

PARTICIPATION POLICY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Policy Section:	Public Engagement	Effective Date:	September 1, 2025
Policy Owner:	President & CEO	Last Revised:	September 2, 2025
Policy Administrator:	Associate Vice President, Public Engagement	Review Scheduled:	Every 4 years
Approver:	Executive Committee		
The official controlled version of this document is held with the Legislative Compliance / Policy & Procedure Coordinator.			

A. POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this Policy is to meet the requirements set by the Government of Alberta regarding the promotion of fairness and safety in sport, by addressing matters of eligibility to participate in a relevant sport in accordance with the *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* (the Act) and *Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation* (the Regulation).

The general supervision over and direction of the operations of Keyano College is the responsibility of the President & CEO (under section 81 (3) of PSLA; these are assigned to the President by the Board of Governors).

Scope

This policy applies to Student-athletes aged 12 and older participating in relevant sports within Female-Only Leagues at the College.

Policy does not apply to co-ed and participants in any men's or co-ed (mixed gender).

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 To participate in a volleyball, basketball, or soccer/futsal class or division of a relevant sport, an athlete must be female at birth.
- 1.2 The College is a member institution of Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC), and as such, we need to adhere to applicable legislation and the ACAC Code of Ethics and its policies.
- 1.3 Before a Student-athlete may participate in a relevant sport, a Student-athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must confirm in writing through the ACAC registration process that they understand and meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 1.1 of this Policy.
- 1.4 Failure of a Student-athlete (or their parent or guardian if the Student-athlete is under 18 years of age) to confirm their eligibility in writing with the ACAC will render the Student-athlete ineligible to participate.
- 1.5 Please refer to the ACAC form in Appendix B of this Policy.

- 1.6 A confidential Challenge may be submitted by an applicant in line with the ACAC Code of Ethics – paragraph 1.3.3 - if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a Student-athlete is ineligible for Sport participation.
- 1.7 In case of the Challenge initiated, the affected Student-athlete remains eligible to participate in any Female-Only League of Relevant ACAC Sports until a decision of the ACAC CEO is issued pursuant to section 5 of this Policy.
- 1.8 A confidential challenge must be made in writing and sent to the ACAC CEO at office@acac.ab.ca. Please refer to the ACAC Code of Ethics.
- 1.9 When it is determined that the Challenge or Appeal requests were submitted in bad faith, the ACAC may refer them to the ACAC Commissioner for a ruling in violation of the ACAC Code of Conduct and/or Code of Ethics.
- 1.10 The College is to be notified by ACAC in relation to the Confidential Challenge outcome.

2. PROTECTION OF PRIVATE INFORMATION

- 2.1 Records pertaining to the challenge and the decision will be maintained in compliance with the College's Privacy Policy and record retention processes of the ACAC, the Access to Information Act and the Protection of Privacy Act.
- 2.2 The College will not maintain a record of the affected Student-athlete's Birth Registration Documents.
- 2.3 ACAC will report to the government as required under the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act and the Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation.

3. ASSISTANCE WITH THE POLICY

- 3.1 Failure to participate in good faith in the eligibility confirmation process may result in an affected Student-athlete being found ineligible to participate in any Female-Only Sports Leagues, Classes and Divisions.
- 3.2 Any individuals seeking information on the application of the Government of Alberta's Act and Regulation may contact the Ministry of Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca for assistance.

B. DEFINITIONS

(1)	ACAC:	means Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference- it is a governing body, funded by Government of Alberta, that oversees intercollegiate sports competitions among member institutions, which include colleges and universities across Alberta
(2)	ACAC Men's Team:	means a varsity intercollegiate sports team that meets the qualifications to be considered for ACAC Men's Championships (incl. governance, regulation and coordination).
(3)	ACAC Women's Team:	means a varsity intercollegiate sports team that meets the qualifications to be considered for ACAC Women's

		Championships (incl. governance, regulation and coordination).
(4)	Applicant:	means one of the individual who submits a confidential Challenge to an athlete's eligibility to participate in a relevant sport to ACAC.
(5)	College:	means Keyano College.
(6)	Confidential Challenge:	means a formal Challenge to the eligibility of an Student-athlete to participate in Femaly-Only League of a relevant ACAC sport. ACAC deals with the Confidential Challenges.
(7)	Mixed Team/Co-ed:	means a varsity intercollegiate team on which at least one individual of each sex assigned at birth competes. Per legislation, male athletes are not eligible to compete in female-only categories. Example of co-ed team is Keyano College's E-Sports Team.
(8)	Policy:	means the Participation Policy for Student-Athletes.
(9)	Sex Assigned at Birth:	means the male or female designation doctors assign to infants at birth, which is marked on their birth records depending on birth jurisdiction. Government of Alberta listed these under: https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/ts-fairness-and-safety-in-sport-fact-sheet.pdf .

C. RELATED POLICIES

- Student Code of Conduct
- Student Rights Policy

D. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Access to Information Act & Regulation*
- *Fairness in Sport Act & Regulation, Fairness in Sport Fact Sheet*
- *Post-secondary Learning Act*
- *Protection of Privacy Act & Regulation*

E. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ACAC Operating Code of Ethics & Policies (link [here](#)) – section 1.3 Ensuring Fairness and Safety in Sport Act

F. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
08/20/2025	New Policy, mandated by GoA	ALL	Legislative Compliance/Policy & Procedure Coordinator Manager, Athletic Operations/Head Coach	Associate Vice President, Public Engagement Vice President, Academic & Student Experience

Appendix A

Female-Only Leagues of Relevant College Sports

This Appendix may be subject to editorial revisions as Female-Only Leagues might change.

WOMEN'S VARSITY SPORTS AT KEYANO COLLEGE

- Huskies Women's Soccer
- Huskies Women's Futsal
- Huskies Women's Volleyball
- Huskies Women's Basketball



Appendix B Student-Athlete Acknowledgement Form



ACAC Female Participant Confirmation Form in Compliance with Alberta Bill 29- 'Ensuring Fairness and Safety in Sport Act' (2025-26)

Participation within the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) is a privilege that requires full compliance with CCAA, ACAC and Government of Alberta requirements.

As of **September 1, 2025**, the Government of Alberta's 'Ensuring Fairness and Safety in Sport Act' (Bill 29) takes effect. [Ensuring fairness and safety in sport | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/ensuring-fairness-and-safety-in-sport)

This policy applies to all female participants participating in the ACAC.

Female Athlete Eligibility: To be eligible in the ACAC female divisions of League or Tournament Sports, all participating female student-athletes must be female at birth*.

****Birth Registration Document may be requested for confirmation***

- Before a female student-athlete is eligible to participate in ACAC sport, they (or their parent/guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must confirm in writing through the registration process that they understand and meet the eligibility criteria described in the 'Fairness and Safety in Sport' Act and ACAC Operating Code Article I, Section 5, 3.1.
- Any athlete (or parent/guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) who does not confirm eligibility in writing will be disqualified from participation.

Consent:

By signing this form, I confirm that I have read, understand, and comply with the requirements of the Government of Alberta's 'Fairness and Safety in Sport Act' (Bill 29) and as described in ACAC Operating Code Article 1, Section 5, 1.3, page.

Name of Student-Athlete (print):

Institution and Sport/Team:

Signature of Student-Athlete:

Parent/ Guardian Name and Signature (required for athletes under 18 years):

Date signed:

