

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.

Updated policy for 2025/26 season



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

- All teams must be designated as either **boys' teams** or **girls' teams**.
- 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

To support inclusive opportunities for athlete development at the youngest age levels, the following exceptions are permitted **with prior Florida Region approval**:

A. Boys Participating on Girls' Teams

Boys in **5th grade or below** may participate on girls' teams under the following conditions:

- **Roster Limit:** A maximum of **three (3) boys** per team.
- **Age-Level Guidelines:**
 - 5th grade or 11U → Eligible to play in **Girls 12U**
 - 4th grade or 10U → Eligible to play in **Girls 11U**
 - 3rd grade or 9U → Eligible to play in **Girls 10U**

B. Girls Participating on Boys' Teams

Girls may compete on boys' teams **only if no girls' teams are available within a 75-mile radius** of the athlete's home address, and:

- The athlete may **play up only one (1) age division** from their current age group.
- This exception is intended to provide access where equitable opportunities do not exist.

III. Approval Process

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.

- 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.
