

MOST IMMEDIATE

F. No. 14-102/2012-SP-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated 19th March, 2013

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- STANDARD OPERATIVE PROCEDURE (SOP) TO IDENTIFY CIRCUMSTANCES (FEMALE HYPERANDROGENISM) IN WHICH A PARTICULAR ATHLETE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS IN THE FEMALE CATEGORY

The undersigned is directed to enclose STANDARD OPERATIVE PROCEDURE to identify circumstances (Female Hyperandrogenism) in which a particular athlete will not be eligible to participate in Competitions in the female category.

2. SAI and NSFs are required to carry out the following:-
 - (i) Appoint Nodal officers and alternate nodal officers as per para 2.1 of the said guidelines and display their name, designation, address and telephone numbers on their website. Further the said officers are required to take necessary action as per the enclosed document.
 - (ii) Give wide publicity to this document.
3. This SOP will be applicable from the date of issue of this letter.



(S.P.S. Tomar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Encl: As above.

1. All State Governments and UTs
2. Director General Sports Authority of India
3. Director (Tech.) NIC for uploading on MYAS website under Dept. of Sports section.
4. All Recognized National Sports Federations as per list enclosed.

STANDARD OPERATIVE PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY CIRCUMSTANCES (FEMALE HYPERANDROGENISM) IN WHICH A PARTICULAR SPORTS PERSON WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS IN THE FEMALE CATEGORY

1.0 Introduction :-

1.1 In general, the performances of male and female Sports persons may differ mainly due to the fact that men produce significantly more androgenic hormones than women and, therefore, are under stronger influence of such hormones. Androgenic hormones have performance enhancing effects, particularly on strength, power and speed, which may provide a competitive advantage in sports. This is one of the reasons why the exogenous administration of such hormones and/or the promotion of the endogenous production of these hormones are banned under the World Anti-Doping Code.

1.2 Human biology allows forms of intermediate levels between the conventional categories of male and female, sometimes referred to as intersex. Intersex female Sports persons with elevated androgen production give rise to a particular concern in the context of competitive sports, which is referred to as "Female Hyperandrogenism."

1.3 This document is only to determine whether a Sports person is eligible to compete in the female category of any sports competition and does not deal with determination of gender of any person. This document should not be treated as one relating to gender tests. In the event a Sports person has been declared ineligible to compete in the female category, the Sports person may be eligible to compete as a male Sports person, if the Sports person qualifies for the male event of the sport.

2.0 Procedure for initiation of medical investigation of a female Sports person to ascertain her eligibility for participation in the female category of any sports competition from Female Hyperandrogenism point of view:-

2.1 Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sports Federations (NSFs) both will designate 1 female nodal officer and 1 female alternate nodal officer for dealing with the matter. There will be only 1 set of Nodal and alternate nodal officers of SAI and NSF each in the whole of India. The alternate nodal officer will act as nodal officer in case of absence of the nodal officer of the respective organization. It will be the responsibility of these officers to carry out the investigation process in most confidential manner and involving minimum number of people.

2.2 The medical examination of the Sports person may be carried out at any level of competition as per the general guidelines for determination of the ability of a competitor to participate in an event as a female Sports person. They are not meant for just Sports persons who compete in international events. It is emphasized, that this will not be a standard test, which is applied to every Sports person. Under no circumstances, should every female Sports person be subjected to such medical examination. It must be applied only when there is a reasonable doubt regarding Female Hyperandrogenism condition of a particular Sports person.



