

Collegiate Student Athlete Bill of Rights – Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title; Findings; Sense of Congress

NCAA member institutions generate billions of dollars each year in media revenue due to the efforts of student athletes. Due to the record revenues that athletic programs provide for institutions of higher education, institutions have the responsibility to honor their commitment to student athletes and provide them with all the tools necessary to earn a degree.

Institutions of higher education exist to educate all students. Once student athletes sign their letter of intent to attend a particular university they should feel confident that regardless of injury or poor performance they will be allowed to complete their degree, so long as they maintain good grades and stay out of trouble. Additionally, institutions should ensure that student athletes who otherwise cannot afford proper health insurance are provided such insurance to pay for injuries sustained while participating in their sport. While many universities do provide student athletes with adequate protections, it is important that these protections are applied uniformly across all applicable academic institutions.

This bill will also ensure further protections for student athletes such as increased protections against concussions, increased protection against scholarship reductions and increased accountability on the institutions to provide for better academic support. By enforcing yearly concussion tests, ensuring stronger due process in scholarship reduction hearings and holding each team accountable to graduate their student athletes within 4 years, this bill will expand upon the goal of protecting student athletes both physically and academically.

Section 2. Program Participation Agreements

New Requirements for Programs of Assistance

- This bill shall apply to an institution with an athletic program that generates \$10,000,000 or more annually from sports media revenue

(A) Completion of an Academic Program After Loss of Athletic Scholarship

- *Loss Due To Injury*
 - Each student athlete that has contracted to receive athletically related student aid who subsequently becomes unable to participate in the athletic program due to injury or illness shall receive institutional student aid in an amount equivalent to the amount the student athlete would have received if the student athlete had not suffered such injury or illness.

- The institution of higher education shall provide institutional aid for a period that, when combined with any previously received athletic aid is equal to 5 academic years or until the student athlete completes their undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.
- If a student athlete takes a leave of absence from an institution due to the injury or illness, the duration of the leave of absence shall not count as part of the period of required institutional aid.
- *Loss Due To Exhausted Eligibility*
 - A student athlete who remains in good academic standing but has exhausted their athletic eligibility before they have completed their degree shall be provided with institutional student aid in an amount equivalent to the amount the student would have received in athletically related aid.
 - In this instance, the institution shall provide institutional aid for 1 year, or until the student athlete completes their undergraduate degree, whichever is shorter.
 - *Exception* – An institution is not required to provide institutional student aid to a student athlete if that student athlete participated in a team sport with a graduation success rate that is 70% or greater
- *Involuntary Loss For Any Reason Other Than For Cause*
 - A student who is involuntarily dismissed from a team, and who is in good academic standing, shall be provided with institutional student aid in an amount equivalent to the amount the student would have received if the student had not been dismissed.
 - The institution of higher education shall provide institutional aid for a period that, when combined with any previously received athletic aid is equal to 5 academic years or until the student athlete completes their undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.
- *Loss For Cause*
 - For cause means that the student was found by the institution to have violated academic or disciplinary standards.

(B) Annual Mandatory Workshops

At the beginning of each academic year, 1st and 3rd year students must attend and complete an “*Athletics Participation Readiness*” workshop conducted by the institution of higher education. This workshop shall include:

- Information about the long term dangers of concussions as well as other athlete safety issues
- Information concerning financial aid and debt management

- A recommended budget for student athletes for the academic year based on the institutions cost of attendance
- Information on time management skills
- Information regarding academic resources available on campus, including tutoring, career development, and career resources; AND
- An explanation of the institutions responsibilities and obligations to the student athlete with respect to scholarship renewal, medical insurance, and medical payments for injury and illness

(C) Disciplinary Actions

- If a student athlete faces a loss or reduction of athletically related scholarship for violation of a disciplinary standard of the institution, they shall be provided the opportunity for a formal administrative hearing and not less than 1 appeal

(D) Transfer Requests

- A request for transfer submitted to the institution by a student shall be granted or denied by the institution no later than 7 business days after submission.

(E) Health Care Costs

- *Pell Eligible Students*
 - Each student athlete who is eligible to receive a Pell Grant shall be provided institutional aid in an amount sufficient to cover:
 - insurance premiums,
 - deductibles,
 - any other cost sharing or out of pocket expenses including copayments
- *Injury Related Costs*
 - Each student athlete who suffers an injury or illness resulting from the students' participation in an athletic program shall be provided with institutional aid in an amount sufficient to cover:
 - the premium associated with the insurance plan,
 - any deductible related to such plan, AND
 - for a period of at least 2 years after the student athlete graduates or *separates from the institution*
- *Duration of Aid*
 - An institution shall provide a student athlete with health care costs until the injury or illness has been resolved and the student has been cleared by a physician to resume participation in an athletic program; OR
 - For not less than 2 years after the student athlete graduates or separates from the institution

- *Preexisting Conditions*
 - An institution shall not be required to provide health care costs for a preexisting condition

(F) Emergency Action Plans and Written Policies

- The institution shall have venue-specific emergency action plans, written policies and guidelines that are coordinated by the institution health care professional and rehearsed regularly:
- To include written policies and guidelines related to exercise and supervision for any student athlete deemed to have a medical condition that is potentially life threatening

(G) Sports Related Concussions

- Each student athlete participating in a “contact or collision sport” or a “limited contact or impact sport” shall receive annual baseline concussion testing by a health care professional prior to participation in any contact drills or activities.

(H) Compliance Costs

- Costs to the institution resulting from compliance will be paid from institutional revenue derived from media revenue