



Female Athlete Eligibility Policy

1. Overview

In accordance with the Government of Alberta's [*Fairness and Safety in Sport Act \(Bill 29\)*](#) and the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) Operating Code, St. Mary's University Lightning Athletics is committed to ensuring fair and safe sport environments for all student-athletes.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all St. Mary's University (StMU) student-athletes participating in female-only team, division, or category within ACAC-sanctioned leagues and tournaments.

3. General Procedures

3.1 Eligibility Requirement

- To participate in a female team, division, or category, a student-athlete must be of the female sex at birth.

3.2 Written Confirmation

- Before participation, each female student-athlete (or their parent/guardian if under 18) must confirm in writing—via the official StMU/ACAC Female Participant Confirmation Form—that they understand and meet the eligibility requirement above.
- Failure to provide this confirmation will render the athlete ineligible for participation.

Approval Authority	Responsible Office	Effective Date	Date Last Revisited	Review Frequency
President's Council	Enrolment & Student Experience	August 21, 2025		Every 5 years unless there are legislated updates.

3.3 Challenges to Eligibility

- In accordance with the ACAC policy, any confidential eligibility challenge may be submitted by an applicant in writing to the ACAC CEO (office@acac.ab.ca).
- Athletes remain eligible during the review process unless otherwise determined.
- The ACAC may dismiss the challenge if reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge.
- If the challenge proceeds, the athlete (or parent/guardian) must provide a birth registration document as defined by the [Vital Statistics Act](#) or equivalent from outside Alberta. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility.

3.4 Resolution Process

- If found eligible, the athlete retains permanent eligibility in Alberta female-only competition.
- If found ineligible, the athlete will be permanently ineligible for female-only divisions in Alberta.
- All outcomes are reported to the Minister of Tourism and Sport within required timelines, without personal identifying information.

3.5 Invalid or Bad Faith Challenges

- Challenges lacking reasonable grounds or made in bad faith may result in sanctions against the challenger.

3.6 Privacy & Data Protection

- All eligibility-related information is treated as sensitive personal information and handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws.
- Information will be used solely to determine eligibility under this policy.

3.7 Support & Questions

For questions regarding this policy, athletes may contact the StMU Athletics Director or the Ministry of Tourism and Sport (SPAR@gov.ab.ca).