2013-14 Softball State Champions

Weimar
Conference 1A Champions

Crawford
Conference 2A Champions

La Grange
Conference 3A Champions

Aledo
Conference 4A Champions

Deer Park
Conference 5A Champions
“I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that holds dear, is the moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle, victorious.”

“Leadership rests not only upon ability, not only upon capacity; having the capacity to lead is not enough. The leader must be willing to use it. His leadership is then based on truth and character. There must be truth in the purpose and will power in the character.”

- Vince Lombardi
NOTE | Questions concerning the UIL Softball Plan and eligibility requirements found in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules should be directed to Peter Contreras at the UIL office. Darryl Beasley, Traci Neely and Mark Cousins are also available to answer questions.
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~ SOFTBALL CALENDAR ~

January
23 First day of practice

February
2 First day to hold interschool scrimmages
16 First day for playing interschool games

April
28 District Certification

May
2 Bi-District Deadline
9 Area Deadline
16 Regional Quarterfinal Deadline
23 Regional Semi-final Deadline
30 Regional Final Deadline

June
3-6 Softball State Tournament

*Warm up games must be played prior to participation in a bi-district game and must be counted toward the season game limitation.

*Bi-district games may not be played until after the final date for district certification in that respective conference. All other playoff games may not be played until after the final date for completion of the prior round championships unless each potential next round opponent agrees.
~ NATIONAL FEDERATION SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES  ~

1-6-1: The batting helmet shall not have a glare or mirror-like surface.

1-7-1: The catcher’s helmet shall not have a glare or mirror-like surface.

2015 NFHS Editorial Changes

1-6-1: The exterior warning label may be affixed…or embossed (at the time of manufacture).

1-6-6: The phrase, “Meets NOCSAE Standard at the time of manufacture”…

1-7-1: The catcher shall wear a catcher’s helmet…that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

5-1-4: After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher on the pitcher’s plate and the umpire calls and/or signals "Play Ball."

7-1-1&2 Pen 2: When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or prior to an intentional base on balls (S.P.), or before all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position if a half-inning is ending. The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out (not the improper batter). The improper batter’s time at bat is negated and she is returned to the dugout/bench area. All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball (F.P.) or an illegal pitch (F.P.) while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal.

NOTE: If any situation arises which could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, umpires should not leave the field until all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position. If teams line up to shake hands there is little chance for an appeal even if the defensive infielders have not crossed the foul line and umpires can leave the game at this point. No appeal can be made once the umpires have left the field.

2015 NFHS Point of Emphasis

1. Electronic Devices
2. Interference
3. Obstruction
2014-15 UIL Rule Changes

GENERAL

• Updates to the existing UIL rules for broadcasting post-season events.
• Approved a 2 year Pilot study for 5A and 6A schools to conduct a 3 day tryout period beginning in the Spring of 2015 for sixth graders in preparation for 7th grade participation the following year.

FOOTBALL

• Implementation of the 40-second play clock in addition to the 25-second play clock.
• Allow sub-varsity teams in Conferences 5A and 6A to play on Wednesday of week one only if the varsity has a Thursday game that same week.

CROSS COUNTRY

• Increase the number of qualifiers to the top four teams and top ten individuals (who are not already on one of the advancing teams) from the regional meet to the state meet.

TRACK AND FIELD

• Alter the way District Executive Committee’s determine not to have an Area meet (effective immediately).

GOLF

• Allow coaches to coach their players from tee to green.

OFFICIALS

• Update to Section 1204, Officials, of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules in order to comply with newly passed legislation.

Unless noted otherwise, effective August 1, 2014
Section 1280: GIRLS’ SOFTBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls’ Softball Plan.

(b) ELIGIBILITY. Only girls eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution may try out for and participate under the high school Girls’ Softball Plan.

(c) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.
   (1) Violations/Penalties. The district executive committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.
   (2) Total Number of Games. No team or student shall compete in more than two invitational tournaments plus 17 softball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools may schedule a warm-up game in addition to the game limits. This additional game shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.
   (3) Exception to Resolve District Ties.
      (A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the district executive committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.
      (B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the district executive committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season. See Section 1203.
   (4) Substituting. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament. A tournament may be substituted in place of three games. Schools can only utilize this exception to participate in one additional tournament.
   (5) Invitational Tournament Restrictions.
      (A) No team shall participate in an invitational softball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.
      (B) Tournament Restriction. Softball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.
   (6) Site of Game. The district executive committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.
   (7) Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the district executive committee.

(d) PLAYING DATES.
   (1) Off-Season Limitations. There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, until the 19th Friday prior to the State Softball Tournament, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs.
   (2) Scrimmages. Schools shall not scrimmage until the 18th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament, not to exceed two scrimmages per week, Monday through Saturday. Only one scrimmage is permitted between Monday and the end of the school day Friday.
   (3) Games. Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament.
   (4) School Equipment. It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.
   (5) Non-School Participation. See 1209.

(e) TIES: DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES. Unless otherwise specified by district executive committee minutes prior to the beginning of the season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five
innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(f) PLAYOFF GAMES. In playoff games beyond district, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

(g) GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION. If a district or non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(h) GRADUATING SENIORS. Sections 400 (a) and 402 of the Constitution shall not disqualify a contestant during the softball season who is eligible in all other respects at the time of spring graduation. This exception refers only to contestants whose playoff competition extends into the summer from the end of school.

(i) POST SEASON PLAYOFFS.

1. Playoff. Playoffs 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.

2. Two-out-of-Three Series. If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday, provided there is no loss of school time traveling to or participating in the game. 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.

3. State Tournament. All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.

4. Disputes. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. See Section 1208(q).

5. Day of Playoff Game. Playoff games shall not be played before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent.

6. Gate Receipts From State Tournament. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state softball tournament.

The following tie breaker procedures shall apply:

Section 1203

(h) TIES. The district executive committee shall determine in writing prior to the season the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win/loss percentages. If the district executive committee has not provided a procedure prior to the season, the following tie breaker procedures shall apply:


   (A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the highest available seed. The other team will be the lower available seed.

   (B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage.

      Step 1: If one of the teams defeated the other two, that team is the highest available seed. The other teams flip to determine the other available seeds.

      Step 2: If none of the three defeated the other two, flip (odd coin is the highest available seed, the other two flip again to determine the other available seeds).

   (C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage.

      Step 1: If one of the teams has defeated the other three, that team is the highest available seed. The other three teams then flip (odd coin wins the highest available seed; second flip determines the other available seeds).

      Step 2: If none of the four has defeated the other three, the four teams have a blind draw for the available seeds.

   (D) For football, if the tie involves teams that will advance into different playoff brackets (i.e., Division I, Division II), the teams shall be separated by division prior to implementing tie breaking procedures.


   (A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. If one team defeated the other team both times in head to head district competition, that team will be the highest available seed. If the two teams split their head to head district games, the two teams shall play one game or match (if rules permit).

   (B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. A draws bye; B plays C and C wins; C plays A. If A wins, A is the highest available seed, C is the next available seed and B is the lowest available seed. If C wins,
C is the highest available seed, A plays B to determine the other available seeds.

(C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. Draw for spots. A plays C; B plays D. Winners of the first games play for the highest available seed; losers of the first games play for the other available seeds.

(D) More Than Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament.

(3) Tournaments shall be on consecutive days at one site. The district executive committee may authorize preliminary round games to be played at additional sites, either within the independent school district where the championship game is to be held or at sites located in an independent school district which adjoins the championship site.

(4) Any situation not covered in the above tie breaker criteria shall be determined by lot. Unless the district executive committee specifies otherwise prior to the season, tie games shall count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First Day</th>
<th>District Certification Deadline</th>
<th>Date(s) of State Championship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball (Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>5/5*</td>
<td>6/10-6/13/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basketball (Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>2/14*</td>
<td>3/5-3/7/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basketball (Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>2/21*</td>
<td>3/12-3/14/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross Country (Boys &amp; Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>1/21**</td>
<td>11/8-11/10/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Football (Boys)</strong></td>
<td>1A-4A &amp; 5A, 6A w/no spring training</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5A, 6A w/spring training</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8/11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Golf (Girls &amp; Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All Conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4/8**</td>
<td>4/27-4/30/2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soccer (Girls &amp; Boys)</strong></td>
<td>4A, 5A, 6A</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/16-4/18/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Softball (Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All Conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>4/28*</td>
<td>6/3-6/6/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swimming &amp; Diving (Boys &amp; Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1/31**</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/20-2/21/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team Tennis (Girls &amp; Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10/21*</td>
<td></td>
<td>11/5-11/6/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tennis-Individual (Girls &amp; Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4/15**</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/12-5/13/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Track &amp; Field (Boys &amp; Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4/18**</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/15-5/16/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volleyball (Girls)</strong></td>
<td>All Conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>11/1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>11/20-11/22/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wrestling (Girls &amp; Boys)</strong></td>
<td>All Conferences</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2/7**</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/20-2/21/2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*District chair is responsible for submitting the district certification form online (via UIL website).

**District chair is responsible for submitting the district results directly to the next level of competition (area or regional director); please do not send to the UIL office.
### UIL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Pool Play</th>
<th>Round Robin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of teams:</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tourney prelim round games may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)</td>
<td>Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tourney prelim round games may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)</td>
<td>Same or adjoining ISD unless additional sites for prelims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday.</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday.</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Limit/Makeups:</td>
<td>If a semifinal game is played, count as a tournament. If not reaching semifinals, early games could count on season game and tournament limit, and another tournament could be played.</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Maximum: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If final tourney game is played later, it must be counted on season game and tournament limit. Maximum: 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contests per day:</td>
<td>Three games</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Three games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of games</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>• 4-inning in pools, extra inning for ties only (Regulation after advancing from pool)</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count per UIL Season Limitation</td>
<td>One of allowed two tournaments</td>
<td>One of allowed two tournaments</td>
<td>One of allowed two tournaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place Standing in Tournament</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Determined by win-loss record during which each team in pool plays each other. (See examples)</td>
<td>Win-loss record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects on Win-Loss Record</td>
<td>Count all regulation games</td>
<td>Only count regulation games in single elimination bracket. (Pool games do not count on season record if they are only 4 innings.)</td>
<td>Count all regulation games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Robin Ties</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ties will be broken by sudden death as determined by director.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In softball

1) Two teams tied in percentage for first place: the team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the winner. The other team will be the runner-up.

2) Three teams tied in percentage for first place: Step 1) Add points scored against all teams involved. The team with the least points scored against wins. Step 2) If a tie still remains add points scored by each team to determine the winner. Step 3) If a tie still remains, flip a coin.

3) Pool games – Any pool game that extends beyond the 4 innings will be considered a regulation game and will count towards the season record. Exception: games that play extra innings to resolve ties
~ PRE-SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ Preseason Practice Regulations, Activities Outside the School Year ~

Pre-season practice regulations for sports that begin practice prior to the school year are as follows.

Students-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

The maximum length of any single practice session is three hours.

On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, TWO hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days. (Exception - Volleyball)

When determining how to count times spent as “practice activities” please consult the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Counts</th>
<th>What Doesn't Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual on field/court practice</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport specific skill instruction</td>
<td>Weight training*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory conditioning</td>
<td>Film study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rest breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injury treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voluntary conditioning*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not count towards practice time, but cannot be done during the two hour rest/recovery time.

In reference to the minimum TWO hour rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is scheduled), there can be no practice activities at all during this time. This time is exclusively for students to rest/recover for the following practice session, whether that session is an actual on field/court practice or a mandatory conditioning period.

District Chairs. District Chair lists can be found on the UIL web site at www.uiltexas.org/athletics/softball.

Districts should not schedule a game on the last playing date of the regular season or the last two playing dates if the district is in a zone situation — to allow for a game(s) to break a tie.

District Executive Committee (DEC)

Jurisdiction. The DEC shall rule on protests and reports of violations concerning eligibility and other violations of the Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR) that occur within its district.

Composition. The DEC is composed of the superintendents of participant schools competing in the assigned UIL Playing District. The superintendent may designate administrators to represent participant schools in a multi-high school district.

Responsibilities.

- The DEC shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the deadline specified in the official calendar.
- The DEC shall certify in writing, eligible district representatives in all athletic activities.
• The DEC shall determine in writing, prior to the season, the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win/loss percentages. (NOTE: If a tie-breaker procedure is not provided prior to the season, the UIL tie-breaker will be used.)

• The DEC shall enforce all rules contained in the C&CR.

• The DEC shall investigate the eligibility of contestants.

• The DEC shall settle within the district all disputes.

• The DEC does not have the authority to require a school to purchase equipment which is not required by rules stated in the C&CR.

• The DEC shall take such other action that is reasonable, necessary or desirable, and consistent with the UIL C&CR, the rules of the State Board of Education and the law.

• The DEC shall determine the place of games in the case there is a disagreement between two teams.

• The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.

School Authority Responsible. The superintendent shall be responsible for the proper conduct of athletic contests in a school system.

Observe Rules. Each school shall abide by all rules contained in the Constitution. In case an ineligible contestant is used in any League game, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game.

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:

1. Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning or placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or sellable, and includes such items as tee-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.

2. Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.

3. Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.

4. Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team.

The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so that a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.

Rule Violations. Students who violate the rules shall be ineligible for at least one year from the date of the violation unless otherwise specified by rule. Regulations in the athletic plans of the Constitution and Contest Rules govern all varsity and sub-varsity teams. Specific rules within the junior high section of the Constitution govern eighth grade and below.

Penalties. (1) Fighting, i.e. unauthorized entrance on to the playing field/court area to engage in a fight with an opponent, teammate, fan, and/or an official and (2) Failure to complete an athletic contest, i.e. removing a team from a field/court in protest, will be included under the UIL penalty structure.

~ High School Coaching Requirements and Training~

All high school coaches must be full-time employees of the school district. Coaches who knowingly and willfully violate rules may be penalized according to the Constitution and Contest Rules by the District Executive Committee (reprimand) or State Executive Committee (reprimand, public reprimand, suspension). EXCEPTION: A retired
teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may serve as an assistant coach in all athletics and as a head coach for golf, tennis, team tennis, cross country, track and field, and swimming. (This rule shall not affect the status of a coach on a leave of absence attending college.) Also, student teachers, while they are assigned to a participant school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting athletic coaches.

1. **TEC Chapter 33.086 - Certification - CPR and First Aid Training**

Districts arrange and determine who will provide the certified training per American Red Cross, American Heart Association or another organization that provides equivalent training and certification. This training may be combined course with AED certification.

Athletic coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleading sponsors and other head directors of UIL extra-curricular activities must have a current certification filed with the district.

2. **TEC Chapter 22.902 - Certification - AED Training**

Districts must make this available to district employees and volunteers.

Athletic coaches and sponsors, school nurses, PE teachers, marching band directors, and students that serve as an athletic trainer must have a current certification filed with the district.

3. **TEC Chapter 33.202 - Annual Requirement – Safety Training**

Training provided by UIL within the Rules Compliance Program (RCP).

Athletic coaches must complete prior to contact with students.

Athletic coaches are required to provide and document a rehearsal of safety communication with students per sport.

UIL safety information must be presented to the students and be made available to the parents/guardians with this information: [http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/safety-training.ppt](http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/safety-training.ppt)

4. **TEC Chapter 38.158 - Annual Requirement - Concussion Training (2 hours every other year/1 hour annually)**

Athletic coaches, athletic trainers and potential members of the Concussion Oversight Team must complete the training annually.

Continuing Professional Education Providers (CPE) are approved and registered with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA): [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147486144&menu_id=2147483671&menu_id2=794](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147486144&menu_id=2147483671&menu_id2=794).

**UIL Coach Education and Training Requirements**

1. C&CR 1202(j), UIL Professional Acknowledgment Form - completed and on file with district

2. C&CR Section 1208(i), Annual Requirement - Rules Compliance Program (RCP)
   - Training available ONLY on the UIL website - [www.uiltexas.org](http://www.uiltexas.org)
   - Athletic coaches must complete prior to contact with students.

   - 6 hours course/$35 - all first year coaches and any coach (or JH volunteer) who is not a full-time employee of the school district.
   - Available through a link on the UIL website or visit [www.nfhslearn.org](http://www.nfhslearn.org) (Print certificate to verify completion)

4. C&CR 1208(y), Cheerleading Program Coach/Sponsor– Safety / Risk Minimization for Cheerleading Course
   - Must have a current certification or annual training completed prior to contact with participants.
• Districts shall determine the organization that will provide the certification or training. Resources are available but not limited to those on the link from UIL web site. http://www.uiltexas.org/files/health/Cheerleading_Safety_FAQs.pdf

5. C&CR 1208(j), Coach with Misconduct – Minimum Educational Requirement

• Any coach ejected from a contest shall complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course. The course is catalogued for a 6 hour course/$35. http://www.nfhslearn.com

• Any coach ejected from a contest shall complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course. The course is catalogued for a 1.5 hour course/$20. (http://www.nfhslearn.com).

Eligibility for Athletic Contests

Eligibility rules are found in Section 400 and 440 of the Constitution and Contest Rules. Any question regarding a student’s eligibility, should be addressed to the school principal and/or superintendent. Residence requirements according to Sections 400 (d) 440, and 442 should be thoroughly investigated for any student new to school.

Students are eligible to represent their school in varsity interscholastic activities if they:

• are not 19 years of age or older on or before September 1 of the current scholastic year. (See 504 handicapped exception.)

• have not graduated from high school.

• are enrolled by the sixth class day of the current school year or have been in attendance for fifteen calendar days immediately preceding a varsity contest.

• are full-time day students in a participant high school.

• initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four calendar years ago.

• are meeting academic standards required by state law.

• live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance. (Parent residence applies to varsity athletic eligibility only.) When the parents do not reside inside the district attendance zone the student could be eligible if: the student has been in continuous attendance for at least one calendar year and has not enrolled at another school; no inducement is given to the student to attend the school (for example: students or their parents must pay their room and board when they do not live with a relative; students driving back into the district should pay their own transportation costs); and it is not a violation of local school or TEA policies for the student to continue attending the school. Students placed by the Texas Youth Commission are covered under Custodial Residence (see Section 442 of the Constitution and Contest Rules).

• have observed all provisions of the Awards Rule.

    Limitation on Awards. Schools may give one major award, not to exceed $70.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the UIL interschool competitions listed in Section 380. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed $10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional UIL activity listed in Section 380. The $10.00 award may be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity.

• have not been recruited. (Does not apply to college recruiting as permitted by rule.)

• have not violated any provision of the summer camp rule, Section 1209.

• have observed all provisions of the Athletic Amateur Rule, Section 441.

Amateur Rule. Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to non-school participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. (For instance, a race of six miles or longer is not considered to be a cross country meet, so the Amateur Rule is not applicable to students participating in this type of race.)
Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:

1. Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning or placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or sellable, and includes such items as tee-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.

2. Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.

3. Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.

4. Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team.

The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so that a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.

- did not change schools for athletic purposes.

~ SCHOOL PRACTICE AND GAME RESTRICTIONS ~

**Participation**

a. Sundays. A League participant school shall not participate in any athletic contest or conduct any practice, or teach any plays, formations, or skills on Sunday.

   (1) Violation. Any showing of films to, or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instructions or reviewing of plays, formations, or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation.

   (2) Coaches Sunday Meetings. This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from viewing films or planning an instructional program, provided that no athletes are involved in this meeting.

   (3) Exceptions.

      (A) Golf. If the regional and/or state golf tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, one 18-hole practice round is allowed at the regional and/or state tournament site and may be played on the Sunday afternoon preceding the meet (no earlier than 12:00 noon) if permitted by the regional or state meet director.

      (B) Tennis. If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be construed a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to a tennis court for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state meet director.

   (4) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION ON SUNDAY. Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with prior approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with prior permission from the UIL athletic director.

**Practice Time**

According to the State Board of Education, practice time outside the school day is limited to eight hours per school week per activity from Monday 12:01 a.m. through the end of the school day Friday. (This does not include travel time to games/matches scheduled during the school week. See definition of school week below.)

**Contest During the School Week**

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. Exception: District varsity contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be scheduled
during the school week, but must be rescheduled and played on the next date following the postponement in order to be played as an exception. Post-season competition may also be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. **School week means the week beginning at 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week (defined as 12:01 am on Sunday through midnight on Saturday) and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.** Post-District play means competition in UIL play-off series or contests such as—Bi-District, Area, Regional, etc.

### Scrimmages and Games

The school is limited to one scrimmage (with up to four participating schools) during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday).

Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate. A school could play on Tuesday and after school on Friday, in addition to a Thursday/Friday/Saturday tournament during the same calendar week.

### UIL/TEA Side by Side

UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. For UIL, participation is defined as a student actually entering a contest. Example: On Tuesday night, the student’s name is on the score book, but the student remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This does not count as participation in a UIL contest according to UIL (but does count according to state law. The student cannot participate again until Friday after school). The Tuesday game does not as one of the games UIL permits the student to participate in for that calendar week or for the season because the student did not enter the game.

**Baseball/Softball:**

1. A single game: or
2. a double header (a student could play two back-to-back varsity games or in a varsity and junior varsity game, at the same site same night). Each game counts as one of the student’s total games for the season. Students may play additional games at the conclusion of that school week because UIL does not limit the number of games per calendar week in these two team sports.

### Game Administration

#### Game Administrator

The school district superintendent and/or their designee is responsible for enacting and enforcing a crowd management policy for contests sponsored by his/her district.

At each varsity home contest, schools shall designate a principal or other employee (who is not coaching at the contest) to meet the officials as they arrive at the site, tell the official where he/she will be sitting and help if problems arise. The administrator will also report any official abuse to the appropriate administrator (home/visiting school) the next school day.

1. For varsity softball games, meet umpires when they arrive at the field (30 minutes prior to the game at the conference with coaches and umpires).
   a. Introduce himself/herself
   b. Indicate where he/she will be sitting.
2. If officials are not contacted by the designee by ten minutes prior to the beginning of a game, the umpire will seek a designee from the home head coach.
3. If there is no designated administrator, the umpires shall notify the UIL in writing the next working day and so inform.
4. The designee shall briefly meet with the umpires after the game to discuss the game and any problems during the game dealing with ejections of players, coaches or fans, or any misconduct that either school should be made aware. The designee shall also offer to provide an escort to walk with the umpires to their respective
vehicles.

5. The designee is responsible to inform the administration of both schools by phone the next school day of unsportsmanlike behavior of fans, players, coaches, and any unprofessional behavior on the part of umpires. Written reports are to be sent to the superintendents and principals of each school as soon as possible.

6. The home school is responsible for security. In playoff games, both schools are responsible.

7. Each school is responsible for the behavior of its fans, players, and employees.

8. In playoff games both schools shall have a designated school administrator.

Adult Supervision

A coach or adult supervisor must always accompany students. A student shall not represent his or her school at any time in connection with interscholastic competition unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed member of the school faculty. **Exception:** A nonschool person may serve as the adult supervisor of students when appointed by the administrator in areas where no coaching/directing takes place. These individuals may provide the transportation to and from the activity and be responsible for the supervision of participants.

Schedules

Athletic schedules will not be considered official until approved by the superintendent of the member school district.

Crowd Management and Game Security

In our complex and open society there are numerous problems which hinder the public school administrator. Crowd management and game security are two problems which have haunted even the most conscientious administration. This area goes beyond the spectator who is intoxicated in the stands or those who insist on running onto the field at the end of the game. Schools in some states have been forced to abandon night games, while others in some states must seek a neutral site with little or no publicity surrounding the event to prevent added disturbances. Fortunately, this has not been a great problem for athletics in Texas. However, disturbances can occur at even the smallest of schools during a game which has no bearing on the district championship. Each school system should develop a master plan for management of crowds.

Administrative duties for controlling crowds involves a well thought out plan of action. Actions prescribed should be endorsed by the school board as policy for the district, prior to each school year. Plans may then be viewed for comparison with other school systems. Naturally, each system will include variations to fit their own unique situation.

The UIL views this as a positive way to defend against possible trouble at athletic events. School personnel are more apt to act with confidence, knowing where they stand when written policy is in place. Schools that have operated without a crowd management and/or game security policy may see this as an opportunity to add consistency while upgrading their procedures, not to mention serving as a guide for legal implications. It is better to operate somewhat anonymously and behind the scenes so that fans may enjoy their favorite events than to spend little time in planning and be faced with an unchecked security problem.

Administrative Responsibility

The school district superintendent and/or their designee is responsible for enacting and enforcing a crowd management policy for contests sponsored by his/her district. Likewise, all phases of interscholastic competition are under the careful supervision of the superintendent.

**Guidelines.** (These basic guidelines may be supplemented by local schools.)

1. A crowd control policy for season athletic contests shall be endorsed by the school board and should be kept on file with the district executive chairman and in possession of those in the individual school directly responsible.

2. No interscholastic contest may be arranged without the knowledge and sanction of the superintendent or their designee.
3. A game administrator or manager (usually the athletic director or principal) shall be in charge of the various administrative duties not associated with the contest at all home games. This person shall be on duty during the actual playing of the contest.

4. In all cases where students are competing against those of another school there must be an authorized faculty representative on the premises. In team sport contests such as basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the superintendent and/or a designated game administrator shall be present at all home games and should be present at games away from home when large numbers of students and fans are attending the game.

5. Students, participants and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Failure to do so may be in violation of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and subject the school, students and sponsors to penalty.

6. The member school superintendent is responsible for initiating appropriate disciplinary measures against those guilty of violations of the State Education Code.

7. It shall be the responsibility of the host administration to insure the safety of the meet officials.

Safety

Our baseline responsibility is to assure that every person who comes to school or to a school event is ensured the opportunity of returning home safely that day or night. The following suggestions are not complex, but hopefully will stand the test of time.

1. Principals and athletic directors should meet with the police and fire chiefs, emergency medical service head, and school superintendent. At this meeting establish roles of responsibility. For example, whose decision it is to evacuate a school or athletic site? Also discuss all of the other issues (e.g. lightning, power outage, bomb threats, weapons) that are concerns of the respective participants in this meeting. It would be good if written protocols resulted.

2. Form a School Safety Committee which should be representative of students, custodians (who may know your facility better than anyone else), staff, administration, parents, and the community. All of these constituents are stakeholders who should share in responsibility for safety.

3. Consider safety to be a “team” effort. Inform your students and other constituencies that you want them to keep their eyes open, and to report anything they see or hear that may be troubling. “Intelligence” is important and can be reasonably easy to acquire through such a network.

4. Every student should have an advocate member of the school staff. Too often children are without a good adult role model. A staff member, making it a point to check on each student once a week, may be enough to keep the student connected, or to detect a potentially significant personality change.

5. Recognize that you are surrounded by trained observers. Educators, like police, are accustomed to observing individuals, groups, and crowds. Anyone or anything that does not “look right”, probably isn’t. Station trained observers at the entrance to athletic events. Assign staff in fan sections, have the police detail deployed to observe fan behavior, and place administrators at vantage points where spectators and observers can be viewed.

6. Cell phones can be critical during an emergency when phone lines are cut; incoming phone traffic precludes making calls, etc.

7. Don’t believe “it can’t happen here.” The profiles of perpetrators of recent school tragedies are suburban, affluent young people who spend time on computers or who may have access through family to guns.

8. Continue to work to keep high school athletic programs within the perspective of their educational mission. Do not place athletes on a pedestal. Honor equally achievements of all your students (e.g. academics, community service, drama, National Honor Society).

9. A communication system (e.g. walkie-talkies) is important among school personnel, fire, police, EMS, etc.

10. Remain calm, and use the PA system to deliver pre-developed messages/instructions.
~ REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~

Required Forms for All Student Participation. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms).

- **Pre Participation Physical Examination Form.** As a minimum requirement, a Physical Examination Form must be completed prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to first and third years of high school athletic participation. Local district policy may require an annual physical exam. The form must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner, will not be accepted.

- **Medical History Form.** Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian.

- **Parent or Guardian Permit.** Annual participation permit signed by the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Rules Acknowledgment.** Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form.** The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.

- **Concussion Acknowledgement Form.** Annual UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.** Annual UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

Required Forms for Varsity Participation. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required forms. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms).

- **Eligibility Form.** Schools must submit comprehensive eligibility blanks for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, and soccer. For all other athletic activities general alphabetical listing of eligible athletes is required. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school’s office. Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be postmarked before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest. Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.

- **Previous Athletic Participation Form.** New students in grades 9-12 who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest or practice in grades 8-12 in any previous school year must have a Previous Athletic Participation Form completed prior to participation in a varsity contest at the new school.

Q: If a PAPF is completed and signed by the DEC chair, does this make a student-athlete eligible for varsity competition?

A: No. A student-athlete must also meet all other eligibility rules.

Q: If a student-athlete is continuously enrolled for one calendar year at a school, are they eligible for varsity competition?

A: No. The student-athlete must also have a completed and signed PAPF from the DEC chair and be in compliance with all other eligibility rules.

- **Late Forms.** If an Eligibility Form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to
competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the district executive committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of private reprimand to the school.

- **Foreign Exchange Students.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the Constitution and Contest Rules, foreign exchange students in approved CSIET foreign exchange programs are allowed to apply for exceptions to the residence rule through the UIL waiver process. A waiver could be granted in certain activities if they have not received advanced training or have not had extensive experience in the activity of their choice. **Foreign exchange students are not eligible for varsity athletic participation unless they are granted a Foreign Exchange Student Waiver.**

- **Varsity Athletic Eligibility for Over-Age Student.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, an individual is eligible to participate in a League varsity athletic contest as a representative of a participant school if that individual is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest; or has been granted eligibility based on a handicapping condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year and the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD Committee or has been identified as a 504 student prior to the end of their second year in high school.

### Varsity Eligibility Forms

Prior to the first varsity game, head coaches must complete the eligibility form found on the UIL website. This form is for varsity athletes only. Send one copy to your district chairman, and retain one copy in the school file. Copies of the same eligibility form or additions to the original eligibility form should be used to report new varsity players. To save paperwork, athletes who will become eligible at a later date, due to grades or other rules, may be reported on the original eligibility form and asterisked (*) to indicate pending eligibility on a certain date.

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### ~ Game Regulations ~

**Practice/Game Balls**

Each team is responsible for its own practice and game balls for the season. Teams are not required to use the state sponsored softball (Lexum 2BSFPY) until the state tournament.

**Coaching Boxes**

Student players and coaches in uniform or coaching attire representing school colors, may occupy the coaching boxes.

**Pitching Regulation**

The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with, but not off the side of the pitchers plate. *(Please refer to NFHS rules).* The pitching distance is 43 feet.

**Pregame Warmup**

It is recommended that batting practice be eliminated and that each team be given 10 minutes for infield and outfield workouts prior to each game.

**Head Protectors**

All players must wear head protectors when batting and when on the base paths.

**Resolving Ties in Win-Loss Percentage**

Districts should outline procedures *(before the season begins)* for determining playoff representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined *(in writing)* to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win-loss percentage. Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams or more are tied for the district runner-up spot.
Game Called Before Completion

If a district and nondistrict game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest “no game.” Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension. (Refer to p. 10 of this manual).

Postponement

District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the district executive committee.

Courtesy Runner Regulations

National Federation Courtesy Runner regulations.

a. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.

b. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.

c. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning.

NOTE: An unreported courtesy runner is an illegal substitute.

PENALTY: For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.

Ten-Run Rule

The ten-run rule will be in effect for all games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 1/2 innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead.)

Fifteen-Run Rule

By District Executive Committee approval, schools may use the fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings of play in district play. In non-district play, mutual consent of both schools is needed.

Scheduling on Nights Prior to Exams (STAAR)

The UIL recommends not scheduling contests on nights prior to exams (STAAR).

Scheduling on Sunday

Schools shall not play or practice on Sunday. Do not begin a game that cannot be completed before midnight Saturday. Do not start an inning that cannot be finished before midnight Saturday.

Coach Ejection Penalty

See Section 1208 (j), in the Constitution and Contest Rules for automatic penalty for any coach ejected from a game.

Tournament Regulations

Please refer to the tournament chart on p. 12.

NFHS Softball Bat Rule Information

ASA 2004 PERFORMANCE STANDARD—ASA has adopted a bat performance standard, effective January 1, 2004. This change has been made in light of recent scientific developments. Much of the research leading to the new bat standard and the new ASTM test method has been funded by ASA. ASA has determined that this change is necessary because some of the highest performing bats on the market are adversely affecting the character and integrity of the game and rendering a player’s performance more a product of his/her bat than his/her individual skill.

The ASTM F1890 test method is no longer the industry standard, even though some softball associations continue to rely on this test method. ASTM has just recently developed the ASTM F2219 test method. The most recent version of F2219 is available at www.astm.org – click on “standards.” This test method provides a number of improvements over the old F1890 test method. For example, F2219 allows bats to be tested in the lab at a much higher speed, including speeds actually found in the field of play. It also places tighter tolerances on testing procedures, such as the softballs that are used in conducting the bat test. ASTM F2219 allows the testing to be done at the “sweet spot” of the bat - regardless of where that point is along the barrel of the bat.

The ASA 2004 bat standard relies on the swing speed of the batter. ASA has learned and now takes into account that a batter’s swing speed is more dependent on the distribution of the weight across the length of the bat than just the total weight of the bat alone. This weight distribution feature is often referred to as the bat’s moment of inertia, and is incorporated into the new 2004 standard.† The 2004 standard is also on more accurate information about the speeds involved in the “bat-ball collision,” which are swing speed of the bat and the pitch speed of the ball.

The 2004 bat standard has a maximum batted ball speed (BBS) limit of 98 mph when tested according to the ASTM F2219 test method (as approved for balloting). Even though this limit is numerically higher than the ASA 2000 bat performance standard, in science and in practice the 2004 bat standard is actually a reduction compared to the 2000 bat standard. The F2219 testing is done at higher speeds than under the old F1890 standard. As a result, some bats that satisfied the old ASA standard of 125 fps will not pass the new 98 mph standard. Bats that do not satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will not be permitted in NFHS play, effective January 1, 2004. Bats that satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will be authorized to display a new 2004 ASA certification mark. Older bats that pass the new standard will be added to the list of approved bats and will be permitted for NFHS play.

PERMANENT 2004 CERTIFICATION MARK
To indicate that a bat meets the new 2004 standard, the permanent mark, as shown below, is placed only on those bats that have been recently manufactured and meet the 2004 performance standard.

Videotaping/Filming
Non-Conference and District Contests
1) Videotaping/Filming by Schools.
   • It is a violation to film or videotape a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
   • A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a NON-CONFERENCE OR DISTRICT contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape shall not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.
   • Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.

2) Videotaping/Filming by Individuals. Any individual (other than the officially designated school camera) taping or filming must have prior permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct
the view of other spectators of the contest.

3) Commercial Uses. Use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

~ QUESTIONS COMMON TO SOFTBALL COACHES ~

Q: May players take private lessons during the school season?
A: Yes. Players may take private lessons anytime, except during the school day or during school practice time.

Q: May players attend camps or participate in non-school play during the school season?
A: Yes. UIL no longer prohibits camps, clinics, or non-school play during the school season.

Q: What determines sub-varsity eligibility?
A: A student is eligible for junior varsity competition by meeting the following three criteria. The student must:
   1. be academically eligible
   2. be enrolled as a full time student.
   3. be in regular attendance

Q: If a school does not offer softball at the Junior High level, may the 7th and 8th grade girls play on the high school team?
A: No. Seventh and eighth grade girls may not play on high school teams unless they are overage (15 on or before September 1). If the middle school does not offer softball, middle school girls may attend camps and clinics, receive private instruction, and play on non-school teams, without jeopardizing the high school teams.

Q: May athletes participate on non-school teams during the school season?
A: Yes. UIL rule does not prohibit students from playing on non-school teams during the school year. Local policy may be more restrictive than UIL rules.

Q: What ball may schools use throughout their season?
A: Schools may use the ball of their choice. The Baden Lexum Leather Softball #2BSFPY is the state sponsored ball for the State Softball Tournament.

Q: Do pool play tournament games count towards your season record?
A: No, if the games played in the pools are 4 innings or less. Games played beyond the four innings will count towards the season record. Exception: Extra innings played to resolve a tie.

Q: Are subvarsity and middle school teams mandated to pitch from the 43 feet distance?
A: This is left to local decision. The NFHS rules state the pitching distance to be 43 feet.

Q: Can a coach give private pitching lessons?
A: Yes, to any student 6th grade or below or students 7th-12th grade not in their attendance zone.

Q: Can the decision of an official be protested?
A: According the UIL Constitution & Contest Rules, Section 53(a), a paarticipant school may not protest a contest judge's, referee's or other official's decision.

Q: What softball can schools use during their season?
A: Schools may use the ball of their choice. The Baden Lexum 2BSFBY is the official game ball for the state tournament.

Q: What do I do in case of bad weather?
A: If bad weather forces cancellation of a school day and that day is later made up on a Saturday, the Friday that immediately precedes that make-up day can no longer be considered the last day of the school week. Schools must reschedule extracurricular performances or contests if necessary to comply with the limit on contests and performances during the school week.

Q: May girls play on boys’ baseball teams?
A: Yes. Girls may tryout for, and if selected, participate on junior high and/or high school baseball teams; however, girls shall not participate in both baseball and girls’ softball at the same time.
Q: If a varsity district game is rescheduled during the school week and is postponed due to weather, when can I make it up?
A: The district game shall be made up on the next available date on which another game is not scheduled. The makeup game may be played as an exception to the one game per school week limitation.
~ POST SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ PLAYOFF INFORMATION ~

2015 SOFTBALL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to schools who will represent their district in post season play. The following information will help to make sure teams are properly certified to advance in the play-offs from one round to the next.

1) CERTIFICATION DATES FOR SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

April 28   Last date to determine district representatives, All Conferences.
May 2     Last date to determine bi-district champions, All Conferences.
May 9     Last date to determine area champions, All Conferences.
May 16    Last date to determine regional quarterfinal champions, All Conferences.
May 23    Last date to determine regional semifinal champions, All Conferences.
May 30    Last date to determine regional final champions, All Conferences.
June 3-6  State Softball Tournament, All Conferences.

2) INFORMATION LINKS

Certification of District Representatives: The last dates for certifying the district champions to the League office is April 28, 2015. It is mandatory that the District Chair certifies the district representatives on the UIL website at https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=36 as soon as they are determined.

UIL Playoff Reporting - Teams Advancing

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.uiltexas.org/athletics/UIL-maxpreps.

3) PLAY-OFF GAMES

PRE-PLANNING

• Details of all play-off games from bi-district to state shall be arranged by the two teams involved. This includes site selection. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. (Note: Unless mutually agreed, all games shall be played at a midpoint site for schools located more than 100 miles apart and neutral sites cannot be more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.)

• 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.

SINGLE ELIMINATION OR TWO-OUT-OF-THREE SERIES

• 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.
Post-Season Regulations

Two-out-of-three

- If a school plays a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday, provided there is no loss of school time traveling to or participating in the game. Please refer to the C&CR, Section 1220 (h) for rules regarding two-out-of-three game series.
- 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 be 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.
- A two-out-of-three series that does not get a complete game in by the end of the day Friday automatically reverts to a one game series.
- If one game is played and a second game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather, then the winner of the 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, then the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

PLAY-OFF GAME RULES

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

OTHER NOTABLE AREAS

- 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 EXAMS.
- The UIL staff draws all state tournament brackets.

4) SITES

- Sites for all rounds of playoffs are to be selected by the teams involved. See Section 1208 (q) 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 two schools.
- Home and Home Basis: Are those sites near home schools selected by the two schools involved OR the actual home playing field. A field selected as the home site, other than the actual home field, should not be an unreasonable distance from the visiting school’s home field.
- Mid-Point Sites: Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post-district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be at a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

5) OFFICIALS

- In all conferences’ playoff rounds, except the state tournament, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved. If schools cannot mutually agree, the UIL will assign officials. Please use the “Softball Officials Assignment Request Form” locate at www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php for this request.
6) RAIN (BAD WEATHER POLICY)

• 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 field. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another field 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.

• A playoff game suspended/delayed by rain shall be restarted from the point of suspension as soon as possible as outlined in rule 4-2-5 of the National Federation Softball Rules.

7) CONTRACTS

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

8) POLICE PROTECTION

• Adequate police protection should be provided for all playoff games, whether the game is played at a neutral site or at the home site of one of the teams.

9) TEAM PICTURE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

Teams advancing to the regional final game must email (pictures@uiltexas.org) the items requested below. The subject of your email must include your school name. The following materials must be received in our office by Wednesday, May 27, 2015. This is an important step in providing you with the best possible program. Your assistance in this effort is appreciated.

• Team Information Form - list of players, coaches, etc. and list of all games played; complete online via the UIL website at https://www.uiltexas.org/forms/team-info-softball.

• Team Picture - at least 1 MB; email to pictures@uiltexas.org

• Picture of Head Coach (head and shoulder shot, at least 1 MB) - email to pictures@uiltexas.org

• School mascot or school logo (at least 1 MB; camera ready art work if possible). - email to pictures@uiltexas.org

10) REGIONAL CHAMPION (STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER)

Immediately following your regional final game, call Peter Contreras (cell: 512-393-1958) and report the following information:

• Score of the regional final game (or games in 2 out of 3 series)

• Final season record (Please make sure that tournament games are counted correctly.)

• Have scorebook available if there are questions regarding your season record
~ STATE TOURNAMENT ~

Schools Eligible to Compete

Only the teams qualifying through the UIL softball playoff plan are eligible to compete in the state tournament.

<table>
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<th>Schedule</th>
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The State Softball Tournament will be held in Austin, on June 3-6, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, June 3</th>
<th>Thursday, June 4</th>
<th>Friday, June 5</th>
<th>Saturday, June 6</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3:00 6A Semi-final</td>
<td>4:00 6A Finals</td>
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Location of Field

Red McCombs Softball Field, University of Texas at Austin, 2001 Comal St., Austin TX 78705.

Pairing for the Tournament

The UIL athletic staff will be at the office Sunday morning prior to the tournament working on pairings. Pairings will not be released until 9:00 am on Sunday. This information will be given to the wire services. Teams will be placed in the bracket according to their win/loss record. The two best records will be placed in opposite halves and will be the home team in the semifinals. The third and fourth best records will be placed up or down as determined by a coin flip. **The UIL staff will be calling each coach on Sunday morning with pairings and tournament information. Be sure and fill out the team information form on the UIL website. The coach's home and/or cell number from the team information form will be used to contact the coach.**

Team Packets

Team packets will be available for pick-up at each of the team hotels. Please ask for it at the front desk upon checking in.

Lodging Regulations

The UIL will block fifteen (15) rooms per school. UIL will place schools in hotels by regions. All Region I state participant schools will stay in one hotel, Region II in another, etc. The UIL will provide the assigned hotel after calling the coach on Sunday, following the pairings. You will be asked the number of rooms to be reserved and should be done by noon on Sunday. If full allotment of rooms is not used, schools may request additional rooms after 12:00 noon. The League cannot guarantee rooms for cheerleaders, administrators, fans, etc. Please bring your tax exempt number to avoid paying tax. Please settle lodging bills before checking out. Coaches are responsible for the proper conduct of players at the hotels.

Filming

The UIL will contract with a video production company and schools will receive a free videotape of games. Extra copies may be purchased. No schools and/or individuals will be allowed to film and/or videotape. Still cameras will be permitted.
Rebate from State Tournament

All funds collected from admissions at the state tournament in excess of the amount necessary to defray the incidental expenses of the tournament shall be prorated up to 100 percent to the contesting teams on the basis of mileage, both ways.

a. Fifteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the League office to cover officials’ expenses and other expenses incurred.

b. If after rebate on expenses there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be divided among the schools participating in the tournament and will be received in late summer after the tournament audit.

Radio Broadcasting and Telecasting

The Media Director will be in charge of broadcasting and telecasting rights for the state tournament games. The Media Director may be contacted at (512) 471-5883. Any cost to broadcast the state tournament will be paid for by the radio station requesting broadcasting rights.
~ OFF-SEASON REGULATIONS ~

(1) **Team Practice.** School teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during the specified practice dates and during the one allowable period during the school day.

(2) **Off-Season Participation.** Varsity or non-varsity athletes shall not be required to participate in an off-season program on the day of an in-season competition.

(3) **Participation Requirement.** Students shall not be required to participate in one school sport as a prerequisite for participation in another school sport.

(4) **Policies.** Written school policies for use of facilities during the off-season, outside the school day, and during the summer months should be approved by the school administration and dispersed to all staff and students.

(5) **Off-Season Period Limits.** Off-season activities are limited to one regular classroom period (max. 60 minutes) per day within which all suiting out, related activity, and redressing must occur. (See Side by Side Manual for block schedules, etc.)

(6) **Power and/or Weight Lifting.** Off-season athletes whose schools have an athletic period during the school day may not participate on power lifting teams unless weight training is provided for off-season athletes during the in-school-day athletic period. It would also make it a violation for power lifting teams to be limited to athletes or to be required as part of an athlete’s off-season program.

A number of member schools have power lifting or weight lifting clubs. These clubs are involved in weight lifting tournaments or contests throughout the academic year. These guidelines are intended to control a problem that now exists as opposed to encouraging or requiring year-round workouts. It is the intent to insure that the use of summer weight rooms is a strictly voluntary activity on the part of any athlete.

a. Schools may open weight training facilities for general student body use. Schools may NOT open weight training facilities for members of athletic teams only.

b. Supervision of the facility by faculty members is permitted for safety and security purposes. Supervisors may NOT provide specific sport team skills instruction for members of school athletic teams.

c. A schedule of when the weight training facility will be open should be publicized. Schools may NOT set a schedule for members of athletic teams to appear at the facility at a particular time or have a sign-in sheet or check-in list for athletes.

d. It is permissible to have a supervisor of the facility provide instruction for proper lifting, spotting, care of and placement of weight apparatuses. The supervisor of a facility may NOT require athletes to lift specified amounts of weight or require that they complete prescribed sets.

e. Schools may hire a coach or another faculty member to supervise the facility as outlined in #2. This hiring or appointment must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee. Schools may have more than one school employee in a supervisory capacity at any one time.

f. Schools may provide a general weight schedule for students, but may NOT provide athletes individual workout schedules which require activities to be at specified hours, specify a number of workouts, or designate specified groups of students to be involved at a certain time.

g. Weight training schedules provided to students may be sequential. Schedules may NOT be provided that include calendar designations requiring specific days for certain sequential activities such as July 1 upper body, July 2 lower body, etc.

h. Students may keep progress charts but shall NOT be required to turn them in to coaches.

i. If there is a report of a violation, the burden of proof to the contrary rests with the school or school employee.

j. If a large majority of a team is working out together, it could be considered strong evidence that it is a team workout and a possible violation.
k. All weight training facility use and policies must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee.

~ Off-Season Open Facilities ~

Schools may make available to the general student body any and all recreational facilities according to local school board policies. Coaches shall not require or coerce members of athletic teams to workout at these facilities at times other than specifically listed in their respective sport plans in the Constitution and Contest Rules. Below are clarifications of permissible activities. If a particular situation is not covered, please contact the UIL office.

a. Facilities if open, must be open to members of the general student body. Facilities may not be reserved at specific times for members of athletic teams outside the school day.

b. Equipment (excluding uniforms or wearing apparel) may be used by the general student body. This equipment may not be available exclusively to athletes or members of athletic teams.

c. Supervision of facilities for safety and security may be provided by a faculty member or non-faculty member approved by school administrator or school board. Supervisors shall not provide skill instruction to members of school athletic teams.

d. If the majority of a school team is using the facility at the same time, participating in any team skill activity, it indicates a violation has taken place even though a coach is not present. Students may train on their own, but a member of a team shall not be required to perform a prescribed set of skills on a weekly or daily basis. It is not necessary for a coach to be present in order for a workout to be judged as "organized."

e. The presence of a coach or coaches at a facility where members of their team(s) are participating in activities usually is an indication that an activity is an organized workout.

f. If there is a report of a possible violation, the burden of proof rests with the school or school employee.

g. The dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted, or publicized so that every student attending that school is aware of the opportunity.

h. Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.

i. School coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their off season and summer participation is on their own, not required or checked, and is in no way a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing time.

j. Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes’ sport. Such actions place the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.

k. Varsity or non-varsity athletes may not be required to participate in an off-season program on the day of an in-season competition.

l. Students may not be required to participate in one school sport as a prerequisite for participation in another sport.

m. Required attendance in an off-season program is prohibited. Attendance sheets could be a strong indication that a violation has occurred.

n. School teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during the specified practice dates and during the one allowable period during the school day. During this period, all suiting out, related activity and re-dressing must occur.

~ Summer Strength and Conditioning Programs ~

School coaches may conduct strength and conditioning programs for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone for a total of six weeks under the following conditions:
**Off Season Regulations**

**Limitations.** Sessions may be conducted from the first day of summer vacation until the second Monday in August. A session shall be no more than two consecutive hours per day, Monday through Thursday only, and a student shall attend no more than one session of supervised instruction per day for a total of six weeks.

**Activities Allowed.** The sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction and exercises. No specific sports skills shall be taught and no specific sports equipment, such as balls, dummies, sleds, contact equipment, etc., shall be used. School shorts, shirts and shoes may be provided by the school (local school option).

**Attendance.** Attendance in a maximum of one session per day shall be voluntary and not required in order to try out for or participate in any UIL activity. Attendance records shall be kept, however, students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days or workouts.

**Fees.** Fees, if any, shall be established by the superintendent and collected by the school. Any payment to coaches shall be from the school and from no other source.

Important points to remember for coaches, athletes and parents are as follows:

- Strength and conditioning sessions may be held after the last official day of school until the second Monday in August.
- School coaches may conduct sessions only on Monday through Thursday of each week.
- Sessions conducted by coaches shall be no more than two consecutive hours per day.
- A student shall not attend more than one two-hour session (conducted by a school coach) per day.
- Sessions conducted by school coaches shall only include students who are incoming seventh graders or above from their attendance zone.
- Sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction and exercises.
- Sport specific skill instruction is prohibited.
- Sports specific equipment (balls, dummies, sleds, contact equipment) is prohibited.
- The school (local school option) may provide school shirts, shorts and shoes.
- Attendance shall be voluntary. Coaches shall not require athletes to attend in order to try out for or participate in any UIL sport.
- Attendance records shall be kept, however students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days. Students may work out on their own, without direction of the school coach.
- Fees, if any, shall be established and approved by the superintendent and collected by the school.
- Any payment for conducting strength and conditioning sessions to school coaches who instruct students from their attendance zone in grades 7-12 shall be from the school and no other source.
- Schools must take administrative care to prohibit an athlete from working with one school coach for two hours and a separate school coach for another two hours.

~ **Questions and Answers ~**

**Q:** May a school coach conduct a strength and conditioning program this summer?  
**A:** Yes, beginning no earlier than the first day of summer vacation and ending no later than the second Monday in August for a total of six weeks.

**Q:** Does the six-week period have to be consecutive weeks?  
**A:** No. For example, a school could decide to workout two weeks, take off the week of July 4th, and then resume workouts for a total of six weeks.

**Q:** May school coaches be paid for conducting these sessions?  
**A:** Yes, if payment is provided by the school and no other source.

**Q:** In what activities are school coaches allowed to give instruction during these summer sessions?  
**A:** Weight training, including a specific workout plan for each individual, agility, running programs, plyometrics, running bleachers and other conditioning exercises.
**Off Season Regulations**

Q: May school coaches group athletes by sport or position?
A: No. Student athletes are allowed to receive instruction from school coaches however, specific groupings of athletes by sport or position is prohibited.

Q: Are spacer dummies allowed for agility purposes?
A: No.

Q: Are athletes allowed to attend an open gym or weight room before or after a supervised session?
A: Yes, provided the student is not receiving additional instruction from a school coach and the facilities are available to other students in the school as described in Section 1206 (h).

Q: May sessions be conducted for students in middle school or below?
A: Yes. Students in the seventh and eighth grade will be allowed to participate and receive instructions from a school coach. UIL staff also recommends that seventh and eighth grade students workout in separated groups from the students in grades 9-12.

Q: May students participate for six weeks with one coach and then two more weeks with another coach?
A: No. A student shall attend no more than one two-hour session of supervised instruction per day and no more than a total of six weeks.

Q: Can a student participate in strength and conditioning sessions with a school coach after a school's sport season begins?
A: Yes, provided the student attends no more than one two-hour session of supervised instruction per day and no more than a total of six weeks.

Q: May a school allow outside groups to conduct strength and conditioning sessions?
A: Yes.

Q: May outside groups or individuals hire school coaches to conduct strength and conditioning programs for students from the coaches’ attendance zone?
A: Yes, provided they comply with the aforementioned guidelines regarding limits on time, equipment, fees, payment, etc.

Q: Are outside groups and individuals allowed to conduct strength and conditioning programs after the second Monday in August?
A: An outside organization that does not utilize school coaches in any manner, with the exception of facility supervision, could continue to provide their program past the second Monday in August. If at any point school coaches are involved in working the the students from their own attendance zone as part of this program, the program must end on the second Monday and follow the established guidelines of the Legislative Council.

Q: May school booster clubs pay coaches for conducting these programs?
A: No. However, school booster clubs may provide funds to the school to offset expenses associated with strength and conditioning programs.

Q: May school booster clubs pay fees for an individual athlete to participate in a school sponsored summer strength and conditioning program?
A: No. However, a school booster club could provide funds to the local school to help offset the cost of the program for the school. Funds are not to be specified for any particular athlete or group of athletes.

Q: May schools waive or reduce fees for strength and conditioning programs sponsored by the school?
A: Yes, The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures must be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.

Q: Who determines what fees, if any, are to be charged to the student?
A: The school superintendent.
Q: Can the football coach conduct a session with an athlete for one hour and the basketball coach conduct a session for another hour?
A: Yes, provided these are conducted in consecutive hours and there is no specific grouping of athletes by sport or position and no sport specific instruction provided.

Q: Are schools allowed to provide transportation to students attending the summer strength and conditioning programs?
A: No.

Q: What penalty will be assessed to a coach for requiring a student to participate in a strength and conditioning program?
A: A range of penalties from private reprimand to suspension.

~ NON-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/SCHOOL CAMPS ~

I. The Constitution and Contest Rules state:

Section 1209
(A) REQUIRED PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED. Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team in any sport as a prerequisite to playing on a school team.
(B) OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE. See Section 1206.
(C) BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL CAMPS WHERE SCHOOL PERSONNEL WORK WITH THEIR OWN STUDENTS. After the last day of the school year in May, June, July and prior to the second Monday in August, on non-school days, all students other than students who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may attend one camp in each team sport, held within the boundaries of their school district, in which instruction is given in that team sport, and in which a 7th-12th grade coach from their school district attendance zone works with them, under the following conditions:
   (1) Number of Days. Attendance at each type of sports camp is limited to no more than six consecutive days.
   (2) Prohibited Activities. Students shall not attend football camps where contact activities are permitted.
   (3) Fees. The superintendent or a designee shall approve the schedule of fees prior to the announcement or release of any information about the camp. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures must be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.
   (4) School Equipment. Schools may furnish, in accordance with local school district policies, school-owned equipment, with the following restrictions:
      (a) Schools may not furnish any individual baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball player equipment, including uniforms, shoes, caps, gloves, etc., but may furnish balls and court equipment including nets, standards, goals, etc., for volleyball, basketball and soccer camps.
      (b) For football camps, schools may furnish hand dummies, stand-up dummies, passing and kicking machines and footballs. Use of any other football equipment, including contact equipment, is prohibited.
      (c) For baseball and softball camps, schools may furnish balls, bats, bases, pitching and batting machines, batting helmets and catcher protective equipment. Use of any other baseball and/or softball equipment is prohibited.
(D) BONA FIDE SUMMER CAMPS. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply to bona fide summer camps giving an overall activity program to the participants.
(E) CHANGE OF RESIDENCE FROM OUT OF STATE. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply in the case of a person who attends an athletic training camp which is allowed under the rules of the state in which the student then lives, and then makes a bona fide change of residence to Texas, provided that there has been no deliberate attempt to circumvent the rule.
(F) OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL TEAM SPORTS.
   (1) School coaches shall not coach 7-12 grade students from their own attendance zone on a non-school team or in
a non-school camp or clinic, with the exception of their own adopted or birth children.

(2) School equipment shall not be used for non-school teams/leagues.

(G) COACHING RESTRICTIONS. For non-school competition, school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone. School coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and may supervise school facilities for non-school league play. School coaches shall not coach or instruct 7-12 grade students from their school district attendance zone in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball. School coaches shall not supervise facilities for non-school activities on school time. See Section 1201.

(H) COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRYOUTS. UIL member school facilities shall not be used for college/university tryouts. Neither schools nor coaches shall provide equipment or defray expenses for students who are attending college tryouts. Neither schools nor coaches shall provide transportation for students with any remaining eligibility in the involved sport who are attending college tryouts. Any contest at which a higher admission fee is charged to college coaches than is charged to parents or other adults is considered to be a college tryout.

II. Team Sports

Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball

In accordance to Section 1201, 1206 and 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7, lineman challenges) coaches:

The C&CR prohibits the following:
1) Shall not instruct any student in 7th – 12th grade from his/her own attendance zone unless the student is his/her own biological or adopted child.
2) Shall not schedule matched games/scrimmages, practices, or contests.
3) Shall not transport students.
4) Shall not use school athletic equipment, school uniforms and school health/first aid supplies.
5) Shall not use school or booster funds for any expenses associated with the activity.
6) Shall not be the primary director.
7) Shall abstain from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student’s participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product (Section 1201[b, 9]).
8) Shall abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 1201[b, 10]).
9) Should not participate with their athletes in the athlete’s sport (Section 1206[i]).

In accordance to Section 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7) coaches or a group of coaches:

The C&CR allows the following:
1) Can supervise facilities.
2) Can assist with organization to include, but not limited to: assignment of officials, helping to secure facilities, development of schedules, scheduling of facilities, assisting with registration process, helping to secure equipment.
3) Can assist the primary coordinator or point of contact with the selection of coaches, but cannot assign coaches to teams.
4) Can assist the primary coordinator or point of contact with the selection of players, but cannot determine who can play on what teams.
5) Can distribute information regarding the details of the non-school event for informational purposes. Distribution of such materials should be in accordance to the policies and procedures of the local school district regarding non-school activities.
6) Can collect registration fees for coordination purposes only. No checks may be made payable to the school or the coach and no funds shall be deposited in any school or coaches account.
III. Individual Sports:

Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field and Wrestling
(Guidelines are also applicable to team sports)

A. Preseason Practice Regulations-Activities Outside the School Year

Preseason practice regulations for sports that begin practice prior to the school year (including summer for individual sports) are as follows:

1. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
2. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
3. The maximum length of any single practice session is three hours.
4. On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, TWO HOURS of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.
5. When determining how to count times spent as ‘practice activities’ please consult the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Counts</th>
<th>What Doesn’t Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual on field/court practice</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport specific skill instruction</td>
<td>Weight training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory conditioning</td>
<td>Film study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water breaks</td>
<td>Rest breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury treatment</td>
<td>Voluntary conditioning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not count towards practice time, but cannot be done during the two hour rest/recovery time.

In reference to the minimum TWO hour rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is scheduled), there can be no practice activities at all during this time. This time is exclusively for students to rest/recover for the following practice session, whether that session is an actual on field/court practice or a mandatory conditioning period.

B. During the school year

1. Coaches of individual sports are allowed to work with student athletes from their attendance zone in non-school practice during the school year with limitations. Coaches should be aware that any time spent working with a student-athlete from their attendance zone in grades 7-12, whether in school or non-school practice, will count as part of the eight hours of practice allowed outside of the school day during the school week under state law.
2. Coaches should abstain from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student’s participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product (Section 1201 [b, 9]).
3. Coaches shall not charge a fee for private instruction to student-athletes during the school year. The restriction on charging fees for private instruction applies only to those students who are in grades 9-12, from the coach’s attendance zone and participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible (Section 1201 [b, 9]).
4. Coaches should abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 1201 [b, 10]).

C. Outside of the school year

1. Outside of the school year, the restrictions are somewhat reduced. Coaches are allowed to coach student-athletes from their own attendance zone.
2. The use of school funds, school equipment, school uniforms or school transportation is prohibited. Exception: School administrators may authorize the use of facilities, including scoreboards, implements, cross bars, poles, discus,
shot puts, nets, etc. for school programs which are open to all students.

3. School coaches can work with students from his/her own attendance zone in summer recreational programs (i.e. They coach in meets and tournaments with permission from superintendent or superintendent’s designee).

4. Coaches should abstain from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student’s participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product (Section 120l [b, 9]).

5. Coaches should abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 120l [b, 10]).

6. The superintendent or superintendent’s designee shall pre-approve all dates and times of summer workouts for high school individual sports conducted by any coach from the student’s school attendance zone (Section 21 [j]).

7. Workout sessions, which involve meals and/or overnight lodgings, are prohibited.

8. School-sponsored practices for middle school students shall not begin prior to the first day of school.

~ Questions and Answers ~

Q: May a school coach determine on which non-school team students from their attendance zone may participate?
A: No. School coaches may recommend but not require or demand student-athletes to participate on any particular non-school team.

Q: Can a school coach serve as a facility supervisor for non-school activities?
A: Yes, provided they are there to monitor and open and close the facility.

Q: Can a school coach officiate for non-school activities?
A: Yes, however it is recommended they not officiate students in grades 7-12 from their own attendance zone.

Q: Can school sponsored camps be held for students sixth grade and below from a school’s own attendance zone during the school year?
A: No. According to Section 1209, school camps can only be held after the last day of the school year in May, June, July and prior to the second Monday in August.

Q: Can student-athletes in grades 9th-12th serve as camp coaches or instructors for school sponsored camps or leagues?
A: No. Students can’t receive direct instruction from their school coach.

Q: Can student-athletes in grades 9th-12th serve as volunteers for non-school sponsored camps or leagues?
A: Yes, as long as their school coaches are not involved. Students can’t receive direct instruction from their school coach.

Q: Can a school coach instruct a student-athlete in his/her sport in a non-school activity if that student has no remaining eligibility in that particular sport?
A: No. According to Section 1209 (g), school coaches shall not coach or instruct any 7-12 grade students from their school attendance zone in team sports of baseball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball.

Q: Are athletes permitted to play in non-school all-star contests?
A: Yes. Student athletes who are selected for all-star teams based on participation in non-school competition may be provided lodging, meals, transportation, game jerseys, shoes, etc. in conjunction with these events. Student-athletes are responsible for protecting their own amateur status. Student athletes in grades 9-12 are prohibited from accepting anything other than symbolic awards (medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques) for winning or placing in non-school activities.

Q: May students who have completed their high school eligibility in a particular sport compete in other all-star contests such as TABC, TGCA, and THSCA?
A: Yes. Students who are selected for all-star may have items such as lodging, meals, transportation, game jerseys, and shoes provided for all-star team participation. Students who have completed eligibility in the involved sport,
with school superintendent approval, may also use school individual player protective equipment in any all-star game.

Q: Can an athlete receive a scholarship or collect donations for participation in a non-school activity?
A: Yes, provided these funds are not from school funds or booster club funds.

Q: Can schools or school booster clubs contribute to any of the athlete’s expenses or equipment associated with a non-school activity?
A: Schools and school boosters are prohibited from providing transportation, equipment, or funds for any non-school activities.

Q: May schools or school booster clubs sponsor non-school all-star contests?
A: Schools and school booster clubs are prohibited from sponsoring any non-school all-star contests.

Q: Can a local business contribute to a student-athlete’s expense for a non-school activity?
A: Yes, a local business can provide money to cover expenses for a non-school activity.

Q: Can coaches or school employees contribute to a student’s non-school fundraiser?
A: Yes, provided the contributions are from their own personal funds and not from booster funds, activity accounts, school soft drink accounts or any other accounts associated with the school.

Q: Can an equipment company give athletic equipment or apparel to members of a school team?
A: No, but a school may accept donations of money or equipment, and the equipment may in turn be used by student-athletes. These items should be presented with the principal’s knowledge (or athletic director’s knowledge in multiple-high school districts). All equipment becomes school property to be used accordingly.

Q: Can student-athletes be provided with equipment by non-school organizations? (For example, equipment companies that provided tennis rackets or apparel to athletes who are ranked in a sport.)
A: Yes, if receipt of these items is based on rankings and not specifically on winning or placing in a competition. It would be a violation for an athlete to accept merchandise for winning or placing in a specific tournament or competition.

Q: What type of awards may a student in grades 9-12 receive for participation in school related activities?
A: Symbolic awards student athletes may accept include medals, trophies, plaques, certificates, etc. Student athletes may not accept T-shirts, gift certificates, equipment or other valuable consideration for participation in school sponsored athletic events. (Refer to Section 480)

Q: When may students take private instruction?
A: A student may take private a lesson anytime except during the school day, including the athletic period or during school practice sessions. Schools shall not pay for these private lessons.

Q: Can student-athletes raise funds for non-school activities?
A: Yes, provided the fundraising activities are not related to the school and the student-athletes do all of the fundraising on their own or with the assistance of their parents.
BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE COACH

• Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards. Practicing good citizenship is practicing good sportsmanship!
• Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
• Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
• Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
• Please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any object in disgust. Shake hands with the officials and opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
• Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote athletics and the student/athlete. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the event.
• Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
• Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
• Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
• Be no party to the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions.

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.”
— Vincent Lombardi

“Success is never final, failure is never fatal.”
— Joe Paterno

“A good coach will make his player see what they can be rather than what they are”
— Ara Parseghian

“Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.”
— Albert Einstein
BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.

- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.

- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?

- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.

- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.

“No student ever attained eminent success by simply doing what is required of him/her; it is the amount and excellence of what is over and above the required, that determines the greatness of ultimate distinction.” —Charles Kendall Adams, American Historian

“When you win, say nothing. When you lose say less.”

—Paul Brown
SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?
- Occurs suddenly and often without warning.
- An electrical malfunction (short-circuit) causes the bottom chambers of the heart (ventricles) to beat dangerously fast (ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation) and disrupts the pumping ability of the heart.
- The heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs of the body.
- The person loses consciousness (passes out) and has no pulse.
- Death occurs within minutes if not treated immediately.

What causes Sudden Cardiac Arrest?
- Conditions present at birth
  - Inherited (passed on from parents/relatives) conditions of the heart muscle:
    - Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – hypertrophy (thickening) of the left ventricle; the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in athletes in the U.S.
    - Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy – replacement of part of the right ventricle by fat and scar; the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in Italy.
    - Marfan Syndrome – a disorder of the structure of blood vessels that makes them prone to rupture; often associated with very long arms and unusually flexible joints.
  - Inherited conditions of the electrical system:
    - Long QT Syndrome – abnormality in the ion channels (electrical system) of the heart.
    - Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia and Brugada Syndrome – other types of electrical abnormalities that are rare but run in families.
- NonInherited (not passed on from the family, but still present at birth) conditions:
  - Coronary Artery Abnormalities – abnormality of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart muscle. The second most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in athletes in the U.S.
  - Aortic valve abnormalities – failure of the aortic valve (the valve between the heart and the aorta) to develop properly; usually causes a loud heart murmur.
  - Non-compaction Cardiomyopathy – a condition where the heart muscle does not develop normally.
  - Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome – an extra conducting fiber is present in the heart’s electrical system and can increase the risk of arrhythmias.
Conditions not present at birth but acquired later in life:

- **Commotio Cordis** – concussion of the heart that can occur from being hit in the chest by a ball, puck, or fist.
- **Myocarditis** – infection/inflammation of the heart, usually caused by a virus.
- **Recreational/Performance-Enhancing drug use.**

**Idiopathic:** Sometimes the underlying cause of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest is unknown, even after autopsy.

**What are the symptoms/warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest?**

- Fainting/blackouts (especially during exercise)
- Dizziness
- Unusual fatigue/weakness
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea/vomiting
- Palpitations (heart is beating unusually fast or skipping beats)
- Family history of sudden cardiac arrest at age < 50

ANY of these symptoms/warning signs that occur while exercising may necessitate further evaluation from your physician before returning to practice or a game.

**What is the treatment for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?**

- Time is critical and an immediate response is vital.
  - CALL 911
  - Begin CPR
  - Use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

**What are ways to screen for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?**

- The American Heart Association recommends a pre-participation history and physical including 12 important cardiac elements.

- The UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History form includes ALL 12 of these important cardiac elements and is mandatory annually.

- Additional screening using an electrocardiogram and/or an echocardiogram is readily available to all athletes, but is not mandatory.

**Where can one find information on additional screening?**

- Check the Health & Safety page of the UIL website ([http://www.uiltexas.org/health](http://www.uiltexas.org/health)) or do an internet search for “Sudden Cardiac Arrest”.
Frequently Asked Questions And Resources Document

Regarding Implementation of

House Bill 2038 ~ Natasha's Law,

Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Subchapter D

Prevention, Treatment, and Oversight of Concussions Affecting Student Athletes
Acknowledgement

State Representative Four Price, author of the H.B. 2038, and Senator Bob Deuell, the sponsor of H.B. 2038, express their gratitude to the following organizations for the tremendous collaborative spirit and amount of time collectively devoted to this document – crafting the Frequently Asked Questions through a number of stakeholder meetings and for providing the list of Resources: The University Interscholastic League, the Texas High School Coaches Association, the Texas Girls Coaches Association, the Texas Charter Schools Association, Texas Association of School Administrators, the Texas Association of School Boards, the Texas Medical Association, and the Texas State Athletic Trainers Association.
Frequently Asked Questions
And Resources Document
Regarding Implementation of H.B. 2038, Natasha's Law,
Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Subchapter D,
Prevention, Treatment, and Oversight of Concussions
Affecting Student Athletes

1. **What schools are required to comply with the new law?**

   The new law applies to an interscholastic athletic activity, including practice and competition, sponsored or sanctioned by: (1) a school district, including a home-rule district, or a public school, including any school for which a charter has been granted under Chapter 12; or (2) the University Interscholastic League (hereinafter referenced as UIL).

2. **Does the law require each school district and each charter school, mentioned above, to have a Concussion Oversight Team (COT)?**

   Yes. Each school district and each charter school must establish its own Concussion Oversight Team (COT).

   **Note:** Neither the UIL's Medical Advisory Committee nor any association's committee involved with subject matter of concussions may fulfill the function of a school district's COT or charter school's COT.

3. **When is the Concussion Oversight Team (COT) required to be in place?**

   The law became effective in May when it passed both houses of the Texas Legislature by at least two-thirds vote in the House (127 to 7) and in the Senate (31-0). Governor Perry signed the law on June 17, 2011.

   The new law provides that it applies beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

   **Note:** Persons required under Education Code, Section 38.158(c), to take a training course in the subject of concussions must initially complete the training course not later than September 1, 2012.
4. What is the role of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding the new law?

The Commissioner of Education may adopt rules as necessary to administer this new law. It is not known whether rules will be proposed regarding this new law. If you have any questions related to the rules at TEA, please contact the legal services division within the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Email: legalsrv@tea.state.tx.us Telephone: 512-463-9720.

5. Who must serve on the Concussion Oversight Team (COT)?

The COT must at least have one member, a Texas licensed physician. There can be multiple Texas licensed physicians on the same COT.

Additionally, to the greatest extent practicable, school districts and charter schools must also include one or more of the following on the COT: a Texas licensed athletic trainer, a Texas licensed advanced practice nurse, a Texas licensed neuropsychologist, or a Texas licensed physician assistant. The factors to be considered include: 1) the population of the metropolitan statistical area in which the school district or charter school is located, 2) the district or charter school student enrollment, and 3) the availability of and access to licensed health care professionals in the district or charter school area. “Licensed health care professional” means an advanced practice nurse, athletic trainer, neuropsychologist, or physician assistant, as those terms are defined under the new law (H.B. 2038).

Note: Irrespective of any of the above factors, if a school district or charter school employs one or more Texas licensed athletic trainers, then the school district’s COT or the charter school’s COT must include at least one of the athletic trainers as a member of the COT, in addition to the Texas licensed physician member(s) of the COT.

Examples (not exhaustive as to every scenario that may be possible):

Example A: ABC School District, irrespective of ABC School District’s location, must have on its COT at least one member and that member must be a Texas licensed physician.

Example B: ABC School District employs one or more Texas licensed athletic trainers then at least one of the employed Texas licensed athletic trainers must also be on the COT in addition to the Texas licensed physician.

ABC School District may also name to its COT one or more licensed athletic trainers not employed by the district, one or more licensed advanced practice nurses, one or more licensed neuropsychologists, and/or one or more licensed physician assistants.
Example C: ABC School District does not employ a Texas licensed athletic trainer; however, ABC School District is located in an urban area with access to Texas licensed health care professionals (an athletic trainer, an advanced practice nurse, a neuropsychologist, or a physician assistant). ABC School District must include, to the greatest extent practicable, at least one of those licensed health professionals, in addition to the Texas licensed physician, on its COT.

6. Must the members of the COT reside and/or have their place of business or place of employment within the geographic boundaries of the school district or charter school?

No. School districts and charter schools are allowed, but not required, to utilize the licensed Texas physicians, licensed Texas athletic trainers, licensed Texas advanced practice nurses, licensed Texas neuropsychologists, and licensed Texas physician assistants within their communities. The members of a COT may be from any location or combination of locations provided they have Texas licensure.

Exception: A school district or charter school that employs a Texas licensed athletic trainer must appoint the athletic trainer to the COT.

Note: While neither the UIL's Medical Advisory Committee nor any association's committee involved with the subject matter of concussions may fulfill the function of a school district's COT or charter school's COT, individuals serving on such non-school committees may serve on a school district's COT or charter school's COT provided the individuals meet the statutory requirements of the new law. In that event, the individuals serve two separate roles.

7. How is a Concussion Oversight Team (COT) established/formed?

The governing body of each school district and open-enrollment charter school with students enrolled who participate in an interscholastic athletic activity shall appoint or approve a COT. Each member of the concussion oversight team must have had training in the evaluation, treatment, and oversight of concussions at the time of appointment or approval as a member of the team. The new law does not prohibit a member of a COT from serving on more than one COT.

Note: Neither the UIL's Medical Advisory Committee nor any association's committee involved with subject matter of concussions may fulfill the function of a school district's COT or charter school's COT.
Examples (not exhaustive as to every scenario that may be possible):

Example A: The Board of Trustees of ABC School District appoints members to the Concussion Oversight Team in an open meeting. The COT develops the written concussion protocol for the district. The COT may decide to share its concussion protocol with the ABC’s Board of Trustees in an open meeting. This provides trustees with an opportunity to learn more about the COT’s protocol in an open meeting. (There are board minutes, and the meeting is a vehicle to raise awareness with parents and the community). At that time, the Board of Trustees could ask questions or provide non-medical input, including appointing additional Texas licensed health care professionals to the COT. The Board of Trustees is free to choose to formally adopt the COT’s protocol as ABC School District's policy even though the law does not require it to adopt a policy. Keep in mind that the COT can change the overall protocol as medical science progresses.

Example B: ABC School District has a COT in place that meets all legal requirements. ABC School District’s COT has established a concussion protocol. 123 School District has also appointed a COT. 123 School District's COT wishes to adopt all or part of ABC COT’s protocol. May it do so? Yes, 123 School District's COT may use all or part of ABC COT’s protocol.

Note: A number of school district COTs and charter school COTs have adopted the concussion protocols established by another school district’s COT.

Example C: ABC School District has a COT in place that meets all legal requirements. 123 School District wishes to appoint to its COT all or some of the member’s of ABC School District’s COT. May it do so? Yes, 123 School District may do so, provided the membership of 123 School District meets all legal requirements, and provided the members of the ABC School District’s COT are able and willing to do so. 123 School District’s COT may adopt the same protocol or develop another protocol.

Exception: A school district or charter school that employs a Texas licensed athletic trainer must appoint the athletic trainer to the COT.

8. Who must take a required training course pursuant to Section 38.158?

Concussion Oversight Team Members: All licensed health care professionals who serve on a Concussion Oversight Team (COT), whether on a volunteer basis, or as an employee, representative, or agent of a school district or charter school, are required to satisfactorily complete the required training. Each member of the concussion oversight team must have had training in the evaluation, treatment, and oversight of concussions at the time of appointment or approval as a member of the team.
Coaches: The UIL shall approve for coaches of interscholastic activities training courses that provide for not less than two hours of training in the subject matter of concussions, including evaluation, prevention, symptoms, risks, and long-term effects. Coaches of an interscholastic activity must take such a training course from an authorized training provider at least once every two years. The UIL shall maintain an updated list of individuals and organizations authorized by the UIL to provide the training.

9. Can administrators, coaches, and other school officials serve as a member of the concussion oversight team?

No. Only Texas licensed physician(s) and the Texas licensed health care professionals as listed in the law can serve on the team.

10. Are student athletes suspected of suffering a concussion required to see the Concussion Oversight Team’s physician?

No. The law specifies the student athlete must be evaluated by a treating physician of the student athlete and parents/guardians choosing. The law does not prohibit a COT’s physician from serving as the treating physician. In that case the physician has two different roles.

11. Is the Concussion Oversight Team’s physician required to approve or certify the athlete’s return to play from a concussion?

No. The student athlete’s treating physician must provide a written statement that in his or her professional judgment it is safe for the student to return-to-play. The law does not prohibit a COT’s physician from serving as the treating physician. In that case the physician has two different roles.

12. Before a student athlete is allowed to participate in an interscholastic activity for a school year, will each student athlete and their parent/guardian be required to sign, for that school year, a form acknowledging that both the student athlete and parent/guardian have received and read written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion?

Yes. The form mentioned above must be approved by the UIL.
13. When is the student athlete removed from activity if a concussion is suspected?

A student athlete shall be removed from a practice or competition immediately if a coach, a physician, a licensed health care professional, or the student’s parent or guardian or another person who has authority to make legal decision for the student believes the student athlete might have sustained a concussion. Coach means the coach of the student’s team.

Coaches are encouraged to use the utmost caution regarding a suspected concussion, including calling the student athlete over to the sideline so that the coach can form a belief that the student may have suffered a concussion. The act of calling a player over to the sideline does not by itself constitute a belief that the student athlete might have sustained a concussion. (See attached legislative intent letter from the author and the sponsor of the new law).

14. When is the student athlete allowed to return to activity?

A student athlete shall not return to practice or competition until the student athlete has been evaluated and cleared in writing by his or her treating physician and all other notice and consent requirements have been met. The student athlete must satisfactorily complete the protocol established by the school district’s COT or charter school’s COT.

15. How many times does the student athlete have to be evaluated by the treating physician?

Treatment decisions are solely within the physician/patient relationship.

16. May a licensed health care professional sign the treating physician’s written release?

No, the law requires that written release must be signed by the treating physician. Treatment decisions are solely within the physician/patient relationship.

17. When a student athlete has been removed from practice or competition because of a suspected concussion, what information must the student athlete and his parent/guardian provide prior to the student athlete being allowed to return to play?

The student athlete and the parent/guardian must:

- Provide the student athlete’s treating physician written statement
indicating that in the treating physician’s professional judgment, it is safe for the student to return to play.

✓ Provide their written acknowledgement that the student athlete has completed the requirements of the return-to-play protocol.

✓ Sign a consent form in which the student athlete and parent/guardian indicate:
  - consent to return to play in accordance with the COT’s protocol;
  - understand the risks associated with returning to play;
  - consent to the disclosure to appropriate persons, consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, of the treating physician’s written statement and, if any, the return-to-play recommendations of the treating physician;
  - understanding of the immunity provisions under Section 38.159 of the Education Code.

18. **Is the school’s athletic trainer required to sign a return to play statement?**

No.

19. **Can a coach monitor a student athlete’s compliance with the return-to-play protocol if the school district does not employ an athletic trainer?**

Yes.

The superintendent or his/her designee has supervisory responsibilities of the athletic trainer, coach (as outlined above), or other person responsible for the compliance with the return-to-play protocol. This provides a second person for checks and balances purposes. The superintendent or his/her designee is also responsible for distributing and collecting the required forms, including the physician’s written authorization for return to play.

**Note:** A superintendent is not able to appoint a coach as the supervisory designee because Education Code, Section 38.158(c) specifically, in part, states: "The person who has supervisory responsibilities of under this subsection may not be a coach of an interscholastic athletics team."

20. **Can a coach authorize the return to play of the student athlete?**

No, under no circumstance can a coach authorize a student athlete's return to play. Education Code, Section 38.158(b).
21. May an athlete, who is believed to have sustained a concussion, start the return-to-play protocol without seeing a treating physician?

No.

An athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by his or her treating physician. The student athlete’s treating physician must provide a written statement that in his or her professional judgment it is safe for the student to return-to-play before the student athlete may begin the school district’s COT return-to-play protocol.

22. Will coaches be required to document completion of two hours concussion education every two years?

Yes.

The UIL shall approve for coaches training courses that provide not less than two hours of training in the subject matter of concussions, including evaluation, prevention, symptoms, risks, and long-term effects. The UIL is required to maintain an updated list of individuals and organizations authorized by the UIL to provide the training.

Coaches will provide proof of attendance every two years to their respective superintendent or the superintendent’s designee.

23. Will athletic trainers be required to document completion of two hours of concussion education every two years?

Yes, if they: (1) serve as on a COT as either an employee of a school district or charter school or act as a representative or as an agent of the district or charter school, or (2) serve as a volunteer member on the COT and are not an employee.

Athletic trainers can fulfill the two hour requirement by either completing a course approved by the Department of State Health Services Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers or completing a course concerning the subject matter of concussions that has been approved for continuing education credit by the appropriate licensing authority for athletic trainers.

Athletic trainers will provide proof of attendance every two years to their respective superintendent or the superintendent’s designee.
24. **Will the neuropsychologists, advanced nurse practitioners and physician assistants be required to document completion of concussion continuing education?**

Yes, if they serve on a COT.

These licensed health care professionals, as that term is defined in Education Code Section 38.151(5), may take courses approved for coaches, athletic trainers, or their respective licensing authority’s approved continuing education course(s).

Texas licensed advanced practice nurses, Texas licensed neuropsychologists, and Texas licensed physician assistants who serve on COT’s must provide proof of attendance every two years to their respective school district’s superintendent or the superintendent’s designee.

25. **Will the concussion oversight team physician be required to acquire concussion management continuing education?**

No. Physicians are not required to take specific training or submit proof of completion; however, Education Code, Section 158(d), provides that a physician, who serves as a member of a COT shall, to the greatest extent practicable, periodically take an appropriate continuing education course in the subject matter of concussions.
Resources

Protocol Resources (not a complete listing of all potential resources):

American Academy of Neurology Position Statement
http://journals.lww.com/neurologynow/Fulltext/2011/07010/A_New_Game_Plan_for_Co
ncussion__As_new_research_on.11.aspx

American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report – Sport Related Concussions in
Children and Adolescents
http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;126/3/597.pdf

American College of Sports Medicine Team Physician Consensus Statement – Sport
Related Concussions
http://www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Clinicians1&Template=/CM/ContentDis
play.cfm&ContentID=4362

Brainline.org
http://www.brainline.org/

Center for Disease Control
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/

Clinics in Sports Medicine – University of Pittsburg Concussion Statement

Current Sport Related Concussion Teaching and Clinical Practices in Sports Medicine
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2707074/

National Athletic Trainer’s Association Position Statement on Sport Related Concussion
http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/MgmtOfSportRelatedConcussion.pdf

Prague Conference Position Statement
http://www athleticism.org/docs/PragueConcussionArticle.pdf

Zurich Conference Position Statement
Organizations (not a complete listing of all organizations):

Texas Education Agency www.tea.state.tx.us

Texas Medical Association http://www.texmed.org/

Texas Pediatric Society http://txpeds.org

Brain Injury Association of Texas http://www.biatax.org/

Brain Injury Association of America http://www.biausa.org/

Centers for Disease Control http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/

National Institutes of Health http://www.nih.gov/

National Federation of State High School Associations  http://www.nfhs.org/

Texas High School Coaches Association http://www.thsca.com/

Texas Girls Coaches Association http://www.austintgca.com/

Texas Association of School Boards http://www.tasb.org/

Texas Association of school Administrators http://www.tasanet.org/

Texas Charter Schools Association www.txcharterschools.org


University Interscholastic League http://www.uiltexas.org/

Texas State Athletic Trainers Association  http://www.tsata.com/
Introduction
Concussions received by participants in sports activities are an ongoing concern at all levels. Recent interest and research in this area has prompted reevaluations of treatment and management recommendations from the high school to the professional level. Numerous state agencies throughout the U.S. responsible for developing guidelines addressing the management of concussion in high school student-athletes have developed or revised their guidelines for concussion management. The present document will provide information on compliance with Chapter 38, Sub Chapter D of the Texas Education Code (TEC).

Definition of Concussion
There are numerous definitions of concussion available in medical literature as well as in the previously noted “guidelines” developed by the various state organizations. The feature universally expressed across definitions is that concussion 1) is the result of a physical, traumatic force to the head and 2) that force is sufficient to produce altered brain function which may last for a variable duration of time. For the purpose of this program the definition presented in Chapter 38, Sub Chapter D of the Texas Education Code is considered appropriate:

"Concussion" means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain caused by a traumatic physical force or impact to the head or body, which may:
(A) include temporary or prolonged altered brain function resulting in physical, cognitive, or emotional symptoms or altered sleep patterns; and
(B) involve loss of consciousness.

Concussion Oversight Team (COT):
According to TEC Section 38.153:
‘The governing body of each school district and open-enrollment charter school with students enrolled who participate in an interscholastic athletic activity shall appoint or approve a concussion oversight team.

Each concussion oversight team shall establish a return-to-play protocol, based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, for a student's return to interscholastic athletics practice or competition following the force or impact believed to have caused a concussion.’

According to TEC Section 38.154:
‘Sec. 38.154. CONCUSSION OVERSIGHT TEAM: MEMBERSHIP.
(a) Each concussion oversight team must include at least one physician and, to the greatest extent practicable, considering factors including the population of the
Appendix

Appendix

UIL HB 2038  Implementation Information

metropolitan statistical area in which the school district or open-enrollment charter school is located, district or charter school student enrollment, and the availability of and access to licensed health care professionals in the district or charter school area, must also include one or more of the following:

1. an athletic trainer;
2. an advanced practice nurse;
3. a neuropsychologist; or
4. a physician assistant.

(b) If a school district or open-enrollment charter school employs an athletic trainer, the athletic trainer must be a member of the district or charter school concussion oversight team.

(c) Each member of the concussion oversight team must have had training in the evaluation, treatment, and oversight of concussions at the time of appointment or approval as a member of the team.

Responsible Individuals:
At every activity under the jurisdiction of the UIL in which the activity involved carries a potential risk for concussion, there should be a designated individual who is responsible for identifying student-athletes with symptoms of concussion injuries. That individual should be a physician or an advanced practice nurse, athletic trainer, neuropsychologist, or physician assistant, as defined in TEC section 38.151, with appropriate training in the recognition and management of concussion in athletes. In the event that such an individual is not available, a supervising adult approved by the school district with appropriate training in the recognition of the signs and symptoms of a concussion in athletes could serve in that capacity. When a licensed athletic trainer is available such an individual would be the appropriate designated person to assume this role. The individual responsible for determining the presence of the symptoms of a concussion is also responsible for creating the appropriate documentation related to the injury event.

Manifestation/Symptoms
Concussion can produce a wide variety of symptoms that should be familiar to those having responsibility for the well being of student-athletes engaged in competitive sports in Texas. Symptoms reported by athletes may include: headache; nausea; balance problems or dizziness; double or fuzzy vision; sensitivity to light or noise; feeling sluggish; feeling foggy or groggy; concentration or memory problems; confusion.

Signs observed by parents, friends, teachers or coaches may include: appears dazed or stunned; is confused about what to do; forgets plays; is unsure of game, score or opponent; moves clumsily; answers questions slowly; loses consciousness; shows behavior or personality changes; can’t recall events prior to hit; can’t recall events after hit.

Any one or group of symptoms may appear immediately and be temporary, or delayed and long lasting. The appearance of any one of these symptoms should alert the responsible personnel to the possibility of concussion.
Response to Suspected Concussion
According to TEC section 38.156, a student ‘shall be removed from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition immediately if one of the following persons believes the student might have sustained a concussion during the practice or competition:

(1) a coach;
(2) a physician;
(3) a licensed health care professional; or
(4) the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student.'

Return to Activity/Play Following concussion
According to TEC section 38.157:
'A student removed from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition under TEC Section 38.156 (believed that they might have sustained a concussion) may not be permitted to practice or compete again following the force or impact believed to have caused the concussion until:

(1) the student has been evaluated; using established medical protocols based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, by a treating physician chosen by the student or the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student;
(2) the student has successfully completed each requirement of the return-to-play protocol established under TEC Section 38.153 necessary for the student to return to play;
(3) the treating physician has provided a written statement indicating that, in the physician's professional judgment, it is safe for the student to return to play; and
(4) the student and the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student:
   (A) have acknowledged that the student has completed the requirements of the return-to-play protocol necessary for the student to return to play;
   (B) have provided the treating physician's written statement under Subdivision (3) to the person responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol under Subsection (c) and the person who has supervisory responsibilities under Subsection (c); and
   (C) have signed a consent form indicating that the person signing:
      (i) has been informed concerning and consents to the student participating in returning to play in accordance with the return-to-play protocol;
      (ii) understands the risks associated with the student returning to play and will comply with any ongoing requirements in the return-to-play protocol;
      (iii) consents to the disclosure to appropriate persons, consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L.
Guidelines For Safely Resuming Participation Following a Concussion

TEC section 38.155 requires the UIL to provide guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion. TEC 38.153 indicates that: ‘Each concussion oversight team shall establish a return-to-play protocol, based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, for a student's return to interscholastic athletics practice or competition following the force or impact believed to have caused a concussion.’

A student athlete, if it is believed that they might have sustained a concussion, shall not return to practice or competition until the student athlete has been evaluated and cleared in writing by his or her treating physician and all other notice and consent requirements have been met. From that point, the student athlete must satisfactorily complete the protocol established by the school district’s or charter school’s Concussion Oversight Team.

The current ‘peer reviewed scientific evidence’ suggests that, after complying with the clearance, notice and consent requirements noted above, a ‘step-by-step’ return to play protocol that includes a progressive exercise component is indicated for high school participants.

Reducing/Preventing Head and Neck Injuries in Football

1. Complete preseason physical exams and medical histories for all participants in accordance with established rules. Identify during the physical exam those athletes with a history of previous head or neck injuries. If the physician has any questions about the athlete's readiness to participate, the athlete should not be allowed to play.

2. A physician should be present at all games. If it is not possible for a physician to be present at all games and practice sessions, emergency measures must be provided. The total staff should be organized in that each person will know what to do in case of head or neck injury in a game or practice. Have a plan ready and have your staff prepared to implement that plan. Prevention of further injury is the main objective.

3. Coaches should drill the athletes in the proper execution of the fundamentals of football skills, particularly blocking and tackling. Keep the head out of football.

4. Coaches and officials should discourage the players from using their heads as battering rams. The rules prohibiting spearing and helmet-to-helmet contact should be enforced in practice and in games. The players should be taught to
respect the helmet as a protective device and that the helmet should not be used as a weapon.

5. All coaches, physicians, and trainers should take special care to see that each player's equipment is properly fitted, particularly the helmet.

6. Strict enforcement of the rules of the game by both coaches and officials may help reduce serious injuries.

7. When a player has experienced or shown signs of head trauma (loss of consciousness, visual disturbances, headache, inability to walk correctly, obvious disorientation, memory loss) they should receive immediate medical attention and should not be allowed to return to practice or game without permission from the proper medical authorities.

For additional information, consult the ‘Frequently Asked Questions And Resources Document Regarding Implementation of House Bill 2038’ that is available on Health and Safety Section of the UIL web site.
SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION IN SPORTS

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Introduction
A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. It occurs when the brain is rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. What may appear to be only a mild jolt or blow to the head or body can result in a concussion.

The understanding of sports-related concussion by medical professionals continues to evolve. We now know that young athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of a concussion. Once considered little more than a “ding” on the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in a variety of short- or long-term changes in brain function or, in rare cases, even death.

What is a concussion?
You’ve probably heard the terms “ding” and “bell-ringer.” These terms were previously used to refer to minor head injuries and thought to be a normal part of collision sports. Research has now shown us that there is no such thing as a minor brain injury. Any suspected concussion must be taken seriously. The athlete does not have to be hit directly in the head to injure the brain. Any force that is transmitted to the head in any matter may cause the brain to literally bounce around or twist within the skull, potentially resulting in a concussion.

It used to be believed that a player had to lose consciousness or be “knocked-out” to have a concussion. This is not true, as the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. In fact, less than 5% of players actually lose consciousness with a concussion.

What exactly happens to the brain during a concussion is not entirely understood. It appears to be a very complex process affecting both the structure and function of the brain. The sudden movement of the brain causes stretching and tearing of brain cells, damaging the cells and creating chemical changes in the brain. Once this injury occurs,
the brain is vulnerable to further injury and very sensitive to any increased stress until it fully recovers.

Common sports injuries such as torn ligaments and broken bones are structural injuries that can be detected during an examination, or seen on x-rays or MRI. A concussion, however, is primarily an injury that interferes with how the brain works. While there is damage to brain cells, the damage is at a microscopic level and cannot be seen on MRI or CT scans. Therefore, the brain looks normal on these tests, even though it has been seriously injured.

**Recognition and Management**

If an athlete exhibits any signs, symptoms, or behaviors that make you suspicious that he or she may have had a concussion, that athlete must be removed from all physical activity, including sports and recreation. Continuing to participate in physical activity after a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, increased risk for further injury, and even death.

Parents and coaches are not expected to be able to “diagnose” a concussion. That is the role of an appropriate health-care professional. However, everyone involved in athletics must be aware of the signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with a concussion. If you suspect that an athlete may have a concussion, then he or she must be immediately removed from all physical activity.

### Signs Observed by Coaching Staff

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can’t recall events after hit or fall

### Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- Headaches or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
• Does not “feel right” or is “feeling down”

**When in doubt, sit them out!**

When you suspect that a player has a concussion, follow the “Heads Up” 4-step Action Plan.
1. Remove the athlete from play.
2. Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.
3. Inform the athlete’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information on concussion.
4. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the okay to return to activity.

The signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with a concussion are not always apparent immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and may develop over a few hours or longer. An athlete should be closely watched following a suspected concussion and should never be left alone.

Athletes must know that they should never try to “tough out” a suspected concussion. Teammates, parents and coaches should never encourage an athlete to “play through” the symptoms of a concussion. In addition, there should never be an attribution of bravery to athletes who do play despite having concussion signs and/or symptoms. The risks of such behavior must be emphasized to all members of the team, as well as coaches and parents.

If an athlete returns to activity before being fully healed from an initial concussion, the athlete is at greater risk for a repeat concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain has a chance to recover from the first can slow recovery or increase the chance for long-term problems. In rare cases, a repeat concussion can result in severe swelling and bleeding in the brain that can be fatal.

**What to do in an Emergency**
Although rare, there are some situations where you will need to call 911 and activate the Emergency Medical System (EMS). The following circumstances are medical emergencies:
1. Any time an athlete has a loss of consciousness of any duration. While loss of consciousness is not required for a concussion to occur, it may indicate more serious brain injury.
2. If an athlete exhibits any of the following:
   - decreasing level of consciousness,
   - looks very drowsy or cannot be awakened,
   - if there is difficulty getting his or her attention,
   - irregularity in breathing,
   - severe or worsening headaches,
   - persistent vomiting,
any seizures.

Cognitive Rest

A concussion can interfere with school, work, sleep and social interactions. Many athletes who have a concussion will have difficulty in school with short- and long-term memory, concentration and organization. These problems typically last no longer than 2-3 weeks, but for some these difficulties may last for months. It is best to lessen the student’s class load early on after the injury. Most students with concussion recover fully. However, returning to sports and other regular activities too quickly can prolong the recovery.

The first step in recovering from a concussion is rest. Rest is essential to help the brain heal. Students with a concussion need rest from physical and mental activities that require concentration and attention as these activities may worsen symptoms and delay recovery. Exposure to loud noises, bright lights, computers, video games, television and phones (including texting) all may worsen the symptoms of concussion. As the symptoms lessen, increased use of computers, phone, video games, etc., may be allowed, as well as a gradual progression back to full academic work.

Return to Learn

Following a concussion, many athletes will have difficulty in school. These problems may last from days to months and often involve difficulties with short- and long-term memory, concentration, and organization. In many cases, it is best to lessen the student’s class load early on after the injury. This may include staying home from school for a few days, followed by a lightened schedule for a few days, or longer, if necessary. Decreasing the stress on the brain early on after a concussion may lessen symptoms and shorten the recovery time.

Return to Play

After suffering a concussion, no athlete should return to play or practice on that same day. In the past, athletes were allowed to return to play if their symptoms resolved within 15 minutes of the injury. Studies have shown us that the young brain does not recover quickly enough for an athlete to return to activity in such a short time.

An athlete should never be allowed to resume physical activity following a concussion until he or she is symptom free and given the approval to resume physical activity by an appropriate health-care professional.

Once an athlete no longer has signs, symptoms, or behaviors of a concussion and is cleared to return to activity by an appropriate health-care professional, he or she should proceed in a step-wise fashion to allow the brain to re-adjust to exercise. In most cases, the athlete will progress one step each day. The return to activity program schedule may proceed as below, following medical clearance:
Progressive Physical Activity Program (ideally under supervision)

**Step 1**: Light aerobic exercise - 5 to 10 minutes on an exercise bike or light jog; no weight lifting, resistance training, or any other exercises.

**Step 2**: Moderate aerobic exercise - 15 to 20 minutes of running at moderate intensity in the gym or on the field without a helmet or other equipment.

**Step 3**: Non-contact training drills in full uniform. May begin weight lifting, resistance training and other exercises.

**Step 4**: Full contact practice or training.

**Step 5**: Full game play.

If symptoms of a concussion reoccur, or if concussion signs and/or behaviors are observed at any time during the return-to-activity program, the athlete must discontinue all activity and be re-evaluated by his or her health-care provider.

Suggested Concussion Management

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms.

References:


Additional Resources:

Brain 101 – The Concussion Playbook.  
http://brain101.orcasinc.com/5000/

Concussion in Sports- What you need to know.  

Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports  
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/high_school.html


REAP Concussion Management Program.  

Sport Concussion Library  

Revised and Approved October 2013  
January 2011  
April 2009  
October 2008  
October 2005

DISCLAIMER – NFHS Position Statements and Guidelines

The NFHS regularly distributes position statements and guidelines to promote public awareness of certain health and safety-related issues. Such information is neither exhaustive nor necessarily applicable to all circumstances or individuals, and is no substitute for consultation with appropriate health-care professionals. Statutes, codes or environmental conditions may be relevant. NFHS position statements or guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other pertinent materials when taking action or planning care. The NFHS reserves the right to rescind or modify any such document at any time.
Thermoregulation depends primarily on the evaporation of sweat to dissipate the heat produced by exercise.

Predisposing factors that increase an athlete’s risk for heat illness include: dehydration, heat acclimatization, clothing/equipment, fitness level, recent or current illness, medication use, obesity, age and prior heat illness.

Prevention of heat illness includes designing an environmental action plan, modifying activity time (including intensity and duration) and increasing frequency and length of rest periods, providing and monitoring adequate hydration, minimizing clothing and equipment, ensuring adequate heat acclimatization, early recognition of signs and symptoms and appropriate sports medicine care.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Heat illness is the leading cause of preventable death in high school athletes. These heat stroke deaths mainly occur in the summer months, at the beginning of conditioning for fall sports. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated.

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**Figure 10. Heat Index Chart.**

*Reproduced from NWS, 2008*
BACKGROUND

Thermoregulation

Athletes lose heat by evaporation, conduction, convection and radiation. Heat is lost from the skin by evaporation of sweat. Conduction is passive transfer of heat from warmer to cooler objects by direct contact. Heat transfer from the core to the peripheral muscles and skin and from skin to an ice bag is by conduction. Convection is the warming of air next to the body and the displacement of that warm air by cool air. Wind accelerates convection. Radiation is the loss of heat from the warmer body to the cooler environment by electromagnetic waves. At rest, 20 percent of body heat loss is by evaporation and 50 percent by radiation. With exercise, up to 90 percent of heat loss is by evaporation. Thus, thermoregulation during exercise relies primarily on evaporation. Radiation becomes a more important source of heat loss during exercise as the air temperature falls significantly below body temperature.

The body normally maintains core temperature within the range of 95 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Brain temperature is always slightly higher than body temperature. The removal of body heat is controlled centrally by the hypothalamus and spinal cord and peripherally by centers in the skin and organs. The body compensates for the increased heat produced during exercise by increasing blood flow to the skin and increasing sweat production so as to increase heat loss by evaporation. Importantly, evaporation is less effective at high humidity and when sweat production decreases due to dehydration. When heat production exceeds the ability to dissipate the heat, then core temperature, along with brain temperature, rises excessively. The result is further decompensation of normal thermoregulation, decreased heat dissipation, decreased cerebral blood flow and decreased muscular strength. This sets the stage for heat illness.

Acclimatization

An effective protection against heat illness is acclimatization. Proper acclimatization requires progressively increasing the duration and intensity of exercise during the first 10 to 14 days of heat exposure. However, full heat acclimatization may require up to 12 weeks of exposure. With repeated exposure to heat, there is an increase in skin blood flow rate, more rapid onset of sweating, an increase in plasma volume and a decrease in metabolic rate. Equipment and clothing should be minimized during acclimatization. Heat acclimatization can be lost over two weeks without ongoing heat exposure, but the loss may be slower in better-conditioned athletes.

Measuring Environmental Risk of Heat Illness

As humidity increases, perspiration evaporates less readily. Heat loss by sweating can be dramatically impaired when the humidity is greater than 60 percent. The Heat Index is a calculation of the danger of heat illness based on ambient temperature and humidity. The Heat Index can be determined by entering the zip code at your location at this Web site: http://www.osaa.org/heatindex/default.asp. As the Heat Index rises, so does the risk of heat illness (Figure 10).

Wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) is the most effective method for determining environmental heat risk, because it takes into account not only ambient temperature and humidity, but also solar radiation. WBGT employs a dry bulb thermometer that measures ambient temperature, a wet bulb thermometer that measures humidity and a black globe thermometer that measures radiant heat.

As WBGT increases, the risk for heat illness increases (Table 11). WBGT less than 65 is low risk. WBGT 65 to 73 is moderate risk, WBGT 73 to 82 is high risk, and WBGT greater than 82 is extreme risk of heat illness. Experts recommend that distance races should be cancelled if WBGT is 80 or above. Only acclimatized, fit, low-risk athletes should undertake limited exercise at WBGT 86 to 90. Exercise should absolutely be cancelled for everyone when WBGT is 90 or more. The WBGT Risk Indices were developed for athletes wearing only a T-shirt and light pants. Therefore, safe values should be adjusted downwards in the presence of equipment and clothing that inhibit evaporation.
MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION

Practices and Contests

The greater the risk of heat illness, the more steps should be taken to safeguard the athletes, and the greater consideration should be given to cancellation or postponement of a practice or contest. An Environmental Action Plan should be in effect, covering every athletic practice and competition, and it must delegate responsibility for decision-making (see Emergency Action Planning chapter).

1. Measure the WBGT when possible. If not, then determine the heat index. Re-measure several times throughout the event or practice. Infrared thermometers can be used to measure playing surface temperature. The greater the intensity and duration of an event, the greater the risk of heat illness. Long-distance endurance events place athletes at more risk than sports that have frequent breaks during play. Consideration should be given to reducing playing time, extending rest periods and creating regular stoppage of play for rest and hydration. Practices and contests should not be scheduled during the hottest part of the day (commonly 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

2. Minimize clothing and equipment (football or lacrosse practice without shoulder pads and helmets).

3. Provide unlimited opportunities for hydration (see Fluid Replacement and Dehydration chapter). Provide extra water for wetting clothes, hair and face. Hydration should never be withheld as a punishment!

4. In multi-session or multi-day events, monitor for cumulative dehydration by repeated measurement of body weight.

5. Allow a minimum of three, and preferably six, hours for recovery and rehydration between exercise sessions during “daily doubles.”

6. Assure acclimatization prior to high endurance/intensity exercise in heat.

7. Consider providing shade, air conditioning or fans on sidelines during contests and practices.

8. If at all possible, practices should be attended by an athletic trainer or team physician who is prepared to manage heat-related emergencies.

9. Identify athletes whose medical history places them at increased risk (see Risk Factors below).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 11. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature and Risk of Heat Illness.</th>
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RISK FACTORS FOR HEAT ILLNESS

1. **Dehydration.** Fluid loss during exercise occurs primarily by perspiration and respiration. Dehydration during exercise occurs more rapidly in hot environments, when perspiration exceeds oral fluid replacement. Moderate dehydration (three to five percent body weight) reduces exercise performance and makes the athlete more susceptible to fatigue and muscle cramps. With severe dehydration, sweat production and cutaneous blood flow decrease and the athlete is less able to dissipate the heat produced by exercise. Water deficits of six to 10 percent can occur with exercise in hot environments, reducing exercise tolerance and heat dissipation by decreasing cardiac output, sweat production, and skin and muscle perfusion.

   In addition to losing fluid with sweating, electrolytes (salt or sodium and chloride) are also lost. The percentage of salt lost in sweat usually decreases with an improving level of heat acclimatization. Salt depletion can be a significant factor in muscle cramps. While cold water is a good fluid replacement during short duration exercise, a sports drink with six to eight percent carbohydrate is preferable during continuous activity lasting 45 minutes or more. Regular, scheduled fluid replacement is important because athletes typically do not become thirsty until they have already lost two percent of body weight in fluid. (See Fluid Replacement and Dehydration chapter).

   An athlete may begin an activity in a dehydrated state due to inadequate rehydration following previous exercise, attempts to lose weight rapidly, diuretic medication, febrile illness, or gastrointestinal illness with vomiting or diarrhea. Measurement of body weight before and after activity is a good estimate of hydration status changes. Rehydration should be with a fluid volume that meets the weight lost with activity, ideally not exceeding 48 ounces per hour. Urine volume and color are another means by which to estimate hydration with lower volume and darker color representing greater dehydration.

2. **Clothing and Equipment.** Clothing and equipment inhibit heat loss from the body and increase the risk for heat illness. Dry clothing and equipment absorb sweat and prevent evaporative heat loss. Dark clothing or equipment produces radiant heat gain. Clothing and equipment decrease convective heat loss by interfering with air contact with the body. During periods of high WBGT or Heat Index, the risk of heat illnesses increases when clothing and equipment are worn. Thus, risk may be minimized through removing equipment and participating in drills wearing shirts and shorts only. Given that a great deal of heat is radiated from the head, helmets should be removed early on in hot and humid conditions.

3. **Fitness.** Physical training and improved cardiovascular fitness reduce the risk of heat illness.

4. **Febrile Illness.** A fever increases core temperature and decreases the ability of the body to compensate. It is dangerous to exercise with a fever, especially when WBGT is high. Athletes with a fever, respiratory illness, vomiting or diarrhea should not exercise, especially in a hot environment.

5. **Medications.** Amphetamines (including ADHD medications), ephedrine, synephrine, ma huang and other stimulants increase heat production. Some medications have anti-cholinergic actions (amitriptyline, Atrovent) resulting in decreased sweat production. Diuretics can produce dehydration. Athletes taking medication for ADHD should be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of heat illness.

6. **Obesity.** Athletes with a high percentage of body fat are at increased risk for heat illness, as fat acts to insulate the body and decreases the body's ability to dissipate heat.

7. **Sickle Cell Trait.** Athletes with sickle cell trait (SCT) are at increased risk for a sickling crisis with exercise during hot weather. Special precautions should be taken in hot and humid conditions for athletes with SCT (see Sickle Cell Trait chapter).

8. **A prior episode of heat illness** is a risk factor for a subsequent heat illness. After an episode of heat stroke, most athletes demonstrate normal thermoregulation within two months, but the rate of recovery is highly variable and may require up to a year or more. Decreased heat tolerance may affect 15 percent of athletes with a history of previous heat illness.
**STAGES OF HEAT ILLNESS**

1. **Exercise-associated Muscle Cramps (EAMC).** Painful muscle spasms following prolonged exercise, often, but not always, in a hot environment. These are sometimes called “heat cramps.”
   
   **Recognition:** The cramps can occur without warning, can be excruciatingly painful, and may last several minutes or longer. They may be replaced by the onset of a cramp in another location. Severe episodes can last up to six to eight hours. Commonly, heat cramps affect the calf, but the thighs, hamstrings, abdomen and arms may be involved. Core temperature may be normal or increased and signs and symptoms of dehydration such as thirst, sweating and tachycardia may occur.

   EAMC are usually associated with exercise-induced muscular fatigue, dehydration and a large loss of sodium through sweat. Sweat sodium losses that are incompletely replaced result in a total body sodium deficit. Low extracellular (outside of the cells in our body) sodium concentration is thought to alter nerve and muscle resting potential, resulting in EAMC. EAMC is more likely in athletes with high salt sweat content. Athletes with high salt sweat content or “salty sweaters” may be noticeable by salt staining on hats and clothing.

   **Management:** EAMC usually responds to rest, prolonged stretching of involved muscle groups, and sodium replacement in fluid or food (e.g., one quarter teaspoon of table salt or one to two salt tablets in 500 ml of water or sports drink, tomato juice or salty snacks). In the case of severe full body cramps, the athlete should be transported by EMS to a hospital to receive intravenous fluids. Protracted cramping in the absence of signs of dehydration suggests dilutional hyponatremia (low sodium) and serum sodium levels should be measured prior to administering intravenous fluids.

2. **Heat Exhaustion.** Heat exhaustion is the inability to continue to exercise and can occur at any temperature, and is not necessarily associated with collapse. Heat exhaustion associated with dehydration is more common in a hot, humid environment.

   During high intensity exercise, blood flow to organs and skin decreases as blood flow to exercising muscle increases. When exercise, dehydration and humidity combine to make evaporative heat loss ineffective, the core body temperature increases. As core temperature rises, central controls of blood flow distribution begin to fail and the body attempts to increase blood flow to the skin in an effort to increase radiant and convective heat loss. The result is a loss of the original decrease in blood flow to the internal organs and to the skin. Through a series of complex physiological events, the pooled blood in the skin and extremities is unable to transport heat from the core to the skin. Muscular fatigue, decreased urine output, decreased cerebral flow, increased core temperature and fainting (syncope) can result.

   **Recognition:** Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include tachycardia, fatigue, weakness, piloerection (goose bumps), muscle cramps, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, syncope, headache, poor coordination and confusion. Rectal temperature is elevated, but below 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 C). The skin may still be cool and sweating, or may be hot and dry. Decreased cerebral perfusion may produce confusion or syncope. Heat exhaustion can be confused with other causes of depressed mental status in the athlete, including concussion, cardiac causes, infection, drug use, hypoglycemia and hyponatremia. Heat exhaustion is characterized by an elevated core body temperature. Any athlete with altered mental state of unknown etiology must be removed from activity and further evaluated.

   **Management:** While heat exhaustion may present similarly to other conditions, heat exhaustion should be assumed if any of the signs and symptoms are present. Elevate the legs to increase venous return and cardiac preload, rehydrate to correct volume depletion, and transfer to a cool, shaded location. Aggressive decrease in core temperature is indicated to prevent progression to heat stroke. If a team physician or athletic trainer is unavailable to assess the athlete, EMS should be activated so the athlete can be transported to an emergency facility. There should be no same-day return to activity for athletes with syncope, altered mental status, neurologic symptoms or core temperature greater than 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequate time for full recovery is necessary prior to returning to play.
3. **Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS)** is defined by the presence of a rectal temperature greater than 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40°C) combined with altered mental status. As heat production continues to exceed the body’s capacity to dissipate the heat, then core temperature rises to a level that disrupts organ function.

**Recognition:** There is usually sweat-soaked, pale skin. Hyperventilation, tachycardia, vomiting, diarrhea and shock frequently progress to arrhythmia, acute renal failure, rhabdomyolysis (the release of muscle potassium, acid and enzymes into the blood as muscle cells break open and die), pulmonary edema, disseminated intravascular coagulopathy (coagulation of blood throughout the vessels) and cardiac arrest. Often, central nervous system signs are the first to appear: altered mental status, confusion, seizures and coma.

**Management:** EHS is a medical emergency and EMS must be activated. Successful treatment requires early recognition. Rapid reduction in core temperature is the key to prevention of organ failure. This is best accomplished by immersion in ice water. Less effective substitutes include ice packs to the groin and armpits, cool mist fans and alcohol rubs. If optimal cooling can be provided in the field, if there are no other life-threatening complications and if there is the ability to monitor the athlete during cooling, then cooling may be completed prior to transport. Otherwise, while efforts at cooling may be initiated in the field, they should not delay “load and go” EMS transport to a facility capable of comprehensive care.

**References**


Cold temperature, especially in combination with wet conditions or wind, poses the risk for cold injuries such as frostbite and hypothermia.

- Treat frostbite by getting the affected individual to a warm place and re-warm the extremities.
- Suspected hypothermia calls for EMS activation.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Cold weather is typically not a barrier to outdoor practices and competitions. However, team and individual sports played in the late fall, winter and early spring place athletes at risk for cold injury. Environmental changes as simple as sunset, a rainstorm or an increase in wind speed can shift the body’s thermal balance suddenly. As part or all of the body cools, there can be diminished exercise performance, frostbite, hypothermia, and even death.

**BACKGROUND**

Athletes lose heat by evaporation, conduction, convection and radiation. Heat is lost from the skin by evaporation of sweat. Conduction is the passive transfer of heat from warmer to cooler objects by direct contact, such as through the loss of heat from the core to the peripheral muscles and skin and the gain of heat from a hand warmer to the fingers. Convection is the warming of the air next to the body and the displacement of that warm air by cool air. Insulating clothing decreases heat loss by convection, while wind accelerates heat loss by convection. Radiation is loss of heat from the warmer body to the cooler environment.

At rest, 20 percent of body heat loss is by evaporation and 50 percent by radiation. With exercise in a warm environment, up to 90 percent of heat loss is by evaporation. Thus, evaporation from wet clothing in a cold environment has great potential to upset thermoregulation during exercise. In the cold, radiation becomes a progressively more important source of heat loss during exercise as ambient temperature falls further below body temperature.

Cold exposure produces peripheral vasoconstriction, decreasing peripheral blood flow, and decreasing convective heat loss from the body’s core to its shell (skin, fat, muscle). The peripheral vasoconstriction, therefore, predisposes to cold injury, especially in the fingers and toes. In response to this cooling of the extremities, there is cold-induced vasodilation (CIVD), a transient increase in blood flow and warming which helps to protect against peripheral cold injury. As the core body temperature falls, CIVD is suppressed, and frostbite becomes more likely.

Cold exposure also elicits increased heat production through skeletal muscle activity. This occurs through involuntary shivering (which can increase heat production up to six times basal metabolic rate) and through voluntary increased activity. Athletes exposed to cold repeatedly can exhibit cold acclimatization. The most common acclimatization pattern is habituation, in which both cold-induced vasoconstriction and shivering are blunted, sometimes actually predisposing to hypothermia. Compared to heat acclimatization, cold acclimatization is less pronounced, slower to develop and less effective in maintaining normal body temperature and preventing cold illness.

**RECOGNITION**

_**Frostbite**, the most common cold injury, occurs when tissue freezes. Frostbite can occur in exposed skin (nose, ears, cheeks), but also can affect the hands and feet, as peripheral vasoconstriction lowers peripheral tissue temperature significantly. Numbness or a “wooden” feeling is usually the first symptom of frostbite in the hands and feet. With frostbite to exposed facial skin, however, there can be a burning feeling. Both cooling and ischemia (decreased blood flow) result in numbing of the skin, so the freezing of the tissue is often relatively painless. Skin color is initially red and then becomes a waxy white. Re-warming is accompanied by sharp, aching pain and persistent loss of light touch sensation.

The risk of frostbite increases as temperature decreases. With appropriate precautions, the risk of frostbite can be less than five percent when ambient temperature is above 5 degrees F. But increased surveillance of athletes is appropriate when wind chill temperature (WCT) falls below minus 18 degrees F, as exposed facial skin then freezes in 30 minutes or less. At these temperatures, consideration should be given to postponing or cancelling athletic events. A
close approximation of the WCT should be available from your local weather station. **Hypothermia** is defined by a core body temperature below 95 degrees F (35 degrees C). In mild hypothermia, an athlete feels cold, shivers, is apathetic and withdrawn, and demonstrates impaired athletic and mental performance. Coaches and athletes must recognize and respond to these early symptoms to avoid more severe hypothermia. As core temperature continues to fall, there is confusion, sleepiness, slurred speech, and irrational thinking and behavior. In severe hypothermia, the heart rate may become irregular and there is a risk of cardiac arrest. Efforts at resuscitation must persist until re-warming has been achieved.

Exercising athletes produce heat by muscular activity, which helps maintain core temperature, and are at less risk for cold exposure injury. At the end of an event, or when exercise stops due to injury, heat is no longer being generated by exercise, but heat loss continues, and rapid cooling may result. Dehydration may further impair maintenance of core temperature.

Figure 9. Wind Chill Index.

Prevention of Cold Injury

1. **EVENT MANAGEMENT**
   a. **Assess environmental risk factors:** temperature, wind, rain, direct sunlight, altitude. Be alert to changes in these conditions so that athletes can be advised to modify clothing or seek shelter and event managers can consider shortening, moving or cancelling an event. The Wind Chill Index (WCI) integrates temperature and wind to estimate cooling power. The WCI predicts the risk of frostbite to exposed facial skin in a person moving at walking speed, but not the risk of frostbite in the extremities. The wind effect of the athlete moving at higher speed (run, ski, bike, skating) is not considered when calculating WCI.

b. **Assess athletes’ risk factors:** exercise demands, fitness, fatigue, health, body fat, age, and nutritional status. (see Table 10).
c. Prepare appropriately: adequate training, clothing, water, food, scheduled clothing changes, provision of shelter and re-warming, planned monitoring of weather conditions and of athlete tolerance of the cold, and action plans to care for those who are having difficulty staying warm.

Table 10. Risk factors for Hypothermia and Frostbite.

1. Exercising in water, rain and wind significantly increases risk of hypothermia. Hypothermia can occur rapidly following unexpected immersion in cold water. The heat transfer coefficient of water is 70 times that of air.
2. Lean athletes have more difficulty maintaining core temperature and are at increased risk for cold injury. Athletes with a high body fat percentage and high muscle mass are better insulated and more protected against cold injury.
3. Individuals older than 60 years of age are at increased risk of hypothermia due to reduced vasoconstriction and sometimes decreased fitness.
4. Children and adolescents are at greater risk of hypothermia than adults due to greater surface-to-mass ratio and less subcutaneous fat.
5. Low blood sugar impairs muscular activity and shivering, decreases heat production, and predisposes to hypothermia. Fatigue, energy depletion, sleep deprivation and certain chronic medical conditions result in decreased heat production.
6. Some skin disorders, such as eczema, may increase heat loss.
7. Physical fitness and strength training do not improve thermoregulatory response to cold, but greater fitness allows longer exercise at high intensity and thereby longer muscular heat production and maintenance of core temperature. Poor fitness thereby predisposes to cold injury.

2. CLOTHING
Metabolic rate (exercise intensity) and ambient temperature determine clothing (insulation) requirements during exercise. Hats are useful, as up to 50 percent of heat loss at rest is from the head. Layering of clothing is highly recommended. The inner layer acts to wick perspiration, a middle insulating layer which allows moisture transfer, and an outer layer, worn when necessary, to repel wind and rain, but is capable of transfer of perspiration to the air. Layering allows adjustment in insulation to prevent overheating and sweating, while remaining dry in wet conditions. Glove liners can provide wicking and insulation for the hands. Mittens provide significantly more insulation than gloves. Clothing that constricts fingers or toes predisposes to cold injury in the hands and feet. Wet clothing should be removed quickly and replaced, including socks and gloves.

3. FOOD AND FLUID INTAKE
Exercise in cold environments can increase energy expenditure and fluid loss. Insufficient carbohydrate reserves to maintain core temperature risks cold injury. Dehydration affects neither shivering or vasoconstriction, but significant loss in volume decreases perfusion. In cold, as in all temperatures, carbohydrate availability and dehydration are limiting factors in performance. Athletes can sustain exercise in cold by ingesting six- to eight-percent carbohydrate beverages. Carbohydrate rich foods are appropriate for prolonged exercise in the cold.

Management of Cold Injury

1. FROSTBITE
Seek shelter and insulation. Maintain core temperature and attempt to reverse vasoconstriction by re-warming. Re-warming is best accomplished with body heat of the afflicted individual or someone else’s (e.g., placing the cold hand under the arm pit). Warm water at 104 to 109 degrees Fahrenheit (40 to 43 degrees C) can also be used for re-warming. Do not use warmer water as it produces greater injury, swelling and tissue death. Once re-warming begins, avoid additional freezing. It is better to tolerate some additional time with frozen tissue while awaiting transport to a medical facility than to re-warm and then suffer refreezing during extrication from the cold environment. Rubbing the injured body part adds mechanical damage to thermal damage, and is to be avoided.
2. HYPOTHERMIA
   a. Conscious athlete. Hypothermic athletes should have wet clothing removed and should be insulated with whatever warming material is available. If possible, evacuate to a warm building/bus/car/shower. Encourage the drinking of large volumes of warm, sweet liquids to improve circulating volume and available energy. Encourage exercise to promote heat production by muscular activity. Such athletes usually respond to peripheral re-warming, but transport to medical care is a precaution against further deterioration.
   b. Unconscious athlete. Hypothermic athletes should be insulated and transported by the emergency medical system (EMS). Field re-warming and field CPR are usually ineffective and should not delay transport to a medical facility for central re-warming. Warm intravenous fluids and positive pressure, warm, humidified oxygen can be useful but will, alone, be inadequate. The medical facility can provide rapid core re-warming, prevention of arrhythmia, respiratory support, and fluid and electrolyte management.

COLD-INDUCED ASTHMA SYMPTOMS
   Exercise-induced asthma (EIA) is a transient narrowing of the airways which is provoked by exercise (see Asthma chapter). Cold-weather athletes have an increased prevalence of EIA. High intensity exercise, high ventilation rate and exercise in indoor rinks predisposes athletes to EIA. EIA with cold exposure is believed to be due to a combination of breathing dry air and reflex response to facial cooling. Impaired air quality in indoor skating rinks is implicated as an additional factor (see Air Quality chapter).

COLD ENVIRONMENT MODIFIES EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS
   The assessment and management of the injured athlete in a cold environment follows basic First Aid and CPR/AED protocols. (See Emergency Action Plan chapter). This begins with the assessment of the safety of the scene of injury. In a cold environment, the scene is not safe by virtue of the cold itself. Depending on the severity of the cold, the risk it represents to the injured athlete and to the rescuers, and the availability of warm shelter, the protocol may be modified. The major difference in cold weather is that initial attempts at resuscitation can be delayed in order to get the athlete to a warmer place.

References
Asthma

By Gayathri Chelvakumar, M.D. and Paula Cody, M.D.

- Asthma is a chronic lung disease that affects many high school athletes.
- Exercise commonly triggers asthma symptoms.
- Coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing can all be symptoms of asthma.
- Early recognition and treatment of asthma symptoms is essential.

SIGNIFICANCE

Nearly 20 percent of high school students in the U.S. have been diagnosed with asthma. Asthma that is well-controlled should not prevent anyone from participating in organized sports or exercising, but early symptom recognition and treatment is essential. Uncontrolled asthma can be deadly. It is the responsibility of coaches, athletic trainers, parents and athletes to be knowledgeable about the different medications prescribed to treat and manage asthma and how those medications are to be used.

BACKGROUND

Asthma is a chronic disease that affects the lungs. It is characterized by inflammation, airway reactivity/sensitivity and increased mucous production. Common symptoms include coughing, wheezing, chest tightness and shortness of breath (Table 27). Asthma can be triggered by respiratory infections (see Common Illnesses chapter), exercise, pollutants (see Air Quality chapter) and allergens (dust mites, animal dander, mold and pollen). Early recognition of the signs and symptoms of asthma can prevent serious complications and even death.

Asthma symptoms often worsen with exercise. Some athletes have symptoms only with exercise (exercise-induced asthma, EIA). Exercise-induced symptoms occur commonly and are often more intense in cold weather. Symptoms typically develop 10 to 15 minutes after a brief period of exercise or about 15 minutes into prolonged exercise. Symptoms usually resolve with rest for 30 to 60 minutes.

Table 27. Signs and symptoms of asthma.

- High-pitched wheezing sounds when breathing out
- Recurrent chest tightness, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Spasmodic or persistent coughing during or after exercise
- Cough that is worse at night
- Symptoms occur or get worse when the athlete exercises, or when exposed to various triggers that might include dust, mold, animals with fur, smoke, pollen, airborne pollutants, strong odors or changes in the weather

More subtle symptoms associated with exercise-induced asthma may include:

- Perceived lack of endurance
- Undue fatigue or perception of being “out of shape” or poorly conditioned
- Symptoms triggered by some sports (i.e., running) but not by others (i.e., swimming)

RECOGNITION

Athletes with well-controlled asthma, by definition, will have no symptoms at rest or with activity. They should have no cough, wheeze, chest tightness or shortness of breath during the day or night and be able to do daily activities and exercise without problems.

When asthma symptoms worsen (“asthma attack”), the athlete may experience coughing, wheezing, chest tightness or shortness of breath (Table 28). He or she may also complain of coughing that is worse at night. Athletic performance and endurance is likely to be greatly affected. Asthma attacks that require medical attention occur when the person is very short of breath and unable to do usual activities, “rescue inhalers” are not helping, or symptoms last longer than 24 hours.
Table 28. Recognition of an acute “asthma attack.”

- Wheezing or spasmodic/persistent coughing
- Chest tightness or discomfort
- Rapid and shallow respiration
- Rapid pulse
- Use of accessory muscles in shoulders and neck to aid breathing
- Assuming tripod position (e.g., forward-leaning posture with hands on knees) to improve airflow
- Cyanosis (blue lips and finger nails) if severe
- Difficulty breathing out of proportion to activity intensity and aerobic fitness level

MANAGEMENT

It is important that all athletes with asthma are known to the medical staff, coaches and athletic administration. Athletes who have been diagnosed with asthma or who have asthma symptoms should be identified during the preparticipation exam (see Preparticipation Physical Evaluation chapter). The athletes must work with their primary care provider or asthma specialist, sports medicine staff and coaches to understand their asthma treatment plan. It is also essential for schools to have an Emergency Action Plan addressing asthma and other chronic medical conditions (see Emergency Action Planning chapter) as symptoms can worsen at anytime.

There are several medications available to treat asthma. Most medications are inhaled into the lungs, but a few are taken as pills. Asthma medicines come in two types: quick-relief (rescue medications) and medications that provide long-term control. Everyone with asthma needs regular medical follow-up to maintain symptom control and reassess their management plan.

Certain people with asthma require long-term control medications to treat inflammation in the lungs and prevent symptoms and attacks. These anti-inflammatory medicines, typically inhaled corticosteroids, are most effective when taken daily, even if the person is not experiencing any symptoms. These medicines are not effective at treating acute asthma attacks. Asthma symptoms can usually be controlled and attacks prevented if the medications are taken exactly as prescribed.

The use of an albuterol inhaler 15 minutes prior to exercise will usually control the symptoms of EIA. There is also evidence that EIA can be controlled in some athletes without using medication. Many individuals have a “refractory period” during which constriction of the lungs appears to relax and breathing is easier for a period of time. This is similar to a “second wind.” If an athlete recognizes this, warm-ups can be designed to begin the intense exercise in advance of competition so that the refractory period coincides with the contest period. Monitoring air quality is also important (see Air Quality chapter).

For an asthma attack, a quick-relief rescue medicine is used, most commonly the quick-acting medicine albuterol. Proper use of the inhaler is essential to relieving asthma symptoms (Table 29). This medicine rapidly relaxes tightened muscles around the airways to improve airflow. A rescue medicine should be taken at the first sign of asthma symptoms. If symptoms quickly resolve, the athlete may return to activity. If symptoms do not resolve, or flare-up again during the same practice or contest, the athlete should be removed from activity and be told to contact his or her primary care provider, or asthma specialist. If the person has difficulty walking or talking due to shortness of breath or his or her lips are blue, this is indicative of a medical emergency and EMS must be activated (Table 28).
Table 29. Proper use of a metered dose inhaler (from NIH Guidelines, 1997).

1. Remove cap and hold inhaler upright.
2. Shake the inhaler.
3. Tilt head back slightly and breathe out slowly through the mouth.
4. Position the inhaler one to two inches away from the mouth or use a holding chamber or spacer.
5. Press down once on the inhaler to release medication as the athlete begins to breathe in slowly.
6. Continue to breathe in slowly and evenly for three to five seconds during and after pressing down on the inhaler.
7. Hold breath for 10 seconds to allow the medication to reach deep into the lungs.
8. Repeat puff as directed. It is recommended to wait one minute before second puff to allow for optimal penetration into the lungs.
9. When possible, athletes should use a spacer when delivering medication to ensure optimal delivery. These chambers are hollow tubes or other reservoirs with the inhaler on one end and the athlete’s mouth on the other end. Many times failure to improve with treatment can be reversed simply by the use of spacers and better technique. Recent studies have shown that “spacers” increase the amount of medication that reaches the lungs and decrease the amount of medication deposited in the mouth or throat.

References

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Patient information: Exercise-induced asthma. Up to Date, Last Updated June 13 2008.

Sickle Cell Trait

By Dan Martin, Ed.D., ATC

- It is estimated that eight percent of the U.S. African-American population has sickle cell trait (SCT).
- SCT does not necessarily preclude an individual from sport participation.
- Signs and symptoms of a sickling crisis must be recognized early to prevent complications, including the risk of death.
- Basic precautions will greatly decrease the risk of a sickling crisis.

SIGNIFICANCE

Sickle cell trait (SCT) is not a disease, but a description of a type of hemoglobin gene. Hemoglobin carries oxygen in the bloodstream. SCT differs from sickle cell anemia in that the trait is present when one gene for sickle hemoglobin is inherited from one parent while a normal hemoglobin gene is inherited from the other. If a sickle cell gene is inherited from each parent, the child will then have sickle cell anemia.

Sickle cell anemia is a serious disorder which typically causes severe medical problems early in childhood which continue into adulthood. People with SCT rarely have any symptoms of the condition. However, they may develop problems under extreme physical stress or with low oxygen levels (high-altitude).

People with ancestors from Africa, Mediterranean countries, India, South or Central America, and Saudi Arabia are at increased risk for having SCT. SCT occurs in about eight percent of the African-American population in the U.S.

SCT exercise-related deaths do occur in both athletics and in the military. Individuals with SCT participating in intense exercise are particularly vulnerable to the effects of heat and dehydration. The potential for a sickling collapse can be decreased if the athlete takes preventative measures. Early recognition of the signs and symptoms by the athlete, coaches and medical staff, with stopping all activity and initiating appropriate treatment will greatly reduce the potential for long-term consequences or death.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. military first linked SCT to an increased risk of sudden death during extreme physical exertion decades ago. SCT has also been linked to several deaths which have occurred during off-season conditioning in collegiate football players over the past decade. Currently, SCT does not appear to be a prominent issue in high school athletes. This is likely due to the fact that the intensity and duration of physical activity in high school athletes does not reach that seen in collegiate conditioning drills.

SCT generally does not present problems with daily activities. The vast majority of athletes with the trait compete at the high school, college, and professional levels without complications. However, there is always the possibility that a sickling collapse can occur with intense exertion, potentially resulting in death.

PHYSIOLOGY

During intense exertion, red blood cells can change from the typical donut-shaped appearance to a “sickle” or a “quarter-moon” shape. In this shape, these cells no longer carry oxygen efficiently and become rather stiff and sticky. These “sickle cells” can then stick together and block normal blood flow to any tissue or organ. This can produce pain, weakness, swelling of the arms or legs, muscle cramping and shortness of breath. Kidney and other vital organ function can also be affected.

Even what appears to be a mild exertional distress can turn lethal in an individual with SCT. The kidneys and spleen may be damaged and exercise-related rhabdomyolysis (skeletal muscle breakdown) may also occur. Asthma (see Asthma chapter), acute illness, dehydration (see Fluid Replacement and Dehydration chapter), heat stress (see Heat-related Illness chapter) and high altitude can predispose an individual with SCT to a sickling crisis during intense physical exertion.
IDENTIFYING THE ATHLETE WITH SICKLE CELL TRAIT

The preparticipation evaluation form (see Preparticipation Evaluation chapter) should have a question about the athlete’s sickle cell status. If the athlete or parents are unaware of the athlete’s status, they may very likely be able to find the information from their primary care provider or state newborn screening records. The NCAA currently recommends that the SCT status of all athletes be determined. Most states in the U.S. have been conducting newborn SCT screening for more than 20 years, thus many athletes may already know, or be able to find out, their status. There is currently no medical organization calling for the universal screening of SCT in high school athletes. Parents who are interested in having their child screened for SCT should discuss it with their primary care provider.

When an athlete with SCT is identified, it is important that the athlete and his or her parents are educated about SCT. It is important to not discourage the athlete from sports participation. However, the athlete must be educated on preventive measures and the potential dangers. It is vital that coaches and the sports medicine staff be aware of the athlete’s SCT status, but it is also important to protect the student’s privacy as much as possible.

RECOGNITION

If an athlete exhibits any signs or has symptoms of a sickling collapse, he or she must be removed from activity. Continuing to exercise will lead to worsening symptoms, additional serious internal organ damage, or even death. However, if the proper steps are taken, these symptoms are generally easy to manage and will normally subside within a few minutes. The athlete’s symptoms typically resolve when he or she is hydrated and rests. During hot weather, the athlete should also be taken into a cool, controlled environment to prevent overheating. If at any time the athlete collapses, (sickling collapse) the episode must be treated as a medical emergency and Emergency Medical System activated (see Emergency Action Planning chapter).

Signs and Symptoms of a pending sickling crisis

- Appears dazed or confused
- Appears weak
- Not keeping up with other team members (undue fatigue)
- Having difficulty breathing
- Muscle pain, weakness and/or cramping
MANAGEMENT

Athletes with SCT can generally perform at the same physical level as their teammates, but may not be able to do it for an extended amount of time. For example, athletes with SCT should not run timed, sustained 100-yard sprints, or timed, sustained “suicides” or shuttle runs. The athlete with SCT can still run sprints and suicides, but must be given rest breaks between sprints. Coaches and the athlete with SCT must be aware of his or her physical limits. If the athlete is feeling exhausted, or is showing symptoms of physical distress, he or she must immediately stop, hydrate and rest.

If an athlete is known to have SCT, the following precautions are suggested during physical activity:

- Set own pace
- Engage in slow and gradual preseason conditioning regimen
- Use adequate rest and recovery between intense drills
- Stop activity immediately upon struggling or experiencing muscle pain, abnormal weakness, undue fatigue, or shortness of breath
- Stay well hydrated
- Seek prompt medical care when experiencing unusual distress

Though caution must be taken, the athlete with SCT should always be allowed to compete in all sports and should be treated the same as the other athletes. It needs to be emphasized that athletes with SCT normally do not have problems, except if put under extreme physical duress. The precautions and training modifications discussed in this chapter are intended to allow the athlete with SCT to participate in athletics as safely as possible.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. www.CDC.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell

Resources

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America: https://www.sicklecelldisease.org/about_scd/index.phtml
Sickle Cell information center: www.scinfo.org
POSITION STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HYDRATION TO MINIMIZE THE RISK FOR DEHYDRATION AND HEAT ILLNESS

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

DEHYDRATION, ITS EFFECTS ON PERFORMANCE, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEAT ILLNESS:

- Appropriate hydration before, during, and after physical activity is an important ingredient to healthy and successful sports participation.

- Weight loss during exercise and other physical activity represents primarily a loss of body water. A loss of just 1 to 2% of body weight (1.5 to 3 pounds for a 150-pound athlete) can negatively impact performance. A loss of 3% or more of body weight can significantly increase the risk for exertional heat-related illness. If an athlete is already dehydrated prior to beginning activity, these effects will occur even sooner.

- Athletes should be weighed (in shorts and T-shirt) before and after warm or hot weather practice sessions and contests to assess their hydration status.

- Athletes with high body fat percentages can become significantly dehydrated and over-heat faster than athletes with lower body fat percentages while working out under the same environmental conditions.

- Athletes have different sweating rates and some lose much more salt through their sweat than others. “Salty sweaters” will often have noticeable salt stains on clothing after workouts, and often have a higher risk of developing exertional muscle cramps.

- Poor heat acclimatization/fitness levels can greatly contribute to an athlete’s heat intolerance and heat illness risk.

- Certain medications, or fever, can negatively affect an athlete’s hydration status and temperature regulation, increasing the risk for heat illness.

- Environmental temperature and humidity each independently contribute to dehydration and heat illness risk.

- Clothing that is dark or bulky, as well as protective equipment (such as helmets, shoulder pads, and other padding and coverings), can increase body temperature, sweat loss and subsequent dehydration and heat illness risk.
• Even naturally dry climates can have high humidity on the field if irrigation systems are scheduled to run prior to early morning practices start. This temporary increase in humidity will continue until the water completely soaks into the ground or evaporates.

• A heat index chart should be followed to help determine if practices/contests should be modified or canceled. The NOAA National Weather Service’s heat index chart can be found at: http://www.weather.gov/om/heat/index.shtml

  o On-site wet-bulb temperature should be measured 10-15 minutes before practices or contests. The results should be used with a heat index to determine if practices or contests should be started, modified, or stopped.

  o If wet-bulb temperature measurement is not available, the heat index for your approximate location can be determined by entering your postal zip code: http://www.osaa.org/heatindex/

Example of the effects of relative humidity on the risk for dehydration and heat illness:

  • A relative humidity of 40 percent and a temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit are associated with a likely risk of incurring heat illness if strenuous physical activity is conducted. However, even with a lower air temperature of only 85 degrees Fahrenheit, the risk for exertional heat illness could be the same or greater with a higher relative humidity of 70 percent.

WHAT TO DRINK DURING EXERCISE AND OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

• For most exercising athletes, water is appropriate and sufficient for pre-hydration and rehydration. Water is quickly absorbed, well-tolerated, an excellent thirst quencher and cost-effective.

• Traditional sports drinks with an appropriate carbohydrate and sodium formulation may provide additional benefit in the following general situations:
  o Prolonged continuous or intermittent activity of greater than 45 minutes
  o Intense, continuous or repeated exertion
  o Warm-to-hot and humid conditions

• Traditional sports drinks with an appropriate carbohydrate and sodium formulation may provide additional benefit for the following individual conditions:
  o Poor hydration prior to participation
  o A high sweat rate or “salty sweater”
  o Poor caloric intake prior to participation
  o Poor acclimatization to heat and humidity

• A 6 to 8% carbohydrate formulation is the maximum that should be utilized in a sports drink. Any greater concentration will slow stomach emptying and potentially cause the athlete to feel bloated. An appropriate sodium concentration (0.4–1.2 grams per liter) will help with fluid retention and distribution and decrease the risk of exertional muscle cramping.

WHAT NOT TO DRINK DURING EXERCISE:

• Fruit juices with greater than 8 percent carbohydrate content and carbonated soda can both result in a bloated feeling and abdominal cramping.
• Athletes should be aware that nutritional supplements are not limited to pills and powders as many of the new “energy” drinks contain stimulants such as caffeine and/or ephedrine.
  o These stimulants may increase the risk of heat illness and/or heart problems with exercise. They can also cause anxiety, jitteriness, nausea, and upset stomach or diarrhea.
  o Many of these drinks are being produced by traditional water, soft drink and sports drink companies which can cause confusion in the sports community. As is true with other forms of supplements, these “power drinks”, “energy drinks”, or “fluid supplements” are not regulated by the FDA. Thus, the purity and accuracy of contents on the label is not guaranteed.
  o Many of these beverages which claim to increase power, energy, and endurance, among other claims, may have additional ingredients that are not listed. Such ingredients may be harmful and may be banned by governing bodies like the NCAA, USOC, or individual state athletic associations.
  o See the NFHS Position Statement and Recommendations for the use of Energy Drinks by Young Athletes for further information.

HYDRATION TIPS AND FLUID GUIDELINES:
• Many athletes do not voluntarily drink enough water to prevent significant dehydration during physical activity.

• Drink regularly throughout all physical activities. An athlete cannot always rely on his or her sense of thirst to sufficiently maintain proper hydration.

• Drink before, during, and after practices and games. For example:
  o Drink 16 ounces of fluid 2 hours before physical activity.
  o Drink another 8 to 16 ounces 15 minutes before physical activity.
  o During physical activity, drink 4 to 8 ounces of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes (some athletes who sweat considerably can safely tolerate up to 48 ounces per hour).
  o After physical activity, drink 16 to 20 ounces of fluid for every pound lost during physical activity to achieve normal hydration status before the next practice or competition.

• The volume and color of your urine is an excellent way of determining if you’re well hydrated. Small amounts of dark urine means that you need to drink more, while a “regular” amount of light-colored or nearly clear urine generally means you are well-hydrated. A Urine Color Chart can be accessed at: http://at.uwa.edu/admin/UM/urinecolorchart.doc

• Hyponatremia is a rare, but potentially deadly disorder resulting from the over consumption of water. It is most commonly seen during endurance events, such as marathons, when participants consume large amounts of water over several hours, far exceeding fluid lost through sweating. The opposite of dehydration, hyponatremia is a condition where the sodium content of the blood is diluted to dangerous levels. Affected
individuals may exhibit disorientation, altered mental status, headache, lethargy, and seizures. The diagnosis can only be made by testing blood sodium levels. Suspected hyponatremia is a medical emergency and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) must be activated. It is treated by administering intravenous fluids containing high levels of sodium.

References:


Revised and Approved October 2011
Chemical Abuse Programs

Schools are strongly encouraged to develop alcohol and drug prevention education programs. The UIL staff will provide assistance to coaches, sponsors and administrators in developing educational programs and referral procedures.

Illegal Steroid Use and Random Anabolic Steroid Testing

• Texas state law prohibits possessing, dispensing, delivering or administering a steroid in a manner not allowed by state law.

• Texas state law also provides that body building, muscle enhancement or the increase in muscle bulk or strength through the use of a steroid by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose.

• Texas state law requires that only a medical doctor may prescribe a steroid for a person.

• Any violation of state law concerning steroids is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

As a prerequisite to participation in UIL athletic activities, student-athletes must agree that they will not use anabolic steroids as defined in the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program Protocol and that they understand that they may be asked to submit to testing for the presence of anabolic steroids in their body. Additionally, as a prerequisite to participation in UIL athletic activities, student-athletes must agree to submit to such testing and analysis by a certified laboratory if selected.

Also, as a prerequisite to participation by a student in UIL athletic activities, their parent or guardian must certify that they understand that their student must refrain from anabolic steroid use and that the student may be asked to submit to testing for the presence of anabolic steroids in his/her body. The parent or guardian also must agree to submit their child to such testing and analysis by a certified laboratory if selected.

The results of the steroid testing will only be provided to certain individuals in the student’s high school as specified in the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program Protocol which is available on the UIL website at www.uil.utexas.edu. Additionally, results of steroid testing will be held confidential to the extent required by law.

Health Consequences Associated with Anabolic Steroid Abuse (source: National Institute on Drug Abuse)

• In boys and men, reduced sperm production, shrinking of the testicles, impotence, difficulty or pain in urinating, baldness, and irreversible breast enlargement (gynecomastia).

• In girls and women, development of more masculine characteristics, such as decreased body fat and breast size, deepening of the voice, excessive growth of body hair, and loss of scalp hair.

• In adolescents of both sexes, premature termination of the adolescent growth spurt, so that for the rest of their lives, abusers remain shorter than they would have been without the drugs.

• In males and females of all ages, potentially fatal liver cysts and liver cancer; blood clotting, cholesterol changes, and hypertension, each of which can promote heart attack and stroke; and acne. Although not all scientists agree, some interpret available evidence to show that anabolic steroid abuse-particularly in high doses-promotes aggression that can manifest itself as fighting, physical and sexual abuse, armed robbery, and property crimes such as burglary and vandalism. Upon stopping anabolic steroids, some abusers experience symptoms of depressed mood, fatigue, restlessness, loss of appetite, insomnia, reduced sex drive, headache, muscle and joint pain, and the desire to take more anabolic steroids.

• In injectors, infections resulting from the use of shared needles or nonsterile equipment, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and infective endocarditis, a potentially fatal inflammation of the inner lining of the heart. Bacterial infections can develop at the injection site, causing paid and abscess.

Emergency Medical Procedures

Schools should have written procedures for medical emergencies at athletic contests. All schools cannot have physicians present. This makes it mandatory that emergency procedures be understood by administrators and coaches. Such procedures include:
Appendix

1. Immediate, on-the-spot first aid by an adequately trained individual.
2. A telephone or other communication device to contact a doctor, ambulance, or emergency clinic.
3. A designated emergency vehicle. If an ambulance is not available, another suitable vehicle should be ready for quick utilization.
4. Notification of parents of injured player.
5. Proper arrangements at hospital or clinic to insure complete care of injured student.

Any plan of action should be carefully covered in advance with responsibilities of each party specified. Trainers, coaches, vehicle drivers, school administrators, and local law officers should function as an informed, effective team. Communication is the key to an effective athletic emergency care plan. Everyone - school personnel, medical professionals, transportation staff - must know exactly what is to be done in an emergency and who is responsible for each task.

If a definite procedure is adopted and followed, everyone will know that the health, safety and welfare of participants is a top priority.

Lightning Safety

Lightning may be the most frequently encountered severe storm hazard endangering physically active people each year. Millions of lightning flashes strike the ground annually in the United States, causing nearly 100 deaths and 400 injuries. Three quarters of all lightning casualties occur between May and September, and nearly four fifths occur between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, which coincides with the hours for most athletic events.

Postpone or suspend activity if a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during an activity or contest (irrespective of whether lightning is seen or thunder heard) until the hazard has passed. Signs of imminent thunderstorm activity are darkening clouds, high winds, and thunder or lightning activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY

1. Establish a chain of command that identifies who is to make the call to remove individuals from the field.
2. Name a designated weather watcher (A person who actively looks for the signs of threatening weather and notifies the chain of command if severe weather becomes dangerous).
3. Have a means of monitoring local weather forecasts and warnings.
4. Designate a safe shelter for each venue. See examples below.
5. Once activities have been suspended, wait at least thirty minutes following the last sound of thunder or lightning flash prior to resuming an activity or returning outdoors.
6. Avoid being the highest point in an open field, in contact with, or proximity to the highest point, as well as being on the open water. Do not take shelter under or near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.
7. Assume that lightning safe position (crouched on the ground weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered) for individuals who feel their hair stand on end, skin tingle, or hear “crackling” noises. Do not lie flat on the ground.
8. Observe the following basic first aid procedures in managing victims of a lightning strike:
   • Activate local EMS
   • Lightning victims do not “carry a charge” and are safe to touch.
   • If necessary, move the victim with care to a safer location.
   • Evaluate airway, breathing, and circulation, and begin CPR if necessary.
   • Evaluate and treat for hypothermia, shock, fractures, and/or burns.
9. All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.
DEFINITIONS

Safe Shelter:
1. A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not a dug out), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all of which aid in grounding a structure.

2. The secondary choice for a safer location from the lightning hazard is a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed. It is important to not touch any part of the metal framework of the vehicle while inside it during ongoing thunderstorms.

3. It is not safe to shower, bathe, or talk on landline phones while inside of a safe shelter during thunderstorms (cell phones are ok).
~ BOOSTER CLUB REGULATIONS ~

The Role of Competition
Participation teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one’s school. Students learn to win without boasting and to lose without bitterness.

Self-motivation and intellectual curiosity are essential to the best academic participants. Artistic commitment and a desire to excel are traits found in music participants. Physical training and good health habits are essential to the best athletes. Interscholastic competition is a fine way to encourage youngsters to enrich their education and expand their horizons.

Leadership and citizenship experiences through interschool activities help prepare students for a useful and wholesome life. Plus, competition is fun!

Superintendent Responsible for UIL Activities
UIL rules are made by the member schools and include penalties to schools, school district personnel, and student participants. The superintendent is solely responsible for the entire UIL program. All school activities, organizations, events, and personnel are under the jurisdiction of the superintendent. It is imperative that booster clubs recognize this authority and work within a framework prescribed by the school administration.

Role of Booster Clubs
Booster clubs are formed by school patrons to help enrich the school’s participation in extracurricular activities. It is a violation of the UIL athletic amateur rule for booster club funds to be used for non-school purposes. The fund-raising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today’s economic climate. The majority of activities supported by booster clubs are related to UIL activities. Since UIL rules regulate what UIL participants, sponsors, and coaches may and may not accept, it is important that booster clubs are aware of these rules.

Relationship with the School
- The superintendent or a designee has approval authority over booster clubs and should be invited to all meetings.
- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct the duties of a school district employee. The schedule of contests, rules for participation, method of earning letters, and all other criteria dealing with interschool programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.
- All meetings should be open to the public.
- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and kept on file at the school.
- School administration should keep booster clubs informed concerning all school activities.

Expenditure of Funds
- Booster club funds shall not be used to support athletic camps, clinics, private instruction, or any activity outside of the school.
- Booster groups or individuals may donate money or merchandise to the school with prior approval of the administration. These kinds of donations are often made to cover the cost of commercial transportation and to cover costs for meals scheduled away from campus. It would be a violation for booster groups or individuals to pay for such costs directly.
- To avoid violation of the UIL athletic amateur rule, money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the school to use at its discretion.
- Coaches and directors of UIL academics, athletics and fine arts may not accept a petty cash fund or a miscellaneous discretionary fund. All funds must be given to the school administrator and spent at the discretion of the school, with the approval of the school board.
- Coaches and directors of UIL academics, athletics and fine arts may not accept more than $500 in money, product, or service from any source in recognition of or appreciation for coaching, directing or sponsoring UIL activities. The $500 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift. The district may pay a stipend (fixed at the beginning of the year) as part of the annual employment contract.
- Booster clubs cannot give anything to students, including awards. Check with school administrators before giving anything to a student, school sponsor or coach. Schools must give prior approval for any banquet or get-together given for students.
- Individuals should be informed of the seriousness of violating the athletic amateur rule. The penalty to a student
athletes are forfeit of varsity athletic eligibility in the sport in which the violation occurred for one calendar year from the date of the violation. Student athletes are prohibited from accepting valuable consideration for participation in school athletics (anything that is not given or offered to the entire student body on the same basis that it is given or offered to an athlete). Valuable consideration is defined as tangible or intangible property or service, including anything that is useable, wearable, salable or consumable. Saleable food or food items given to athletes by students, cheerleaders, drill team members, little/big sisters, school boosters, parents of other students, teachers, or others violate this rule.

- Homemade “spirit signs” made from paper and normal supplies a student purchases for school use may be placed on students’ lockers or in their yards. Trinkets and food items cannot be attached. Yard signs made of commercial quality wood, plastic, etc., must be purchased or made by the individual player’s parents or returned after the season.

- For purposes of competing in an athletic contest the school may continue to provide meals in association with contests held away from the home school. If the school does not pay for meals, then individual parents need to purchase their own child’s food. Parents may purchase anything they wish for their own child, but may not provide food or other items of valuable consideration for their child’s teammates without school approval.

- Parties for athletes are governed by the following State Executive Committee interpretation of Section 441-

Interpretation of the UIL Athletic Amateur Rule, section 441 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules:

(a) VALUABLE CONSIDERATION SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT:
   1. Pre-Season. School athletic teams may be given pre-season meals, if approved by the school.
   2. Post-Season. School athletic teams may be given post-season meals if approved by the school. Banquet favors or gifts are considered valuable consideration and are subject to the Awards and Amateur Rules if they are given to a student athlete at any time.
   3. Other. If approved by the school, school athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything, other than food items, that is not given to all other students.

(b) Additional VALUABLE CONSIDERATION THAT SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT:

Examples of additional items deemed allowable under this interpretation if approved by the school, include but are not limited to:
   1. Meals, snacks or snack foods during or after practices;
   2. Parties provided by parents or other students strictly for an athletic team

Local school district superintendents continue to have the discretion to allow student athletes to accept small “goodie bags” that contain candy, cookies or other items that have no intrinsic value and are not considered valuable consideration.

Fund Raising

- Funds are to be used to support school activities. To provide such funding for non-school activities would violate UIL rules and the public trust through which funds are earned.
- Fund raising projects are subject to state law. Non-profit status may be obtained from the IRS.
- Community-wide sales campaigns should be coordinated through the school administration to minimize simultaneous sales campaigns.
- Sales campaigns should be planned carefully to insure that the projects provide dollar value for items sold, and that most of the money raised stays at home; otherwise donations are often more rewarding than letting the major part of the money go to outside promoters.
- The UIL reserves the right to sell game and tournament programs and merchandise at all UIL state championship events. Booster Clubs are not allowed to sell programs or merchandise at these events.

Fund raising activities should support the educational goals of the school and should not exploit students. Activities and projects should be investigated carefully before committing the school’s support.
Written Policies
Booster clubs should develop and annually review policies to cover the following areas:

- How to plan and publicize meetings.
- Methods of financing the club; compliance with tax laws; administering funds; method of bookkeeping.
- Election of officers.
- Taking, distributing and filing minutes.
- Effective communication — press releases, etc.
- Proper interaction with fine arts directors and academic and athletic coaches through the lines of authority as established by the school board.
- Sportsmanship code governing behavior of booster club members and fans at contests, treatment of officials, guests, judges, etc.
- Plans to support the school regardless of success in competition, keeping the educational goals of competition at the forefront of all policies.

What Parents and Fans Can Do
Help the school conduct fair and equitable competition: adhere to rules, uphold the law, and respect authority. Remember that officials are human and make mistakes, and respect their decisions.
Delegating authority to the school, then back up the decisions made by the school.
Set standards by which you expect children to conduct themselves, and live by those standards yourself.
Be aware of capabilities and limitations of young people; don’t have unrealistic expectations.
Let your children live their own lives — not relive your life.
Be involved in areas in which your own child is not involved, thus contributing to school unity and spirit.
Show respect to the opponents of your children.
Praise — don’t criticize — all youngsters.
Be attentive to the needs of students.
Help your children and their friends develop integrity through the intensity of competitive activity.
Remember — The classroom comes first!
~ OFFICIALS ~

Please refer to the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1204, on the UIL website (http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/category/constitution-athletics), for the latest information regarding officials (fee schedule, tournament fees, travel reimbursement, other allowable expenses, etc).

Advance Agreement

All officials must be satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance. Beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.

UIL Officials

Member schools shall use, unless mutually decided otherwise, registered officials in all varsity contests. If schools do not use registered officials, a report shall be filed with the UIL office (within seven days of the contest, if possible).

Neutral Officials

In all contests, schools should attempt to secure neutral officials.

Host Responsibility

The responsibility to obtain satisfactory officials is upon the host school which must provide the names of officials to the visiting school at least 14 days prior to the contest.

Notification

When officials’ names are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall immediately notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement.

Failure to Show

If agreed upon officials fail to show, the visiting school shall not be in violation by refusing to play. However, earnest effort should be expended to find officials so that the contest may be played without additional travel expenses for team and fans. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the district executive committee rules that the host school has been negligent by not contracting and securing approved officials.

Scratches

When officials who have been previously agreed upon by both teams are scratched, the school scratching the officials shall pay them the fee they would have received had they worked the game minus any travel expenses. The school scratching the officials must also pay additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.

1) After a school has accepted an official, and then scratches the official prior to a contest, the scratching must be in writing and approved by the athletic director in multiple-high school districts, and the principal and/or superintendent in single-member districts. Note: Officials cannot be scratched the day of the game except by mutual consent of both schools. A copy of the letter must be provided to the other school and the official’s chapter.

2) The League discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees.

3) Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.

4) When officials do not show, or when the previously agreed on officials do not show, and the game has to be
rescheduled, the chapter should be responsible for the rescheduled game fee. Note: Unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials.

The penalty for failure to provide officials is forfeiture of the contest. The district executive committee shall determine whether or not forfeiture is applicable.

**Fee Schedule/Tournament Fees/Travel Reimbursement and Other Allowable Expenses**

Please refer to the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1204 on the UIL website for officials' fee schedule, tournament fees, travel reimbursement, and other allowable expenses.

**Fee Violations.** The fee listed shall be paid to officials working varsity and sub-varsity contests. If a participant school exceeds or pays less than the fee schedule for a contest, the district executive committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the fee violation. If the school in question proves an emergency caused the fee violation, the district executive committee does not have to assess a penalty.

**Scrimmages**

   Officiating chapters shall be paid for scrimmages using the following fee schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   (Fees are based on a three-hour scrimmage.)

A scrimmage fee will be assessed per field or gymnasium regardless of the number of participating schools. The school hosting the scrimmage is responsible for payment of scrimmage fees to the chapter.

**Example:** School A is hosting a volleyball/basketball scrimmage utilizing 1 gymnasium with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a $50 scrimmage fee to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

On the same day at the same time, school A also has JV teams participating in a scrimmage in an adjacent gym (not the same gym as the varsity) with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a scrimmage fee in that gym in addition to the fee charged for the varsity scrimmage in a different gym.

**Example:** School A is hosting a baseball/softball/soccer scrimmage utilizing 1 field with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a $50 scrimmage fee to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

On the same day at the same time, school A also has JV teams participating in a scrimmage on an adjacent field (not the same field as the varsity) with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a scrimmage fee on that field in addition to the fee charged for the varsity scrimmage on a different field.

**Example:** School A is hosting a volleyball/basketball/baseball/softball/soccer scrimmage utilizing 1 gymnasium/field with 4 participating teams, lasting 4 hours. School A is responsible for a $75 scrimmage fee ($50 for the first 3 hours and an additional $25 each hour after that) to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

**NOTE:** After three hours, each additional hour is $25. The fees paid are regardless of the level of competition. The fee will be paid to the local chapter and not to the individual officials, to be used in place of assignment or service fees. A portion of these fees should be used for education, retention and recruitment of officials.

Chapters that agree to provide officials and charge for scrimmages are under obligation to provide officials for the school for the entire season, grades 7-12.

A chapter that requests a service/assignor fee from schools will not be a chapter in good standing with TASO or UIL, thus will not be eligible for UIL post-season assignments.
Protection and Courtesy to Game Officials.

All schools, when they join the League and are assigned to a district, accept the respective athletic plans. The code states in part—To accept decisions of officials without protest; to see that officials are extended protection and courtesy, by players, school personnel and laymen; to treat your opponents as your guests, and to put clean play and good sportsmanship above victory at any cost.

The State Executive Committee has assessed more penalties to coaches and players for abuse of game officials than for any other one rule violation. There can be no athletic activities without officials. Unless they are protected, the educational benefits of athletics could be denied to high school pupils. Officials must be mutually agreed upon in advance. If no prior agreement is reached, beginning the game constitutes agreement.

It is the responsibility of the coach to set the example of proper conduct toward officials. The coach, through his actions, generally sets off the “spark” which results in misconduct of lay people toward the officials. The coach sets the proper example in conduct, to students and to the fans. The coach as a member of the school faculty is evaluated very critically by the League, in any case of mistreatment of officials.

For all varsity athletic contests, a designated administrator is to be appointed to act as a security and hospitality aide for officials. Officials chapters should be notified prior to the season or game as to procedures for items such as parking, dressing rooms, security, and method of payment.

If an attack should occur on a game official, the school administration and the school board should take immediate steps to see that the person making the attack on the official or officials is identified and reported to local authorities. Token punishments will not carry much weight.

Schools must take proper precautions to see that all game officials are protected and extended courtesy. In case of any misconduct by a fan, player or a coach schools should identify this person and report them to local authorities. Proper preparation can prevent most misconduct relative to officials.

NOTE: If extreme verbal abuse is directed toward an official or if an official is struck, pushed, bumped, or handled in any way, there shall be a penalty assessed by the State Executive Committee. This penalty will be either: 1) public reprimand; 2) disqualification; 3) suspension from coaching for up to three years. THINK BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR TEMPER!

School Administrator Liaison Program.

UIL school administrators should serve on local chapter Board of Directors (ex officio) in a role as a school administrator liaison. The local chapter should contact and invite one or more (depending on number of schools and varying size of schools) administrators (superintendent, principal, athletic director or head coach) to attend the local Board of Directors meetings. These individuals will be helpful in providing input from the viewpoint of the school. The administrators responsibility is to report back to other area administrators relative to officials local problems, fees, payment procedures, and other pertinent policies. Although these individuals will not substitute for other necessary contacts with local schools, it is hoped the communication gap will narrow as a result of these efforts.

Assignment Of Officials Out Of The UIL Office

1. Officials are only assigned out of the UIL office if the schools cannot agree.

2. UIL Officials. Member schools shall use registered UIL officials in all varsity contests.

3. Neutral Officials. In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral officials who have no affiliation with either school.

4. The two schools have the right to “scratch” any chapters or officials they wish. However, the UIL office urges the use of discretion in scratching entire chapters or areas.

5. To request officials from the UIL office, go to www.uiltexas.org and click on “Sports Officials” in the upper right hand corner. Once on the UIL Arbiter site, click the Request for Officials (per sport) in the right hand column. This form will go directly to the UIL office, and all correspondence will be via email.
6. After the schools have indicated officials and/or chapters they do not want, the UIL office then contacts a chapter not scratched and requests officials. Schools are not permitted to talk with representatives of the chapter once they have agreed for the League to assign officials.

7. Once the officials have been assigned out of the UIL office, the schools may not request a change in the assignment and must pay the assigned officials if they are not used, unless:
   a. The UIL office makes a mistake by contacting a chapter which the schools have indicated they do not want.
   b. Communication problems between the school which contacted the UIL and the opponent results in officials being assigned from a chapter which one school had scratched.

8. The UIL recommends that officials or chapters not acceptable be written down at the meeting, reviewed by each school to see if the list is complete and accurate, and signed by school authorities from both schools. This should be a part of the contract procedure and a copy retained by each school.

9. Once a game has begun there shall be no protest based on the selection of game officials. Beginning a contest constitutes agreement.

10. Payment of officials (for all games other than tournament games) shall be according to the Athletic Plans in the Constitution and Contest Rules.

School Host
It is recommended that the principal or superintendent of the school appoint a school representative for each home contest.

The secretary of the assigning basketball chapter will be notified of this appointment. This notification will include the following:

1) Name and telephone number(s) of the officials’ host.
2) Exact location at the contest site where the officials are to report.
3) Location of officials’ parking area.
4) Location of officials’ dressing room, if available, or statement that dressing and/or shower facilities are not available.
5) Telephone number at the school to be used in case of emergency, such as late arrival of officials, change in officials, etc.

The head official will notify the school’s host at least 24 hours prior to the contest of:
1) Arrival time at the game site.
2) Parking requirements.
3) Scheduled time of officials’ pre-game/match conference.

School host will:
1) Prior to meeting the officials, arrange for adequate parking, dressing and pre-game/match meeting facilities when available.
2) Arrange for prompt payment of the officials, in the officials’ dressing room, if appropriate.
3) Arrange for adequate security for the officials during their stay.
4) Meet the officials on their arrival, stay with them, when appropriate, until they leave the contest site.
5) Escort the officials to and from dressing/meeting place and to and from the court/field.
6) Insure that security personnel are performing their assigned duties prior to, during and after the contest.
7) Provide officials with administrative information, such as, but not limited to: a) pre-game/match activities; b) anticipated administrative problem areas.

School Host to Chapters
It is recommended that officials’ chapters appoint a host school coach, athletic director or administrator from their area to serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors of each chapter.
School Trip Expenses and Supplies

Schools can pay the expenses of athletes or teams on trips away from home as representatives of the school for contests. Supplies and services furnished during a game or a practice period (related only to that practice period or game) may be provided.

Non-UIL Competition

A high school team can play a church or private school and be defeated without jeopardizing its opportunity for a district championship. If a public school which has not accepted the UIL Basketball Plan defeats a UIL member, the member shall be eliminated from the district, regional or state race.

Non-District Games

Non-district games may be played after district games have been played.
~ PUBLIC ADDRESS AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Public Address Announcements

It is recommended that the following public address announcements be made prior to the game:

“These are high school athletes performing tonight. They are friendly rivals, not enemies.”

“Friendly competition is the theme of interschool sports. The visiting team and fans are our guests. Please show courtesy and good sportsmanship.”

“Officials are assigned by mutual agreement of both schools. Sportsmanship should be shown by all spectators, no matter which team they are backing.”

“Good Evening. Welcome to this game between the _______________ and the ______________. A special welcome is extended to our neighbors from _______________ for this exciting contest between two fine schools. Tonight’s event provides a showcase for the talents and skills of the students from each school through friendly competition, which is the theme of all interscholastic events.

The performances you will see are the result of many hours of preparation. The teams, the bands, the drill teams and the cheerleaders have worked hard for your entertainment and appreciation. Please encourage them by your cheers, your applause, and your good sportsmanship. These students, along with their directors and coaches, represent their school with pride and honor.

The game will be conducted according to the rules of the University Interscholastic League. The officials were selected with the consent of both schools, and their rulings should be respected by all. The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited on all school property, as well as the possession of illegal weapons and public gambling. The use of all tobacco products is forbidden except in designated areas.

You are reminded that spectators are not allowed on the field until players and officials have had an opportunity to leave after the game.

Thank you for your attendance. Get ready to enjoy the special performances of the talented students from these two fine schools.”

Radio Announcements

The following requirements should be put in a written contract with any radio or television station carrying a high school athletic activity. This is important because some announcers criticize game officials. Each station should agree not to criticize the officiating, the school, or the League. It is recommended that the following be included in any agreement to broadcast a high school athletic activity:

1. There shall be no political announcements or advertising of tobacco, liquor, wine or beer during the broadcast:
2. The Station is to be responsible for any expenses incidental to setting up the broadcasting arrangements;
3. The Station shall not feed the broadcast of this game to any other radio station without the signed approval of a school official;
4. The _________________________ School District shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by Station _________________________ in putting on the broadcast;
5. There shall be no criticisms of officials’ decisions;
6. No mention shall be made of injuries, unpreventable accidents, or other incidents which may cause any anxiety on the part of listeners; and
7. There shall be no discussion of school or League policies which are of a derogatory nature.
~ ALIGNMENTS, BRACKETS, FORMS AND REPORTS ~

~ ALIGNMENTS ~

Alignments. The softball alignments can be found on the UIL website at www.uiltexas.org/softball/alignments.

District Chair Lists. District chair lists can be found on the UIL website at www.uiltexas.org/athletics/district-chairs/softball.

~ BRACKETS ~

Brackets. The softball brackets can be found on the UIL website at www.uiltexas.org/softball/playoff-brackets.

~ FORMS AND REPORTS ~

Eligibility Form. Schools must submit a comprehensive eligibility form. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school’s office. The eligibility forms should not be sent to the UIL office.

UIL Playoff Reporting - Teams Advancing

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 http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/UIL-MaxPreps.

Miscellaneous Forms. The forms listed below can be downloaded on the UIL website at www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms/. If you have any problems, please call us at 512-471-5883.

Acknowledgment of Rules Form
Concussion Acknowledgement Form
District Meet Entry Forms (Cross Country, Golf, Team Tennis, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling)
District Results Form (Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field)
Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form
Individual Sport Regional Medal Order Form
Individual Varsity Sport Eligibility Form
National Federation Order Blank for Rule Books, etc.
National Federation Record Application for All Sports
Notice of School Host Form
Overage Junior High Waiver Form
Overage Varsity (High School) Waiver Form
Parent or Guardian Permit
Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form
Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation - Medical History and Physical Examination Form
Previous Athletic Participation Form
Professional Acknowledgment Form
Radio Broadcasting Agreement Form
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
Team Varsity Sport Eligibility Form
Waiver of Athletic Eligibility Rules for Foreign Exchange Student Form
Waiver of Athletic Eligibility Rules for Parent Resident Rule/Four Year Rule Form
TRADITIONAL TOURNAMENTS ILLUSTRATION

Sample 16 team tournament (no limit on number of teams unless host wants to use additional sites for preliminary games. If additional sites are used for preliminary games, maximum eight teams in tournament.)

CONSORTION
Pool Play Sample (continued)

**Option B:**

**Winners Bracket**
- Team with #1 record from pool #1
- Team with #2 record from pool #2
- Team with #2 record from pool #1
- Team with #1 record from pool #2

**Consolation Bracket**
- Team with #3 record from pool #1
- Team with #4 record from pool #2
- Team with #4 record from pool #1
- Team with #3 record from pool #2

Do not mingle brackets. In baseball, basketball and soccer, this bracket play would have to be played on separate days from pool play. In volleyball, this would not have to be played on separate days.

**OPTION C:** Seed according to records in pools for 8 team elimination bracket. In all team sports, one additional day is needed since all regulation games/matches in bracket (total 3) could not be played in one day without exceeding daily game/match limitations.
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