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House Ways and Means Committee Hearing Probes Wide Range of Tax Issues in Sports.

The Ways and Means Committee of the US House of Representatives held a hearing on 30 June 2026 on federal tax policy and its impact on the business of sports. Lawmakers on the panel and witnesses reviewed a range of issues facing professional and college sports, including tax benefits derived from the issuance of municipal bonds for stadium construction, tax-exempt status of professional leagues and college athletic conferences, amortization deductions for sports-related intangibles, the impact pending executive compensation limitations could have on a handful of publicly owned professional sports teams, tax withholding for college athletes, and the need for financial literacy as student-athletes receive NIL (name, image and likeness) payments, among other issues covered during the nearly four-hour session.

“From college athletes to professional leagues, sports organizations benefit from a range of favorable tax treatments, including tax exemptions and taxpayer-funded subsidies that warrant congressional oversight to ensure tax dollars are being used as intended,” Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith (R-Mo.) said during his opening statement.

Whether or not changes are in the offing remains to be seen, but Smith and others on the committee did not hold back with their opinions on altering the current landscape of taxes and sports.

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