

CHAPTER 443

STUDENT ATHLETES

§12971. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

1. College or university. "College or university" means a postsecondary educational institution in the State, including:

A. A degree-granting educational institution regulated under chapter 409; [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. A university in the University of Maine System; [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

C. A college in the Maine Community College System; and [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

D. The Maine Maritime Academy. [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

2. Team contract. "Team contract" means a contract between a student athlete and a college or university and includes any rules or expectations of the college or university's athletic department or head coach that require a student athlete's compliance as a condition under the contract of participation as a member of the intercollegiate athletic program.

[PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

§12972. Prohibitions

1. Actions by colleges or universities. A college or university may not:

A. Adopt or enforce a policy, requirement, standard or limitation that prohibits or otherwise prevents a student athlete who is participating in an intercollegiate athletic program at the college or university from:

(1) Earning compensation for the use of the student athlete's name, image or likeness when the student athlete is not engaged in official team activities; or

(2) Obtaining professional representation, including representation by an attorney, for contracts or other legal matters relating to the use of the student athlete's name, image or likeness; [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. Disqualify a student athlete who is participating in an intercollegiate athletic program at a college or university from receiving a full scholarship based on athletics awarded by the college or university because the student athlete:

(1) Earns compensation from the use of the student athlete's name, image or likeness when the student athlete is not engaged in official team activities; or

(2) Obtains professional representation, including representation by an attorney, for contracts or other legal matters relating to use of the student athlete's name, image or likeness.

For purposes of this paragraph, "full scholarship" means a scholarship that covers the full cost of attendance at that college or university, including but not limited to tuition, room and board; or [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

C. Prescribe a team contract for an intercollegiate athletic program that prohibits or otherwise prevents a student athlete from using the student athlete's name, image or likeness for a commercial purpose when the student athlete is not engaged in official team activities. [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

For the purposes of this subsection, a college or university determines what behavior constitutes official team activities at that college or university.

[PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

2. Construction. This section may not be construed to limit a college or university from adopting or enforcing a policy, requirement, standard or limitation that establishes conditions by which a student athlete may monetize the student athlete's name, image or likeness, including a policy, requirement, standard or limitation that prohibits a student athlete's use of a college or university trademark, logo or facility or prohibits a student athlete's use of the student athlete's name, image or likeness in a manner that is inconsistent with a college or university code of conduct or other college or university policy.

[PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

§12973. Autographs

A student athlete may earn compensation from selling the student athlete's autograph in a manner that does not otherwise conflict with a provision of this chapter. [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

§12974. University participation in intercollegiate athletics

An athletic association, conference or other group or organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics may not prevent in this State a college or university from participating in intercollegiate athletics as a result of the compensation of a student athlete for the use of the student's athlete's name, image or likeness. [PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.