



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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 [dmyers@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:dmyers@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.



**AB|NT|NU**

### **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@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:info@skateabnwtun.ca).

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

