Hi Ashley,

I totally agree ﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿that any human has the right to change themselves into anything they want, and in fact, I have mad respect for people who transition.  That is a harrowing journey to put yourself through so that you can feel comfortable in your own skin, I would never belittle that decision.  However, to say there is no difference between and biologically female woman and a biologically male women is just willful ignorance.  I'm sure you understand the difference between sex and gender (Newman, 2011), no matter what you change about your body, you still can't change your DNA (yet).

There are volumes of data stating that men (in general) have a distinct physical advantage in sports after hitting puberty (Coleman & Shreve, 2018).  This advantage is almost solely due to the massive level of testosterone produced in males during this time (Duke, Balzer, & Steinbeck, 2014), and females just don't get anywhere close to the same level.  Yes, transgender women’s performances do generally decline as their testosterone does (Harper, 2015). But not every male advantage dissipates when testosterone drops. Some advantages, such as bigger bone structure, greater lung capacity, and larger heart size remain.

I understand this is a very sticky topic with no real answer, and I think everyone has a place in sports, be it male, female, or whatever. But to just say “Life is a social construct” so science doesn’t mean anything, only covers up the actual issues and doesn’t address their root causes.

As far as the masculinity thing, that’s more of a perceived opinion and I don’t have any solid evidence to back it, so I concede the point to you.

Thanks for responding!

Kai

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