



To the Esteemed Members of the House of Representatives for the State of North Carolina,

As representatives for the student-athletes of the Atlantic Coast Conference, we the ACC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) are writing to affirm the position of the recently introduced Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsement (SCORE) Act that **student-athletes should not be considered employees of their institutions.**

At the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, current and former NCAA student-athletes combined to win over 300 medals. Student-athletes from ACC member schools contributed nearly a third of this total, the most of any conference. A majority of these medal-winning athletes compete in sports that do not directly generate revenue for the schools that sponsor them. As we have seen in recent years, these sports are often the first to be negatively impacted by budget cuts and reallocation of funding. Classifying student-athletes as employees of their institutions would force many schools to cut or reduce roster sizes in these sports, eliminating opportunities for a significant number of student-athletes to earn college degrees while competing at the highest level of their sport. These cuts are often made irrespective of how successful a team may be or how many Olympic medalists it may produce. Federal legislation is imperative to protect these sports and preserve the unique opportunity that the NCAA provides to its student-athletes.

Revenue-generating sports, including football, men's and women's basketball, and baseball, would also be greatly impacted if their student-athletes are deemed employees. Becoming an employee of the university excludes the education portion of the student-athlete experience. The benefits of being an employee do not override the benefits of a higher education. One current NC State football player noted that:

“Being classified as an employee takes away the true purpose of being a student-athlete—on scholarships, and the unique college experience would be overshadowed by taxes, job rules, and less focus on academics.

If we're treated like employees, it shifts the priority from education and the student experience to labor, undermining why we came to school in the first place and stripping away the real benefits of being a student-athlete."

Employment would introduce complex issues including taxation of current benefits (housing, meals, equipment), varying state labor laws, the possibility of being "fired" for performance, and the exclusion of international athletes due to visa restrictions. These changes could create inequity, uncertainty, and instability in the collegiate athletics landscape.

College athletics have always been about more than our on-field endeavors. We get the opportunity to pursue our sports at the highest level, but we also do so in a way that sets us up for life beyond our playing careers. We have the opportunity to earn a degree that may otherwise have been unattainable, and learn the skills necessary to leverage our time as athletes into successful professional careers that are often entirely unrelated to our sports. Scholarships, properly regulated compensation for name, image, and likeness (NIL) use, and other benefits are all ways of recognizing the revenue-generating contributions of student-athletes, but access to opportunity remains the most important element of the student-athlete experience. Treating student-athletes as employees of their institutions would deprive us of these educational and professional opportunities while also undermining the success of most non-revenue sports. As representatives of student-athletes across the ACC, we ask you to take legislative action to protect college sports and prevent the designation of student-athletes as employees of their universities.

Sincerely,

ACC SAAC

Signatures:

Institution	Name	Sport
Boston College	Kyle Wolff	Baseball
Boston College	Grace Milliken	Volleyball
Cal	Khalen Curry	Men's Gymnastics
Clemson	Mia Moore	Women's Basketball

Clemson	Gabrielle (Brie) Clark	Women's Gymnastics
Duke	Millie Muir	Volleyball
Duke	Sydney Smith	Women's Lacrosse
Florida State	Azariah Rusher	Men's Tennis
Georgia Tech	Henry Gibbs	Men's Swim and Dive
Georgia Tech	Makayla Coffield	Softball
Louisville	Fernando Sanchez	Men's soccer
Louisville	Hadley Snyder	women's soccer
Miami	Robert Joseph	Men's Track
Miami	Sarah Sensenbrenner	Women's Swimming & Diving
NC State	Isaiah Shirley	Football
NC State	Jordan Snell	Men's Basketball
North Carolina	Carmen Saques	Rowing
North Carolina	Chelsea Thorpe	Volleyball
Notre Dame	Cassandre Prosper	Women's Basketball
Pitt	Gracie Kahoun	Women's Lacrosse
Pitt	Gianna Cagliola	Women's XC/Track
SMU	Jentry Lamirand	Volleyball
SMU	Aubrey Brown	Women's Soccer
Stanford	Temple Landry	Women's Gymnastics
Syracuse	Cornell Perry	Football
Syracuse	Ruben Rojas Betanzos	Men's Cross Country
Virginia	Daniel (Danny) Kaelin	Football

Virginia	Kyle Montaperto	Wrestling
Virginia Tech	Zach Glesius	Men's Soccer
Virginia Tech	Kayl Petersen	Women's Basketball
Wake Forest	Amelia Frey	Field Hockey
Wake Forest	Matthew Dennis	Football