

ENSURING FAIRNESS & SAFETY IN SPORT

This procedure is governed by its parent policy. Questions regarding this procedure are to be directed to the identified Procedure Owner.

Category:	I. Student Experience
Parent Policy:	I04
Approval Date:	September 12, 2025
Effective Date:	September 12, 2025
Procedure Owner(s):	Vice President, Student Experience Registrar & Director, Student Services

Overview:	The Ensuring Fairness and Safety in Sport procedure aligns with the policy ensuring compliance with the Government of Alberta's <i>Fairness and Safety in Sport Act</i> (the "Act") and <i>Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation</i> (the "Regulation").
Procedures:	<p>Confirmation of Athlete Eligibility Before an athlete may participate in a relevant sport, an athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must confirm in writing through the registration process with Olds College of Agriculture & Technology (the "College"), that they understand and meet the eligibility criteria set out in this policy.</p> <p>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 the College, will render the athlete ineligible to participate.</p> <p>In the event that an Olds College student-athlete participates in a provincial sport organization governed by the Act and Regulation, the provincial sport organization's determination of eligibility will be followed in alignment with this Act.</p> <p>Confidential Challenge to Athlete Eligibility A confidential challenge may be submitted by an applicant if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete is ineligible under this policy.</p> <p>A confidential challenge must be made in writing and sent to Olds College at registrar@oldscollege.ca.</p> <p>A confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the name of the applicant; 2. the name of the athlete, their club/team and sport; and 3. information that supports the grounds for the challenge.

Verification of Athlete Eligibility

Upon receipt of a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility of this policy, the College will confirm receipt and notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport, without personal identifying information, within 3 business days.

The College may dismiss the challenge if, in the opinion of the College, reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge. Upon dismissal of the challenge, the applicant will be notified by the College and may be subject to sanctions under this policy. Olds College will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the dismissal, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge.

If the College does not dismiss the challenge under of this policy:

1. the applicant and the athlete whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge will be notified that the challenge is moving forward; and
2. the athlete's 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 Olds College with a copy of the athlete's birth registration document.

Failure to provide the birth registration document as defined in the *Vital Statistics Act* or similar document issued outside of Alberta to the College will render the athlete ineligible to participate in a relevant sport.

Resolution

Once the birth registration document is received, the College will verify the athlete's eligibility under this policy.

If the challenge is upheld and the athlete is determined to be ineligible, the College 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 sport.

If the challenge is dismissed and the athlete is determined to be eligible, the College 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 sport.

Upon resolution, Olds College will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the decision, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge.

Invalid Challenge

Olds College may determine that reasonable grounds do not exist for a challenge, including but not limited to where:

1. The College has previously resolved a challenge for the same athlete;
2. Not enough information has been provided to proceed as a valid challenge; or
3. The challenge is deemed to have been made in bad faith.

Factors relevant to determining whether a challenge, dismissed under this policy, was made in bad faith and merits appropriate sanctions for the applicant include, without limitation:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant's prior history; 2. A pattern of inappropriate behavior or numerous unfounded challenges under this policy; and 3. The ages of the athletes involved. <p>Sanctions for an applicant may include, without limitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A written warning; and 2. A determination that the applicant has violated Olds College's Code of Conduct, where applicable. <p>Appeals The applicant may appeal a dismissal of a challenge in accordance with the College's Student Complaints, Disputes and Appeals Procedure.</p>
Definitions:	<p>Amateur Competitive: A sport or sport discipline where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an athlete's primary focus for participation is on development, such as providing competitive experience, skill improvement, and opportunities for active participation; and • an athlete seeks personal or team excellence, measures performance against others and/or seeks opportunities for advancement. <p>Applicant: One of the following individuals who submits a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility to participate in a relevant sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • athlete; • parent or guardian of an athlete if the athlete is under 18 years of age; • team manager of athlete; and • coach of athlete. <p>Athlete: A participant registered in a relevant sport.</p> <p>Birth Registration Document: 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full name of the athlete; • date and place where the birth of the athlete occurred; and • the sex of the athlete. <p>Relevant Sport: An amateur competitive sport or sport discipline governed, regulated, coordinated, promoted or sponsored by Olds College.</p> <p>Sex at Birth: The sex of an individual that appears on the athlete's birth registration document.</p>
Related Information:	<p>Fairness and Safety in Sport Act Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation Student Disputes, Complaints & Appeals Procedure Olds College Female Participant Confirmation Form</p>
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