



21 July 2025

Dear National Federation Presidents and Secretaries Generals,

Subject: Mandatory Testing Required Per World Boxing's "Sex Age and Weight" Eligibility Policy

I hope this message finds you well.

As World Boxing has made clear in its recent public statements, the organisation is in the final stages of developing a policy on "Sex, Age and Weight" that will determine the eligibility of boxers to participate in its competitions.

This policy is designed to deliver a level playing field for females and males which ensures the safety of all participants and is based on sex, weight and age as the key determinants in delivering competitive fairness and protecting the health and welfare of boxers.

As part of this policy, World Boxing will introduce mandatory sex testing to determine the eligibility of female and male athletes that want to take part in its competitions. It means that all athletes over the age of 18 that want to participate in a World Boxing owned or sanctioned competition will need to undergo a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) genetic test to determine their genetic sex and their eligibility to compete.

National Federations will be responsible for testing and will be required to confirm the sex of their athletes when entering them into World Boxing competitions by providing a certification of their chromosomal sex, as determined by a PCR test. This policy will apply at the forthcoming World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, 4-14 September 2025, and all National Federations are strongly advised to begin the process of testing immediately.

The PCR test is a laboratory technique used to detect specific genetic material, in this case the SRY gene, which reveals the presence of the Y chromosome, which is an indicator of biological sex. The test can be conducted by nasal/mouth swab, saliva or blood.



Athletes that are deemed to be male at birth, as evidenced by the presence of the Y chromosome genetic material (the SRY gene) or with a difference of sexual development (DSD) where male androgenization occurs, will be eligible to compete in the male category.

Athletes that are deemed to be female at birth, as evidenced by the presence of XX chromosomes or the absence of Y chromosome genetic material (the SRY gene), or with a DSD where male androgenization does not occur, will be eligible to compete in the female category.

World Boxing respects the dignity of all individuals and its overriding priority is to ensure safety and competitive fairness to all athletes. To do this, it is essential that strict categories, determined by sex are maintained and enforced, and means that World Boxing will only operate competitions for athletes categorised as female or male.

This policy will apply at the forthcoming World Boxing Championships 2025, 4-14 September 2025, and will be implemented across all World Boxing's competitions on a phased basis as set out below:

Implementation:

- World Boxing recognises that the issues of safety and sporting integrity in relation to eligibility are most pronounced in the female category, so testing will be prioritised in this area. **It means that every female boxer that is entered into the 2025 World Boxing Championships will have to produce certified test result of their chromosomal sex, as determined by a PCR test. Female athletes that cannot provide certified test results of their sex will not be eligible to participate in the competition and will not make it through the sport entry process.**
- National Federations are encouraged to begin the process of testing for men, however the need to provide a certified test result will not be a condition of entry at the World Boxing Championships 2025. It will apply to all World Boxing competitions from 1 January 2026.



Key Information and Immediate Actions:

- **Type of Testing:**

The initial test required is a polymerase chain reaction test (PCR test) to detect the presence of the Y chromosome, otherwise known as the sex-determining region (SRY) gene testing. Please use this information to start testing. More details can be found in the policy.

- **Laboratory Coordination:**

National Federations can contact the same or similar laboratories used for standard medical clearances (e.g., HIV-negative, Hepatitis-negative, and pregnancy test certificates) to coordinate this PCR screening. These medical documents, including the PCR test results on laboratory letterhead, will be required at the sports entry check-in at Liverpool.

- **Encouraged Timeline:**

World Boxing strongly encourages the National Federations to begin testing immediately. The tests can take up to two (2) weeks to receive results.

- **Budgetary Consideration:**

Understanding the challenges of operating mid-budget cycle, National Federations are advised to prioritize testing of female athletes, in preparation to the World Championships.

- **Appeal Process for Positive Results:**

In cases where a positive PCR test that shows a Y chromosome in a self-reported female, World Boxing member federations may seek further testing to contest, verify, or appeal the result. Note the boxer will be ineligible to compete until the judicial process is complete. Appeals will follow World Boxing's Sport Integrity Policy.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact World Boxing's Sports Department via the following link: sport@worldboxing.org

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued partnership with World Boxing to support safe and fair competition.



In your corner,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike McAtee". Below the signature, the call letters "WBAX" are written in a smaller, similar script.

Mike McAtee
Acting Secretary General