

Resolution to Discontinue Sex Testing in Sports

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WHEREAS the regulation of eligibility for female athletes constitutes a form of sex testing;

WHEREAS the continued use of sex testing in track and field/athletics, football/soccer, the Olympics and Paralympics and other international sports denies the self-identification of persons;

WHEREAS the continued use, normalization, and justification of verdicts on sex and sex testing in track and field/athletics, football/soccer, the Olympics and Paralympics and other international sports deny the extensive violence, harm, and rights violations that such practices inflict on targeted women;

WHEREAS efforts to restrict eligibility amongst female athletes discourages women's sporting excellence, encourages scrutiny of their bodies, and denies women the right to be recognized in all of their diversity;

WHEREAS the continued use of sex testing in the Olympics & Paralympics and national and international sport organizations presents degrading, stereotypical, and unjust images of women in the Global South;

WHEREAS the endorsement of sex testing practices ignores scholarship demonstrating the relevance of race and nation to determinations of gender and sex in track and field/athletics, football/soccer, the Olympics & Paralympics and other international sports;

WHEREAS the commitment of international sports governing bodies to implementing sex testing regulations discourages sports participation amongst women of color from Global South nations;

WHEREAS the continued pursuit of sex testing creates hierarchies of knowledge and body classification that privileges Western context and Western ways of knowing the body and performing gender;

WHEREAS the legitimization of the sex testing protocols in track and field/athletics, football/soccer, the Olympics & Paralympics and other international sports denies the vast chromosomal spectrum of sex and extent of biological variation amongst women;

WHEREAS the evidence relied upon by sports governing bodies to legitimate sex testing regimes is contested within the scientific and medical community;

WHEREAS determinations of the legitimacy of sex testing practices rely on particular notions of science as objective and value-free;

WHEREAS the privileging of experts from the biological sciences ignores the vast body of feminist and bioethics scholarship critiquing such efforts and their negative impacts on targeted women and women's sport more broadly;

WHEREAS the continued implementation of sex testing protocols stigmatizes athletes with differences of sexual development and creates a sporting environment that is hostile to their participation;

WHEREAS the legitimization of sex testing in sport undermines the sovereignty of athletes with differences of sexual development, including their ability to be recognized as women and represent themselves as such to a broader public;

WHEREAS the continued use of sex testing has been condemned by numerous women's sports organizations, civil rights groups, educational associations, and medical and scientific organizations;

AND, WHEREAS THE NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT (NASSS) is committed to the communication and application of accurate knowledge about sport and society through teaching, research, and social action;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NASSS joins the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the National Women's Studies Association, the International Working Group on Women and Sport, the Women's Sports Foundation, the Canadian Women and Sport, Athlete Ally, the World Medical Association, National Women's Law Association, intersex and trans athletes, Intersex Activist organizations, Intersex Legal professions, and numerous other professional, advocacy, and civil rights organizations to call for the discontinuation of sex testing in sport and upon sports teams and educational institutions to provide meaningful teaching and research about intersex, trans, and gender-non-conforming athletes around the globe.