



Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy

Updated August 29, 2025

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Effective September 1, 2025

About this Policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with [Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act \(Bill 29\)](#) effective September 1, 2025. As a relevant sport, Curling Alberta will implement required eligibility restrictions for female-only divisions while striving to maintain inclusive participation through other categories and opportunities (e.g. male, mixed, mixed doubles, etc.).

Definitions

1 In this policy,

- (a) "Relevant Curling Alberta event" means any sanctioned event, competition, or opportunity classified by Curling Alberta as competitive and where Curling Alberta collects athlete registration directly, including:
 - (i) Curling Alberta provincial championships and qualifying events, Canada Winter Games Trials, Alberta Winter Games and qualifiers, Arctic Winter Games qualifiers, the U20 Excel Cup, and Rockfest
- (b) "applicant" means one of the following individuals who submits a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility to participate in a relevant sport:
 - (i) athlete;
 - (ii) parent or guardian of an athlete if the athlete is under 18 years of age;
 - (iii) team manager of athlete; and
 - (iv) coach of athlete.
- (c) "athlete" means a participant registered in a relevant Curling Alberta event. This includes participants who reside outside of Alberta and are registered in a relevant Curling Alberta event.
- (d) "birth registration document" means a birth registration document as defined in the *Vital Statistics Act* or a similar document issued outside of Alberta that contains the following information respecting an athlete:
 - (i) full name of the athlete;
 - (ii) date and place where the birth of the athlete occurred; and
 - (iii) the sex of the athlete;
 - (iv) A birth certificate does not qualify as a "birth registration document."
- (e) "sex at birth" means the sex of an individual that appears on the athlete's birth registration document.

Purpose

- 2 The purpose of this policy is the promotion of fairness and safety in sport, by addressing matters of eligibility to participate in a relevant sport in accordance with the [Government of Alberta's *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act*](#) (the Act) and Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation (the Regulation).

Application

- 3 This policy only applies to participation in a relevant Curling Alberta event by athletes who are ages 12 and older.

Athlete Eligibility

- 4 To participate in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant Curling Alberta event, an athlete must be of the female sex at birth.

Confirmation of Athlete Eligibility

- 5(1) Before an athlete may participate in a relevant Curling Alberta event, an athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must declare through the registration process with Curling Alberta, that they understand and meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 4 of this policy.
- 5(2) Failure of an athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) to confirm their eligibility in writing with Curling Alberta will render the athlete ineligible to participate.

Confidential Challenge to Athlete Eligibility

- 6(1) A confidential challenge may be submitted by an applicant if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete is ineligible under section 4 of this policy.
- 6(2) A confidential challenge must be made in writing and sent to Curling Alberta at fairnessandsafety@curlingalberta.ca.
- 6(3) A confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility must include:
 - (a) the name of the applicant;
 - (b) the name of the athlete; and
 - (c) information that supports the grounds for the challenge.

Verification of Athlete Eligibility

- 7(1) Upon receipt of a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility under section 4 of this policy, Curling Alberta will confirm receipt and notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport, without personal identifying information, within three business days.
- 7(2) Curling Alberta may dismiss the challenge if, in the opinion of Curling Alberta's Board of Directors, reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge. Upon dismissal of the challenge, the applicant will be notified by Curling Alberta and may be subject to sanctions under section 9 of this policy. Curling Alberta will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the dismissal, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge.

- 7(3) If Curling Alberta does not dismiss the challenge under section 7(2) of this policy:
- (a) the applicant and the athlete whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge will be notified that the challenge is moving forward; and
 - (b) the athlete whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under the age of 18) will be required to provide Curling Alberta with a copy of the athlete's birth registration document.
- 7(4) Failure to provide the birth registration document as defined in the *Vital Statistics Act* or similar document issued outside of Alberta to Curling Alberta will render the athlete ineligible to participate in a relevant Curling Alberta event.
- 7(5) An athlete is eligible to compete throughout the verification process although the athlete whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge must officially request the birth registration document within three business days of receiving notice of the challenge.

Resolution

- 8(1) Once the birth registration document is received, Curling Alberta will verify the athlete's eligibility under section 4 of this policy.
- 8(2) If the challenge is upheld and the athlete is determined to be ineligible, Curling Alberta will notify the applicant and athlete whose eligibility has been challenged. The athlete will be permanently ineligible for participation in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant Curling Alberta event.
- 8(3) If the challenge is dismissed and the athlete is determined to be eligible, Curling Alberta will notify the applicant and the athlete whose eligibility has been challenged. The athlete will be permanently eligible for participation in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant Curling Alberta event.
- 8(4) Upon a determination under Section 8(2) or 8(3) of this policy, Curling Alberta will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the decision, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge.

Invalid Challenge

- 9(1) Pursuant to section 7(2) of this policy, Curling Alberta may determine that reasonable grounds do not exist for a challenge, including but not limited to where:
- (a) Curling Alberta has previously resolved a challenge for the same athlete;
 - (b) Not enough information has been provided to proceed as a valid challenge; or
 - (c) The challenge is deemed to have been made in bad faith.
- 9(2) Factors relevant to determining whether a challenge, dismissed under section 7(2) of this policy, was made in bad faith and merits appropriate sanctions for the applicant include, without limitation:
- (a) The applicant's prior history;
 - (b) A pattern of inappropriate behavior or numerous unfounded challenges under this policy; and

(c) The ages of the athletes involved.

9(3) Sanctions for an applicant may include, without limitation:

(a) A written warning; and

(b) A determination that the applicant has violated the Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct, where applicable.

Appeals

10(1) The applicant may appeal a dismissal of a challenge under section 7(2) of this policy. In this case, Curling Alberta's Board will reconsider the challenge and render its final decision within five business days.

10(2) Curling Alberta's Appeals Policy will not apply to the Board's decisions relating to the Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy.

Protection of Personal Information

11 All information and data relating to the athlete will be treated as sensitive personal information and will be processed as such in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information and data will not be used for any purpose other than to determine athlete eligibility.

Assistance with this Policy

12(1) Curling Alberta is committed to the participation of all athletes in accordance with the athlete eligibility requirements set out in this policy. Any individuals seeking information on the application of this policy should contact Curling Alberta's Executive Director for assistance or email fairnessandsafety@curlingalberta.ca.

12(2) Any individuals seeking information on the application of the [Government of Alberta's Act](#) and Regulation may contact the Ministry of Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca for assistance.