Dear Safeguarding Lead,

I’ve noticed that, according to the Women’s Rights Network Fair Sports Awards (<https://www.womensrights.network/sporting-body-policies>), your Transgender Policy does not protect Fairness and Safety for women and girls.

Sport at all levels, from grassroots to elite, should protect the female category to allow all women and girls:

* Fairness of opportunity,
* Safety from physical or psychological harm,
* Privacy and dignity when using changing rooms and toilets.

In 2021, the UK Sports Councils’ Equality Group published transgender inclusion guidance for domestic sport which concluded that balancing transgender inclusion with safety and fairness for women and girls is not possible in many (if any) sports. This is due to the retained differences in strength, stamina and physique between the average female compared with the average male (with or without testosterone suppression). The report clearly states that governing bodies must prioritise safety and fairness above inclusion. <https://equalityinsport.org/resources/index.html>

Section 195 of the Equality Act 2010 provides an exception that allows sex discrimination in sport. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/notes/division/3/14/5> Sports Governing Bodies can be reassured that they are acting within discrimination law if they exclude males from the female category, even if a male is in possession of a Gender Recognition Certificate that changes their ‘legal’ sex marker.

In August 2023, the Government published its ‘Get Active’strategy which placed particular emphasis on women’s sport, stating: ‘women’s sport should be front and centre alongside men’s sport, and not in the background as it has been historically.’ [Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity) Get Active also states that: ‘When it comes to competitive sport, particularly women’s sport, the government believes that fairness and safety have to be the primary considerations.’

Please review your current policy and bring it in line with the UK Sports Councils’ Equality Group guidance and UK Equality law to prevent discrimination against women and girls.

Kind Regards

[*Your name here*]