



ABOUT THE POLICY

This policy is established under the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act and the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation. It sets out eligibility requirements for participation in amateur competitive sport at Tanbridge Academy and mirrors the Government of Alberta's model policy. Where the Act or Regulation provides additional guidance, that legislation will always take precedence.

PURPOSE

Tanbridge Academy believes that sport plays an important role in the physical, social, and emotional development of students. This policy ensures that Tanbridge athletics are conducted in accordance with the [Fairness and Safety in Sport Act](#) and provides clear standards for eligibility, fairness, and safety in all Tanbridge Academy sports programs.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all relevant sports offered, governed, or coordinated by Tanbridge, including school athletic teams, leagues, tournaments, and extracurricular sport activities.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Amateur competitive sport** means a sport or sport discipline where athletes primarily focus on development, skill improvement, competitive experience, and personal or team excellence, while measuring performance against others and seeking advancement opportunities.
- **Applicant** means one of the following individuals who may submit a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility:
 - the athlete;
 - the parent or guardian of the athlete (if under 18);
 - the athlete's team manager;
 - the athlete's coach.
- **Athlete** means any participant registered in a relevant sport with Tanbridge, including those who reside outside Alberta but are registered to play within Tanbridge programs.
- **Birth registration document** means a document issued under Alberta's *Vital Statistics Act* or an equivalent record from another jurisdiction, which includes the athlete's full name, date and place of birth, and sex at birth.
- **Relevant sport** means any amateur competitive sport or sport discipline that is governed, regulated, coordinated, promoted, or sponsored by Tanbridge.
- **Sex at birth** means the sex recorded on the athlete's birth registration document..



APPLICATION

This policy applies to all athletes 12 years of age or older participating in Tanbridge-governed amateur competitive sports

ELIGIBILITY

- To participate in a female-only league, class, or division, an athlete must be of the female sex at birth.
- To participate in a male-only league, class, or division, an athlete must be of the male sex at birth.

CONFIRMATION OF ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- At the time of registration, each athlete—or the parent/guardian if the athlete is under 18—must provide written confirmation that they understand and meet the eligibility requirements.
- If the written confirmation is not provided, the athlete will be deemed ineligible to participate in female-only sport categories.

CONFIDENTIAL CHALLENGE TO ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- A confidential challenge may be submitted by an applicant if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete does not meet the eligibility requirements.
- The challenge must be in writing and submitted to the Athletic Director.
- The written challenge must include:
 - the name of the applicant;
 - the name of the athlete, their club/team, and the relevant sport;
 - supporting information explaining the grounds for the challenge.
- Tanbridge will accept challenges only when sufficient grounds are presented. Challenges made repeatedly without basis or in bad faith may be dismissed and may result in sanctions.

VERIFICATION OF ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- Upon receiving a challenge, Tanbridge will acknowledge receipt and notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport within 3 business days, providing no personal identifying information.
- Tanbridge may dismiss a challenge if no reasonable grounds exist. In that case:
 - the applicant will be notified;
 - sanctions may be applied if the challenge is deemed frivolous or malicious;
 - the Minister will be notified (without personal information) within **30 business days**.
- If Tanbridge proceeds with the challenge:
 - both the applicant and the athlete will be notified;
 - the athlete (or parent/guardian) must submit a valid birth registration document.



- Failure to provide a valid birth registration document will result in the athlete being declared **ineligible** for female-only categories.
- Unless stated otherwise, athletes remain eligible to participate throughout the verification process.

RESOLUTION

- When a birth registration document is received, Tanbridge will review and determine eligibility.
- If the athlete is found ineligible, they will be declared permanently ineligible for female-only divisions, and both parties will be notified.
- If the athlete is found eligible, they will be declared permanently eligible, and both parties will be notified.
- Tanbridge will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the outcome (without personal identifying information) within 30 business days.

INVALID OR BAD FAITH CHALLENGES

- Tanbridge may declare a challenge invalid if it:
 - duplicates a previously resolved case;
 - lacks sufficient information;
 - appears to be made in bad faith.
- In determining bad faith, Tanbridge may consider the applicant's prior history, any pattern of unfounded challenges, and the age of the athletes involved.
- Applicants who submit bad-faith challenges may be sanctioned, including but not limited to:
 - a written warning;
 - a finding of violation of Tanbridge's Code of Conduct;
 - other reasonable actions deemed appropriate by Tanbridge.

APPEALS

Applicants may appeal the dismissal of a challenge under Section 8.2. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Principal, within 14 days of the decision.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Tanbridge recognizes that information relating to athlete eligibility is sensitive personal information. All such information will be collected, used, stored, and disclosed solely for the purpose of administering this policy and in compliance with applicable privacy laws.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated annually to students, parents, coaches, and volunteers.



ASSISTANCE & CONTACT

For additional information about the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* and Regulation, individuals may also contact the Ministry of Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca

COMPLIANCE & REPORTING TO MINISTER

1. **Annual Reporting Obligations** (per section 4 of the Act) Tanbridge will maintain records of:
 - Complaints about eligibility policies or decisions.
 - Requests and decisions regarding mixed-gender/mixed-sex participation.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z3Z3JiEHEUix5Kn_QfFcNeRXfb0W4eVeuRi87JD5wo/edit?usp=sharing
 - Other information as prescribed by Ministerial regulation.
 - Number and nature of complaints regarding eligibility.
2. **Reporting Process**
 - Athletic Director compiles data annually.
 - Principal reviews and approves.
 - Submission sent in the form and manner required by the Minister.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Athletic Director and Principal to ensure continued compliance with legislation, ASAA standards, and Ministerials