

2017



SOFTBALL
Playoff Handbook

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

SOFTBALL PLAYOFF HANDBOOK

Congratulations to schools who will represent their district in post-season play! Please read the following information carefully regarding the 2017 UIL Softball playoffs.

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Important Deadlines

Certification Deadlines for Softball Playoffs.

April 25	District Certification Deadline, All Conferences.
April 29	Bi-district, All Conferences.
May 6	Area, All Conferences.
May 13	Regional quarterfinals, All Conferences.
May 20	Regional semifinals, All Conferences.
May 27	Regional finals, All Conferences.
May 31-June 3	UIL Softball State Tournament, All Conferences.

Submitting Playoff Game Information

Brackets. (*required for each round of playoffs)

Use MaxPreps.com to submit results and update next round bracket information. Coaches are required to submit playoff results immediately following their contest. The winning school should submit playoff game results and next round information via MaxPreps through the assigned coach/admin account. The score reported by a coach on a team's page will automatically fill in the bracket. The completeness of the data presented on the UIL Texas Scoreboard will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. For more information, please see www.uil-texas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps.

State Testing Information

- No playoff game can be scheduled Monday through Thursday during scheduled state testing, as required by *state law*.
- Once testing is complete for the week, teams may schedule playoff games beginning the following day, provided they remain in compliance with UIL rules for scheduling playoff games.
- On Friday, when there are timed tests that end at a certain time, with school approval, teams could travel no earlier than 30 minutes after the scheduled end of tests on Friday.
- If any test for any student on a team involved in a post-season contest occurs on Friday and is an untimed test, travel for that team is not permitted until the end of the school day.

Please reference <http://www.uil-texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/limits-on-practice-and-performance> for more information.

POSTSEASON INFORMATION

Post-Season Warm-up Games. Teams can schedule a warm-up game after district certification and before their first playoff game if they have not reached their allowable season limit. This game can be scheduled like any other regular season match. Teams that have exhausted their allowable season limit are given a UIL one game exception under the following conditions:

- Teams that are the district champion and have a first-round bye
- The one-game exception can be played only at the end of your school day on Friday, last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**) or anytime on Saturday.

Inclement Weather. Every effort must be made by both teams to determine the winner before the certification deadline. This includes obtaining neutral sites and securing any available site. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another site is playable.

If weather conditions make it impossible to determine a winner before certification, UIL must be contacted for an extension. The next round opponent(s) must also be contacted to inform them that the deadline will be extended.

Extreme scheduling difficulties such as those mentioned above could result in a coin flip which would determine the representatives to the next round.

Sites: The teams involved should select sites for all rounds of playoffs except the state site. See Section 1208 (o)(p) of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*. If schools cannot agree, they must flip a coin.

- ***Neutral Sites:*** A site mid-point or near mid-point, or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if its distance from either school is more than two-thirds the total distance between the schools.
- ***Home Sites:*** When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field or court, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.
- ***Mid-Point Sites:*** Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post-district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

Contracts. All playoff arrangements between two schools should be made in writing and signed to protect both parties.

Playoff Game Timing. Bi-district games may not be played until after the final date for district certification in that respective conference, unless permission is granted by all possible next round opponents. All other playoff games may not be played until after the final date for completion of the prior round championships.

Play-off games may not be played until after the final date for completion of the prior round championships, exception bi-district.

Additional Timing Rules.

- If both schools have concluded their school year, they may play on any day.
- A team cannot be forced to flip for a time that would prevent a school from attending Graduation.
- A team cannot be required to play on the night prior to final examinations.

- All games or a game will be played to completion of seven innings.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

Playoff Game Format. Play-off games may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format.

Two-out-of-three:

- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday. Games 2 and/or 3 shall not be played until Friday. If one game is played and a second game cannot be played because of weather, then the winner of the one game advances to the next round. If two games are played (and split), and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.
- Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should set parameters for the series prior to the first game. The parameters should include, but not limited to the following areas: how the schools will handle weather problems and delays, how far schools will travel to find an available field, giving up home field advantage, and securing officials must be discussed before one team gains a position of advantage after the first game is completed and the weather is a factor.

Playoff Game Recommendations.

- **Trainers:** Trainers should be available throughout playoffs.
- **Officials:** In all conferences at all playoff levels, except the state tournament, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved. If neutral officials are requested through UIL, the **home team** must make the request.
 - Schools must go to the UIL website to request officials: <https://www.uil texas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php>.
 - Officials evaluation form: <https://www.uil texas.org/form/officials-evaluation/submit.php?sport=Softball>.
- **Police protection:** Adequate police protection should be provided for all play-off games whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home court of one of the teams.
- **Balls:** The balls being used at the UIL State Tournament are Baden 2BSFPY.
- **Housing:** Each school is responsible for its own housing through the regional finals.
- **Awards:** It is the responsibility of the participating schools to decide if awards will be provided.

Regional Final Qualifiers – team information and photos are needed.

- **Team Information Form for State Tournament:** Teams qualifying for the Regional Semifinals must fill out the team information form online at <https://www.uil texas.org/forms/team-info-softball>. Failure to submit this form may result in your school not appearing in the Softball State Tournament program. **This form must be submitted via the web site no later than: Wednesday, May 24th.**
- **Team Picture for State Tournament:** Teams advancing to regional semifinals must email (pictures@uil texas.org) the three items requested below. *The subject of your email must include your school name.* **Please submit the following items to our office no later than Wednesday, May 24th.** Failure to submit this information will result in your school not having pictures in the Softball State Tournament program. No smart phone pics please!
 - Team Picture (5x7 color photo, at least 1 MB)
 - Picture of Head Coach (head and shoulder shot, at least 1 MB)
 - School mascot or school logo (camera ready art work if possible, if not a copy of the mascot from your letterhead, etc.)

State Qualifiers. Immediately following your regional final game, the winning coach should text Darryl Beasley (512-238-0968) and report the following information:

- Head Coach Name and Team
- Score of the regional final game(s) with Team names
- Final season record: (Please have scorebook available for questions regarding **your season record including pitching records**).
- You will receive an email on Sunday to inform you of all State Tournament information (including lodging arrangements that the UIL blocks for each team).

Officials' (State Tournament) New this year for the state softball tournament is the process for selecting officials for the semifinal games. The two schools will either agree on crew/chapter selection, or ask for UIL assignment. Officials will be assigned by the UIL if the two schools cannot reach mutual agreement. Requests must be made by 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 28th prior to the State Tournament. The softball request form can be found online here: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php>

The home team will submit the officials request form utilizing the link above. If officials are mutually agreed upon by both the home and visiting team, then the home team will simply input the selected crew/chapter selection into the form. If officials cannot be agreed upon by both the home and visiting team, then the home team will need to include a list of chapters that they prefer not to call the game (scratch list) that is representative of both teams (home and visitor), and UIL will make assignment.

Bat Check (State Tournament). At the UIL Softball State Tournament only, prior to a team's first game, there will be bat check administered by officials. The details of the bat check procedure will be communicated prior to the start of the tournament. The purpose of the bat check is to ensure that all bats meet NFHS regulations.

Congratulations on a great season!! If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.