

Proactive Release: Direction - Transgender Guiding Principles

Minister	Hon. Mark Mitchell	Portfolio	Sport and Recreation
Title of Paper	Direction on Transgender Guiding Principles	Date of Issue	22 July 2025

These documents have been proactively released:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
22 July 2025	Letter: Sport NZ Transgender Guiding Principles	Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Sport and Recreation
23 July 2025	Letter: Sport NZ Transgender Guiding Principles	Raelene Castle, Group Chief Executive Sport New Zealand

Information redacted

Some parts of this information release are not appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the applicable sections of the Act have been noted.

Information has been withheld from this release under the following grounds of the Official Information Act 1982:

- s9(2)(a) - protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

Under section 9(1) no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding this information.

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Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Corrections
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Minister for Ethnic Communities
Minister of Police
Minister for Sport and Recreation



22nd July 2025

Dear Raewyn

SportNZ Transgender Guiding Principles

Thank you for the work that you have done to date on reviewing the Transgender Guiding Principles.

I have had a chance to review and consider the updated draft guiding principles, and shared them with my colleagues for their feedback.

As you know, the National-NZ First coalition agreement commits to “*ensure that publicly funded sporting bodies support fair competition that is not compromised by rules related to gender*”.

Having reviewed the draft guiding principles and considered feedback from my colleagues, I have come to the view that in order to deliver on the coalition agreement, SportNZ should no longer have guiding principles published and should leave that decision making and judgement up to individual sports and community organisations.

As you know, one of my priorities for the Sport and Recreation portfolio is lifting participation. The Government has a role in making sport accessible to all New Zealanders by creating opportunities, not in providing principles as to who should be included and how.

I ask that you reply to me with how you intend to give effect to this, and work with my office on public communications.

Thank you for your work.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Cc: Raelene Castle, Mac Leauanae



23 July 2025

Hon. Mark Mitchell
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Dear Minister Mitchell

Thank you for your letter regarding Sport New Zealand's Guiding Principles for the Inclusion of Transgender Participants in Community Sport (the Guiding Principles).

We acknowledge your feedback, along with that of your colleagues, and the direction outlined in your letter.

In response, we will remove the Guiding Principles from our website, along with supporting materials related to the inclusion of transgender participants in community sport.

We will work with your office on public communications as requested and will inform our sector partners of this change to align with the public release of this information.

In doing so, we will highlight that while Sport New Zealand will no longer provide specific guidance in this area, a range of non-governmental organisations across New Zealand can support sports organisations in making decisions regarding the participation of transgender people in community sport.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)

Raelene Castle, ONZM
Chief Executive, Sport New Zealand Group