

SWIM ALBERTA

Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (FSSA) Policy

Summary Information

Purpose of the Legislation and Policy

The [Fairness and Safety in Sport Act \(FSSA\)](#) was enacted by the Government of Alberta to promote fairness and safety in amateur sport across Alberta. It requires provincial sport organizations, schools, and other in-scope entities to:

- Establish and maintain eligibility policies for participation in relevant sports.
- Ensure clarity and consistency in athlete registration and eligibility verification.
- Provide transparent processes for handling challenges to athlete eligibility.

Swim Alberta's approved Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (FSSA) Policy aligns with the Government requirements, ensuring that Alberta's competitive swimming community is fully compliant while maintaining alignment with Swimming Canada and World Aquatics.

Steps Swim Alberta Has Taken

To prepare for compliance, Swim Alberta has undertaken the following actions:

- Participated in SPAR consultations hosted by the Government of Alberta.
- Met with Swimming Canada (SNC) to align implementation through to World Aquatics, identify challenges, and discuss registration (REMS) solutions.
- Held an internal review with Swim Alberta staff and AOCC Chair to evaluate Swim Alberta's policies and processes, ensuring practical application of the policy for competitions are addressed.

Outcomes/Findings

Swimming Canada:

- The FSSA aligns with Swimming Canada through to World Aquatics for event entry and competition administration.
- The current SNC "Gender" field is understood and applied as sex at birth. This selection at registration is what validates competition results.
- The SNC "Gender Identity" field remains optional, used only for communication preferences.
- The SNC "Gender" question will remain as is. As a result, Swim Alberta will have an additional question in REMS to meet the Government of Alberta requirements.

What Does This Mean?

For athletes, parents, and clubs:

- Two gender-related registration questions will now be present:
 - Mandatory: Gender
 - Mandatory: Gender (sex at birth) – Alberta only
 - Optional: Gender Identity
- Additional direction has been provided to clubs regarding the additional 'sex at birth' question in the 2025-2026 affiliation package
- Swim Alberta will use the Gender and the Gender (sex at birth) questions to validate registrations and results. Should the two mandatory questions not match, Swim Alberta will need to work with the club of the registered swimmer to resolve this.
NOTE: It is the responsibility of the swimmer/parent to resolve in REMS, this is not the role of the club registrar. Below is an illustration to support the validation process

