

Public Education Student Athlete Protections

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Katy Hall

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill prohibits a public school from participating in an association that governs athletic interscholastic activities in certain circumstances.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ prohibits a public school from participating in an association that governs athletic interscholastic activities if the association does not:
 - include certain policies in the association's policies; or
 - sufficiently enforce the association's rules and policies; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-7-1102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 408

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

Section 1. Section **53G-7-1102** is amended to read:

53G-7-1102 . Public schools prohibited from membership.

(1) A public school may not be a member of or pay dues to an association that:

(a) is not in compliance with:

(i) this part;

(ii) Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act;

(iii) Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and

(iv) Title 67, Chapter 16, Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act;

31 (b) does not collect each student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in
32 Section 53G-6-1001, or subject to Subsection (3), equivalent documentation, as
33 described in Subsection (2)(a), to determine eligibility as a condition of the
34 association's registration process for an athletic team, event, or category;[or]
35 (c) does not require a student to provide the student's date of birth and sex as a condition
36 of the registration process for an athletic team, event, or category[.] ;
37 (d) does not include the following policies in the association's bylaws or policies:
38 (i) providing moratorium periods for all sports statewide during the Independence
39 Day, Thanksgiving, and winter break holidays;
40 (ii) providing a summer moratorium:
41 (A) for the 2026 summer, at least once on a sport-by-sport basis on the state,
42 region, district, or school level; and
43 (B) beginning in 2027, at least once during the summer, on the state, region,
44 district, or school level for all sports;
45 (iii) imposing a sport-specific off-season moratorium of at least eight total weeks,
46 either consecutively or in two four-week segments ~~H~~→, which may include
46a reasonable accommodations to address the needs of rural schools and the regions
46b of rural schools ~~H~~ ;
47 (iv) imposing a practice limit of no higher than 15 hours per week and three hours per
48 day, with a limited exception outside of the school year that the association
49 defines for an intensive training camp or fundraising event; and
50 (v) definitions that, in relation to enforcing a moratorium or computing time for a
51 participation limit:
52 (A) count practice time, team meetings, film study, or any other gathering for a
53 specific team or sport; and
54 (B) may exclude time in weight training or conditioning classes that are not
55 dedicated for a specific team or sport;
56 (e) does not establish penalties for an infraction of association policies or rules by a
57 member school; and
58 (f) does not equally enforce the penalties described in Subsection (1)(e) on every
59 member school.
60 (2)(a) For a student who is not a United States citizen and who is unable to provide an
61 unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-1001, the
62 association may collect the student's:

- (i) state-issued identification document, including a driver's license or passport; or
- (ii) federally recognized identification document, including a document that the Department of Homeland Security issues.

(b) If a student who is not a United States citizen is unable to provide a document under Subsection (2)(a), the association may collect other reliable proof of a student's date of birth and sex, including:

- (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or legal guardian attesting:
 - (A) to the student's date of birth and sex; and
 - (B) that the parent or legal guardian is unable to obtain a document described in Subsection (2)(a); and
- (ii) one of the following:
 - (A) a religious, hospital, or physician certificate;
 - (B) verified school records;
 - (C) verified immunization records; or
 - (D) documentation from a social service provider.

(a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to an association for a student who is a homeless child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.

(b) For a student who is a homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied homeless child or youth, an association may collect:

- (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or guardian, or the student if the student is an unaccompanied homeless child or youth, indicating that the student does not meet the necessary requirements to obtain a document described in Subsection (2)(a); and
- (ii) a document described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii).

Nothing in this section limits or impairs an LEA's requirement to verify a student's initial review of eligibility to participate in an athletic team, event, or category under applicable state or federal law or state board rule, including the student's:

- (a) residency status;
- (b) age;
- (c) sex, verified by the student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-1001;
- (d) academic requirements; or
- (e) school enrollment capacity.

97 (5) Unless otherwise specified, an association's compliance with or an association employee
98 or officer's compliance with the provisions described in Subsection (1) does not alter:
99 (a) the association's public or private status; or
100 (b) the public or private employment status of the employee or officer.

101 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

102 This bill takes effect on August 1, 2026.