



Fairness and Safety in Sport Act

Questions and Answers

Fairness and Safety in Sport Act came into effect September 1, 2025

Purpose: Protect the integrity of female athletic competitions by ensuring women and girls have the opportunity to compete in biological female-only divisions

- Every athlete (12 years and older) registered to play in a female-only league will be required to confirm in writing that they:
 - Understand the requirement and;
 - The athlete meets the eligibility requirement
- Female athletes may continue to compete in male and co-ed categories.

Below are the questions that were addressed and answered on Sept 3, 2025. Additional questions will be added as they arise.

Will schools be required to create gender neutral or gender inclusive leagues?

No schools will not be required or expected to create new leagues

Do the forms need to be completed for intramurals?

No forms are only required for registered, competitive sports

When does an eligibility form need to be complete?

When any student athlete is trying out for female-only team, league, class, or division, we need to confirm eligibility.

- Male student athletes trying out for male teams, leagues, classes or divisions do not need to fill in the forms

Can a transgender male student still try-out/participate on male teams?

Yes transgender males, transgender females, or females can try-out/participate in male sports. No form is required.

If I have changed my name (preferred or legal), pronoun(s) and participated last year on a female-only team, league, class, or division, can I continue to participate this year as a female?

Unfortunately, no because the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act came into effect Sept. 1, 2025

If a student moves to a different school – does the form follow the student or does the student have to redo the form?

To ensure confidentiality the student athlete will be required to redo the form at their new school. The original form will remain at the original school.

Do athletes need to fill out one form that can be used for multiple sports as they occur throughout the year? Or do they require a form for every sport?

Student athletes are only required to complete the form once a year. The school will need to have a way to collect the data, store securely and be able to cross-reference it for the next sport. Do not attach this paperwork to off-site proposals. The forms need to be kept in an alternate, secure location and not with off-site proposals.

If a student changes how they self-identify during the year would they need to fill in the form?

Yes if a student now self-identifies as female, they would need to complete the form if they were trying out for a female-only team. If they were trying out for a male team, the form is not required.

Are the forms retroactive?

For this year only, if student athletes are still trying out or have made the team, they will need to complete the eligibility form.

- If students have been cut from a team, they do not need to fill in the form at this time (they may have to later in the year if they try-out for another team).
- Best practice moving forward, student athletes will need to fill in the eligibility forms and authorization to try-out forms at the same time prior to trying out.

Confirming that we are to send home the Eligibility Confirmation alongside the annual authorization form for athletics?

Yes. For this year, if the authorization forms have already been sent home, please provide the student athletes with a paper copy of the Eligibility Confirmation form to be returned as soon as possible. Best practice moving forward, student athletes will need to fill in the eligibility forms and authorization to try-out forms at the same time prior to trying out.

Will the CSHSAA and the CMLSAA athletics constitutions be updated to reflect the new policy?

Yes, this work will be completed. CSHSAA constitution was updated last June to include the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, but further updates will need to be made. CMLSAA constitution changes will also be updated to include the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act. Members from both associations will be included in the updates.

If a challenge is submitted, will coaches be notified of the athlete in question?

To keep a challenge as confidential as possible, coaches will not be notified. The education director will deal directly with the family of the athlete and all information will remain confidential. If schools are seeking support for students, the SOGI psychologist is available for consolation.

Can we add a button in PowerSchool to indicate that a family has signed the form at any point in the year so that we minimize duplication. (For example, the button that students have medical documentation or if they can use their cell phone.)

We will continue to look for ways to reduce teacher/athletic director workload but for the 2025-26 school year the forms will remain paper.

Does the act apply to school athletics only, or will the same process occur for club and community sports?

The Fairness and Safety in Sport Act applies to all competitive sport in Alberta.

What if a student's identify is challenged, the student is are non-Canadian born and they cannot obtain registration at birth documentation?

It is up to the family to collect this information and pay associated fees. The Government of Alberta will cover these costs, but the process for this has not been provided at this time.

Is the Athlete Eligibility Form Required? What if a parent/student refuses to sign? Is it possible for the child to play and then just follow the challenge process should a challenge come forward?

The Athlete Eligibility Form is required and if the parent refuses to sign the student cannot participate in try-outs or regular season for a female-only team.

What is the process for sports with both male and female participants such as cross country, track and field, badminton and swimming? Do we complete this for all the students running, swimming, throwing as female?

The process is the same for all sports including cross-country, track and field, badminton and swimming, This also includes non-CSHSAA sports such as golf and curling where students compete at a zone and provincial level.

What are the timelines if a challenge is initiated? How quickly do parents have to provide their child's registration at birth document?

The CBE is required to acknowledge the receipt of the challenge and notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport within 3 working days. The CBE must report the results of the challenge within 30 days of the challenge.

- Athletes can continue to compete in a female-only league, class or division until the CBE has determined that the athlete does not meet the eligibility requirements.

Can we post that tourism and sport email on our websites and direct parents/guardians to it?

Please do not post the Tourism and Sport email (SPAR@gov.ab.ca) on your website. If parents have questions, please use the parent letter and/or email that was provided on Sept. 2, 2025. If you require this information again, please contact Garry Tink (gctink@cbe.ab.ca)

What about students who might be 19?

The form will be altered to include student athletes who may turn 19 during the school year. The CSHSSA constitution states, under Policy 2 – Eligibility

- A student shall be eligible to participate in CSHSAA sanctioned sports for three consecutive years commencing in September of their Grade 10 year.
- The student must be registered in a minimum of 10 credits per semester.
- A student who turns 19 years of age before September 1st is ineligible for high school participation. A student who turns 19 on or after September 1st shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

Is this information to be collected yearly? It's quite disruptive to families to revisit this every year.

This information is required to be collected yearly

If a family refuses to sign the form...is there a next step like a concern and complaint form or should we direct them to provide feedback to tourism and sport?

Parents that have concerns about the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, please provide the parent letter and/or email that was provided on Sept. 2, 2025 and encourage them to contact the Minister of Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca. This is not a CBE regulation and will not proceed through our Concern and Complaint process.

Will teams potentially lose games/wins participated in if a student-athlete is found ineligible?

If a school, coach and team are participating in good faith, based on what has been provided to the school on the Eligibility Form, the team will not be punished.

Are schools who choose not to offer any competitive gendered athletics due to this legislation permitted to connect with other schools in cooperative club activities? Like inter-school intramurals?

Taking into consideration the history of competitive sports at individual schools and the other students/families that may wish to continue to play competitive sports, a school may decide to create an intramural opportunity for students. Schools are not required or expected to create new leagues, and caution should be taken before adding to the workload of teachers/coaches and other school-based staff.

As a middle school we have students in grade 6 who will be on sports teams who are not 12 years old and who will be competing in sports (cross country, junior divisions) with students who are 12 (or older).

According to the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, students that are 12 years old and older are required to complete the eligibility form. If students are 11 years old, they are not required to complete the form.

Do these students have to have parents/guardians sign the form?

Parents must sign the forms if students are under 18 years of age

What is the definition of class? The Act states "To participate in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport..."

In the case of this legislation, it is intended to be a synonym of league or division. The Fairness and Safety in Sport Act does not apply to Physical Education classes or intramural competition. A Martial Arts class is an example where athletes in amateur competitive sport may be grouped by age or weight class.

Importance of atheltics@cbe.ab.ca for challenges – confidential email

This is a confidential email for submission of challenges only. If you are looking for clarification or require information, please contact Garry Tink (gctink@cbe.ab.ca)

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

Please contact Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca