GENDER GAMES

The International Olympic Committee is soon expected to announce new policies on the eligibility of women with hyperandrogenism, which involves an excessive production of androgens. Guidelines have been drafted that will be applied at the Summer Olympics in London and serve as recommendations for international federations to follow. The guidelines were approved by the IOC’s executive board and must be validated by the group’s juridical commission. These experts aim to minimize issues and to share their thoughts on testing for athletes.

You Say You’re a Woman? That Should Be Enough

By REBECCA JORDAN-YOUNG and KATHERINE ABRAHAMS

The female Olympic Committees, which were established to prevent sex discrimination in sport, have long come under fire for their approach to sex testing. This year, the International Olympic Committee is expected to propose new policies on the eligibility of women with hyperandrogenism, a condition known as hyperandrogenism, from testosterone levels, along with other genetic traits that add up to athlete performance. The IOC’s new guidelines will be applied at the Summer Olympics in London and serve as recommendations for international federations to follow.

The guidelines were approved by the IOC’s executive board and must be validated by the group’s juridical commission. These experts aim to minimize the legal sex-based discrimination that takes place in sport and to share their thoughts on testing for athletes.


testosterone levels are higher than normal (whether they are caused by hyperandrogenism from an androgen-secreting tumor, exogenous testosterone, or simply an androgen-secreting tumor), act as a threshold for the level of this substance above which female athletes would be considered to have an advantage in any sport.

The idea is that the levels of testosterone are higher than normal in women who are hyperandrogenic, and that this advantage is significant enough to disqualify them from certain sports. The guidelines also call for a threshold for the level of testosterone above which female athletes would be considered to have an advantage in any sport.

The guidelines are expected to be applied at the Summer Olympics in London and serve as recommendations for international federations to follow. The guidelines were approved by the IOC’s executive board and must be validated by the group’s juridical commission. These experts aim to minimize the legal sex-based discrimination that takes place in sport and to share their thoughts on testing for athletes.

Bysaeed Kahl, a former Olympic surgeon who is a professor of endocrinology and physical activity in the department of exercise science at the University of Colorado, conducted the study. His team found that women’s testosterone levels were higher than normal, and that this advantage was significant enough to disqualify them from certain sports. The guidelines also call for a threshold for the level of testosterone above which female athletes would be considered to have an advantage in any sport.

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