



World Athletics Bans Transgender Women

Why in News?

World Athletics, the **governing body for athletics**, has announced a **ban on transgender women from competing** in elite female competitions if they have gone through male puberty.

- The council has also imposed **stricter regulations on athletes with Differences in Sex Development (DSD)** by reducing the **maximum amount of plasma testosterone for athletes in half**, from **5 to 2.5 nanomoles** per litre.

What are the Major Points Related to the Ban?

- According to **World Athletics**, the **ban on transgender women** competing in elite female competitions is based on the need to **protect the female category**.
- The tighter rules will impact **DSD athletes** such as **Caster Semenya, Christine Mboma, and Francine Niyonsaba**.
 - At the **2020 Olympics**, **Semenya and Niyonsaba were both barred from the 800m race and turned their attention to the 5,000m**, while **Mboma won silver in the 200m**.
- Swimming's world governing body, **World Aquatics**, has also **banned transgender women from elite competition** if they have experienced any part of male puberty.

What is DSD?

- It is a condition in which an **individual's physical sex characteristics do not align with typical male or female** development.
 - This can include various genetic, hormonal, or anatomical differences, leading to conditions such as **intersex or ambiguous genitalia**.
- In the context of athletics, **DSD athletes may have naturally high levels of testosterone**, which has been a subject of controversy and regulation in sports.
 - **For instance, DSD athletes have male testes** but do not produce enough of the hormone **Dihydrotestosterone (DHT)** that is necessary for the **formation of male external genitalia**.

Source: [TH](#)