

## 503.5 Fairness and Safety in School Sport

### Purpose

Lethbridge School Division is committed to promoting fairness and safety in school sport in alignment with the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and *Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation*. This administrative procedure guides athlete eligibility for school-based extra-curricular competitive athletics in Lethbridge School Division and applies to all students aged 12 and older.

### Definitions

Extra-curricular school-based competitive athletics: School-based athletics in which student-athletes participate with the intent of developing skills, seeking excellence and competing against others in sports that are regulated, coordinated, promoted, or sponsored by the Division.

Female-only competition: A league, class, or division of a sport intended to consist entirely of individuals whose sex at birth is female.

Sex at birth: The sex listed on the athlete's birth registration document.

Birth registration document: A record, as defined in the *Vital Statistics Act* (Alberta) or its equivalent outside of Alberta, showing the athlete's full name, date and place of birth, and sex at birth.

### Procedures

#### **Section 1 – Athlete Eligibility**

- 1.1 To participate in a female-only competition, an athlete must be biologically female as stated on their birth registration document.
- 1.2 Female athletes may participate in male or co-ed competitions.
- 1.3 Mixed-gender or mixed-sex competitions may be offered when numbers warrant, as determined by the school principal.

#### **Section 2 – Confirmation of Eligibility**

- 2.1 At the time of registration, athletes (or their parent/guardian if under 18) must confirm in writing that they understand and meet the eligibility requirements.
- 2.2 Athletes registered prior to September 1, 2025, must also submit written confirmation of eligibility.
- 2.3 Failure to provide written confirmation will render the athlete ineligible for female-only competitions.

### Section 3 – Challenges

3.1 A confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility may be submitted in writing by:

- The athlete
- A coach of a participating team
- A parent/guardian of a participating athlete
- A school administrator

3.2 Challenges must be submitted in writing to the school principal and must include:

- Name of the applicant
- Name of the athlete and team being challenged
- The team/sport in question
- Supporting information for the challenge

3.3 The principal or designate will:

- Confirm receipt of the challenge
- Notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport within 3 business days (without personal identifiers)
- Notify the Associate Superintendent within 3 business days (without personal identifiers)
- Determine whether the challenge has reasonable grounds

3.4 If the challenge proceeds, the athlete (or parent/guardian) must submit a birth registration document.

3.4.1 Failure to provide this document will result in ineligibility to participate in female-only competitions.

### Section 4 – Verification and Resolution

4.1 The athlete can continue participation in the activity while the verification and resolution process is in place.

4.2 The principal or designate will verify eligibility based on the birth registration document.

4.2.1 If the sex at birth is female, the athlete is eligible.

4.2.2 If the sex at birth is not female, the athlete is ineligible to participate in female-only competitions.

4.3 The principal or designate will notify the Minister of the outcome within 30 business days (without personal identifiers).

### Section 5 – Invalid or Bad Faith Challenges

5.1 Challenges may be dismissed if:

- Previously resolved
- Insufficient information is provided
- The challenge is made in bad faith
- Other grounds based on reasoned analysis of the context of the challenge

5.2 Sanctions for bad faith challenges may include but are not limited to:

- Written warnings

- Code of conduct violations

5.3 All personal information will be treated as sensitive and handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws.

5.4 Birth registration documents will be used solely for eligibility verification.

### **Section 6 – Appeals**

6.1 The principal or designates resolution of a challenge may be appealed to the Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services.

6.2 Appeals must be submitted in writing within 10 business days of the decision.

6.3 The decision of the Associate Superintendent is final.

### **Section 7 – Reporting**

7.1 The Division will report annually to the Minister on:

- Requests for mixed-gender competitions
- Establishment of such competitions

7.2 No reporting is required if no challenges or requests are received.

### **References**

Division Policies & Procedures

Policy 503.5 Student Activities

Other

*Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation (AR 124/2025), Vital Statistics Act (Alberta), School Sport Alberta Policy Handbook*