

# Connecticut Law on Student Athlete Compensation

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## Issue

Summarize Connecticut's law on student athlete compensation.

## Summary

Connecticut law allows students who attend or agree to attend a higher education institution in the state and participate or agree to participate in an intercollegiate athletic program to:

1. earn compensation through an endorsement contract;
2. earn compensation from employment unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program;
3. obtain legal or professional representation; and
4. earn compensation through an endorsement contract or revenue sharing agreement directly with an institution or an entity acting on its behalf, if the institution has a policy allowing it ([CGS § 10a-56](#), as amended by [PA 25-1](#), §§ 12 & 13).

Under the law, an “endorsement contract” is a written agreement to employ or compensate a student athlete for the use of the athlete’s person, name, image, or likeness (NIL) by another party to promote a product, service, or event. A “revenue sharing agreement” is an agreement between an institution, or an entity acting on its behalf, and a student athlete that allows the student to share a portion of the institution’s revenue as compensation.

The law requires institutions to adopt policies on these types of compensation and address certain topics related to them. It also places certain restrictions on institutions, athletic associations

(including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)), and athletic conferences. It specifies that the law does not make student athletes employees of their institution.

The law prohibits an institution from using state funds appropriated to it for student athlete endorsement contracts or revenue sharing agreements. Institutions, or entities acting on their behalf, can create, negotiate, assist, or enable opportunities for a student or prospective student to earn NIL or other compensation related to participation in an intercollegiate athletic program.

Public higher education institutions (1) cannot disclose records of student athlete compensation under the Freedom of Information Act without the student's written consent but (2) must, if they enter revenue sharing agreements with student athletes, annually report, beginning by January 1, 2026, to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on the total (a) amount of revenue used to compensate student athletes and (b) number of student athletes compensated.

## **Institution Policies**

The law requires institutions to adopt policies covering student athlete endorsement contracts, employment, and use of institutional marks (such as the institution's name or logos). These policies must:

1. require student athletes to disclose endorsement, employment, or representation agreements and provide copies of them to their institution;
2. prohibit agreements that conflict with an institution's agreements (the institution must disclose any conflicting provisions);
3. prohibit endorsement contracts and employment that interferes with official team activities and academic obligations; and
4. identify prohibited endorsements.

A student athlete cannot earn compensation through a revenue sharing agreement unless the institution adopts a policy permitting it and the student athlete complies with the policy.

## **Other Provisions**

An institution cannot (1) prevent a student athlete from earning compensation or being represented under this law or (2) limit eligibility for a scholarship or taking part in an athletic program because of it. But an institution, athletic association, or conference can prohibit participation, revoke scholarship eligibility, or take other actions if the student athlete does not comply with the law on compensation and representation.

The law does not:

1. require institutions, athletic associations, and athletic conferences to compensate student athletes for NIL or enter into revenue sharing agreements with student athletes;
2. require student athletes and others to compensate an institution, association, or conference for a student athlete's endorsement contract or employment activity entered into under this law;
3. qualify scholarships and other financial aid from an institution as compensation;
4. require institutions to take actions that violate the federal Discrimination Based on Sex and Blindness Act;
5. prohibit student athletes from employment activities involving coaching or playing a sport that are unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program;
6. prohibit institutions from using an athlete's NIL for official team activities; or
7. require institutions to allow student athletes to use institutional marks.

An athletic association or conference cannot, because of a student athlete's endorsement contract, revenue sharing agreement, or employment:

1. prevent an institution or athletic program from participating in intercollegiate sports;
2. restrict or revoke a student athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics;
3. prevent a student athlete from earning compensation from these agreements or having representation; or
4. act on a complaint, open an investigation, or take adverse action against an institution, an entity acting on its behalf, an institution employee, or a student athlete because of an act permitted by the law on student athlete compensation.

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