

**Committee:** International Olympic Committee (IOC)

**Delegation:** Fédération Internationale de Ski et de Snowboard – FIS



**Topics:** Harnessing Sport Diplomacy for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights AND Inclusion of Transgender, Intersex, and Non-Binary Athletes in Competitive Sport

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS), founded in 1924, is the leading global organization for skiing and snowboarding, uniting more than 140 national federations and organizing competitive events on a global level. The sports association is seen as a strong tool for unification – sports unites people and strengthens the bonds between them.

FIS promotes peaceful dialogue, international cooperation among countries, and deeper connections among nations through international competitions, regardless of any political tensions and disagreements. Among other things, it emphasizes the importance of ensuring a safe and respectful environment, as well as inclusion and fair opportunities for all athletes. For many years, it has demonstrated its commitment to its core principles: equality, understanding, inclusion of all athletes, and the positive impact of sports on society – supporting and reinforcing the importance of human rights and democracy.

FIS also lists the fair inclusion of transgender, intersex, and non-binary athletes in competitive sports as one of its main goals. Data suggest that the transgender population is estimated to be approximately 0.3-0.6% of the general population.<sup>1</sup> This means that FIS is committed to creating an inclusive environment for them as well. In response to this current and increasingly common problem, FIS has developed a clear approach. In September 2025, the FIS Council approved a scientifically sound standard. FIS firmly believes that without clear, objective criteria, there is a high risk of inequality and discrimination, and therefore advocates the introduction of verifiable scientific criteria. The standard requires that athletes must be "SRY-negative" if they want to compete in the women's category.<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, participation in the women's category is not fair and does not provide equal opportunities. As FIS President Johan Eliasch said, "FIS will continue to protect the safety and dignity of athletes while operating within the framework of human

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<sup>1</sup> Sax, L. (2002). How common is intersex? A response to Anne Fausto-Sterling. *Journal of Sex Research*, 39(3), 174–178. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224490209552139>

<sup>2</sup> Powder. (2025, September). *FIS announces SRY-based eligibility for women's competitions*. Retrieved November 24, 2025, from <https://www.powder.com/news/fis-sex-eligibility-policy>

rights and striving for fairness. Our goal is to create evidence-based integration policies that respect human rights and maintain the integrity of competitions."<sup>3</sup>

FIS is working to contribute to international cooperation by organizing competitions, but it still has a few proposals in store. Solutions for further advancement of democracy and human rights: organizing international sports forums and exchanges of athletes and coaches with the aim of connecting countries and promoting dialogue between them. Implementation and enforcement of clear standards for safety, dignity, and non discrimination, which are reviewed with the submitted report of national associations at least once a year – annual monitoring.

Regarding the inclusion of transgender, intersex, and non-binary athletes, the main problems are balancing the fairness of competitions (due to biological differences) and achieving the greatest possible inclusion, based on scientific evidence and with respect for human rights. The key is that policies must address biological differences while also striving to include as many athletes as possible. Our position is that the SRY-negative criterion is currently the most suitable solution for protecting fairness in women's categories, provided that it is constantly reviewed and updated. FIS further proposes the establishment of an independent committee to review and advise on additional potential eligibility criteria. Collaboration with national and international sports organizations, medical experts, and human rights organizations to raise awareness, educate, and implement inclusive practices. FIS is convinced that a clear system for monitoring implementation must be established.

FIS believes that the proposed initiatives promote the integration of the sports community, strengthen international cooperation, and create a safe and respectful environment where all athletes feel supported and included.

FIS plays a key role in international networking of the sports community and in strengthening democratic values and protecting human rights. The introduction of clear goals, along with scientifically grounded and ethically sensitive measures, enables fairness, inclusiveness, and respect for the integrity of competitions to be put into practice. By implementing proposed solutions, such as independent review committees, educational programs, and policy enforcement monitoring, FIS can ensure a safe, inclusive, and fair sports environment that unites athletes and promotes international cooperation.

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<sup>3</sup> International Ski and Snowboard Federation. (n.d.). *FIS President Johan Eliasch*. Retrieved November 24, 2025, from <https://www.fis-ski.com/inside-fis/organisation/council/johan-eliasch>