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The Big Picture

The International Association of Athletics Federations was embroiled in controversy over new rules affecting the eligibility of the South African middle-distance runner Caster Semenya.

It is expected the Olympic champion, who won a gold double at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, will have to take medication to reduce the levels of

testosterone in her body.

Coming into effect in November, the controversial rules are designed to stop an 'Athlete with Differences of Sexual Development' (or DSD) gaining a 'competitive advantage' on the track.

The regulations govern women's track events from 400m to the mile.

One IAAF committee member, Professor Steve

Cornelius, has already quit over the matter.

In a letter to IAAF president Sebastian Coe, he said: "How the IAAF Council can, in the 21st century, when we are meant to be more tolerant and aware of fundamental human rights, even contemplate these kinds of objectionable regulations, is a sad reflection on the fact that the antiquated views of the 'old' scandal-hit

IAAF, still prevail and that your promises of reform have been empty indeed."

Coe said: "The revised rules are not about cheating, they are about levelling the playing field to ensure fair and meaningful competition in the sport of athletics where success is determined by talent, dedication and hard work rather than other contributing factors." ■