

BWL STATEMENT – GENDER IDENTITY MAY 2026

On the 16th of July 2025 BWL published an updated Gender Identity Statement ([BWL Statement - Gender Identity July 2025](#)). In accordance with Section 195 of the Equality Act 2010 and with reference to the 2025 Supreme Court Judgement concerning the interpretation of sex in the Act, BWL confirm that their female category is limited to competitors whose biological sex is female (i.e. female at birth). This reflects the requirement under Section 195 that single-sex competition is permitted where necessary and proportionate to secure fair competition or safety due to average differences in strength, stamina or physique.

BWL remains committed to inclusion and, following a review, BWL provides the following clarification on category eligibility.

BWL Category Update

BWL confirms that trans men (individuals assigned female at birth) are eligible to participate in the Male Category. Eligibility criteria require full compliance with UKAD and WADA Anti-Doping Regulations, including adherence to UKADs Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) process. Details can be found here [Anti-Doping - British Weight Lifting](#).

If you would like to discuss the anti-doping requirements then please contact BWL Operations and Governance Manager Lisa Smith.

All other aspects of the TCRRs for the Male category remain unchanged.

BWL Compliance

The Equality Act 2010 protects gender reassignment as a protected characteristic. However, Section 195 allows single-sex competitive activities where differences in physical strength, stamina or physique may make sex segregation necessary for a fair or safe competition.

As trans men are individuals whose biological sex is female, their participation does not raise the same competitive fairness considerations that justify restricting the female category under Section 195.



Commitment to Inclusion

As the UK's recognised Governing Body for weightlifting and para powerlifting, our role is to inspire a nation of lifters through exceptional leadership and expertise.

We are responsible for the growth and success of weightlifting and para powerlifting at every level. Our work sees us support a network of weightlifting bodies, clubs, and gyms across the UK, as well as the thousands of people actively involved in Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

BWL is committed to inclusion, fairness and respect for all members of our community. We listen, learn and ensure our policies reflect our values.

BWL will continue to ensure that its policies are proportionate, evidence-based and applied consistently in line with Equality Act obligations.

BWL respects every individual's affirmed gender identity in all non-competitive areas of membership, communication and general participation.

22/05/2026

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