



August 29, 2025

To: Coaches, Officials, and Clubs/Schools

Re: Mandatory Implementation of Fairness and Safety in Sport Act Policy

Skate Canada: Alberta–NWT/Nunavut (Skate AB|NT|NU) is required by law to implement the Government of Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act and related regulations on September 1st, 2025.

While this direction from the Provincial Government does not align with Skate Canada's values, trans inclusion protocols, or Code of Ethics, compliance is mandatory for our continued operation as a Provincial Sport Organization (PSO). The Act does not align with Skate AB|NT|NU's position on inclusion, respect and acceptance of all athletes.

Who The Act Impacts

- Athletes 12 years and older
- Who are residents of Alberta
- Participating in a women-only competitive category

This policy does not impact club and skating school operations or registration. It does not apply to non-competitive events, out-of-province or international athletes, national or international events, or competitions in NWT/Nunavut.

For clarity this policy does not apply to: participation in a men-only competitive category, Star 1-3 events, pairs, ice dance, solo dance, synchronized skating, practices, assessments or day-to-day programming.

Key Requirement

- To compete in women-only categories, athletes must acknowledge (through Uplifter competition registration) they were female at birth (per birth registration documents).

Confidential Challenges

- Attending coaches in good standing in the same event/category can submit a challenge.
- Confidential challenges must be made in writing prior to one hour of the event ending and sent to executivedirector@skateabnwtun.ca. Bill 29 Fairness and Safety in Sport will be available on the Competition Information page of the Section website. The confidential Challenge Form will be found there.
- The process is strictly confidential and handled by the Section Board delegates. Breaches of confidentiality may result in serious disciplinary action.

Board Process & Timeframes

- The Board will review challenges within 3 business days and notify the Minister (without personal details).
- Athletes may continue competing while the challenge is under review.
- If upheld, the athlete is ruled ineligible for women-only categories in Alberta (ranking results will not be changed).
- If the confidential challenge is dismissed, the athlete is confirmed permanently eligible for women-only categories.
- Final notification to the Minister is made within 30 business days.



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Bad Faith Confidential Challenges

Confidential challenges made without reasonable grounds are considered in bad faith.

- Sanctions may be imposed on the challenger, including warnings, fines, suspension, or expulsion.
- Matters may also be referred to Skate Canada under its Code of Ethics.

Support and Next Steps

- A **virtual information session** will be held on **Sunday, October 5 at 7:00PM**. Details to join will be shared separately.
- The Skate AB|NT|NU Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy will be available on the website next week.
- 2025 Skate AB|NT|NU Sectional Championships will be the first event where category eligibility will be required during competition registration.
- Questions about this policy should be directed to info@skateabnwnun.ca.

Skate AB|NT|NU continues to affirm that skating in Alberta must remain a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every participant.

