



# Fairness and safety in sport

This fact sheet is intended for in-scope entities, parents, coaches, and athletes with questions pertaining to the Alberta *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation.

## In-Scope Entities

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How do I know if I am an in-scope entity?	In-scope entities are defined in section 2 of the <i>Fairness and Safety in Sport Act</i> . In-scope entities include provincial sport organizations listed in the Schedule of the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation.
When is an in-scope entity required to have a policy?	Governing bodies (boards) of in-scope entities are required to establish and implement an athlete eligibility policy on September 1, 2025.
Can an in-scope entity add their name to the model policy and approve it as-is?	While the model policy has been developed to support boards of in-scope entities with implementation of policies, it is recommended that boards review the model policy closely to ensure that it aligns with any existing policies and procedures in place, and that it reflects the current context of their relevant sport.

## Athlete Registration

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Does every athlete need to confirm eligibility to register in a relevant sport?	Every athlete that registers to play in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport, or their parent or guardian if the athlete is a minor under 18 years of age will be required to confirm in writing at the time of registration that they understand and that the athlete meets all the eligibility requirements to compete set out in the <i>Fairness and Safety in Sport Act</i> and Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation. Boards of in-scope entities should have this requirement built into their registration process.
Does this policy apply to athletes who have registered in a relevant sport before September 1, 2025?	For athletes who register in a relevant sport before September 1, 2025, boards of in-scope entities will be required to collect a written confirmation of eligibility from the athlete or their parent or guardian if the athlete is a minor under 18 years of age. Athletes will not be required to re-register for the relevant sport.



Does an athlete need to provide their birth registration document at the time of registration?

No. Athletes are not required to provide a birth registration document at the time of registration. This document is only required if an athlete's eligibility is challenged in accordance with the in-scope entities' athlete eligibility policy. At the time of registration, participants (or the parents or guardians of minor participants) are only required to confirm in writing that they understand and meet all the eligibility requirements to compete set out in the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation.

## Athlete Participation and Categories

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Can female athletes participate in the male or co-ed category?

Yes. Female athletes may continue to compete in male and co-ed categories.

What age does this legislation apply to?

This legislation applies to athletes ages 12 years and older.

Does this legislation apply to recreational sport such as intramural activities and/or physical education classes?

No. This legislation applies to amateur competitive sport in female-only leagues, classes, or divisions. This legislation does not apply to recreational sport, such as intramural activities or physical education classes.

## Challenges and Athlete Verification

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Can someone enter a challenge regarding an athlete's eligibility?

Yes. The Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation sets out that the eligibility of an athlete may be challenged. Challenges to an athlete's eligibility must be made in writing to the board of an in-scope entity that received the athlete's registration in a relevant sport. Eligible challenges can be made by those persons specified in the board's eligibility policy.

What sanctions exist for athlete eligibility challenges made in bad faith?

Under the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation, boards of in-scope entities may impose reasonable sanctions against any person who, in the opinion of the board, challenges the eligibility of an athlete in bad faith. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to, written warnings, code of conduct violations, or any existing policies and procedures that an in-scope entity may have in place.

Can a board charge a fee to an individual that enters a challenge related to athlete eligibility?

No. Boards of in-scope entities should not charge a fee to a person that enters a challenge regarding an athlete's eligibility to participate in a relevant sport.

How does an athlete verify their sex at birth if a person enters a challenge about their eligibility?

When a written challenge about an athlete's eligibility is made and the challenge is deemed to be valid by the board of an in-scope entity, the athlete will be required to obtain and file with the in-scope entity a copy of their birth registration document to verify their eligibility. The board of an in-scope entity will then use the information in the birth registration document to verify the eligibility of the athlete.

What is a birth registration document?

A birth registration document is completed at the time of a person's birth and includes the person's sex at birth. Unlike a birth certificate, a birth registration document cannot be changed.

Where can an athlete obtain their birth registration document?

An athlete (or their parent(s)/guardian(s) if the athlete is a minor under 18 years of age) is able to request their birth registration document from their birth jurisdiction. Processing and delivery times are typically published on the jurisdiction's website. **Please see the Appendix below for information regarding specific Canadian jurisdictions.**

Who will be required to cover the cost of retrieving a birth registration document?

The Government of Alberta will cover these costs. An athlete (or their parents/guardians if the athlete is a minor under 18 years of age) will be responsible for immediate fees associated with retrieving a birth registration document. Once a birth registration document is retrieved and provided to an in-scope entity's board, the in-scope entity will reimburse the athlete for any fees paid by the athlete. In turn, the Government of Alberta will reimburse the board of an in-scope entity at its request.

Can an athlete continue to compete if a challenge to their eligibility has been made?

Yes. Athletes can continue to compete in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport until the board of an in-scope entity has determined that the athlete does not meet the eligibility requirements. Athletes that do not meet the eligibility requirements must be prohibited by boards of in-scope entities from participating in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport.

What is the expected timeline for a resolution to an athlete eligibility challenge?

Boards of in-scope entities are required to report challenges regarding eligibility to the Minister of Tourism and Sport within 3 business-days of receipt. Boards of in-scope entities must also report the results of the challenge within 30 business days of a challenge being made. It is expected that challenges will be resolved within a 30 business-day period.

How is an in-scope entity required to notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of an athlete eligibility challenge?

Boards of in-scope entities should notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of an athlete eligibility challenge by contacting **[SPAR@gov.ab.ca](mailto:SPAR@gov.ab.ca)**. Notifications should contain no personal information about individuals involved in the challenge.

## Appeals

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Is there a process to appeal the decision of a board on an athlete eligibility challenge?

Pursuant to the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation, boards of in-scope entities may dismiss a challenge if, in the opinion of the board, reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge. Under the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation, boards must include a process by which such a dismissal may be reconsidered by the board.

## Reporting

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If an in-scope entity does not receive any athlete eligibility challenges nor requests for co-ed leagues, is it required to report?

Boards of in-scope entities are not required to provide reporting if they have not received any challenges related to the eligibility of an athlete. However, boards are required to report once every 12 months about requests for, or the establishment of, mixed-gender or mixed-sex leagues, classes or divisions.

## Additional Questions

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What is the Government of Alberta doing to protect in-scope entities from legal liability?

The *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*, section 6, includes protection from liability for in-scope entities.

Who should I reach out to if I have additional questions about the in-scope entity's policies?

Please refer to the in-scope entities' Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy for contact information.

What should I do if I have questions about the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and Regulation?

Please contact Tourism and Sport at [SPAR@gov.ab.ca](mailto:SPAR@gov.ab.ca).

## Appendix

Jurisdiction	Document Name	Website
<b>Alberta</b>	Photocopy of a Registration of Birth	<a href="#"><u>Order a birth certificate or document   Alberta.ca</u></a>
<b>British Columbia</b>	Certified True Copy of Birth Registration Document	<a href="#"><u>BC Birth Certificates – Vital Statistics Online Ordering System</u></a>
<b>Manitoba</b>	Copy of Registration	<a href="#"><u>Manitoba Vital Statistics Branch – Identity Certificates</u></a>
<b>New Brunswick</b>	Document is not available to order	<a href="#"><u>New Brunswick Vital Statistics – Birth Registration</u></a>
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	Certified copy of Birth Registration	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/vitalstats/"><u>https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/vitalstats/</u></a>
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	Restricted Photocopy of a Birth Certificate	<a href="#"><u>Order a Birth Certificate   Health and Social Services</u></a>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	Photographic Print of Birth Registration	<a href="#"><u>Vital Statistics fees for certificates, licences and services - Government of Nova Scotia</u></a>
<b>Nunavut</b>	Restricted Photocopy of a Birth Certificate	<a href="#"><u>Birth Certificate   Government of Nunavut</u></a>
<b>Ontario</b>	Certified Copy of Birth Registration	<a href="#"><u>ServiceOntario – Online Certificate Application</u></a>
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	Certified Copy of Registration of Birth	<a href="#"><u>Apply for a Birth Certificate   Government of Prince Edward Island</u></a>
<b>Quebec</b>	Copy of an Act of Birth	<a href="#"><u>DEClic!Online application for a certificate or copy of an act</u></a>
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	Certified Copy of Original Birth Registration	<a href="#"><u>eHealth Saskatchewan – Order a Birth Certificate</u></a>
<b>Yukon</b>	Restricted photocopy of the registration	<a href="#"><u>Application for certificate or search   Yukon.ca</u></a>