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**Student Athlete Revisions**  
**2025 GENERAL SESSION**  
**STATE OF UTAH**  
**Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes**  
**Senate Sponsor:**

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3 **LONG TITLE**4 **General Description:**

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

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

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

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 None

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 AMENDS:

21 **53E-1-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 3, 460 and 525

22 ENACTS:

23 **53B-16-701**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

24

25 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*26 Section 1. Section **53B-16-701** is enacted to read:27 **53B-16-701 . Abusive coaching policies.**28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a)(i) "Abusive coaching practice" means conduct by a coach or member of the  
30 coaching staff that creates an unsafe or harmful environment for a student-athlete.

- 31 (ii) "Abusive coaching practice" includes conduct by a coach or coaching staff ~~that~~  
 31a with a student athlete  ~~that~~  
 32 results in:
- 33 (A) harmful or offensive physical contact  ~~that~~ ~~with~~  ~~a~~  ~~student-athlete~~  ~~;~~  
 33a student-athlete  ~~;~~  
 33b  ~~that~~ (B) sexual misconduct or harassment;  
 33c (C) inappropriate sexual language; or  
 33d (D) conduct that a reasonable person would find to be psychologically abusive.  
 34 ~~[(B) psychological abuse of a student-athlete; or]~~  
 35 ~~[(C) failure to act in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and well-being of~~  
 36  ~~] that~~  
 36  ~~that~~  ~~[a student-athlete.] that~~
- 37 (b) "Athletic department" means the division of a degree-granting institution responsible  
 38 for overseeing intercollegiate athletic programs.
- 39 (2) A degree-granting institution shall:
- 40 (a) address abusive coaching practices by requiring a degree-granting institution's  
 41 athletic department to adopt a policy by November 7, 2025, that:
- 42 (i) allows an individual to submit a complaint to the athletic department alleging a  
 43 violation of the policies described in this Subsection (2)(a);
- 44 (ii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from encouraging or advising a  
 45 student-athlete to tolerate an abusive coaching practice;
- 46 (iii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from discouraging a report for an abusive  
 47 coaching practice;
- 48 (iv) establishes reporting requirements for a volunteer, coach, or member of the  
 49 coaching staff who learns of an abusive coaching practice;
- 50 (v) mandates training for athletic department staff on recognizing and preventing an  
 51 abusive coaching practice;
- 52 (vi) establishes a procedure for the athletic department to follow when responding to  
 53 a complaint of an abusive coaching practice; and
- 54 (vii) institutes disciplinary action for individuals found in violation of the policies  
 55 described in this Subsection (2)(a); and
- 56 (b) submit the policy described in Subsection (2)(a) to the board and Education Interim  
 57 Committee before the Education Interim Committee's November 2025 meeting; and
- 58 (c) establish procedures to:

- 59           (i) notify an individual of the receipt of the complaint the individual submits under  
 60           Subsection (2)(a)(i), within five business days after the submission of the  
 61           complaint;  
 62           (ii) initiate an investigation of the complaint no later than 30 days after the receipt of  
 63           a complaint;  
 64           (iii) require an institution to ensure the investigation is as thorough and expeditious as  
 65           possible; and  
 66           (iv) where appropriate, act immediately to stop a program under an athletic  
 67           department until the institution is able to restore a safe environment.

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

- 69           (i) review the policies a degree-granting institution creates in accordance with  
 70           Subsection (2)(a); and  
 71           (ii) approve the policies a degree-granting institution creates if the policies meet the  
 72           policy requirements listed in Subsection (2)(a).

73 (b) Upon approval of the policies by a degree granting institution's board of trustees a  
 74           degree-granting institution shall send the adopted policies to the board.

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

76           **53E-1-201 . Reports to and action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

- 77 (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring  
 78 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:  
 79 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,  
 80 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer  
 81 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants  
 82 Program;  
 83 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53B-33-302 and the report on  
 84 research and activities described in Section 53B-33-304 by the Utah Data Research  
 85 Center;  
 86 (c) the report described in Section 53B-1-402 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on  
 87 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;  
 88 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section  
 89 53B-1-402;  
 90 (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  
125 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- 126 [(b)] (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board

127 explaining the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the  
128 administration of specific assessments;  
129 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an  
130 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide  
131 assessment;  
132 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,  
133 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;  
134 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board  
135 evaluating the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective  
136 teachers in high poverty schools;  
137 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding  
138 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative  
139 education program;  
140 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding  
141 proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and  
142 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and  
143 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services  
144 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based  
145 health services.

146 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

147 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.