



FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES CONDEMNS TRANS-EXCLUSIONARY POLICY BY FINA

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The Federation of Gay Games, condemns the recent decision by FINA banning the participation of Transgender women in women's international competition. Recently, The Vote by FINA, an International Federation which administers international competitions in water sports, has prohibited transgender women from competing unless they began their medical treatment to suppress the production of testosterone before attaining puberty.

The decision by FINA to ban transwomen from competing with the gender they identify as is discriminatory and exclusive, and creating a separate category for a small number of competitors is only exacerbating the current inaccurate and hurtful treatment of trans and non-binary athletes. Federation of Gay Games, Vice President of External Relations, Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett adds – “as a non-binary athlete, I would expect world governing bodies to be far more careful about the language and hyperbolic usage of trans exclusionary language which surfaced from their decision and would hope an urgent review of this decision, and the subsequent consequences towards trans and non-binary athletes will be investigated immediately.”

The FGG will continue to acknowledge that only participants can identify their gender, and a participant should never feel left out or forced to participate in a Gay Games competition that does not align with their identity.

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About the Federation of Gay Games: Gay Games is open to all, and since its debut in 1982 it has continued to perpetuate the Legacy of changing cultural, social and political attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people. A core principle of the Federation of Gay Games is “Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™”. These principles will be represented next in 2022 at Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong. It has never been more important to stand up for the rights of the LGBTQ+ communities worldwide. The Gay Games was conceived by Dr Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, to empower thousands of LGBTQ+ athletes and artists through sport, culture, and fellowship. It was first held in San Francisco in 1982. Subsequent Gay Games were held in San Francisco (1986), Vancouver (1990), New York (1994), Amsterdam (1998), Sydney (2002), Chicago (2006), Cologne (2010), Cleveland+Akron (2014), and Paris (2018). Gay Games 11 will be held in Hong Kong and Guadalajara in 2023.

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Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture and ensures that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of *Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™*.

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