

August 19, 2024

Ladies Professional Golf Association
100 International Golf Drive
Daytona Beach, Florida 32124-1092

Dear Commissioner Marcoux Samaan and members of the LPGA Executive Leadership Team,

We are writing to you as female professional golfers with a shared frustration and concern over the current eligibility policy for professional women's golf.

We all know there can be no equal athletic opportunity for women without a separate female golf category. Yet, the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) continues to propagate a policy that allows male athletes to qualify, compete and win in women's golf, even as several national and international governing bodies of sport and state legislatures increasingly reject these unjust and inequitable policies that harm female athletes.

Female professional golfers do not accept this.

LPGA policy does not explicitly state eligibility based on sex. It is essential for the integrity and fairness of women's golf to have a clear and consistent participation policy in place based on a player's immutable sex.

There are differences between the sexes—female and male—that specifically affect our sport of golf. The male advantage in driving the ball is estimated around a 30% performance advantage; this is an enormous difference in the context of sport. Anatomical differences between males and females affect clubhead speed and regulating consistency at ball contact. Females have higher mean heart rates and encounter greater physiological demands while playing, especially at high altitudes. The anatomical differences are not removed with male testosterone suppression. There is no way to turn a male into a female. Being female is not equated to being male with a reduction in strength.

A few specific findings include:

- LPGA players had a lower maximum velocity of the wrists, left wrist extension velocity, and clubhead velocity than PGA players. *(Source: International Journal of Sports Medicine, 2008.)*
- Women take more time to reach peak arm speed and have lower peak wrist speeds than men. *(Source: Sports Biomechanics, 2019.)*

- Female golfers have higher mean and maximum heart rates, meaning females encounter greater physiological demands while playing. *(Source: Annals of Applied Sport Science, 2021.)*
- Males have a large performance advantage in driving distance. *(Source: Independent Women's Forum/Independent Women's Law Center, Competition Report, 2023.)*
- Clubhead speed is correlated with explosive, large-muscle activities which favor males. *(Source: Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research, April 2023.)*
- Skilled females exhibit greater thorax and pelvis variability requiring females to work harder to regulate consistency at ball contact. *(Source: Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, 2011.)*
- To date, 717 women have been displaced of 1055 medals and awards. Men have competed in 37 different women's sports, in 522 competitions. The trend is remarkably steep over the past few years. *(Source: SheWon.org)*

With this in mind, we respectfully request that the LPGA:

- **Repeal all policies and rules that allow male golfers to participate in women's golf events.**
- **Establish and enforce the right of female professional golfers to participate in women's golf based on sex—eligibility must be limited to members of the female sex.**

By implementing this change, we aim to maintain the tradition and spirit of women's golf while ensuring a fair and level playing field for all participants.

The LPGA should demonstrate their respect of female golfers who compete with an announcement of a policy that upholds the integrity of the competition and equal opportunity for women.

It is our sincere hope that addressing this matter proactively will prevent any potential controversies and discrimination on the basis of sex and uphold the reputation of the LPGA as a beacon of excellence and equal opportunity in women's sport.

Failure to address this issue has already led to reduced involvement and achievement by females who are compelled to compete against men without an option for an exclusively female category. It's important for the LPGA to address these concerns head on and ensure women's golf maintains a reputation for integrity and fair treatment of professional female golfers.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further. Our collective goal is to ensure that the LPGA remains a leader

for women's golf while upholding the principles of fairness and integrity. Women are only included equitably in professional golf with a protected female category.

Competing at the highest level is the greatest honor, and thanks to our determination, years of hard work, and world class skill we have earned a shot at the prize—whether that is the opportunity to play on tour, earn eligibility for certain tournaments, improve our ranking, or come home with that victory. We deserve to strive for these rewards with a policy that recognizes fair and equitable competition for women.

We hope you will stand with us and act promptly to protect the integrity of the sport that we love.

Sincerely,

Signed by hundreds of professional women golfers from a variety of backgrounds.

CC:

Mollie Marcoux Samaan, Commissioner, LPGA

Jody Brothers, Chief Business and Operations Officer of the Epson Tour, LPGA

Matthew Chmura, Chief Marketing, Communications and Brand Officer, LPGA

Nancy Henderson, Chief Teaching Officer/President, LPGA Foundation, LPGA

Nicole Metzger, Chief Sales and Partnerships Officer, LPGA

Kathy Milthorpe, Chief Financial Officer, LPGA

Liz Moore, Chief Legal & IT Officer, LPGA

Ricki Lasky, Chief Tour Business and Operations Officer, LPGA