or LPGA.

## **VIII. PRIVACY**

The PGA will maintain such information and documentation in confidence, with only counsel, the PGA's medical consultant(s), the PGA's Chief Championships Officer, and limited PGA staff members having the need to know and access to such information and documentation.

If the athlete wants the PGA to release information confirming that the athlete has followed the procedures of this Policy and was deemed eligible to play in a particular PGA golf championship, the athlete must (1) execute the PGA's Authorization for Release of Information waiver form (available [here](#)) and (2) forward the executed Authorization for Release of Information waiver form to Chief Championships Officer, 100 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418 in an envelope marked "Confidential".

The PGA expressly disclaims any ability to limit or prevent third party inquiries made directly to the athlete or to others. In the event that a third party (other than those specified by the athlete in accordance with the provisions noted above), including media representatives, makes an inquiry with respect to a particular athlete's eligibility to play in a particular PGA golf championship, the PGA will respond simply that the athlete was deemed eligible or ineligible (as applicable) to compete in the championship.

Questions regarding the process and procedures can be addressed to the PGA of America's General Counsel at the above referenced address.

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION

I hereby authorize the PGA and its designated agents and PGA's medical panel professionals participating in the evaluation and decision to determine my eligibility to play in \_\_\_\_\_ to contact my health care provider(s) regarding my gender reassignment.

I authorize my health care provider(s) to communicate with the PGA, its designated agents and PGA's medical panel professionals participating in the evaluation and decision to determine my eligibility to participate in \_\_\_\_\_ to provide such clarification or further information as may be necessary for the PGA to evaluate and make a determination regarding my eligibility to play in \_\_\_\_\_. In connection therewith, I authorize the release of any documentation, medical records, or other information relating to my gender reassignment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name                      Date

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I hereby authorize PGA to communicate with \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm that I have followed the procedures for entry in \_\_\_\_\_ and that I am qualified to play in the \_\_\_\_\_ competitions.

I understand that this waiver and consent authorizing the PGA to communicate such information to \_\_\_\_\_ is not a waiver or consent to share the underlying documentation that I submitted in support of my entry application, and that the PGA will continue to keep such documentation confidential in accordance with the provisions of the PGA of America Championship Gender Policy.

I understand that this waiver and consent authorizing the PGA to communicate such information to \_\_\_\_\_ may result in the underlying facts of my eligibility becoming public knowledge, and that the PGA has no control over possible subsequent dissemination of information that it communicates to \_\_\_\_\_. Accordingly, I hereby waive any right that I might have against the PGA arising or resulting from the PGA's communication of such information to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name                      Date