

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Students

Fairness and Safety in Sport

STU #40

Approved: October 2025

Background

Consistent with Section 33(d) of the *Alberta Education Act*, and CTR Administrative Procedure [STU #04: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe Learning Environments](#), CTR values fair and safe athletic environments for all participants.

Pursuant to Alberta's *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*, school divisions are directed to develop policies to implement regulations listed in this Act. This administrative procedure extends from CTR Administrative Procedure [BUS #01: Drafting of Administrative Procedures](#), which delegates responsibility to school division administration to implement government legislation. The purpose of this CTR Administrative Procedure is the promotion of fairness and safety in sport.

1. Definitions:

Subject to section 3 of the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*, these definitions are to be used:

- 1.1. "Female-only league, class or division" means a league, class or division of a relevant sport intended to consist entirely of athletes whose sex at birth is female. Use of the word class refers to a category and not a classroom, and therefore only applies in this case to athletic teams, and not classrooms or Physical Education classes.
- 1.2. "Sex at birth" means the sex of an athlete that appears on the athlete's birth registration document.

2. Sport Eligibility Requirement

Subject to section 3 of the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*, a school division must:

- 2.1. establish, implement and maintain policies promoting fairness and safety in sport;
- 2.2. include female sex at birth as an eligibility requirement to participate in the relevant sport where the participation is:
 - 2.2.1. in a female-only league, class or division of the sport, and
 - 2.2.2. by an athlete 12 years of age or older.

3. Procedures for Satisfying Sport Eligibility Requirement

At the time of registration of an athlete as a participant in the relevant sport, the athlete or, if the athlete is a minor, the parent or guardian of the athlete must provide confirmation in writing (through sport-specific permission forms provided by the school) that:

- 3.1. the athlete or parent/guardian, understands the eligibility requirement, and
- 3.2. the athlete meets the eligibility requirement.

4. Challenge to Athlete Eligibility

If there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete may be ineligible under clause 2.2, a challenge to an athlete's eligibility is subject to the following provisions:

- 4.1. Any athlete subject to an eligibility challenge shall be allowed to continue to participate in the applicable sport while the challenge is being reviewed.
- 4.2. Confidential challenges to an athlete's eligibility may only be made by a member of these groups:
 - 4.2.1. an athlete's teammate, who is over 18 years of age, after first discussing the concern confidentially with the school principal;
 - 4.2.2. parents/guardians of the athlete's teammates who are under 18 years of age, after first discussing the concern confidentially with the school principal;
 - 4.2.3. the principal of an external school.
- 4.3. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete may be ineligible under clause 2.2, challenges to an athlete's eligibility will only be considered if made in writing to the school division, as follows:
 - 4.3.1. challenges are to be addressed confidentially and in writing to the principal of the athlete whose eligibility is being questioned;
 - 4.3.2. the principal's ruling may be appealed to the Superintendent.
- 4.4. After reviewing a challenge, the school division may:
 - 4.4.1. dismiss a challenge, if, in the opinion of the principal who reviewed the challenge, reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge, or
 - 4.4.2. direct the athlete or, if the athlete is a minor, the athlete's parent or guardian, to file a copy of the athlete's birth registration document with the school division, or
 - 4.4.3. rule the athlete ineligible.
- 4.5. The school division is required within a reasonable time of the athlete's birth registration document being filed with the school division, to determine that the athlete:
 - 4.5.1. meets the eligibility requirement referred to in clause 2.2, if the birth registration document filed with the school division indicates that the athlete's sex at birth is female, or
 - 4.5.2. does not meet the eligibility requirement referred to in clause 2.2, and in this case prohibit an athlete from participating in the relevant sport.
- 4.6. The school division reserves the right to reconsider an eligibility ruling referred to in clause 4.5.

5. Invalid Challenge to Athlete Eligibility

The school division may determine that reasonable grounds do not exist for a challenge, and dismiss the challenge, including but not limited to where:

- 5.1. the school division previously resolved a challenge for the same athlete;
- 5.2. not enough information has been provided to proceed as a valid challenge; or,
- 5.3. the challenge is deemed to have been made in bad faith.
- 5.4. the school division may impose reasonable sanctions against a person who, in the opinion of the school division, challenges the eligibility of an athlete under clause 2.2 in bad faith.

6. Reporting Requirements

An eligibility challenge must be reported to the Minister of Tourism and Sport by the school division within three (3) business days of receiving the challenge in writing, without personal identifying information. The school division decision related to an eligibility challenge must be submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Sport, without personal identifying information, within thirty (30) business days of receiving the challenge in writing.