

Senate File 2392 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2392
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2212)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to interscholastic athletic scrimmages between
2 schools and nonaccredited home school sports organizations,
3 and including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 280.37 Nonaccredited home school
2 sports organization scrimmages.

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "*Nonaccredited home school sports organization*" means
5 a team, club, cooperative, or group organized primarily for
6 students receiving competent private instruction or independent
7 private instruction under chapter 299A, or for students
8 receiving instruction in nonaccredited nonpublic settings that
9 are not a member or associate member of an organization.

10 b. "*Organization*" means the same as defined in section
11 280.13.

12 c. "*School*" means a public school district or accredited
13 nonpublic school that is a member or associate member of an
14 organization.

15 d. "*Scrimmage*" means a noncompetitive, practice-oriented
16 interscholastic event between teams that simulates game
17 conditions solely for the purpose of evaluating and developing
18 team strategies, individual skills, and conditioning.

19 2. Notwithstanding any rule, bylaw, policy, or regulation
20 of an organization, a school may participate in a scrimmage
21 against a nonaccredited home school sports organization in any
22 sport offered by the school.

23 3. a. A scrimmage under this section requires a prior
24 agreement in writing between the school district superintendent
25 or designee of the accredited nonpublic school and a duly
26 authorized representative of the nonaccredited home school
27 sports organization. The agreement shall be retained by the
28 school and nonaccredited home school sports organization for
29 one year following the scrimmage. The agreement shall include
30 all of the following:

31 (1) The date, time, location, duration, and format of the
32 scrimmage.

33 (2) Safety protocols, including concussion management and
34 emergency procedures.

35 (3) Any other conditions determined to be necessary by

1 either party.

2 *b.* Each school and nonaccredited home school sports
3 organization shall ensure appropriate liability coverage and
4 assume responsibility for its own participants in a scrimmage
5 under this section. A school or nonaccredited home school
6 sports organization shall not be liable for injuries resulting
7 from a scrimmage except as provided by law or in the written
8 agreement.

9 4. Students participating in a scrimmage on behalf of
10 a nonaccredited home school sports organization under this
11 section shall not be subject to the eligibility rules of an
12 organization.

13 5. A scrimmage under this section shall:

14 *a.* Not count as a regular season contest or affect win-loss
15 records, standings, rankings, or postseason eligibility.

16 *b.* Not involve official scorekeeping for public announcement
17 or record purposes.

18 *c.* Not charge admission to spectators.

19 *d.* Not use public address announcements for play-by-play
20 commentary.

21 *e.* Be limited in duration and intensity consistent with
22 preseason or in-season practice rules of the sport, as
23 established by the national federation of state high school
24 associations or another applicable association.

25 *f.* Occur at a facility owned or controlled by one of the
26 teams or at a neutral facility agreed upon by the teams.

27 *g.* Officials shall not be compensated unless agreed upon by
28 the teams solely for training or instructional purposes.

29 *h.* Be voluntary for all participants.

30 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill relates to interscholastic athletic scrimmages
35 between schools and nonaccredited home school sports

1 organizations.

2 The bill allows public schools and accredited nonpublic
3 schools that are members or associate members of an
4 organization as defined in Code section 280.13 to participate
5 in interscholastic athletic scrimmages with nonaccredited home
6 school sports organizations.

7 The bill defines "nonaccredited home school sports
8 organization" as team, club, cooperative, or group organized
9 primarily for students receiving competent private instruction
10 or independent private instruction under Code chapter 299A,
11 or for students receiving instruction in nonaccredited,
12 nonpublic settings that are not a member or associate member
13 of an organization as defined in Code section 280.13. Under
14 Code section 280.13, an organization is a corporation,
15 association, or organization that has as one of its primary
16 purposes the sponsoring or administration of extracurricular
17 interscholastic athletic contests or competitions. The bill
18 defines "scrimmage" as a noncompetitive, practice-oriented
19 interscholastic event between teams that simulates game
20 conditions solely for the purpose of evaluating and developing
21 team strategies, individual skills, and conditioning.

22 The bill requires a written agreement between the school
23 and nonaccredited home school sports organization be executed
24 prior to the scrimmage. The agreement must contain the date,
25 time, location, duration, and format of the scrimmage, safety
26 protocols, and other conditions deemed necessary by either
27 party. The agreement must be retained by each party for one
28 year following the scrimmage.

29 The bill provides that each school and nonaccredited home
30 school sports organization shall ensure appropriate liability
31 coverage and assume responsibility for its own participants in
32 a scrimmage. Students participating in a scrimmage on behalf
33 of a nonaccredited home school sports organization are not
34 subject to the eligibility rules of an organization.

35 Lastly, the bill requires that scrimmages do not count

1 toward regular season records, standings, rankings, or
2 postseason eligibility, must be voluntary, limited in duration
3 and intensity, occur at certain facilities, and may not
4 involve official scorekeeping, charging admission, play-by-play
5 announcements, or pay for officials.

6 The bill takes effect July 1, 2027.