



Statement from the Board of Scottish Rowing on the Adoption of the British Rowing Trans and Non-Binary Competition Eligibility Policy

Scottish Rowing is committed to fostering a safe, fair, and inclusive environment for all who wish to participate in our sport. We recognise that balancing the principles of inclusion and fairness in competition presents complex and sensitive challenges.

Following careful consideration, the Board of Scottish Rowing has chosen to adopt the [British Rowing Trans and Non-Binary Competition Eligibility Policy and Procedures](#) with effect from 1 June 2025. This policy is consistent with the recent approach approved by World Rowing, our sport's international governing body.

Under the policy, only individuals assigned female at birth will be eligible to compete in the women's competitive category. This decision has been guided by the need to uphold fairness in female competition, while aligning with national and international sporting frameworks.

We also acknowledge the recent ruling by the UK Supreme Court and its implications for the wider sporting landscape. We understand that this may be a difficult time for many within the transgender and non-binary community. We want to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that rowing in Scotland remains a welcoming, inclusive space for all.

Following the ruling, we are currently awaiting further guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Government and **sportscotland** regarding any implications this may have for grassroots participation and the delivery of sport at a local level. We are committed to reviewing and updating our practices as that guidance becomes available.

Scottish Rowing will continue to explore and develop ways to support trans and non-binary people to participate fully in our sport — whether recreationally, socially, or competitively in open categories — and we are committed to maintaining open dialogue with our community as the sporting environment continues to evolve.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why has Scottish Rowing adopted this policy now?

Scottish Rowing has adopted the British Rowing policy to ensure consistency across the sport in the UK and alignment with World Rowing policy. This reflects a need to provide clarity, fairness, and consistency in competitive categories.

2. What does this mean for trans and non-binary people who wish to compete?

Trans and non-binary participants are welcome in the open category, which is inclusive of all genders. Scottish Rowing is committed to identifying and creating further opportunities for meaningful participation at all levels of the sport.



Transgender Competition Policy – May 2025

3. Are all aspects of the British Rowing policy applicable in Scotland?

While Scottish Rowing has adopted the British Rowing Trans and Non-Binary Competition and Eligibility Policy and Procedures to ensure alignment with national and international competition standards, we recognise that certain governance arrangements referenced in the policy — such as the Expert Panel — are specific to England and do not apply in Scotland.

If you are unsure how any part of the policy applies in a Scottish context, or if you have specific questions about eligibility, we encourage you to contact Scottish Rowing directly at office@scottish-rowing.org.uk. We are here to support you and provide any clarification you may need.

4. How does this policy relate to recent legal decisions?

The policy aligns with the recent UK Supreme Court ruling regarding the legal definition of sex in the context of sport. While we respect the outcome of the judgment, we also recognise the emotional impact it may have on members of the trans and non-binary community. We are also awaiting further guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Government and **sportscotland** on the wider implications for sport in Scotland, particularly at the local level.

5. Will there be support for trans and non-binary individuals within Scottish Rowing?

Yes. Scottish Rowing is establishing a working group to look at new inclusive opportunities for those potentially impacted by this new policy. Scottish Rowing will be working with clubs, coaches, and volunteers to foster a safe and supportive environment for trans and non-binary participants across all areas of the sport. Individuals or organisations who would like to support Scottish Rowing in this work should contact office@scottish-rowing.org.uk.

6. Can women compete in men's or open categories under this policy?

Yes. The Scottish Rowing Rules of Racing have for many years permitted women to compete in men's categories — now referred to as **open categories** in Scottish competitions. This inclusive structure remains in place and is open to all genders. The open category provides an opportunity for anyone, including women and trans and non-binary individuals, to compete without restriction based on sex assigned at birth. This flexibility ensures there are meaningful competitive pathways available to all participants.

7. Is this policy final, or will it be reviewed?

This policy reflects current guidance and the legal landscape as it stands. Scottish Rowing will continue to listen, learn, and review our policies as new insights, research, and perspectives emerge — including any updates provided by relevant regulatory bodies — to ensure we remain responsive to our community and the broader sporting context.

8. What should I do if I have any questions?

If you have any questions on the approach being taken by Scottish Rowing, please email them to office@scottish-rowing.org.uk.