

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

October 30, 2025

Mr. Charlie Baker
President
National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear President Baker:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Committee) is examining the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) recent policy change permitting student athletes and athletic department staff to bet on professional sports.¹ The timing of the NCAA's decision to allow student athlete and staff participation in professional sports betting raises questions about sports betting and integrity of sport in the NCAA.

After the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 in *Murphy v. NCAA*, state-sanctioned sports betting has been legal and is regulated by states.² Currently, 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have legal betting markets.³ Prior to the policy change, NCAA bylaws banned participation by players, coaches, or athletic staff in sports betting activities for intercollegiate, amateur, or professional sports, including providing information about players or teams that could be used by others in sports betting.⁴ The NCAA bylaw prohibiting sports betting activities has been in place since 2007.⁵ Additionally, the NCAA previously expressed concern about the pervasiveness and

¹ Corbin McGuire, *DII Management Council adopts proposal to allow student-athletes, staff to bet on pro sports*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/22/media-center-dii-management-council-adopts-proposal-to-allow-student-athletes-staff-to-bet-on-pro-sports.aspx>.

² *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, 584 U.S. 453 (2018).

³ *The complete guide to states where sports betting is legal in the U.S.*, RESEARCH GROUND (last visited Oct. 27, 2025), <https://rg.org/guides/regulations>.

⁴ *Sports betting*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (last visited Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2016/4/29/sports-wagering.aspx>.

⁵ See, e.g., National Collegiate Athletic Association, 2007-2008 NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution, Operating Bylaws, Administrative Bylaws, at 48 (effective Aug. 1, 2007), <https://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/D108.pdf>.

potential harm of sports betting on young adults.⁶ Despite these concerns, it was initially announced that effective November 1, 2025, student athletes and athletic department staff in all three NCAA divisions are permitted to bet on professional sports.⁷ When speaking about the sports betting policy change, Josh Whitman, Chair of the NCAA Division I Administrative Committee, stated that “[t]his change allows the NCAA, the conferences, and the member schools to focus on protecting the integrity of college games while, at the same time, encouraging healthy habits for student-athletes who choose to engage in betting activities on professional sports.”⁸

On October 25, Southeastern Conference (SEC) Commissioner Greg Sankey wrote to you urging the NCAA to rescind the policy change, citing the importance of “keep[ing] collegiate participants separated from sports wagering activity at every level.”⁹ The letter also noted that when discussing the policy change on a recent call with the SEC Presidents and Chancellors, the message “was clear and united: this policy change represents a major step in the wrong direction.”¹⁰ Then, a few days before the policy change was supposed to take effect, the Division I Board of Directors voted to delay implementation of the rule change across all three divisions to November 22, 2025.¹¹

The Committee has jurisdiction over interstate commerce, consumer protection, and sports. The Committee also has a long-standing role in providing oversight of the integrity and fairness of sport, including but not limited to investigations of steroid use in Major League Baseball,¹² anti-doping measures in the Olympic Games,¹³ and sexual abuse of Olympic

⁶ Saquandra Heath, *NCAA releases sports wagering survey data*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (May 24, 2023), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/5/24/media-center-ncaa-releases-sports-wagering-survey-data.aspx>.

⁷ Corbin McGuire, *DII Management Council adopts proposal to allow student-athletes, staff to bet on pro sports*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/22/media-center-dii-management-council-adopts-proposal-to-allow-student-athletes-staff-to-bet-on-pro-sports.aspx> (explaining there continues to be a ban on college sports betting and the NCAA does not allow any commercial partnerships with sports books).

⁸ Meghan Durham Wright, *DI Administrative Committee adopts proposal to allow student-athletes, staff to bet on pro sports*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/8/media-center-di-administrative-committee-adopts-proposal-to-allow-student-athletes-staff-to-bet-on-pro-sports.aspx>.

⁹ Letter from Greg Sankey, Commissioner, Southeastern Conference, to Charlie Baker, President, National Collegiate Athletic Association (Oct. 25, 2025), https://www.scribd.com/document/939666391/SEC#fullscreen&from_embed.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Meghan Durham Wright, *DI Board of Directors amends effective date for changes to sports betting rules*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/28/media-center-di-board-of-directors-amends-effective-date-for-changes-to-sports-betting-rules.aspx>.

¹² *Steroids in Sports: Cheating the System and Gambling Your Health: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, Subcomm. on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection and Subcomm. on Health*, 109th Cong. (Mar. 10, 2005).

¹³ *Ways to Improve and Strengthen the International Anti-Doping System: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations*, 115th Cong. (Feb. 28, 2017); *Examining Anti-Doping Measures in Advance of the 2024 Olympics: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations*, 118th Cong. (Jun. 25, 2024).

athletes.¹⁴ The Committee's questions about the NCAA's recent policy change come on the heels of the Committee's letter to the NBA in the wake of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) recent arrest of six people, including current and former National Basketball Association (NBA) players, in connection with alleged sports betting and money laundering schemes in professional basketball.¹⁵

Moreover, in recent months the NCAA has been no stranger to investigations and enforcement actions related to sports betting violations among NCAA men's basketball players.¹⁶ In September 2025, the NCAA announced infraction decisions for three former men's basketball players at Fresno State University and San Jose State University, who were found to have coordinated to bet on their own games, one another's games, and/or provide non-public information to benefit others' betting schemes during the 2024-2025 season.¹⁷ Soon after this decision, the NCAA announced a sweeping investigation of 13 former men's basketball players who competed at six different schools.¹⁸ One day after the FBI announced its expansive indictment of current and former NBA players, the NCAA Committee on Infractions announced that three Eastern Michigan University men's basketball players committed Level I violations by refusing to cooperate with an NCAA investigation.¹⁹ Due to these players no longer maintaining NCAA eligibility, they were not punished in any way for their actions.²⁰

¹⁴ Staff Report, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, *Nassar and Beyond: A Review of the Olympic Community's Efforts to Protect Athletes from Sexual Abuse*, 115th Cong. (Dec. 20, 2018), <https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/legacy/uploads/2018/12/EC-USOC-Report-12.20.18-Final-REV.pdf>.

¹⁵ Letter from Hon. Brett Guthrie, Chairman, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, et al., to Adam Silver, Commissioner, National Basketball Association (Oct. 24, 2025), https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/10_24_2025_Letter_to_NBA_on_Sports_Betting_1_e35b9bbb8a.pdf; Press Release, *Current and former National Basketball Association players and four other individuals charged in widespread sports betting and money laundering conspiracy*, U.S. Attorney's Office, E.D.N.Y. (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/current-and-former-national-basketball-association-players-and-four-other-individuals>.

¹⁶ Meghan Durham Wright, *NCAA uncovers sports betting-related game manipulation and other violations by 3 DI men's basketball student-athletes; eligibility revoked permanently*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/9/10/media-center-ncaa-uncovers-sports-betting-related-game-manipulation-and-other-violations-by-3-di-mens-basketball-student-athletes-eligibility-revoked-permanently.aspx>; Meghan Durham Wright & Saquandra Heath, *NCAA pursues additional sports betting violations*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/9/11/media-center-ncaa-pursues-additional-sports-betting-violations.aspx>.

¹⁷ Meghan Durham Wright, *NCAA uncovers sports betting-related game manipulation and other violations by 3 DI men's basketball student-athletes; eligibility revoked permanently*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/9/10/media-center-ncaa-uncovers-sports-betting-related-game-manipulation-and-other-violations-by-3-di-mens-basketball-student-athletes-eligibility-revoked-permanently.aspx>.

¹⁸ Meghan Durham Wright & Saquandra Heath, *NCAA pursues additional sports betting violations*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/9/11/media-center-ncaa-pursues-additional-sports-betting-violations.aspx>.

¹⁹ Meghan Durham Wright, *3 former Eastern Michigan men's basketball student-athletes did not cooperate with investigation into potential sports betting conduct*, NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/24/media-center-3-former-eastern-michigan-mens-basketball-student-athletes-did-not-cooperate-with-investigation-into-potential-sports-betting-conduct.aspx>.

²⁰ *Id.*

Additionally, in a recent NCAA press release, it was revealed that “enforcement staff has opened investigations into potential sports betting violations by approximately 30 current or former men's basketball student-athletes.”²¹ In the same release, you stated that “we still need more states, regulators and gaming companies to help in this effort by eliminating risky prop bets to reduce opportunities for manipulation.”²²

Given recent events, the NCAA’s statements, and the reality that many student athletes become professional athletes, it is concerning that the NCAA is changing its policy on sports betting. To assist the Committee in its oversight, we request a briefing by no later than November 13, 2025, that addresses the following:

1. Why is the NCAA changing its policy allowing student athletes to bet on professional sports?
2. Has the NCAA conducted any studies, analyses, or reviews of the impact of gambling on student athletes? If so, what are the results? What role did they play in the NCAA’s decision to allow student athletes to bet on professional sports?
3. How does this change allow the NCAA, the conferences, and the member schools to better protect the integrity of college games and encourage healthy habits for student-athletes who choose to engage in betting activities on professional sports?
4. How is the NCAA engaging with athletic conferences, member institutions, and teams to address questions and concerns about this rule change?
5. Amid recent allegations of illegal sports betting among student athletes and concerns expressed by member institutions, is NCAA reconsidering implementation of the policy?
6. What guardrails are in place to prevent the type of illegal sports betting activity that is allegedly occurring in the NCAA and NBA, considering that some student athletes will go on to become professional athletes?
7. Please provide details about any fraudulent, illegal, and alleged betting practices in connection with NCAA players, coaches, and officials, including the actions of NCAA players identified in recent infraction decisions; as well as prior instances, some of which are identified above.
8. Please describe the NCAA’s “layered integrity monitoring program,”²³ for maintaining competition integrity and pursuing sports betting violations.

²¹ Press Release, National Collegiate Athletic Association, *NCAA President Baker issues statement regarding sports betting indictments* (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/10/23/media-center-ncaa-president-baker-issues-statement-regarding-sports-betting-indictments.aspx>.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

Letter to Mr. Charlie Baker

October 30, 2025

Page 5 of 5

9. What gaps, if any, are in existing regulations that allow illegal betting schemes to occur in college sports?

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any follow-up questions, please contact Committee Majority Staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



John Joyce, M.D.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations



Gus Bilirakis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade

cc: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade