



**August 26, 2025**

## **Fairness and Safety in Sport: What families need to know**

At Grande Prairie Public Schools we want all students to feel welcome, safe, and supported in their extracurricular activities. To ensure fairness and safety, we follow Alberta's **Bill 29: Fairness and Safety in Sport Act** when organizing sports teams.

### **What the policy means:**

- **All students are welcome to participate** in school sports that match their interests and skills.
- If a sport is offered **specifically for female athletes** in grades 7-12, students must confirm they were **assigned female at birth** to be eligible to participate on that team.
- Parents (or the athlete if 18+) must **sign a simple declaration form** confirming eligibility.
- If someone has concerns about an athlete's eligibility for a female-only team, a **confidential review process** is available. The athlete can keep playing while the review is underway.
- Any decisions made will be handled respectfully and privately by school staff.

This policy helps our schools follow government law while protecting the dignity and privacy of all students.

## **Parent FAQ – Fairness in School Sports**

### **What is this policy?**

Alberta's **Bill 29** requires school divisions to have clear rules about who can participate in gender-specific sports leagues. This policy ensures our division is following the law and providing fair opportunities for students.

### **What does "female-only league" mean?**

This refers to teams or competitions designated for girls or young women, such as a junior girls' basketball team. To play on one of these teams, students must have been identified as female at birth.

### **Will my child need to share personal information?**

Only for female-only teams. A parent (or student over 18) will sign a short form declaring the student was born female. No medical records are required unless a concern is raised and reviewed confidentially by the principal.

### **What happens if someone questions a player's eligibility?**

- A parent, athlete, or coach can bring a **confidential concern** to the school principal.
- The student can **continue playing while it's reviewed**.
- The principal may ask for a **copy of the student's birth registration**.
- All decisions will be communicated respectfully and privately.

### **Can students still play if they aren't eligible for a female-only team?**

Yes. Students can participate on other teams (e.g., co-ed or open teams) if available. Principals will work with families to find a suitable option.

### **Who do I talk to if I have questions?**

Start with your school principal. They will answer your questions and support your child's participation. You can also contact the Division's **Director of Student Supports** for more information, 780-532-4491.