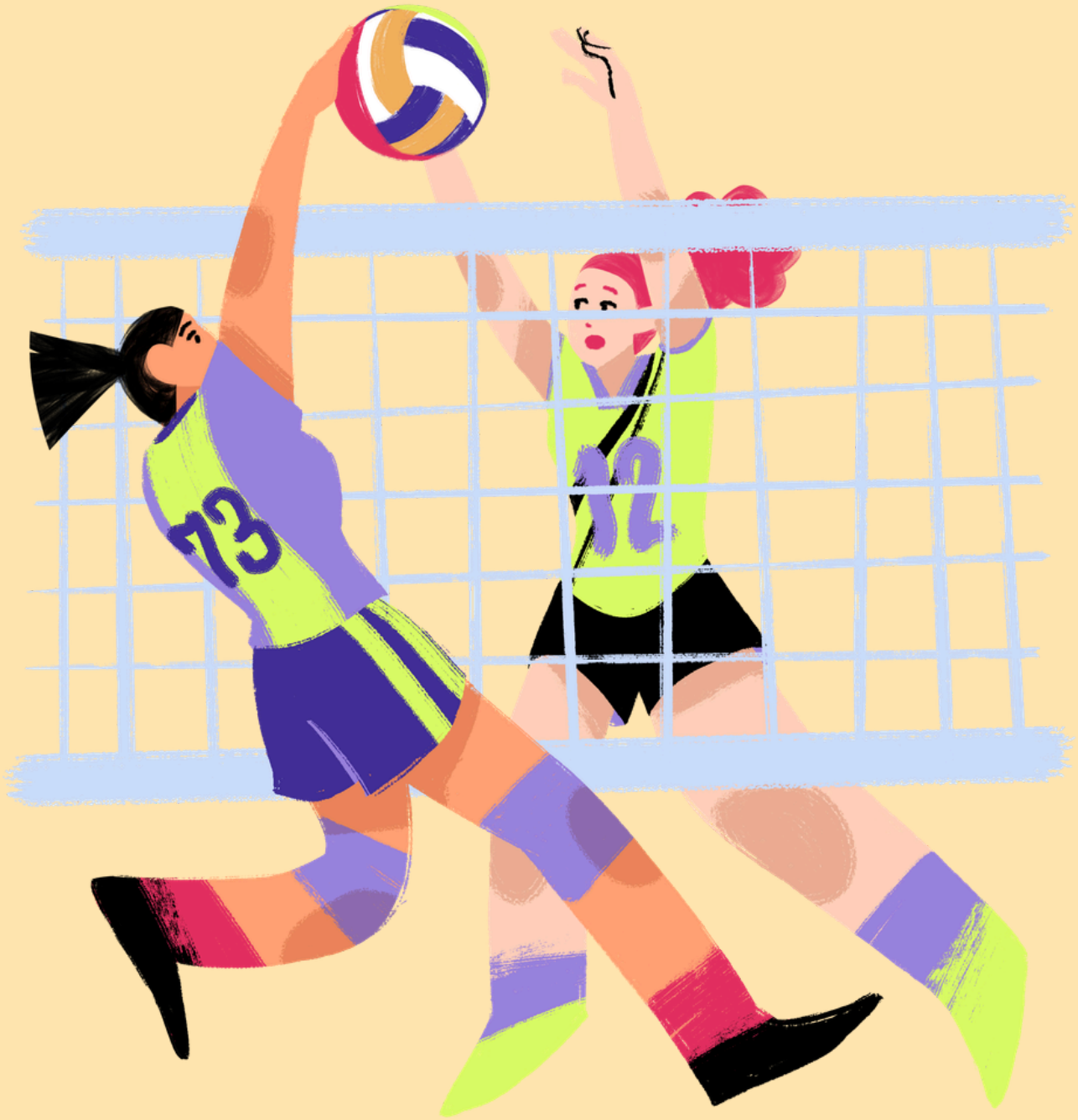
# Intersex Rights and Sport in QLD

On the 27th of March 2026, the International Olympic Committee announced that some intersex women, and all transgender women, are banned from competing in women’s events at the Olympics.

They will require all athletes competing in women’s events at the Olympics to undergo genetic testing to determine who is eligible.




The new policy **likely goes against** Queensland, Australian and international **human rights law**. As well as discriminating against women with innate variations in sex characteristics and transgender women, it could violate all women's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.

In QLD, it is illegal to discriminate against people due to their **sex characteristics.** This includes their testosterone levels and if they have the SRY gene.

Everyone should have **the right to play sport** without being discriminated against.

The Olympics' policy **does not apply** to community, school, and competitive sports in QLD. Intersex women and girls **cannot be excluded** from their local or school's women's sporting team.

Exemptions allowing transgender people to be excluded from competitive sport **do not apply** to people with innate variations in sex characteristics.

Intersex athletes **do not have to tell** their sporting organisation or team about their variation or disclose in any way that they are intersex.

Community sports organisations cannot require anyone to undergo genetic or hormonal testing, or physical examinations.

It is also illegal to discriminate against someone **based on the belief** that they are intersex or transgender.

In sport, this includes things like:

- singling out a woman and forcing her to “prove” that she is a woman through physical examination or by providing medical information
- suggesting a woman who may not fit typical expectations of femininity (such as being tall, muscular, or having “masculine” features) is not a woman, and attempting to prevent her from playing women’s sport

Public statements about intersex athletes that encourage hate and ridicule may be **vilification.**

In sport, this includes things like:

- publicly degrading all intersex people, claiming they are cheats or a danger to women
- publicly sharing an intersex person’s private medical information
- calling for the public to misgender, harass, or attack an intersex person

Claims that intersex women have an unfair advantage in sport, or are a safety risk, are **not based on evidence**.

Policies restricting participation in sports will likely contribute to stigma against people with innate variations in sex characteristics.

If you think you may have experienced discrimination on the basis of your sex characteristics, or would like to know how this policy will affect you, please contact the LGBTI Legal Service for **free legal advice.**