



## **Fairness, Safety, and Inclusion in Sport Policy**

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025

**Approved By:** Rope Skipping Alberta Board of Directors

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline Rope Skipping Alberta's approach to compliance with Alberta's *Fairness and Safety in Sport Act* (Bill 29), while reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and aligning with the participation policies of Rope Skipping Canada (RSC) and the International Jump Rope Union (IJRU).

### **2. Legislative Context**

Under the Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy (Bill C29), effective September 1, 2025 sport organizations in Alberta are required to ensure that participation in competitive categories, over the age of 12, are based on sex assigned at birth -- unless otherwise directed by the Minister of Sport and Tourism. A female-only category is required.

As a provincial sport organization (PSO), Rope Skipping Alberta is legally obligated to comply with this legislation to maintain recognition and funding eligibility.

### **3. Conflict with Organizational Commitments**

Rope Skipping Alberta's Mission, Vision, and Values:

- **Mission:** To grow, support, and celebrate the sport of rope skipping in Alberta.
- **Vision:** A thriving, accessible, and inclusive jump rope community where every athlete can reach their potential.
- **Values:** Inclusivity, Respect, Excellence, Community, and Well-being.

Rope Skipping Alberta recognizes that the requirements of Bill 29 conflict with our commitments to:

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** We believe all athletes—regardless of gender identity or expression—deserve equitable access to sport.
- **National and International Policy Alignment:**
  - *Rope Skipping Canada* and the *International Jump Rope Union (IJRU)* explicitly permit participation in alignment with an athlete's self-identified gender.
  - Bill 29 places us at odds with these governing bodies, potentially isolating Alberta athletes in national and international competition.

## 4. Policy Statement

1. **Compliance Obligation:** Rope Skipping Alberta will comply with the requirements of Bill 29 as mandated by the Government of Alberta for competition categories within the province. RSA will have a Female, Male, and Open category. Only athletes that are assigned female at birth can register in the Female category. If less than the required number of athletes are register in the Open category, the athletes will be crossranked against the Female or Male category on a case-by-case basis using the RSC Rulebook as a guide.
2. **Advocacy for Inclusion:** While complying with Bill 29, Rope Skipping Alberta will continue to advocate for policies that align with our mission, values, and the inclusive participation standards of RSC and IJRU.
3. **Support for Athletes:**
  - RSA will provide safe, respectful spaces for all athletes, regardless of gender identity or expression.
  - RSA will offer resources, guidance, and support to athletes impacted by Bill 29 restrictions.
4. **Dual Policy Navigation:**
  - For **provincial-level events**, RSA will follow Bill 29 requirements.
  - For **national and international events**, RSA will follow RSC and IJRU's inclusive participation policies.
5. **Communication and Transparency:** RSA will clearly communicate with athletes, families, coaches, and officials about how these differing standards apply, and will provide transition support where conflicts arise.

## 5. Commitment to Ongoing Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as required if there are:

- Changes to provincial or federal legislation,
- Updates to Rope Skipping Canada or IJRU participation policies, or

- Feedback from our membership indicating need for revision.

## **6. Conclusion**

Rope Skipping Alberta affirms that sport is for everyone. While we are legally required to comply with the Government of Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy, we do so with deep concern for its impact on transgender and gender-diverse athletes. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion remains steadfast, and we will continue working with Rope Skipping Canada, IJRU, and our community to champion policies that uphold fairness, safety, and belonging for all.