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Women's Sport Calls for Global Action on Flawed Female Eligibility Regulations

Three major global women's sport organisations¹ have called for action to immediately withdraw World Athletics' controversial DSD Regulations,² and similar regulations enforced by other Olympic movement sport bodies.

These are the Regulations that exclude some female athletes, like Caster Semenya, from elite competition unless they take medical steps to artificially lower their natural levels of testosterone.

On August 17, the British Journal of Sports Medicine published a correction that downgrades the validity of research used to justify World Athletics' DSD Regulations. The research authors stated that they "recognise that statements in the paper could have been misleading by implying a causal inference" they did not intend. They explained that their "exploratory" findings should not be seen as "confirmatory or evidence for a causal relationship."

Since the 'exploratory' research used to justify exclusion cannot prove a causal relationship, World Athletics must act immediately to withdraw the current DSD Regulations.

As a result, women's sport organisations have called on the *IOC*, and *International Sport Federations* to show leadership on this issue, asking them to immediately suspend such regulations, and to create an even and safe playing field for all sportswomen by ensuring that any future regulations by sport governing bodies are based on independent and robust research evidence.

Ends

Notes for editor:

¹ Spokes people from the major global women's sport organisations driving this call:

- o **WomenSport International** <https://womensportinternational.org/>

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- o **International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women**
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- o **International Working Group on Women and Sport** <https://iwgwomenandsport.org/>

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² World Athletics' Eligibility Regulations for the Female Classification (Athletes with Differences of Sex Development)
