

SENATE FILE NO. SF0053

Keeping amateurism in high school athletics.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Crum, Boner, Cooper, Crago, Landen, Nethercott, Schuler and Steinmetz and Representative(s) Andrew, Geringer, Harshman and Wylie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring amateur status for
2 participation in high school athletic activities;
3 specifying requirements for amateur status; providing
4 exceptions; and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-25-401 is created to read:

9

10 ARTICLE 4

11 AMATEUR STATUS REQUIRED FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

12

13 **21-25-401. Amateur status requirements.**

14

1 (a) A student who represents a Wyoming high school in
2 a sport or activity sanctioned by the Wyoming high school
3 activities association shall be an amateur in that sport or
4 activity as provided in this section.

5

6 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of
7 this section, a student forfeits amateur status in a sport
8 or activity by:

9

10 (i) Competing for or accepting money or other
11 monetary compensation for competing in that sport or
12 activity;

13

14 (ii) Receiving any award or prize of monetary
15 value for competing in that sport or activity that exceeds
16 the amount that has been approved by the Wyoming high
17 school activities association;

18

19 (iii) Capitalizing on the student's athletic
20 fame or the student's name, image or likeness by receiving
21 money, gifts of monetary value, merchandise or other
22 consideration related to competing in that sport or
23 activity;

1

2 (iv) Signing a professional playing contract in
3 that sport or activity. This paragraph shall not prohibit
4 signing a letter of intent or similar document to commit to
5 a college, provided that no compensation is paid in any
6 manner while the student is participating in the sport or
7 activity.

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9 (c) The following activities do not forfeit amateur
10 status under this section:

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12 (i) Accepting money or other monetary
13 compensation provided by a family member to a student to
14 encourage the student to participate in the sport or
15 activity;

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1 competition, the student or the student's parent or
2 guardian shall complete a written declaration prior to the
3 competition that specifies that the student, and the
4 student's parent or guardian if applicable, will not accept
5 any prize money and will only accept awards that do not
6 exceed the awards amount authorized by the Wyoming high
7 school activities association. This paragraph shall not
8 authorize the payment of any money or monetary compensation
9 that is contingent upon the student's or the team's finish
10 or performance or that is given as an incentive to achieve
11 a specific goal or performance. Nothing in this paragraph
12 shall be deemed to authorize the payment of any money or
13 monetary compensation for participating in events
14 sanctioned by the Wyoming high school activities
15 association or for competing for or on behalf of a Wyoming
16 high school;

17

18 (iii) Accepting necessary meals, lodging and
19 transportation to play in a competition for a sport or
20 activity;

21

1 (iv) Accepting a nominal fee or salary for
2 instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized
3 youth sports program, recreation or playground activity;

4

5 (v) A school sponsored membership or fee that is
6 paid for the student to participate in a youth serving
7 agency, athletic club, community recreation center,
8 instructional program, camp or similar program if the fee
9 is paid directly to the program or agency;

10

11 (vi) Receiving an award, playing equipment,
12 prize of monetary value or other consideration that does
13 not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Wyoming high
14 school activities association;

15

16 (vii) Receiving nonmonetary benefits or awards
17 provided to members of an Olympic team or junior national
18 team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including
19 entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone
20 service, internet access and any other item or service for
21 which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is
22 available to all members of the nation's Olympic or junior

1 national team or the specific Olympic or junior national
2 team in question;

3

4 (viii) Accepting funds that are administered by
5 the United States Olympic committee pursuant to its
6 operation gold program;

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8 (ix) Participating in member school, charitable
9 or educational promotions or fund raising activities that
10 involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to
11 obtain funds from donors, including swim-a-thons,
12 lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons or other similar events,
13 provided no compensation or prizes are given to the
14 student-athletes based on their performance. Items that are
15 provided to indicate participation in the activity
16 including shirts, bags or other similar items shall not
17 waive amateur status if the items are offered to every
18 student-athlete involved;

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20 (x) Accepting scholarship funds, provided the
21 funds are paid directly to a postsecondary institution and
22 the funds are not available until after the student has
23 graduated from high school.

1

2 (d) Violation of this section shall result in the
3 student becoming ineligible to participate in the sport or
4 activity concerned.

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6 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

7

8 (END)