



Florida Region of USA Volleyball

From the Office of the President

To: **Florida Region Junior Club Directors/Leaders**

Copy: File

Date: August 15, 2022

Re: **Can boys play on girls' teams in the Florida Region?**

Today I write to you regarding a recurring question that has been asked several times as we gear up for the 22/23 season. ([Q: Can boys play on girls' teams in the Florida Region?](#))

Attached you will find a copy of our Mixed Gender Policy for the Florida Region.

This topic is further governed by Florida State Law. In June of 2021, SB 1028 was signed into law. It is entitled the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. You can find additional information at the following two links:

- <https://www.flgov.com/2021/06/01/governor-ron-desantis-signs-fairness-in-womens-sports-act/>
- <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/1028>

The bill specifies athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls may not be open to students of the male sex. The gender on the birth certificate would govern the issue. The law references club athletic teams.

We have historically allowed a waiver for developmental purposes and to help in geographical areas where gender specific teams are not available. We'll continue to honor this longstanding policy for elementary school age athletes.

Please reach out to our office if you have any additional questions on this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bishop". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Bishop, Executive Director/President
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.

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Revised policy for 2022/2023 season.



MIXED GENDER POLICY:

Teams participating in Florida Region sanctioned events must be gender specific for all age groups, as outlined in the Fairness in Women's Sports Act (SB 1028) and signed into Florida law on June 1, 2021, except as noted below for developmental purposes:

- Boys competing on girl's teams
 - Only boys in grades 5 or below are eligible to compete on a girls' team
 - A maximum allowance of 3 boys can be on the roster per team.
 - 5th grade (or max 11u) can play Girls 12u
 - 4th grade (or max 10u) can play Girls 11u
 - 3rd grade (or max 9u) can play Girls 10u
- Girls competing on boy's teams
 - This is permissible if no opportunities exist within 75 miles of the home address, however the female athlete can play up no more than one (1) age division on a boys' team at Florida Region sanctioned events.

Note: For any of the examples above, the Region would need to approve the roster prior to competing in any Florida Region sanctioned events. These waivers, if granted, would only be applicable to regionally sanctioned events in the Florida Region.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This policy is for Florida Region USAV sanctioned events only.