

Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics



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Statement on Intercollegiate Athletics

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Importance of Intercollegiate Athletics

The Board of Governors recognizes the important role of intercollegiate athletics within the State University System. Athletic programs serve as a front door to the institutions, enhancing university visibility, strengthening alumni and philanthropic engagement, and creating opportunities for the students that extend beyond the field.

The mission of the State University System is to serve the needs of the state by providing high-quality higher education, innovative research, and public service through a coordinated system of institutions. Academic achievement, degree completion, and career readiness are the primary objectives of the collegiate experience. The System's integration of academics and athletics creates a unique educational experience that prepares student-athletes to excel during their time as a student and after graduation. By fostering a culture that values academic excellence alongside competitive success, universities help ensure that student-athletes are equipped to contribute to their professions, communities, and society.

As college athletics undergoes significant and rapid change, Florida has an opportunity to lead. The Board of Governors is committed to supporting a clear, competitive, and sustainable framework that allows Florida's universities to compete at the highest level while preserving and strengthening the educational mission of intercollegiate athletics.

Few areas of higher education have transformed as quickly as the rules governing the way student-athletes are compensated for their name, image, and likeness (NIL). Florida has consistently been at the forefront of this landscape. The State's early and forward-leaning NIL legislation positioned our universities to adapt quickly and compete nationally as the rules evolved. That leadership has served Florida's institutions and student-athletes well, and it must continue as the framework matures at both the state and federal levels.

Amid this rapid change, uncertainty remains. Overlapping and sometimes conflicting authorities, court settlements, federal directives, proposed federal legislation, state law, conference rules, and institutional policy, create a complex environment that demands coordinated, thoughtful, and proactive leadership. The System's universities need clarity, consistency, and a stable competitive footing so that they can plan responsibly, protect their student-athletes, and safeguard the long-term health of both revenue and non-revenue sports.

To meet this moment, the Board of Governors has established the Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics. The Task Force is charged with providing focus and actionable direction on the ever-changing landscape of college athletics, with particular emphasis on NIL and the broader compensation environment.

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The Task Force will:

- Develop recommendations for the Board of Governors and the System's universities on how to successfully navigate the new NIL and revenue-sharing landscape while maintaining compliance, competitiveness, and financial sustainability.
- Explore regulatory and legislative avenues at both the state and federal levels that may support and protect Florida's universities and their student-athletes.
- Safeguard the educational mission, ensuring that academic achievement, degree completion, and the well-being of student-athletes remain central as the competitive framework evolves.
- Promote coordination across the System's institutions so that Florida speaks and acts with a unified, strategic voice on matters of national significance.

The Board of Governors is confident that, through the work of this Task Force, Florida will continue to lead, protecting the interests of our students and institutions while ensuring that intercollegiate athletics remains a source of pride, opportunity, and excellence for the State of Florida.