



Australian Womensport & Recreation Association

AWRA STATEMENT ON CASTER SEMENYA SAGA

The Australian Womensport and Recreation Association (AWRA) aims to promote and demand fair treatment of all females who participate in physical activity and sport. AWRA has an Equality Policy (available on its website) and wishes to make public comment on the treatment of the South African runner Caster Semenya.

As such, AWRA:

- **Accepts** the sovereignty and independence of national and international sport governing bodies to act according to their governance protocols and procedures;
- **Condemns the South African Athletic Association** for not cooperating with the IAAF prior to the World Athletic Championships, to prevent this situation occurring and coming to public notice;
- **Condemns** the way in which the Caster Semenya case was played out in the public media arena prior to official statements of the IAAF;
- **Supports** the right of all female athletes to fair competition in their sports of choice as well as their right to appeal;
- **Supports** the human rights of all female athletes to dignified and fair treatment as well as the right of confidentiality of medical records and respect for privacy;
- **Supports** gender verification in instances where it is suspected that an unfair advantage occurs
- **Calls for continuous** awareness and reflection of good governance principles in all sport governing bodies on all levels of sport participation;
- **Strives** continuously to level the playing fields for all female athletes and administrators in sport.

AWRA is bound by Australian law and state legislation in relation to equality, and will adhere to international law in the practice of equality and human rights. These include:

- Universal Declaration on Human Rights
- Beijing Platform for Action
- The Millennium Development Goals (United Nations), in particular the goal to promote gender equality and empower women

AWRA works with international associations to further equality of opportunity and treatment for women in sport, in particular the International Association for Physical Education for Girls and Women (IAPESGW) and the International Working Group for Women in Sport (IWG).

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For further comment please contact President Janice Crosswhite OAM, 03 9719 7553 or email crosswhite@bigpond.com