

Insights, News & Events

## BARGAINING FOR STABILITY: COULD COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RESHAPE COLLEGE SPORTS?

Event

Aug 20, 2026

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT

College sports has moved beyond the question of whether athletes should share in the revenue they help generate. The harder question now: can the current system actually hold?

Once viewed as a distant or unrealistic possibility, collective bargaining is now receiving serious attention from conference leaders, athletic directors, and other college sports stakeholders. Some see bargaining as a potential means of establishing nationally enforceable rules, giving athletes a formal voice, and reducing the cycle of litigation that continues to reshape the industry. Others question whether a labor model developed for professional sports can accommodate the legal, financial, and educational realities of university athletics.

Join Fisher Phillips partner Joshua Nadreau for a practical, strategic overview designed for university general counsel, athletic department leaders, and higher education decision-makers who need to understand where this conversation is heading and what it means for their institution.

**The webinar will cover:**

- **Why the conversation is accelerating:** How revenue sharing, continued antitrust exposure, fragmented regulation, transfer and eligibility disputes, and the absence of a recognized athlete representative are pushing collective bargaining into the mainstream.

### Related People



**Joshua D. Nadreau**

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### Service Focus

Collective Bargaining

Labor Relations

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### Industry Focus

Sports

- **What bargaining might—and might not—solve:** The potential for negotiated rules addressing compensation, NIL, athlete movement, roster management, health and safety, enforcement, and athlete voice, along with the new risks and obligations bargaining could create.
- **Who would sit at the table:** Who's the employer? Who represents athletes? Does bargaining happen at the school, conference, sport, or national level?
- **What university leaders should be considering now:** The possible implications for public and private institutions, Title IX and non-revenue sports, institutional control, labor relations, operating costs, and long-term athletics strategy.

If you have any questions, please contact [Sidra Trajcevska](#).

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## Educational Credits

### HRCI and SHRM

- The firm is submitting this webinar for credit.

### CLE

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