

Administrative Procedure 326 FAIRNESS & SAFETY IN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The East Central Alberta Catholic Separate School Division (ECACS) is required to establish and implement an athlete-eligibility policy under Alberta's *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and *Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation*.

This Administrative Procedure is designed to uphold fairness, safety, dignity, and respect in school athletics, while ensuring compliance with provincial law. It outlines ECACS's processes for athlete eligibility, written confirmation, confidential challenges, verification, resolution, appeals, reporting, and privacy.

This AP applies to student-athletes ages 12 and older participating in a female-only league, class, or division of a relevant ECACS-sanctioned sport.

Definitions

Athlete: A participant registered in a relevant ECACS sport (junior/senior high interschool athletics).

Relevant Sport: An amateur competitive sport, or sport discipline, governed, regulated, or sponsored by ECACS or its schools.

Female-Only League, Class, or Division: A sport category intended solely for individuals whose **sex at birth is female**.

Sex at Birth: The sex recorded on an individual's original birth registration document.

Birth Registration Document: The original record of birth, listing an individual's full name, date/place of birth, and sex at birth (cannot be changed, unlike a birth certificate).

Applicant: An individual permitted to submit a confidential eligibility challenge.

Procedures

1. Athlete Eligibility

- 1.1 To participate in a female-only league, class, or division, an Athlete must be female by sex at birth.

2. Written Confirmation at Registration

- 2.1 At the time of registration, the parent/guardian (or Athlete if over 18) must complete ECACS's *Fairness & Safety in School Athletics Confirmation Form*, confirming understanding of eligibility requirements outlined in section 1.1 and that the Athlete meets them.
- 2.2 For Athletes registered prior to Sept. 1, 2025, schools/division must collect written confirmation.

3. Confidential Challenges

- 3.1 A confidential written challenge may be submitted to the ECACS Board when there are reasonable grounds to question eligibility.
- 3.2 Eligible Applicants include:
 - 3.2.1 ECACS teachers,
 - 3.2.2 Parents/guardians of an Athlete in the same sport category,
 - 3.2.3 Coaches or team managers in the same category,
 - 3.2.4 Other individuals deemed by the Superintendent to have a meaningful interest in fairness and safety.
- 3.3 Challenges must identify the Applicant, Athlete, team/sport, and the grounds for the challenge.
- 3.4 The Board may dismiss challenges without reasonable grounds
- 3.5 Sanctions may be imposed for challenges made in bad faith; good faith challenges will not be penalized.

4. Ministerial Notifications & Timelines

- 4.1 ECACS must notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport (without personal identifiers) within 3 business days of receiving a challenge.
- 4.2 Challenge outcomes must be reported to the Minister within 30 business days.

5. Verification (Birth Registration Document)

- 5.1 If a challenge proceeds, the Athlete (or parent/guardian) must provide a birth registration document to verify sex at birth.
- 5.2 The Athlete may continue competing until a decision is made.
- 5.3 Immediate document fees are paid by the family, reimbursed by ECACS, and later by the Government of Alberta upon request.

6. Resolution & Appeals

- 6.1 If found ineligible, the Athlete is permanently ineligible for female-only categories; if eligible, eligibility is permanent (subject to future law/policy changes). All parties and the Minister will be notified of the outcome (no personal identifiers) within 30 business days.

6.2 The Applicant may appeal a dismissal of a challenge to the ECACS Board of Trustees under ECACS's appeals policy. ECACS will ensure that its appeals policy or relevant procedures are referenced for the process and timing of appeals.

7. Protection of Personal Information

7.1 All eligibility-related information is treated as sensitive personal information, used solely for eligibility purposes, and handled in compliance with privacy law and ECACS policy.

8. Scope

8.1 This AP applies only to female-only leagues, classes, or divisions of relevant competitive sports.

8.2 This AP does not apply to classroom physical education or intramural/recreational sports.

Created September 2025

References

- *Bill 29: Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*
- *Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation (AR 124/2025)*
- School Sport Alberta

Form: AP 326-1 – Fairness & Safety in School Athletics Confirmation Form