

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

30a environment for a student-athlete.

31 (ii) "Abusive coaching practice" includes conduct by a coach or coaching staff ←Ĥ→

31a with a student athlete ←Ĥ that

32 results in:

33 (A) harmful or offensive physical contact ←Ĥ→ [~~with~~] ←Ĥ _ ←Ĥ→ [a] ←Ĥ _ ←Ĥ→ [

33a student-athlete] ←Ĥ ;

33b ←Ĥ→ (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~~

] ←Ĥ

36 ←Ĥ→ [a student-athlete.] ←Ĥ

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] ~~§~~ an ~~§~~
- 67a environment ~~§~~ that is not harmful ~~§~~ .

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.