



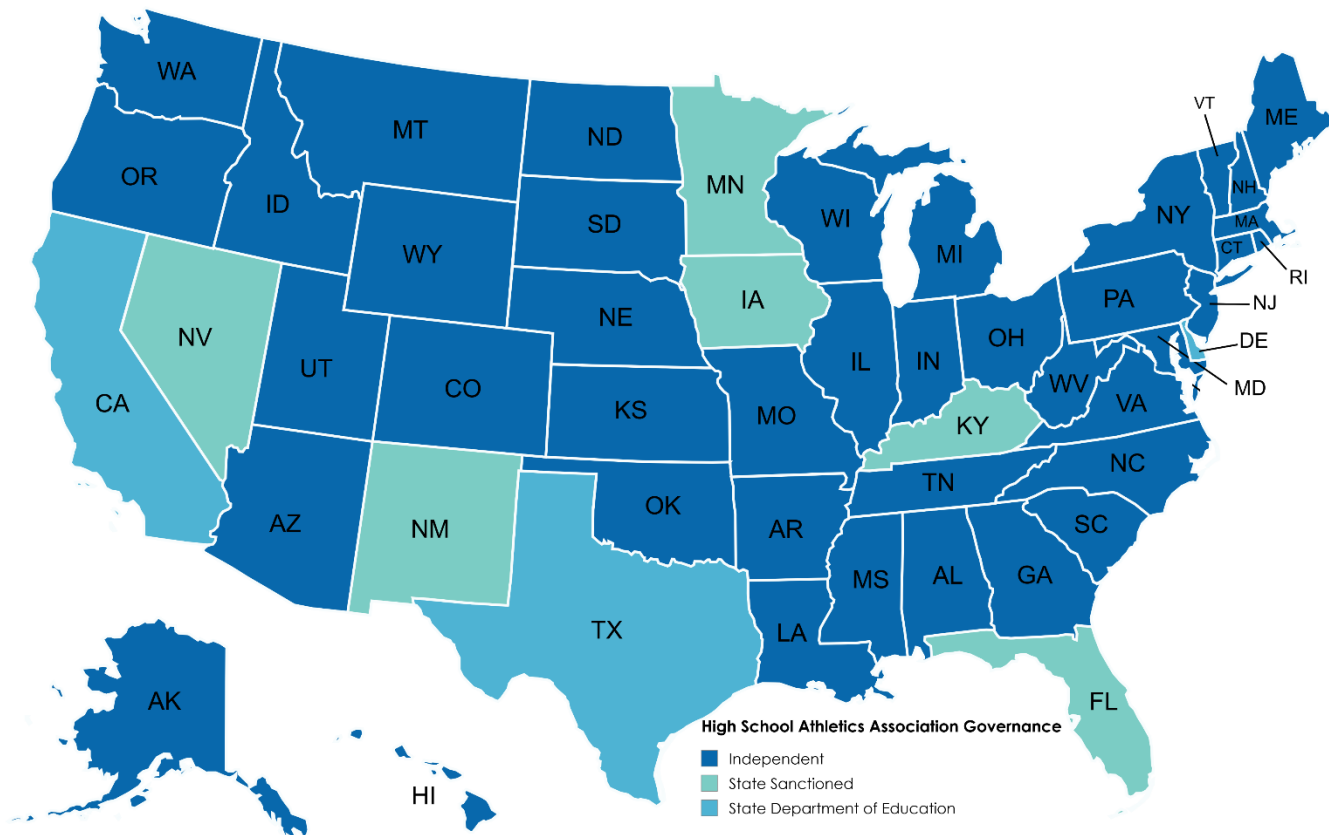
Overview of State Laws Governing High School Athletics Associations (March 25, 2026)

Executive Summary

Wisconsin is widely believed to have established the first school athletics association in 1895. In the following decades, other states followed the Badger State’s lead, and by the 1970s, all states had such a governing body for secondary school athletics. While the vast majority of state high school athletics associations – or HSAA – are independent nonprofit organizations, a few – namely California, Delaware, and Texas – are governed directly by the state department of education or affiliated state agency, with another six – including Florida and Kentucky in the South – having statutory or regulatory language legally sanctioning the state HSAA as the official governing body for high school sports and activities.¹ Diving deeper into this administrative landscape, this **CSG South Research Memo** examines the administration and governance structures of HSAA as well as areas of state oversight and recent legislative proposals.

Findings and Analysis

Figure 1. Comparison of State HSAA Governance



¹ National Federation of State High School Associations (2026).



State HSAA Governance Comparisons

Table 1. State High School Athletic Associations (HSAA)

State Association	Year Founded	Governance Type	Statute
Alabama High School Athletic Association	1921	Independent	-
Alaska School Activities Association	1957	Independent	-
Arizona Interscholastic Association	1913	Independent	-
Arkansas Activities Association	1904	Independent	-
California Interscholastic Federation	1914	State Department of Education	<i>Cal. Edu. Code § 33353</i>
Colorado High School Activities Association	1921	Independent	-
Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference	1921	Independent	-
Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association	1947	State Department of Education	<i>14 Del. Code § 301, et seq.</i>
Florida High School Athletic Association	1920	State Sanctioned	<i>Fla. Stat. § 1006.20</i>
Georgia High School Association	1908	Independent	-
Hawaii High School Athletic Association	1956	Independent	-
Idaho High School Activities Association	1925	Independent	-
Illinois High School Association	1900	Independent	-
Indiana High School Athletic Association	1903	Independent	-
Iowa High School Athletic Association	1904	State Sanctioned	<i>Iowa Admin. Code 281-36.2(280)</i>
Kansas State High School Activities Association	1937	Independent	-
Kentucky High School Athletic Association	1917	State Sanctioned	<i>702 Ky. Admin. Reg. 7:065</i>
Louisiana High School Athletic Association	1920	Independent	-
Maine Principals' Association Division of Interscholastic Activities	1927	Independent	-
Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association	1946	Independent	-
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association	1978	Independent	-
Michigan High School Athletic Association	1924	Independent	-
Minnesota State High School League	1916	State Sanctioned	<i>Minn. Rev. Stat. 128C.01, et seq.</i>
Mississippi High School Activities Association	1922	Independent	-
Missouri State High School Activities Association	1926	Independent	-
Montana High School Association	1921	Independent	-
Nebraska School Activities Association	1910	Independent	-
Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association	1922	State Sanctioned	<i>Nev. Rev. Stat. 385B.010, et seq.</i>
New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association	1947	Independent	-



State Association	Year Founded	Governance Type	Statute
New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association	1918	Independent	-
New Mexico Activities Association	1921	State Sanctioned	<i>N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-2(L)</i>
New York State Public High School Athletic Association	1923	Independent	-
North Carolina High School Athletic Association	1913	Independent	-
North Dakota High School Activities Association	1908	Independent	-
Ohio High School Athletic Association	1907	Independent	-
Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association	1911	Independent	-
Oregon School Activities Association	1918	Independent	-
Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association	1913	Independent	-
Rhode Island Interscholastic League	1899	Independent	-
South Carolina High School League	1913	Independent	-
South Dakota High School Activities Association	1905	Independent	-
Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association	1925	Independent	-
Texas University Interscholastic League	1910	State Department of Education	<i>Tex. Edu. Code § 7.055(b)(41)</i>
Utah High School Activities Association	1927	Independent	-
Vermont Principals Association	1915	Independent	-
Virginia High School League	1913	Independent	-
Washington Interscholastic Activities Association	1905	Independent	-
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission	1914	Independent	-
Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association	1895	Independent	-
Wyoming High School Activities Association	1920	Independent	-

State Department of Education Oversight

California

California Education Code Section 33353 establishes a state oversight framework for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)—a voluntary body that governs high school athletics—by imposing transparency, accountability, and public governance requirements while preserving some aspects of the CIF’s operational independence. Notably, the law directs the federation to implement specific governance reforms in consultation with the state education department, follow state open meetings and records laws, and establish appeals or audit procedures.



Additionally, the CIF is required to report to the Legislature and Governor every seven years on the federation's governance effectiveness, public communications, coaching oversight, gender equity, health and safety compliance, financial sustainability, and emerging trends in amateur athletics. The Legislature retains the right to hold oversight hearings on the CIF, and the CIF must allow public comment periods when enacting new rules or policies. While the federation runs itself, it is ultimately answerable to the Department of Education through mandated reporting and transparency requirements, as well as through oversight under a "state-regulated autonomy" approach.²

Delaware

Similar to California, Delaware Code 14:301 establishes a state-regulated governance structure for the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA). The law specifically requires the association to preserve and promote educational priority in athletics, retain competitiveness, promote fair competition and ethical sportsmanship, comply with health and safety standards, and enforce standards of conduct for all involved parties. Notably, the DIAA is required to work with the Department of Education to meet all legal and statutory requirements for operating interscholastic competitions in the state.

However, taking this a step further than California's model, state law does expressly note that the DIAA is a unit of the state Department of Education. Additionally, state law requires the DIAA board to include an appointee from the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senate President Pro Tempore. Further, the DIAA executive director is an employee of the state Department of Education, and the department is required to furnish administrative staff and support to the association. Lastly, the DIAA is mandated to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature reporting on its administration, yearly activities, promulgated rules, and financial stability.³

Texas

State code clarifies that the University Interscholastic League (UIL) – the Texas HSAA – is a unit of the University of Texas at Austin, and the state Commissioner of Education must review, approve, and/or deny any league rules, policies, or procedures. Additionally, the UIL must ensure its operations and rulemaking comply with State Board of Education rules, and the state board retains the right to seek an injunction to enforce its actions against the league. The UIL is mandated to report annually to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Lieutenant Governor, accounting for all funds, enforcement, and operational actions.⁴

The most notable example of the state's oversight and governance of the UIL is that the statute explicitly states that the Texas Commissioner of Education has the authority to adopt all rules regarding extracurricular activities and must approve or disapprove of any UIL rules or procedures.⁵ Additionally, parents and students may first appeal UIL decisions to the league board or the responsible committee before appealing to the state education commissioner, who serves as the final arbitrator.⁶

² [California Education Code § 33353.](#)

³ [Delaware Code Title 14 § 301, et seq.](#)

⁴ [Texas Education Code § 33.083.](#)

⁵ [Tex. Edu. Code § 7.055\(b\)\(41\).](#)

⁶ [Tex. Edu. Code § 33.081.](#)



Independent Governance with State-Sanction

The following states, while not having a state entity or department with direct authority over the HSAA, do include an explicit statutory and/or regulatory law noting that the respective HSAA is the official, state-sanctioned authority over interscholastic athletics, competitions, and activities.

Florida

State law designates the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in the state's public schools, with additional language allowing the Commissioner of Education to designate another nonprofit, subject to state Board of Education approval, as this sanctioned role in the event an issue arises with the FHSAA. The association, however, is subject to additional auditing and financial reporting standards beyond those of a typical nonprofit organization due to its membership body of public schools that use public funds to pay membership dues and fees. Additionally, while not a unit of the department as in the aforementioned states, the FHSAA does need state Board of Education approval when hiring an executive director and must have certain rules – such as those governing eligibility or transfers – approved by the state board before promulgating and enforcing them.⁷ Accordingly, this model offers a clear “middle ground” between a fully independent and a state subdivision governance model.

Iowa

The Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) is designated as one of the four state-sanctioned organizations approved to oversee interscholastic competitions in the state Administrative Code. The association is required to maintain its governing documents and records in a place accessible to the state Department of Education for inspection. It must annually report on its finances to the state department. If requested by the state Board of Education, the officials and/or employees of the IHSAA or its board must appear at a hearing before the state board. Additionally, parents and/or students may submit a final appeal of any request that has proceeded through the IHSAA process to the state Department of Education Director. However, there is no state or legislative appointment power over the IHSAA board, nor any veto power over its rules and policies.⁸

Kentucky

State statute provides the state Board of Education with the authority to sanction certain entities that oversee educational programs and activities, including interscholastic competitions and sporting events. Accordingly, in the state's administrative regulations, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) is designated as the agent responsible for managing middle and high school interscholastic athletics. The KHSAA must meet myriad requirements to retain its state-sanctioned status, including but not limited to:

- Accepting at least four (4) state Board of Education appointees to the KHSAA board;
- Providing all member institutions the ability to vote on any KHSAA rules or regulatory changes;
- Advise the state Department of Education of any legal actions brought by or against the KHSAA;
- Report annually on the KHSAA's activities, strategic plan, and financial accounting; and
- Comply with all relevant state and federal laws on Title IX and Office of Civil Rights rules.⁹

⁷ [Florida Statutes Annotated § 1006.20.](#)

⁸ [Iowa Administrative Code 281-36.2\(280\).](#)

⁹ [702 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 7:065.](#)



Minnesota

State statute denotes the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) as the voluntary association of high schools in the state for extracurricular activities. As the state-sanctioned nonprofit corporation governing interscholastic events, the law also permits public schools in the state to delegate powers to and allocate public monies to the MSHSL for the purpose of conducting league activities. However, the MSHSL must permit some state governance to maintain its sanctioned status, specifically by allowing the Governor to appoint four (4) members to the MSHSL governing board.¹⁰

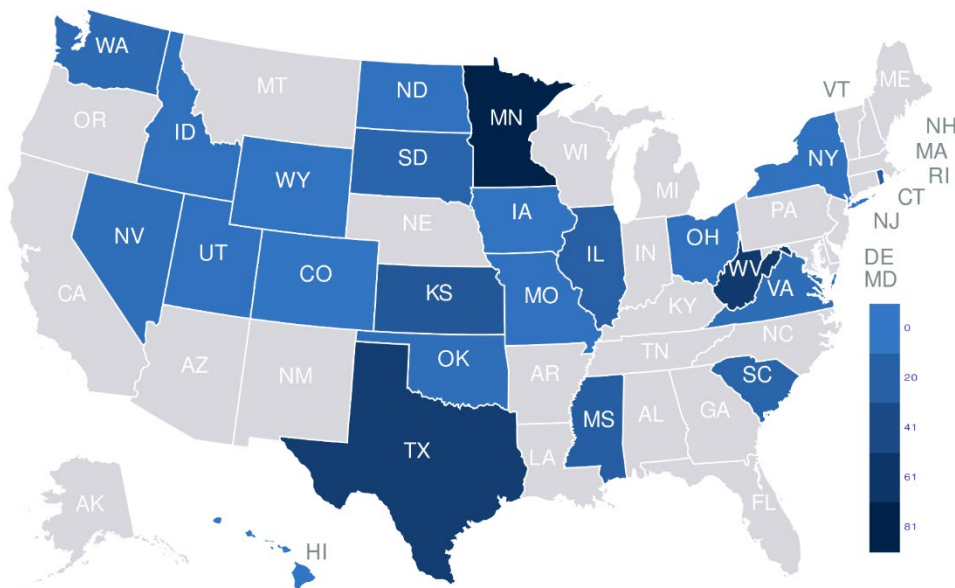
Nevada

The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) is defined in statute as the sanctioned entity for athletic competitions between schools in the state. Further, state law grants county school district leadership the authority to form the NIAA and to delegate the authority necessary to conduct interscholastic competitions. It also sets requirements for membership and representation on the NIAA board, but notably does not require any governmental appointees from the Governor or Legislature.¹¹

New Mexico

The New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) is the state-sanctioned organization overseeing public school activities, events, competitions, and contests in the state. As such, state statutes specifically note that the state Department of Education retains the ability to approve or disapprove of any or all rule promulgated by the NMAA and invalidate any rules in violation of state or federal law. Additionally, the state department retains the authority to inspect NMAA records and require performance or financial audits. However, the statute otherwise notes that the state department holds no other power or control over the rules or bylaws of the NMAA.¹²

Recent Legislation



Since the 2024 legislative session, nearly 400 bills have been filed in 23 states regarding high school athletics associations. Of these, only 16, or a little over 4 percent, have been enacted.¹³ In 2026 alone, more than 120 bills are pending, many of which directly impact the operations or governance of HSAAAs, as seen in the Table below.

¹⁰ [Minnesota Revised Statutes 128C.01, et seq.](#)

¹¹ [Nevada Revised Statutes 385B.010, et seq.](#)

¹² [New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 22-2-2\(L\).](#)

¹³ CSG South using Quorum (<https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/gFCtYtrTdgxaycFEmLsR/>).



Table 2. Comparison of State HSAA Laws Filed in 2026

State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
Hawaii	House Bill 1592 (2026)	Out of Committee	"Natalie's Law" would enhance protections for sports officials by increasing criminal penalties for assaults committed against them as a new offense, "aggravated assault against an educational worker or sports official." This would apply to officials or educational workers performing their official HSAA duties or in direct connection with school-sponsored or youth athletic events, regardless of whether the incident occurs on or off school grounds. Additionally, the bill would allow courts to enjoin individuals convicted of assaulting sports officials from attending similar events for up to 12 months for a first offense and for life for subsequent offenses.
Idaho	House Bill 595 (2026)	Introduced	It would require venue-specific and publicly accessible Emergency Response Programs (CERPs) and AEDs for schools with athletic programs, at all athletic events and practices, with all coaches maintaining up-to-date certification in CPR and AED use. The State Department of Education, in collaboration with school leadership and the Idaho High School Activities Association, is tasked with developing guidelines and may monitor compliance.
Illinois	Senate Bill 3757 (2026)	Introduced	It would establish the Safe Sports School Seal program. The Illinois High School Association and the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Illinois Athletic Trainers Association, and the National Institutes of Health, would be authorized to develop and implement eligibility standards for public and nonpublic elementary, secondary, and higher education institutions to receive the Safe Sports School Seal. To qualify, schools must meet several requirements, including incorporating concussion awareness into parent and student handbooks, providing annual training for coaches and staff on chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and concussions, maintaining return-to-learn and return-to-play protocols for students diagnosed with concussions, and hosting at least one community awareness event each year focused on CTE and concussions. The Illinois High School Association is responsible for awarding the Safe Sports School Seal to schools that submit an application demonstrating compliance with these standards. The State Board of Education is granted rulemaking authority to facilitate the implementation of this section.
Illinois	Senate Bill 3885 (2026)	Introduced	It would mandate that all public high schools provide at least 30 minutes of annual substance education to student-athletes. The act would allow flexibility in how schools deliver this education, but require that the content address at least two key areas: athletic safety, career protection, or health and recovery. The bill emphasizes the use of existing resources and staff, prohibits hiring new personnel or purchasing new materials, and does not require state funding or reimbursement for implementation. Student disclosures during sessions are confidential and non-punitive, and parents are to be informed of the sessions, with the option to have their children opt out for religious or philosophical reasons, in which case an alternative assignment is provided without penalty. Accountability is maintained through a simple annual certification by athletic directors to the Illinois High School Association, with no penalties for noncompliance.



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Illinois	House Bill 2651 (2026)	Out of Committee	The bill would require the State Board of Education to identify days during the year when there may be a portion of the student body absent or unable to participate in a major school event due to cultural, religious, or other observances and distribute the list to entities, including the Illinois High School Association, by February 1 of each year.
Iowa	Senate File 265 (2026)	Out of Committee	The bill would add new requirements for sponsors of extracurricular interscholastic athletics, specifically adding the creation of a conference realignment committee. The committee would be tasked with facilitating reasonable conference affiliations and relationships for member high schools, considering factors such as enrollment, travel distances, and traditional rivalries. The committee would review requests for conference changes and has the authority to approve or reject them, with schools able to appeal decisions to the state Department of Education. It would also require schools to offer at least one extracurricular athletic activity for both boys and girls in each season to be included in any conference. Additionally, schools that withdraw from a conference without approval are prohibited from competing in the same activity in any conference or tournament for two years.
Kansas	House Bill 2299 (2026)	Enacted	The legislation will require associations governing high school activities to recognize accreditation of nonpublic schools by regional or national agencies, and allow nonpublic schools accredited by such agencies to have the same rights as state-accredited schools.
Kansas	Senate Bill 349 (2026)	Introduced	It would change the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) classification system for high school activities, requiring that all private high schools apply a multiplier factor to their student attendance numbers when determining their classification for participation in KSHSAA-regulated activities. The multiplier would be calculated based on three components: a championship multiplier (applied if a school has won five or more state championships in the previous five years), a geographic population multiplier (based on the classification of the public school district in which the private school is located), and a socio-economic population multiplier (based on the percentage of students receiving free or reduced meals). The sum of these factors would determine the final multiplier. Still, a private school cannot be moved more than one class above its original classification, and changes in football classifications are excluded. The bill also stipulates that any classification changes resulting from the multiplier would not be subject to appeal.
Minnesota	Senate File 3572 (2026)	Out of Committee	For firearms restrictions, the bill would expand the definition of 'school property' to include areas hosting Minnesota State High School League events, provided that conspicuous signage is posted.
Minnesota	Senate File 2831 (2026)	Out of Committee	A bill that would extend the sales tax exemption for tickets and admissions to Minnesota State High School League events until July 1, 2035. The league would be required to annually determine the amount of sales tax savings resulting from this exemption and transfer that amount to a nonprofit charitable foundation dedicated to promoting high school extracurricular activities. The foundation would use these funds primarily for grants and scholarships to offset students' athletic



State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
			fees, with an emphasis on equitable distribution based on gender, school size, and geographic location.
Minnesota	House File 3807 (2026)	Introduced	This legislation would require the Minnesota State High School League to adopt a policy mandating that its member schools permit live and recorded video production of all extracurricular competitions for distribution through public, educational, or governmental access channels.
Minnesota	Senate File 3747 (2026)	Introduced	"Faith's Law 'Save a Life' Safety Program" would appropriate \$6.5 million to the Department of Education, specifically for a grant program administered by the Minnesota State High School League, designated for the purchase, installation, and operation of smart monitored public access safety cabinets with AEDS on school grounds and athletic event venues.
Minnesota	Senate File 3339 (2026)	Introduced	This bill would require the Minnesota State High School League to sanction cricket as an interscholastic athletic activity officially, select an appropriate season, and make necessary determinations regarding participation.
Minnesota	House File 2923 (2026)	Introduced	It would mandate that the Minnesota State High School League secure a catastrophic accident insurance policy for students participating in league-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities. The policy must provide at least \$10 million in lifetime coverage per catastrophic injury, with a \$50,000 deductible. It must cover medical care, personal care, medications, vehicles, and wheelchairs related to the injury. The insurance must also prohibit denial of claims for medically recommended items or services and extend coverage to student athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders, during interscholastic competitions and related activities.
Minnesota	Senate File 1829 (2026)	Introduced	The legislation introduces measures to enhance public safety by imposing civil penalties on individuals who disrupt or interfere with youth athletic activities. Specifically, it would allow for fines of up to \$1,000 for those who intentionally enter the field of play, cause objects to disrupt the activity, or physically interfere with officials, game organizers, players, or coaches during youth sports events. These penalties do not apply to participants, medical personnel, or individuals acting in emergencies. It would also establish a Youth Officiating Account within the Special Revenue Fund, where collected penalties would be deposited and funds allocated to develop youth officiating programs. Additionally, the legislation mandates that the Minnesota State High School League or school boards notify the commission if they exclude individuals from interscholastic athletic activities.
Mississippi	Senate Bill 2002 (2026)	Passed Original Chamber	The bill would clarify student transfer policies between schools and districts, while declaring that the Mississippi High School Activities Association retains authority over extracurricular eligibility for transferring students.
Mississippi	House Bill 486 (2026)	Introduced	It would authorize and require local school boards to adopt a policy granting employees cost-free admission to all district-hosted school-sponsored and Mississippi High School Activities Association-



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State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
			governed athletic and extracurricular events. This benefit would be strictly limited to school and district employees and would not be transferable to third parties, such as spouses or children.
Mississippi	House Bill 609 (2026)	Introduced	The "Tim Tebow Act" would authorize students enrolled in legitimate homeschool programs to participate in public school interscholastic extracurricular activities, such as sports and other activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
Mississippi	Senate Bill 2304 (2026)	Introduced	It would mandate that every student-athlete in the state—whether attending a public secondary school or any institution affiliated with the Mississippi High School Activities Association—is permitted one transfer to another school or school district during their period of athletic eligibility without incurring any loss of eligibility or other penalties. Student-athletes could change schools once without facing restrictions that would otherwise limit their participation in school sports.
Mississippi	House Bill 1400 (2026)	Introduced	The act would clarify that high school student-athlete participation in NIL activities does not affect existing eligibility, transfer, or residency rules for interscholastic athletics, and prohibits the Mississippi High School Activities Association from declaring a student ineligible solely for engaging in NIL activities. While NIL contracts must be disclosed to the MHSAA, the association has no regulatory or enforcement authority over such agreements and would also preempt any conflicting MHSAA rules or policies. Disputes arising from NIL contracts would be resolved exclusively in state courts, with the MHSAA having no adjudicative role.
Oklahoma	House Bill 4491 (2026)	Out of Committee	It would expand access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities for students enrolled in charter schools, virtual charter schools, and homeschools. Authorizing full-time students in s these nontraditional schools to participate in activities administered by the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association, aligning their eligibility with that of traditional public school students.
Oklahoma	House Bill 4277 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would grant public school districts exclusive authority over the use of their athletic facilities, regardless of any policies set by school athletic associations. Also authorizing school districts to seek injunctive relief in court if a school athletic association attempts to limit or control the use of these facilities.
Rhode Island	House Bill 7115 (2026)	Introduced	The proposed legislation introduces a new requirement that all students involved in Rhode Island Interscholastic League football must wear an impact-reducing soft-shell helmet cover during games and practices whenever a traditional football helmet is used. The devices are to be provided by the respective school districts and will remain school property. However, the legislation allows for an opt-out provision, enabling a parent, guardian, responsible adult, or the student (if 18 or older) to decline the use of the device for practices, games, or both. The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is tasked with establishing rules, regulations, and standards for the selection and use of these devices. The mandate applies to all public school districts and any other schools participating in interscholastic league football.



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Rhode Island	House Bill 7903 (2026)	Introduced	The proposed legislation mandates that the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, develop and disseminate guidelines and educational materials about concussion risks, symptoms, and management. All coaches, volunteers, and school nurses involved in youth sports must complete annual concussion training, while teachers and aides are strongly encouraged to do so. The legislation also encourages baseline neuropsychological testing for student athletes and requires parental acknowledgment of concussion risks each season.
Rhode Island	Senate Bill 2495 (2026)	Introduced	It would mandate the establishment of a comprehensive anti-hazing policy for student athletics. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, would be tasked with developing this policy, which must incorporate best practices and ensure zero tolerance for hazing, bullying, and harassment within school athletic environments. Said policy would include clear definitions and examples of hazing, outline specific sanctions and penalties for violations—including possible suspension or cancellation of a team’s season—and clarify that consent from the victim is not a valid defense. Additionally, the policy would feature educational and preventative components that align with broader statewide initiatives on school climate, anti-bullying, and anti-hate efforts. All student-athletes must acknowledge and sign a document recognizing the policy and its consequences before participating in any team activities. This mandate would apply to all schools and districts participating in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
South Carolina	House Bill 4257 (2026)	Enacted	The act requires that all school districts adopt policies allowing students to be excused from up to 10 school days per year for participation in any interscholastic activity authorized by the school or district, regardless of whether the South Carolina High School League or other governing bodies sanction the activity. The policy must ensure that participating students are in good academic standing, and students and their guardians are responsible for making up missed assignments.
South Carolina	House Bill 5311 (2026)	Introduced	It would establish a separate state championship playoff bracket specifically for charter schools participating in interscholastic athletics under the South Carolina High School League.
South Carolina	House Bill 4772 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would prohibit scheduling high school sporting events on the same day as a graduation, ceremony, or prom.
South Carolina	House Bill 3245 (2026)	Introduced	It would allow high school students attending private or charter schools to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at public high schools under specific conditions. These conditions would include the student residing within the public school's attendance zone, the private or charter school not being a member of the South Carolina High School League, and the private or charter school not offering the student's gender-specific sport. Additionally, the sport must be available at the public school within the student's attendance zone, and the student must notify the public school district superintendent in writing before the sport's season begins. The student is also required to pay any sport-specific fees and meet all



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			public school district eligibility requirements, except for school or class attendance and enrollment requirements. The legislation also would prohibit public school districts from contracting with private entities, associations, or leagues that restrict private or charter school students from participating in interscholastic athletic programs.
South Carolina	Senate Bill 66 (2026)	Introduced	The bill amends language over which interscholastic associations schools may join, mandating that these associations must include a range of sanctions for violations, ensure equal rights for independent and charter schools, and guarantee access for homeschool athletic teams to interscholastic athletics. It would also prohibit NIL compensation for athletes and establish a penalty-free transfer window twice a year, with penalties for transfers outside these periods. An appeal process would also be established, involving a panel of nine members, to handle eligibility and sanction disputes. Additionally, the bill requires a uniform system for fines related to game cancellations. The legislation also would make the State Department of Education's eligibility determinations binding on interscholastic athletic associations.
Utah	House Bill 293 (2026)	Enacted	The 'Public Education Student Athlete Protections Act' would establish new requirements for public schools' participation in interscholastic athletic associations. It would prohibit public schools from joining or paying dues to any association that does not comply with specific state laws, including the Open and Public Meetings Act, Government Records Access and Management Act, and the Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act. Associations must also collect unamended birth certificates or equivalent documentation to verify student eligibility, including date of birth and sex, with special provisions for non-citizen and homeless students to provide alternative forms of identification. The legislation introduces new requirements for associations to include in their bylaws: mandatory moratorium periods for all sports during major holidays; a summer moratorium on a sport-by-sport basis; a sport-specific off-season moratorium of at least 6 weeks (with accommodations for rural schools); and clear definitions of permissible activities during moratoriums. Associations are also required to establish and equally enforce penalties for infractions of their policies and rules among all member schools. Additionally, the bill mandates that associations submit an annual written report to the Education Interim Committee after July each year, detailing the implementation of these policies and the enforcement of penalties.



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Virginia	House Bill 1242 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would require that all interscholastic, intramural, and club athletic teams sponsored by public schools or schools affiliated with the Virginia High School League, as well as teams at public and certain private higher education institutions, must be explicitly designated as male, female, or coed based on the biological sex of participants. Teams designated for females, women, or girls are restricted to students of the female sex, as affirmed by a physician's statement, thereby excluding male students from participating on these teams. The legislation prohibits government entities, accrediting bodies, and athletic associations from penalizing schools or institutions for maintaining sex-specific teams. It provides a private cause of action for schools or students who suffer harm as a result of violations of these provisions. This includes the right to seek injunctive relief, damages (including for psychological, emotional, or physical harm), attorney fees, and other appropriate remedies, with a two-year statute of limitations for such civil actions. The bill also would waive sovereign immunity for these claims.
Virginia	House Bill 50 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would direct the Virginia High School League to evaluate the feasibility of adding cricket as a sanctioned high school sport, specifically within Planning District 8. The bill outlines that, in conducting this evaluation, the VHSL should consult with a range of stakeholders, including local school divisions, athletic directors, principals, students, community organizations, and youth sports leagues, to assess interest, costs, facility requirements, and other relevant factors. Additionally, the VHSL would be tasked with considering any Title IX and Title VI legal implications. The VHSL would submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including a framework for how interested school divisions may petition to have cricket sanctioned, to the relevant House and Senate committees and to each local school division in Planning District 8 by December 1, 2026.
Virginia	Senate Bill 295 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would mandate that all interscholastic, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports sponsored by public schools or schools affiliated with the Virginia High School League be explicitly designated based on the biological sex of participating students: male, female, or coed/mixed. It would specifically prohibit male students from participating on teams designated for females, women, or girls, and require a signed physician's statement affirming a student's biological sex for participation on such teams.
Washington	House Bill 1863 (2026)	Introduced	The legislation would mandate all school districts to develop cardiac emergency response plans for each school to address potential cardiac arrest incidents on school property, including during athletic events. These plans must incorporate evidence-based elements recommended by national organizations like the American Heart Association and include the formation of a cardiac emergency response team, procedures for team activation, strategic placement of AEDs, and regular maintenance and training schedules. Schools are required to conduct annual drills and coordinate with local emergency services. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is tasked with establishing a grant program to support schools in implementing these plans, prioritizing schools with a high



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			percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Schools may also accept donations for AED-related expenses.
Washington	House Bill 1803 (2026)	Introduced	The legislation would require that the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association develop a prohibited conduct policy by January 1, 2026, which school districts must adopt or adapt. This policy must list prohibited conduct and include a code of conduct for parents, spectators, coaches, and athletes. The legislation does not specify funding allocations or financial figures for these mandates. Still, it does provide immunity from civil liability for organizations that fail to request background information, unless gross negligence is involved.
Washington	House Bill 1699 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would establish new provisions to regulate interscholastic sports activities in the state and ensure equity in sports by allowing school districts and voluntary nonprofit entities to prohibit biologically male students from competing in female-designated athletic activities applicable to individual or team competitions intended for female students. In cases of disputes regarding a student's sex, the legislation mandates that the school district resolve the issue by requesting verification from the student's healthcare provider, based on reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, or testosterone levels. It would also amend the conditions under which school districts can delegate control of interschool activities to nonprofit entities, ensuring nondiscrimination and fair participation rules.
West Virginia	Senate Bill 689 (2026)	Passed Original Chamber	The West Virginia Homeschool Student Athletics Participation Act would allow such students participating in organized homeschool athletic teams to compete in regular-season interscholastic athletic contests against West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission member schools. Participation would be contingent upon homeschool organizations meeting health, safety, and eligibility standards similar to those of WVSSAC member schools, agreeing to abide by WVSSAC rules, and providing proof of insurance. Importantly, participation by WVSSAC member schools would be voluntary, and homeschool teams would be excluded from official WVSSAC rankings, postseason competitions, and statistical records, ensuring that their involvement does not affect the official standings or postseason eligibility of member schools. The commission would be tasked with overseeing implementation, providing guidance, and ensuring compliance with eligibility criteria. Disputes related to the bill would be reviewed by a WVSSAC-designated committee, with appeals possible to the State Board of Education.
West Virginia	House Bill 4834 (2026)	Introduced	It would explicitly include women's wrestling as a sanctioned sporting event in public high schools and public charter schools across the state, and mandate that the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission recognize and regulate women's wrestling alongside other sanctioned sports.



State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
West Virginia	House Bill 5647 (2026)	Introduced	The "Open and Equal Opportunities in Student Activities Act" would allow homeschooled students, Hope Scholarship recipients, and students enrolled in nonpublic schools—including private, parochial, church, or religious order schools—who do not attend a school that is a member of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, or whose school does not offer a desired extracurricular activity, to participate in extracurricular activities at member schools. To participate, eligible students would register their intent with the local county school board, pay the same participation fees, comply with disciplinary and academic standards, meet physical and immunization requirements, and satisfy residency rules, all on the same terms as regularly enrolled students. Academic eligibility could be demonstrated through transcripts, standardized test results, or a portfolio, and students transferring from member schools are subject to standard transfer protocols. The bill would also extend insurance coverage provided by district school boards to these students, with any additional premiums paid by the participant. Importantly, the act would prohibit discrimination against teams or schools that include such students and bar member schools from joining interscholastic organizations that exclude them.
West Virginia	House Bill 5663 (2026)	Introduced	It introduces new procedural requirements for legal actions involving the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, mandating that any party intending to file a legal claim against the WVSSAC must provide written notice of the alleged claim and the relief sought to the WVSSAC, the State School Board, and the Attorney General at least 30 days before initiating the action. This notice must be sent by certified mail, and the statute of limitations for the claim is tolled for 30 days from the date the notice is mailed or received, as evidenced by the return receipt. However, this notice requirement does not apply to actions seeking injunctive relief where a court determines that irreparable harm would result from a delay. Additionally, the bill stipulates that all lawsuits in which the WVSSAC is a defendant must be filed and prosecuted exclusively in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, except for cases involving students or schools located in Kanawha County, which may be brought in any other county in the state.
West Virginia	Senate Bill 919 (2026)	Introduced	The Safe School Events Music Act would establish a statewide standard prohibiting the playing of explicit music, including both original and 'clean' versions of songs that were originally explicit, at all West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission-sanctioned interscholastic athletic events. It tasks the WVSSAC with developing and adopting rules to enforce these standards, including procedures for music approval, procedures for addressing violations during events, and the implementation of progressive penalties such as warnings, fines, or loss of postseason hosting privileges. Enforcement authority is granted to contest officials and WVSSAC representatives, who may require the immediate cessation of non-compliant music and impose sanctions for repeated or willful violations.



State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
West Virginia	House Bill 5180 (2026)	Introduced	A proposal amending the regulation of interscholastic athletic events and extracurricular activities in public secondary schools, the bill would require that all public schools that host athletic events and charge admission must sell tickets at the gate, accept cash as a form of payment, and also offer the option to purchase tickets online. This requirement would ensure that schools provide multiple methods for ticket sales and payment, thereby increasing accessibility for attendees who may prefer or require cash transactions or online purchases.
West Virginia	House Bill 4967 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would provide explicit authority to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission to revoke the coaching credentials of any coach found guilty of illegally recruiting student athletes.
West Virginia	House Bill 4759 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would clarify and expand the rulemaking authority of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, explicitly including it under the State Administrative Procedures Act for higher education rulemaking. This would ensure that the commission's rules are subject to the same oversight and procedural requirements as other educational agencies, and that any rules promulgated by the commission must receive prior approval from the State Board of Education.
West Virginia	Senate Bill 394 (2026)	Introduced	It would require the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission to promulgate legislative rules, rather than just reasonable rules, for the control, supervision, and regulation of interscholastic athletic events and other extracurricular activities in secondary schools in accordance with the state's administrative procedures. Additionally, the WVSSAC would be directed to recognize preparatory athletic programs for national competition purposes. However, these programs are not permitted to compete against member schools during the regular season or in state championships.
West Virginia	Senate Bill 21 (2026)	Introduced	The bill would prohibit county boards of education and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission from imposing any restrictions or prohibitions on students, coaches, or athletic trainers regarding their participation in non-school-sponsored athletic events or teams as a condition for their involvement in school-sponsored sports.
West Virginia	Senate Bill 123 (2026)	Introduced	The Alex Miller Law proposes enhanced safety measures at middle and high school football games overseen by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, mandating that an ambulance must be present at all such football games if one is available. However, if the ambulance is called away for an emergency, the game may continue in its absence.



State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
West Virginia	Senate Bill 234 (2026)	Introduced	<p>A proposal known as the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Reform Act would grant public charter schools direct authority over the control, supervision, and regulation of all extracurricular activities for their students, with the option to delegate these responsibilities to the WVSSAC. The composition of the WVSSAC would be modified to include athletic directors or their representatives from participating schools, and if a school lacks an athletic director, a designated representative may serve. The bill would also transition the WVSSAC from a nonprofit corporation to a state agency under the State Board of Education, effective July 1, 2026, and stipulate that all commission funds are public and subject to annual audit by the State Auditor. The legislation would also revise the rule-making process for the WVSSAC, requiring that all rules be proposed for legislative approval and that they include a school classification system based on a competitive balance formula that factors in the number of student transfers and other considerations. The Governor would appoint the commission's executive director with the consent of the Senate. He would have the authority to investigate and decide on rule violations and disputes, subject to due process provisions. Appeals of the executive director's decisions are limited to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. The bill also would ensure that private, parochial, and organized groups of nonpublic school students (including homeschoolers, Hope Scholarship participants, microschool, and learning pod students) can participate in extracurricular activities under the same terms, rules, and fees as public school students, and are eligible for the same benefits. Notably, it would also remove the previous academic progress requirement for homeschool, Hope Scholarship, microschool, and learning pod students to participate in extracurricular activities, simplifying eligibility to age, amateur status, compliance with disciplinary rules, and adherence to commission regulations.</p>
West Virginia	Senate Bill 122 (2026)	Introduced	<p>It would grant the WVSSAC full discretion to establish or modify its own rules regarding the athletic eligibility of transfer students without legislative direction.</p>
West Virginia	House Bill 4181 (2026)	Introduced	<p>The primary change introduced by this bill is a provision that would explicitly prohibit the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission from taking any adverse or discriminatory action against middle or high school student athletes who participate in travel sports. It would ensure that these students cannot be penalized or prohibited from participating in school athletics due to their involvement in travel sports programs. However, it stipulates that if scheduling conflicts arise between a public school athletic program and a travel sports program, the student athlete must give priority to the school program.</p>
Wyoming	House Bill 23 (2026)	Enacted	<p>This legislative act requires public school districts to allow all school-age children residing within the district who are not under suspension or expulsion and are not enrolled as full-time students in the district to participate in any cocurricular and extracurricular activities offered by the district, including those sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association.</p>



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State	Measure	Status Text	Summary of HSAA Impact
Wyoming	Senate File 53 (2026)	Enacted	It establishes new requirements for amateur status for students participating in high school athletic activities sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association, requiring that students maintain amateur status to be eligible to participate. Amateur status is forfeited if a student accepts monetary compensation, prizes exceeding WHSAA-approved amounts, capitalizes on their athletic fame or NIL, or signs a professional contract, except for non-compensated college commitment letters. The law outlines several exceptions that do not result in loss of amateur status, such as receiving family support, limited compensation for non-WHSAA events, necessary travel and lodging, nominal fees for instructing or officiating youth sports, school-sponsored program fees, awards within WHSAA limits, certain Olympic-related benefits, participation in fundraising events without performance-based compensation, and post-graduation scholarships paid directly to postsecondary institutions. Any violation of these provisions results in the student's ineligibility for the relevant sport or activity.