



Gender Competition Policy

Florida Region of USA Volleyball

Revised for the 2025-2026 Season

OVERVIEW: This policy applies to all youth and junior events sanctioned by the Florida Region of USA Volleyball.

POLICY: In accordance with the **Fairness in Women's Sports Act (SB 1028)**, signed into Florida law on June 1, 2021, and applicable to all youth athletics in the State of Florida, **teams participating in Florida Region-sanctioned events must be gender-specific across all age divisions**, unless otherwise permitted by the exceptions outlined below for developmental purposes.

I. General Compliance

- A. All teams must be designated as either **boys' teams** or **girls' teams**.
- B. Gender must be determined based on the **biological sex listed on the athlete's official birth certificate** issued at or near the time of birth, in accordance with Florida Statutes.

II. Developmental Exceptions

- A. To support inclusive opportunities for athlete development at the youngest age levels, the following exceptions are permitted **with prior Florida Region approval**:
 - 1. **Boys Participating on Girls' Teams** - Boys in **5th grade or below** may participate on girls' teams under the following conditions:
 - a) **Only if no boys' teams are available within a 75-mile radius** of the athlete's home address
 - b) **Roster Limit:** A maximum of three (3) boys per team.
 - c) **Age-Level Guidelines:**
 - (1) 5th grade or 11U - Eligible to play in **Girls 12U**
 - (2) 4th grade or 10U - Eligible to play in **Girls 11U**
 - (3) 3rd grade or 9U - Eligible to play in **Girls 10U**
 - d) This exception is intended to provide access where equitable opportunities do not exist.
 - 2. **Girls Participating on Boys' Teams** - Girls may participate on boys' teams under the following conditions:
 - a) **Only if no girls' teams are available within a 75-mile radius** of the athlete's home address
 - b) The athlete may **play up only one (1) age division** from their current age group.
 - c) This exception is intended to provide access where equitable opportunities do not exist.

III. Approval Process

- A. All roster exceptions described above **must be submitted in writing** to the Florida Region for review and must receive **written approval prior to participation** in any sanctioned event.
- B. Approved waivers will be valid **only for Florida Region-sanctioned events** and are **non-transferable** to other USAV Regions or National events.

Note: This policy applies solely to **Florida Region USAV-sanctioned events**. National-level competitions, other USAV Regions, and third-party events may have separate eligibility rules and restrictions.

Please contact the Florida Region Office at (352) 742-0080 or office@FloridaVolleyball.org with questions about the Gender Competition Policy.