LEGAL KITTY™ CHEAT SHEET

NIL Deals After the House Settlement

School pay, third-party deals, and the clearinghouse in between.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1 **Schools can now pay athletes directly.**
The cap is 22% of average revenue at the five power conferences: about $21.58 million per school for 2026–27 (College Sports Commission). That's on top of NIL.

2 **Report every third-party deal of $600 or more.**
Division I athletes report to NIL Go within five business days of signing or agreeing on pay. Verbal pay terms count.

3 **Booster money needs a real business purpose.**
Deals with school-associated entities must promote goods or services "provided to the general public for profit," at rates comparable to non-athletes (Bylaw 22.1.3).

4 **Unreviewed isn't approved.**
Since July 1, 2026, deals of $600–$15,000 skip rate review until you pass $50,000 in associated deals. The business-purpose test still applies.

KEY EXAMPLES

Real decisions and rules, from primary sources

NCAA v. Alston
U.S. Supreme Court, 2021

The Court unanimously upheld the injunction on NCAA education-benefit limits. Kavanaugh, concurring: "The NCAA is not above the law."

FOR YOU **Athlete pay rules face antitrust law.**

House v. NCAA settlement
Approved June 6, 2025

Judge Claudia Wilken approved the settlement that lets schools share revenue directly with athletes.

FOR YOU **Read a school pay deal like any contract.**

CSC memo
April 7, 2026

A deal paying for your NIL is an NIL contract, whatever its label ("agency," "services"). Schools can't guarantee third-party deals.

FOR YOU **Labels don't change the reporting duty.**

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KEY CLAUSES

Red flag, green flag

Push back on the red. Ask for the green.

	RED FLAG · PUSH BACK	GREEN FLAG · ASK FOR
REPORTING	"We'll enter it in NIL Go later"	Reported within five business days
LABEL	"Agency agreement" that pays for NIL	Called what it is: an NIL contract
TERMS	Pay "may be adjusted" after review	Sponsor, duties, term and pay in writing
SPONSOR	Collective's own fundraiser appearance	Business selling to the public for profit
SCHOOL	"The school guarantees this deal"	No school guarantee of third-party deals
RIGHTS	Exclusive rights to your NIL, no end	Defined uses, defined term

Built from CSC rules and memos (NCAA Bylaws 22.1–22.3). Sources: see the source map. Teaching examples, not forms.

GO DEEPER

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Every sheet: DM **CHEAT**
This sheet: DM **NILDEAL**

Don't sign it till you read it.

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