

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;

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

- 65 Department of Homeland Security issues.
- 66 (b) If a student who is not a United States citizen is unable to provide a document under
- 67 Subsection (2)(a), the association may collect other reliable proof of a student's date
- 68 of birth and sex, including:
- 69 (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or legal guardian attesting:
- 70 (A) to the student's date of birth and sex; and
- 71 (B) that the parent or legal guardian is unable to obtain a document described in
- 72 Subsection (2)(a); and
- 73 (ii) one of the following:
- 74 (A) a religious, hospital, or physician certificate;
- 75 (B) verified school records;
- 76 (C) verified immunization records; or
- 77 (D) documentation from a social service provider.
- 78 (3)(a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to an association for a student who is a homeless
- 79 child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42
- 80 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.
- 81 (b) For a student who is a homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied
- 82 homeless child or youth, an association may collect:
- 83 (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or guardian, or the student if the student is an
- 84 unaccompanied homeless child or youth, indicating that the student does not meet
- 85 the necessary requirements to obtain a document described in Subsection (2)(a);
- 86 and
- 87 (ii) a document described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii).
- 88 (4) Nothing in this section limits or impairs an LEA's requirement to verify a student's
- 89 initial review of eligibility to participate in an athletic team, event, or category under
- 90 applicable state or federal law or state board rule, including the student's:
- 91 (a) residency status;
- 92 (b) age;
- 93 (c) sex, verified by the student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in
- 94 Section 53G-6-1001;
- 95 (d) academic requirements; or
- 96 (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.