Sam the Athlete

Can boys wear skirts too?

Sam the Athlete by Stewert Mclean is about a young boy going into middle school that has never been good at sports but still loves sports. When he finally found the one, he was required to wear a skirt to play! All throughout his elementary years, Sam has loved sports but wasn’t good at any of them. Going into middle school, he tried field hockey and found his sport! He ended up playing on a girl’s field hockey team by mistake. While playing, he pretended to be a girl wearing a skirt and shaving his legs. His mother found out of this catastrophe and called the school. She discovered that Sam could have played on this team, which is coed, and wasn’t required to wear a skirt. Sam being on the field hockey team, and wearing a skirt, made him feel happy and comfortable. He felt as if he fit in, therefore he should continue to wear it. After Sam’s first practice we know he was happy and felt great when his coach congratulated him ‘and Sam’s skirt was making him so happy–or, more to the point, he was happy when he was wearing his skirt’ page 68(6). As the story went on we see Sam beginning to accept himself for who he is and stopped worrying about school as much, even when his mom told him he can wear shorts ‘but Sam didn’t pay much attention to this. He had already decided he would keep wearing the skirt’ page 71(7). By the end, he had accepted who he was. He saved the last shot and won the game for the team, all the girls ran up and hugged him. That was the moment when he realizes he fits in. His bully was amazed and shocked on the sidelines. ‘Sam had always had trouble figuring out the rules, but maybe, just maybe, he wouldn’t have to. Maybe, if he kept hanging in, the rules would change to suit him, and maybe, if he were lucky, the game would change too.’ Page 72(8). Although Sam lied about who he was in the begging, he is now being true to himself and realized he is accepted. He should continue to wear the skirt because the skirt represents the sport he loves and who he has become.