

Student Athlete Revisions

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill requires degree-granting institutions of higher education to adopt policies concerning abusive coaching practices.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires a degree-granting institution to:
 - adopt a policy addressing abusive coaching practices; and
 - report to the Education Interim Committee; and
- requires a degree-granting institution's board of trustees to review and approve a degree-granting institution's policy on abusive coaching practices.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-1-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 3, 460 and 525

ENACTS:

53B-16-701, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53B-16-701** is enacted to read:

53B-16-701 . Abusive coaching policies.

(1) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Abusive coaching practice" means conduct by a coach or member of the coaching staff that creates ~~§~~→ **[an unsafe or] a potentially** ←~~§~~ harmful

environment for a student-athlete.

(ii) "Abusive coaching practice" includes conduct by a coach or coaching staff ~~that~~

with a student athlete ~~that~~

results in:

(A) harmful or offensive physical contact ~~that~~ ~~with~~ ~~that~~ ~~a~~ ~~that~~ [

student-athlete] ~~that~~ ;

~~(B)~~ **sexual misconduct or harassment;**

~~(C)~~ **inappropriate sexual language; or**

~~(D)~~ **conduct that a reasonable person would find to be psychologically abusive.**

~~[(B) psychological abuse of a student-athlete; or]~~

~~[(C) failure to act in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and well-being of~~

~~]~~ ~~that~~

~~that~~ ~~[a student-athlete:]~~ ~~that~~

(b) "Athletic department" means the division of a degree-granting institution responsible for overseeing intercollegiate athletic programs.

(2) A degree-granting institution shall:

(a) address abusive coaching practices by requiring a degree-granting institution's athletic department to adopt a policy by November 7, 2025, that:

(i) allows an individual to submit a complaint to the athletic department alleging a violation of the policies described in this Subsection (2)(a);

(ii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from encouraging or advising a student-athlete to tolerate an abusive coaching practice;

(iii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from discouraging a report for an abusive coaching practice;

(iv) establishes reporting requirements for a volunteer, coach, or member of the coaching staff who learns of an abusive coaching practice;

(v) mandates training for athletic department staff on recognizing and preventing an abusive coaching practice;

(vi) establishes a procedure for the athletic department to follow when responding to a complaint of an abusive coaching practice; and

(vii) institutes disciplinary action for individuals found in violation of the policies described in this Subsection (2)(a); and

(b) submit the policy described in Subsection (2)(a) to the board and Education Interim Committee before the Education Interim Committee's November 2025 meeting; and

(c) establish procedures to:

- (i) notify an individual of the receipt of the complaint the individual submits under Subsection (2)(a)(i), within five business days after the submission of the complaint;
- (ii) initiate an investigation of the complaint no later than 30 days after the receipt of a complaint;
- (iii) require an institution to ensure the investigation is as thorough and expeditious as possible; and
- (iv) where appropriate, act immediately to stop a program under an athletic department until the institution is able to restore ~~§~~ [a safe] ~~§~~ an ~~§~~ environment ~~§~~ that is not harmful ~~§~~ .

(3)(a) A degree-granting institution's board of trustees shall:

- (i) review the policies a degree-granting institution creates in accordance with Subsection (2)(a); and
 - (ii) approve the policies a degree-granting institution creates if the policies meet the policy requirements listed in Subsection (2)(a).
- (b) Upon approval of the policies by a degree granting institution's board of trustees a degree-granting institution shall send the adopted policies to the board.

Section 2. Section **53E-1-201** is amended to read:

53E-1-201 . Reports to and action required of the Education Interim Committee.

- (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board, including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants Program;
 - (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53B-33-302 and the report on research and activities described in Section 53B-33-304 by the Utah Data Research Center;
 - (c) the report described in Section 53B-1-402 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
 - (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section 53B-1-402;
 - (e) the reports described in Section 53B-28-401 by the Utah Board of Higher Education

- 91 regarding activities related to campus safety;
- 92 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
- 93 53E-1-203;
- 94 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
- 95 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 96 (h) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for
- 97 the Deaf and the Blind;
- 98 (i) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
- 99 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
- 100 (j) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening
- 101 programs;
- 102 (k) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
- 103 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 104 (l) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic
- 105 Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 106 (m) the reports described in Sections 53F-5-214 and 53F-5-215 by the state board
- 107 related to grants for professional learning and grants for an elementary teacher
- 108 preparation assessment;
- 109 (n) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the
- 110 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- 111 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation
- 112 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students
- 113 who are low income;
- 114 (p) the report described in Section 53B-35-202 regarding the Higher Education and
- 115 Corrections Council;
- 116 (q) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation
- 117 plans;
- 118 (r) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship
- 119 Program.
- 120 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional
- 121 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- 122 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53B-1-116,
- 123 53B-1-117, and 53B-1-118;
- 124 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53B-16-701 by a degree-granting institution

regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;

~~[(b)]~~ (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of specific assessments;

~~[(e)]~~ (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide assessment;

~~[(d)]~~ (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

~~[(e)]~~ (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in high poverty schools;

~~[(f)]~~ (g) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative education program;

~~[(g)]~~ (h) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and

~~[(h)]~~ (i) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services.

Section 3. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.