

ICC Bans Transgender Players From International Women's Cricket

Why In News

- In a major policy decision, The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** banned **transgender cricketers** from participating in women's cricket at the highest level.



- Transgender players who have been through any form of **male puberty** will be prohibited from competing in international women's games regardless of whether or not they have undergone surgery or gender reassignment treatment

Danielle McGahey

- The new rule means that **Danielle McGahey**, who became the **first transgender cricketer**, would not be able to take part in women's international cricket anymore.
- McGahey played six WT20Is for Canada back in September 2023 in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Americas Region Qualifier. The 29-year-old scored 118 runs at an average of 19.66 with a top score of 48 against Brazil Women.



ICC Statement

- In a statement, the ICC said, "The ICC Board approved **new gender eligibility regulations** for the international game following a nine-month consultation process with the sport's stakeholders.



- "The new policy is based on the following principles (in order of priority), protection of the **integrity of the women's game, safety, fairness and inclusion**, and this means any Male to Female participants who have been **through any form of male puberty** will not be eligible to participate in the international women's game regardless of any surgery or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken."
- Asked what was the trigger for ICC to bring about this change, ICC said it was due to "**cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics.**"
- "Since cricket will be an Olympic sport, it has to be governed by the Olympic guidelines. This gender issue is a huge one at global level."



- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has changed regulations and advised sports to implement regulations that are suitable for their sport, which is what we have done,".

Other Sports

- **World Athletic (WA)**, the governing body for track and field and other running competitions, had also **barred transgender women**, who went through male puberty, from competing in women's events at international competitions.
- **World governing bodies for cycling (UCI)** and swimming (FINA) had also introduced the same regulation in their sport while World Rugby has an outright ban on trans women in international women's rugby.



Reaction

- "This unfortunate circumstance has prompted to investigate **pursuing a case of discrimination**, as I believe it represents a **breach of the code of conduct** regarding diversity and inclusion. It Is also a breach of Rights Of Athlete.
- **McGahey expressed her disappointment at the decision.**

- She wrote in a post, “Following the ICC’s decision, it is with a very heavy heart that I must say that my **international cricketing career is over**. As quickly as it has begun, it must now end.”
- According to her, it is a step back towards achieving inclusivity in the game and despite the ruling, she would not stop her fight to promote equality in the game.
- “While I hold my opinions on the ICC’s decision, **they are irrelevant**. What matters is the message being sent to millions of trans women today, a messaging saying that we don’t belong. I promise I will **not stop fighting** for equality for us in our sport, we **deserve the right to play cricket** at the highest level, we are not a threat to the integrity or safety of the sport. Never stop fighting!” she concluded.

