

Comparison of Major Federal Proposals Affecting College Sports

(Prepared by Greenberg Traurig for the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; May 12, 2026)

	EO 14400	SCORE Act	SAFE Act	College Sports Competitiveness Act	Student Athlete Act
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age-based eligibility limits, with no more than five years of participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes NCAA to set limits on minimum and maximum age, and length of time an athlete is eligible 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to five consecutive years
Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One transfer with immediate eligibility (plus one post-graduate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One transfer with immediate eligibility (plus one post-graduate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two transfers with immediate eligibility 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One transfer with immediate eligibility
Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs NCAA to create national agent registry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with NCAA unless written waiver Caps fees at 5% for endorsement contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with state NCAA database created Caps fees at 5% for endorsement contract 		
NIL Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bans third-party pay-for-play payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One national standard Allows school code of conduct restrictions Third-party NIL must meet fair market value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One national standard Third-party NIL must meet fair market value Permits Int'l athlete NIL 		
Media Rights			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates Committee on Sports Media Rights Authority to market and negotiate collective media rights for all FBS All FBS schools will receive more revenue than previous year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes a voluntary association to pool collective media rights from football Distribution formula and 14-member board for FBS football revenues 	
Antitrust Exemptions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad: covers NIL disclosure, recruiting timelines, NIL pool limit, eligibility, playing & practice seasons, championship selection, membership criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption limited to expanded Sports Broadcasting Act (SBA) Committee to determine media revenue distribution to benefit all of DI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption for associations that pool media rights, subject to meeting conditions set forth under bill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption for transfer rules

	EO 14400	SCORE Act	SAFE Act	College Sports Competitiveness Act	Student Athlete Act
Preemption of State Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs U.S. Attorney General to take action to invalidate conflicting state laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preempts state laws on SA compensation, benefits, or employment status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preempts state laws on NIL contracts, transfers, caps on agent fees State laws preserved on consumer protection, antitrust, IP, agent registration 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preempts state laws on eligibility and transfer portal
Employee status		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents athlete employee status 			
Women’s and Olympic sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional NIL revenue sharing must preserve or expand scholarships and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a minimum of 16 varsity sports if any coach is paid \$250,000 or more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires at least as many scholarships and roster spots as '23-'24 for schools receiving SBA pooled football revenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires at least as many scholarships and roster spots as '23-'24 for schools receiving SBA pooled football revenues 	
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noncompliant schools subject to suspension or ban from federal grants and contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National governing body (NCAA, College Sports Commission) State AGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Trade Commission (FTC) State AGs Athlete private right of action 		

Policies Referenced in the Table:

EO 14400: Executive Order entitled “Urgent National Action to Save College Sports,” issued April 3, 2026

SCORE Act: Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (H.R. 4312), introduced by Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL) and 21 House Members

SAFE Act: Student Athlete Fairness and Enforcement Act (S. 2932), introduced by Senators Cantwell (D-WA), Booker (D-NJ), and Blumenthal (D-CT)

College Sports Competitiveness Act: unnumbered bill from Senators Schmitt (R-MO) and Cantwell (D-WA)

Student Athlete Act: (S. 4177), introduced by Senators Tuberville (R-AL) and Moody (R-FL)

*This table includes only the House bill that has received committee approval, Senate bills that address eligibility rules and an antitrust exemption, and the recent Executive Order. Other college sports bills introduced in the 119th Congress are not included due to their limited scope or lack of support as of May 8, 2026.