

Sydney Women's AFL - Transgender Policy

The Question

Whether & when transgender woman can play in SWAFL.

Policy

Sydney Women's AFL is an inclusive league which aims to provide an opportunity for all women to play Aussie rules. Accordingly, SWAFL is open to transgender women who have established their identity as female and are living as a woman in their everyday lives.

Implementation

To implement this policy SWAFL has amended the rules by adding to section 1. General "Transgender women who have established their identity as female and are living as a woman in their everyday lives are eligible to play." The rules refer to this policy document which is subject to further investigation.

Any transgender woman who wants to play's football will be given a copy of the policy to personally evaluate their position in reference to the policy.

The issues

Establishing your identity as female

The policy states that transgender women who have established their identity as female and are living as a woman in their everyday lives should be allowed to play. This is a slightly stronger wording than simply transgender women who identify as female. It excludes people who claim to identify as female but who do not live as a woman.

It would be good to avoid putting in writing a great deal of detail about how a transgender woman could establish her identity as female, as this would involve SWAFL deciding when someone is "woman enough" to play.

What does transgender mean?

Transgender means that a person lives or wants to live as a member of the opposite gender from the one they were born with. A transgender person (trans) can live as their preferred gender with or without surgery or hormone therapy. Transgender people face discrimination because our society assumes that there are two distinct genders, and that everyone must fit into one or other of them. For transgender people this is not the case.

The most common process for male to female transgenders when they embark on their gender transition is to commence a regime of hormone treatments. This is generally considered a precursor to sex reassignment surgery (SRS). During the transitional period most transgender people will officially change their names and all relevant documentation as confirmation of their new gender identity. Not all transgenders proceed to SRS but hormone treatments will still result in significant physical feminisation. Endocrinologists working in