IKF GENDER POLICY FOR COMPETITIONS

The International Korfball Federation (IKF) is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and fairness in all its competitions, while upholding the core values of korfball as a mixed-gender sport. The Gender Policy for Competitions outlines the principles and guidelines to ensure gender equality, fairness, and inclusivity, reflecting the diverse gender identities present in society today. This policy provides a balanced framework that respects both the integrity of korfball's rules and traditions and the evolving nature of gender representation. In alignment with the International Olympic Committee guidelines, the IKF is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and equitable environment for athletes of all gender identities, reaffirming korfball's identity as a truly inclusive sport.

Our policy on gender classification aims to find a fair balance between inclusiveness and the protection of female elite sport. Regardless of these formal rules, the IKF has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination or harassment related to gender identity.

1. KEY PRINCIPLES

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- Fairness: Ensuring equitable participation for all athletes, regardless of gender identity.
- Inclusivity: Providing equal and safe opportunities for participation across all gender identities such as men and women and non-binary and transgender persons.
- Non-Discrimination and respect: To state as accurately as possible that no athlete is excluded or marginalised based on their gender identity or expression.
- Gender Balance: Maintaining korfball as a mixed-gender sport that celebrates equality and diversity.
- Safety and Integrity: Safeguarding the unique dynamics and fairness of korfball through thoughtful rules and regulations and securing physical and emotional safety.
- Justice: Reviewing historical inequalities and systematic barriers that subordinate certain gender identities.
- Empowerment: Supporting minorities and strengthening their position.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Commitment to Mixed-Gender Sport: The IKF is dedicated to preserving korfball as a mixed-gender sport, respecting and embracing diverse gender identities.

- Gender Equality and Fairness: The policy ensures gender balance and equality in all aspects of the game, while upholding the core principles of korfball.

- Gender Differentiation: Gender differentiation remains a key component of korfball's rules and regulations, preserving the integrity of the sport.

- Inclusivity: The policy recognises and accommodates all gender identities, fostering a welcoming environment for athletes.

- Simple, Effective Framework: The policy is designed to be straightforward, evolving with feedback and global advancements in sports inclusivity.

- Commitment to Korfball's Identity: By maintaining gender balance and equality, the IKF reaffirms korfball's identity as a truly inclusive, mixed-gender sport.

3. POLICY APPLICATION ON THE RULES

In the rules of the game, the traditional gender categories of **"man"** and **"woman"** will be replaced by the categories **"MALE AT BIRTH + OPEN GENDER"** and **"FEMALE AT BIRTH."**

a) Categories:

- Replace the current categories of "Female" with "Female at Birth".
- "Female at Birth" include athletes assigned female at birth.
- Replace the current categories of "Male" with "Male at Birth + Open Gender".
- "Male at Birth + Open Gender" Includes athletes assigned male at birth, transgender male athletes, transgender female athletes, non-binary athletes, and others who do not identify within the binary framework.

b) Rules:

- Each team must include the number of players from the "Female at Birth" category and the number of players from the "Male at Birth + Open Gender" category on the court at all times, as defined by the rules of korfball, for any of the disciplines.
- Players in the "Female at Birth" category may only defend other "Female at Birth" players.
- Players in the "Male at Birth + Open Gender" category may only defend players from "Male at Birth + Open Gender" category.

c) Verification:

- Athletes in the “Female at Birth” category must provide proof of gender assignment at birth, such as a birth certificate, when requested.

d) Inclusivity:

- Non-binary, transgender, and any other gender-diverse athletes are welcomed and included within the “Male at Birth + Open Gender” category.

4. IMPLEMENTATION, EDUCATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be applied as follows:

- IKF Official events: Mandatory for all official IKF events, including World Championships, Continental Championships, and other IKF Official events.

- IKF Recognised and IKF Patronage Events: Applicable to events recognised or held under the patronage of the IKF.

- National Competitions: IKF member organisations are encouraged, but not obligated, to adopt this policy for their national competitions. They retain the freedom to implement their own gender policies, provided these align with the spirit of fairness and inclusivity. We encourage our national organizations to develop policies that similar promote inclusiveness and gender equality, while allowing room for adaptation to national and cultural contexts, providing the principles of fairness and inclusivity are maintained, while protecting female sport.

Education plays a vital role in promoting understanding and inclusivity within the korfball community. The IKF encourages member organisations to promote education on gender inclusivity, tailored to their specific cultural contexts. To support this effort, the IKF will provide access to educational materials, including resources aligned with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) framework. These materials aim to raise awareness, facilitate dialogue, and equip stakeholders with the knowledge needed to implement this policy effectively at all levels of the sport.

The IKF recognises that inclusivity in sports is an evolving field. This policy will be subject to regular review and refinement as new insights emerge, based on:

- Feedback from athletes, coaches, officials, and member organisations.

- Developments in global standards and best practices for gender inclusivity in sports.

- Practical experiences and cases encountered during implementation.