

ENGLAND GOLF GENDER AND FAIRNESS IN COMPETITION POLICY

This policy from England Golf was published in January 2025 following guidance published in 2021 by UK Sports Councils' Equality Group, regarding their inclusion policies, with respect to transgender and non-binary participants.

The policy aims to balance the principles of fairness and gender inclusion in a way that is reasonable and proportionate for the sport of amateur golf in England.

This policy relates to the Bristol and District Lady Golfers Alliance (BDLGA) regarding eligibility for playing in various competitions and applies to transgender and non-binary golfers who wish to compete in a gender that is different to their sex assigned at birth. The guidance states:

Handicap Competitions: Female

Competitors are required to hold a WHS handicap which identifies that they are female.

Scratch Competitions: Female

Players may compete in a competition if any one of the following circumstances apply:

Sex assigned at birth was female, and they have not undergone or commenced any process to transition to a transgender man.

They identify as non-binary, but their sex assigned at birth was female, and they have not undergone any process to transition to a transgender man.

The BDLGA runs various competitions.

1. League – Scratch
2. West of England Championship (Harper Salver) – Scratch and Handicap prizes
3. Scratch Foursomes – Scratch
4. Handicap Foursomes – Handicap.

Following the policy guidance from England Golf the BDLGA has adopted the policy for the season 2025. The policy will be kept under review

Therefore, only competitors with a certificate at birth identified as female will be able to compete in all BDLGA competitions. Transgender females will only be able to compete in the Handicap Foursomes and in the Handicap section of the West of England Championship.

The full England Golf Policy can be viewed on their website.