



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ABOUT SCIENCE AND SEX

WomensSportsPolicy.org

Q18. Do all trans girls/women have a testosterone advantage?

A18. No. Those trans girls/women who *never* experience the onset of male puberty do not develop the secondary sex characteristics that are responsible for the performance gap between male and female athletes. Preventing male puberty involves taking puberty blockers before its onset, and thereafter transitioning to gender affirming hormones that keep testosterone levels consistently within the female range. In contrast, trans girls/women who go on blockers and/or gender affirming hormones and/or have a gonadectomy only *after* they experience some or all of male puberty retain a "legacy advantage" as a result of this experience. The degree of their legacy advantage depends on a combination of factors including: the extent to which they have experienced puberty; whether they had a gonadectomy (surgical removal of their testes); the levels at which they maintain their circulating testosterone; and the particular sport and event in which they compete.