

Intersex sportswomen are harassed and excluded from competitions.

INTERSEX AND SPORTS : WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

1

WOMAN = WEAK = WOMAN

Bicategorization in sport aims to maintain the idea that women are always physically inferior to men.

A woman of exceptional prowess is immediately suspected of not being a woman. Yet no cisgender man has ever sought to compete with women: it is an **unfounded fear**.

2

IMAGINE, THEY WIN !

Is bicategorization designed to protect weak women... or men's egos?

Following the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the shooting event **rebecame sex-segregated and the women's event was suspended for 8 years after a woman won gold in the Mixed category**

And how can we "biologically" explain separate categories in **e-sports** or **chess**?

3

SPORT IS NEVER FAIR

The argument according to which women's sporting abilities should be leveled down to achieve fairness does not stand: **competitions are meant to display exceptional, out-of-the-ordinary performances.** Other factors, such as size, weight or resources can affect fairness but **are not taken into account.**

4

AND WHAT ABOUT MEN ?

If fairness were really the goal, high-performing men would also be subject to **maximum testosterone in blood levels, and to masculinity tests** in order to ensure that they are in the right category. **This is not the case.**

Men with physical advantages such as pulmonary or cardiac function are instead **celebrated as supermen!**

5

BINARY AT ALL COST

Intersex realities disrupt the sporting order by making visible the **complexity of the living beings and of humanity**, which cannot be divided into two social categories. World Athletics and the Court of Arbitration for Sport have been very clear: **for them to adapt to reality is out of the question.**

With their operations and funding at stake, **they have opted instead for discrimination and violence.**

6

TESTOSTERONE = MAGIC POTION ?

Androgen levels are **unfairly and arbitrarily** used to justify the harassment of intersex (and trans) sportswomen.

Yet the **study used** by World Athletics on the athletic “advantages” afforded by testosterone to justify discrimination against intersex athletes, and which paved the way for many federations to enforce



discriminatory regulations, has been criticised by its own authors, and was denounced for its “**lack of scientific integrity**” and “**biased data**”.

7

RACISM BEHIND SEX TESTING

Sportswomen who undergo sex testing **are rarely white**. These targeted, non-systematic tests are often requested by competitors with lower performances... and who are white.

If racialized women are more often suspected of not being “women enough”, this is part of the long history of **racism**, which presents white women as the embodiment of femininity.

*Correction : Serum androgen levels and their relation to performance in track and field : mass spectrometry results from 2127 observations in male and female elite athletes. (2021). *British Journal Of Sports Medicine*, 55(17), e7

**Pielke, R., Tucker, R. & Boye, E. Scientific integrity and the IAAF testosterone regulations. *Int Sports Law J* 19, 18–26 (2019)

8

FIX HEALTHY BODIES ?

A person who modifies their hormonal balance for no medical or contraceptive-related reason is usually considered to be doping: this is not the case for intersex sportswomen, upon whom these **changes are imposed under the threat of exclusion**. They are forced to change their bodies to **conform to sexist norms**. These treatments are **bad for their health**, and many athletes have had to stop competing as a result. **Is this really what sport is about?**

9

ALTERNATIVES

Improving women's performances begins with real **investment in women's sport**. If fairness is really the goal, then **weight, height or performance categories** would make more sense, as is the case in some sports. Team sports such as roller derby have long had **mixed teams**.



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