

## FAIRNESS AND SAFETY IN SPORT REGULATION

### Background

The Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (Alberta, 2024) requires all in-scope entities, including school divisions, to implement policies that ensure female - only sport divisions are reserved for athletes who are biologically female, while promoting inclusive opportunities for all students to meaningfully participate in school sports. This policy reflects the Division's commitment to fairness, safety, dignity, and respect for all students, while complying with legislative requirements. This applies to all amateur, competitive sport activities coordinated, regulated, or sponsored by STAR Catholic School Division for students aged 12 and older.

### Definitions

1. Biologically female athlete: An athlete whose sex at birth is female, as confirmed by a birth registration document.
2. Female-only division: A sport league, class, or division designated exclusively for biologically female athletes.
3. Mixed-sex division: A sport league, class, or division open to all athletes regardless of sex at birth.
4. Relevant sport: An amateur competitive sport governed or sponsored by the Division.
5. Board: The Board of Trustees of the St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School Division.

### Procedures

1. Athlete Eligibility
  - 1.1 Female Only Divisions - Only athletes who are biologically female may register or participate in female-only divisions.
  - 1.2 Mixed-Sex Divisions - All students, regardless of sex or gender identity, may participate in co-ed or mixed-sex leagues or divisions, where numbers and interest permit.
2. Registration Requirement
  - 2.1 At the time of registration all athletes registering for a female-only division (or their parent/guardian if under 18) must confirm in writing that the athlete is biologically female and understands the eligibility requirements under the Act.
3. Athlete Eligibility Challenges
  - 3.1 Eligibility challenges must be submitted in writing to the Principal or designate. Challenges must be made by an individual permitted under this policy (i.e. coaches, staff, or a parent of another athlete in the same division). All challenges will be assessed by the Division with confidentiality and respect for all parties involved.
4. Verification
  - 4.1 If a challenge is deemed valid the athlete will be required to provide a copy of their birth registration document to verify eligibility.

5. Participation During Review
  - 5.1 Athletes may continue participating until a final decision is made unless the board determines the athlete does not meet eligibility requirements.
6. Sanctions for Bad Faith Challenges
  - 6.1 The Division may impose sanctions for challenges found to be made in bad faith, including formal warnings or disciplinary action per the Division's Code of Conduct.
7. Appeals and Reconsideration
  - 7.1 The Division will establish a review process for decisions regarding athlete eligibility. Individuals may request reconsideration in writing within 10 business days of a decision.
8. Reporting Requirements
  - 8.1 All eligibility challenges and outcomes will be reported to the Minister of Tourism and Sport within 3 business days. Results must be submitted within 30 business days of a challenge. The Division will report annually on requests for or establishment of mixed-sex leagues or divisions.
9. Protection from Liability
  - 9.1 In accordance with the Act, no legal action shall lie against the Division, its staff, or volunteers acting in good faith under this policy.

Reference: Fairness in Safety in Sport Act and regulation (Bill 29)  
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