

# Transgender barred from women's Aussie rules football draft due to 'unreasonable physical advantage'

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Transgender athlete Hannah Mouncey, who is 6-foot-2 and weighs 220 pounds, was blocked from the women's Australian Football League draft due to her "unreasonable physical advantage over her opponents." (Image source: YouTube screenshot)

Dave Urbanski

(<http://www.theblaze.com/author/dave-urbanski/>)

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## Who is the transgender player in question?

- Hannah Mouncey is a transgender woman who wanted to enter this year's draft for women's Australian Football League. Aussie rules football is a contact sport akin to rugby.
- Mouncey is a former Australian men's handball player, the [AFL website said](http://www.afl.com.au/news/2017-10-17/afls-transgender-call-on-aflw-hopeful) (<http://www.afl.com.au/news/2017-10-17/afls-transgender-call-on-aflw-hopeful>).
- She stands 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 220 pounds, the AFL reported.



Hannah Mouncey (Image source: YouTube screenshot)

- Mouncey made the decision to transition nine years ago and began hormone treatments in November 2015, the [Canberra Times said](http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/hannah-mouncey-hopes-to-play-for-australian-womens-handball-team-after-transitioning-from-a-man-20160730-gqha23.html) (<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/hannah-mouncey-hopes-to-play-for-australian-womens-handball-team-after-transitioning-from-a-man-20160730-gqha23.html>).

## What did the AFL say?

- Despite women's AFL clubs interested in recruiting Mouncey — who played eight matches and kicked 17 goals in the Canberra Women's League, the AFL noted — the AFL declined to let Mouncey participate in Wednesday's draft.
- The ruling was based on analysis of transgender strength, stamina and physique — as well as the AFLW just starting out — the league said.
- The AFL said the subcommittee that made the decision believed Mouncey would have had an "unreasonable physical advantage over her opponents."
- The ruling doesn't preclude Mouncey from future drafts, the AFL noted.



**SuperFooty (AFL)**  
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### How did Mouncey react?

- “While I am extremely disappointed with the AFL’s decision regarding my participation in tomorrow’s AFLW draft, I thank them for the genuine way in which they approached my situation,” Mouncey said in a statement, the AFL reported.



**Hannah Mouncey**  
@hannahmouncey1

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Good luck to all the girls who nominated for the AFLW draft tomorrow, especially my mates from Canberra. I can't wait to see you all at the highest level and to play with and against you back in Canberra next year!

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### What else did the AFL say?

- “The AFL has made very strong commitments to equality and inclusion at all levels of the game,” Tanya Hosch, the league’s general manager of inclusion and social policy — who was on the Mouncey subcommittee — said in a statement, the AFL reported. “We recognize that participating in sport has physical, psychological and social benefits and we are committed to making Australian football on every level welcoming to all in our community.”



Hannah Mouncey (Image source: YouTube screenshot)

### How are others reacting?

- “The AFLPA believes there should have been clear guidelines available for transgender players wishing to enter the AFLW draft this year,” Brett Murphy, players association general manager of player relations, told the AFL site.
- “No athlete should face such confusion around their eligibility for an elite competition just days out from a draft,” he added, the league’s website reported.
- Lee Phillips, president of a team Mouncey had been playing for, said the club would welcome back Mouncey since because Ainslie is “all about inclusion,” the *Age* reported (<http://www.theage.com.au/sport/act-sport/ainslie-goes-into-bat-for-transgender-hannah-mouncey-following-aflw-draft-ruling-20171017-gz2r45>).
- Transgender writer Allison Gallagher called (<http://junkee.com/hannah-mouncey-trans-aflw/131369>) the AFL’s decision “bulls\*\*t,” noting “Mouncey easily meets the International Olympic Committee’s guidelines (<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/jan/25/ioc-rules-transgender-athletes-can-take-part-in-olympics-without-surgery>) for transgender athletes’ eligibility — comfortably sitting below the 10 nanomole per litre requirements around testosterone levels.”



Hannah Mouncey (Image source: YouTube screenshot)

TheBlaze has previously reported (<http://www.theblaze.com/news/2016/06/05/hs-track-athlete-was-born-male-but-identifies-as-female-and-took-home-3rd-place-in-the-girls-200-meter-dash-at-state-championships/>) on biological males who identify as females (<http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/06/06/transgender-freshman-sprinter-born-a-male-wins-two-girls-state-championships/>) and have participated in athletic competitions (<http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/03/21/transgender-weightlifter-wins-womens-competition-sparking-debate-on-fairness/>) against biological females.

Here’s Mouncey talking about coming out as a transgender woman:

