

THE UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE 2012 TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FAN INFORMATION PACKET

Welcome to the University of Texas at Austin Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Special Events Center and Congratulations on making it to the University Interscholastic League 2012 Texas High School Basketball Championships.

There are a few quintessential moments in one's life that define that person's lifetime, such as getting your driver's license, your first kiss, your wedding day, the birth of your children, your first birdie putt. Your team has created a quintessential moment. Savor the moment.

The Erwin Center staff hopes your stay in Austin is exciting as well as enjoyable and your experience at the Erwin Center is positive.

To help with this, the Erwin Center Events Management staff has created this pamphlet for your information. Please read it over and let us know what you think. Bring it with you to the Erwin Center to assist you with any questions you might have. If you have additional questions, please contact an Events Management staff member at (512) 471-4718 or e-mail us at erceventsdept@athletics.utexas.edu.

PARKING

This is as close to chronological order as we can get, so let's start with the first and worst problem you'll have at the Erwin Center . . . parking, or lack thereof. The fact that the Texas softball team plays Sam Houston State University on Friday and Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., respectively, across the interstate at the U.F.C.U. Disch / Falk field only compounds an already bad situation.

For information about parking lot locations and policies, go to <http://www.utexas.edu/parking/>.

Capital Metro offers extensive bus service throughout Austin, including several park-and-ride lots. Call (512) 474-1200 for more information and be sure to ask when the last bus leaves The Erwin Center and the available service on Saturday. For information go to www.capmetro.org.

State government parking lots and garages, several of which are near the Erwin Center, are open to the public after 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and all day on Saturday for \$7.00 per vehicle per day with no in and out privileges. Just follow the directional parking signs with the word "PARKING". All cars need to be out by midnight or face possible towing.

Mobility impaired attendees can park in any University lot with proper mobility impaired placards or plates on a space available basis at \$10.00 per vehicle per day with no in and out privileges. Please be aware that due to abuse of this policy in years past, cross reference checks will be run on placards to make sure that a placard truly belongs to that particular individual in that particular vehicle. Any placard that doesn't belong to that particular individual in that particular vehicle will be confiscated.

Also, please note that Lot 108 – the lot between the Erwin Center and Brackenridge hospital - meets stringent A.D.A. regulations. There are 29 spaces reserved for patrons who show a mobility impaired placard. Consequently when those spaces are full, all others will be turned away until a space opens up.

Access into the smaller lot on the north side of The Erwin Center by the flag poles is restricted to employees of that building until after 5:45 p.m. After 5:45 p.m. it will be restricted to mobility impaired guests with placards / license plates on a space available basis at \$10.00 per vehicle per day with no in and out privileges.

There are parking garages located at the intersection of M.L.K. and Brazos Street (Brazos Garage), about two blocks from the Erwin Center. At the intersection of Clyde Littlefield Drive and Robert Dedman Drive in the Manor Garage which is located between the football stadium and the track stadium. There's another garage across Red River from The Erwin Center at the intersection of M.L.K. and Trinity Street which is the Trinity Garage. All are pay garages with a \$10.00 charge. This price applies if you're in the garage for an hour or a day per vehicle per day with no in and out privileges.

You may find some additional parking available in Lots 70 and 80, which is located on the northwest corner of the Texas Swim Center, after 5:45 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and all day Saturday, at \$10.00 per vehicle per day with no in and out privileges. These lots are accessible off of Red River Street on Robert Dedman Drive.

When parking on campus, please read all signs carefully to avoid parking in reserved spaces and running the risk of getting a citation. Also, if you've received a citation(s) in past years and never taken care of them, you will be running the risk of having your vehicle "booted", which at the very least will be a major inconvenience and at the very worst, an expensive parking space.

Of course, there is curbside parking on Red River outside the center but those spaces are usually gone by 7:00 a.m. If you are fortunate enough to find a space, don't forget you'll be "feeding the meter" until 6:00 p.m. all three days of U.I.L. This is a new policy just instituted by the City of Austin earlier this year. These parking meters do not take change and work on a plastic only basis. Parking meters are always free with proper mobility impaired credentials.

The mobility impaired entrance is on Red River Street. Mobility impaired guests can enter here or be dropped off and meet their parties after the vehicle is parked.

Never park in the outside north or south bound lanes of Red River north of M.L.K. Those that do can be assured they will be ticketed. Never park on or alongside the feeder road east of the center. Those that do can be assured they will be towed.

Also, avoid parking in the residential neighborhoods east of I-35. Problems have developed over the years and steps have been taken to assure the privacy and safety of the residents who live east of I-35.

If you arrive on a fan bus, you'll be able to unload and pick up fans on the feeder road immediately east of The Erwin Center. Parking for buses is not allowed in Lot 108 or any other UT parking lot.

Also, shuttle service is available from many hotels/motels in the area and don't forget . . . carpool . . . carpool . . . carpool.

One other quick note: The only sure things in life are death, taxes and construction / slow traffic / an accident on I-35.

Leave early. Arrive early. Hopefully.

MEETING YOUR PARTY

This is easy. If you arrive in cars and if you wish to meet the rest of your party or your friends, the best place to do this is at the flag poles on the north side of the building. This is the easiest location to describe and see and it gives you a great chance to see if Mom and Dad can identify the Spanish flag.

You can also meet at the Red River doors but admittance here is restricted. Your party will have to continue one level up for entrance into the building.

PURCHASING TICKETS

The best method of finding out about ticket availability is to call (512) 477-6060 or get online at www.texasboxoffice.com . If tickets are available for your particular session, you'll want to ask where and when they can be purchased at the Erwin Center if you do this by phone. At the building there are two primary box offices from which to purchase, but these box offices only sell certain tickets at certain times for certain sessions.

Hopefully, you have already purchased your semi-final tickets. If you haven't, you'll need to do that through your school.

Once the schools get to the Center they'll turn in their unsold tickets (if there are any) and those will then go on sale to the general public.

When (thinking positively) your school wins its semi-final game, you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets in the fan section of your school immediately after the game. Finals tickets for fans of winning schools will go on sale immediately after the semi-final game. If the winning school is the home team, tickets will go on sale at the south box office, facing University Medical Center Brackenridge. If the winning team is the visiting team, tickets will go on sale at the north box office, by the flag poles. A good strategy is to leave the building a little early and get in line thereby avoiding the ticket (c)rush at the exit doors and ticket chutes.

If your school is playing in the first game of the session and you want to purchase finals tickets and then re-enter for the second game to watch who your school will be playing in the final – if that applies - **you'll need to show the usher your ticket stub and get a pass out stub on your way out the door.** When you decide to re-enter during that same session, you'll give the usher your pass out stub and show your ticket stub. **If you don't have both of these, you will not be allowed back in the building.**

When you are outside waiting to get in line for the sale you will have to show either a school I.D. or a drivers license with a zip code from the immediate area of the school. Actually, any thing with your name on it and an acceptable zip code will be sufficient. We're so lenient with this we'll even accept school shirts, caps, hair with school colors, painted bodies, etc.

However, if you're not into displaying your school support in your hair or on your torso, we'll have to resort to the more standard (and boring) zip code checks. The reason this is done is so that fans may have the opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public.

School administrators will send acceptable zip codes to U.I.L. who will in turn fax those to the Erwin Center. You may want to call your school to make sure your zip code is acceptable for the fan sale. Please, please, please, oh please, don't yell at the poor guys outside at the ticket chutes – that's me and an assistant - if your zip code is not the one we're looking for. We only go by what the schools send U.I.L. If you find out you don't have the proper zip code or you don't bring an I.D. with you, then you'll need to ask someone with the proper I.D. to purchase tickets for you or be resigned to purchasing tickets in the general public sale.

Every attempt is made to get a school administrator to the ticket sale a.s.a.p. to assist in allowing people in who do not have any type of I.D.

There is no maximum number of tickets that may be purchased by any one individual for the Girl's finals. Once fan sales for the second school are finished, all remaining tickets will go on sale to the general public. Please be aware that when these tickets go on sale, you may not be in your school's section. Indeed, you could well be in the opposing school's section.

ITEMS YOU CAN'T BRING / THINGS YOU CAN'T DO IN THE BUILDING

Please refrain from attempting to bring the items listed below into The Erwin Center.

1) Backpacks, knapsacks, large purses

All bags will be subject to search. Large bags or backpacks that do not fit under your seat will not be allowed in. These types of bags may be a trip hazard in the event of an emergency evacuation. Just come dressed.

2) Video cameras and/or recording devices of any kind.

The Frank Erwin Center encourages you to bring cameras to "preserve the moment" but the use of any video or audio devices will not be allowed. If someone comes to a door with a recording device, he/she will be instructed to take it back to their cars before entering the building. If someone gets inside with recording device, he/she will be instructed to take it back to their car immediately. The Erwin Center does not and will not hold recording devices or any part of a recording device (i.e. battery, etc.).

3) Food or beverages

Both are available inside the building so you'll be requested to throw those items away at the door. Items needed for medical and/or infant care purposes are acceptable.

4) Banners

Banners or flags larger than an 8 1/2" by 11" letter sized paper will be turned away at the door. Items larger than that prove to be a line of sight problem for the crowd behind the banner.

5) Noisemakers

Noisemakers include air horns, whistles, rattlers, cowbells or any other item that would prove to be a distraction to guests and / or contestants, including those irritating metal boxes with ball bearings inside. **THE SMALL, PERSONAL SIZED MEGAPHONES ARE CONSIDERED A NOISEMAKER.**

6) Smoking

Smoking is not allowed inside any University of Texas building. Smoking is allowed outside but you'll need to show the pass out stub and your ticket stub in order to get back in.

7) Fireworks and/or weapons

No explanation necessary on the fireworks issue. In recent years, the concealed carry handgun license has started to become an issue. That permit is not recognized on University property. The only parties that can carry concealed weapons are law enforcement officers, on or off duty. If found with a weapon on University property, the offense is a 3rd Degree Felony.

MEETING YOUR TEAM AFTER THE GAME

All teams will exit the building through the back door after the game. This door is located street level on the south side of the building.

Absolutely, positively no one will be allowed down to the floor or in the back without proper credentials.

Once you arrive at the south side of the building ushers will direct you to wait in a certain area away from the back door. This aids us in crowd management and also helps if we have incoming and/or outgoing vehicles and most importantly, the speedy exit of E.M.S. if necessary.

After the teams come out, they will be directed to join their fans in the parking lot.

Please be aware of fans from the opposing team that will be in the same lot as your fans and refrain from any negative statements that might offend others. Comraderie and sportsmanship is as necessary for the fans as it is for the players.

MISCELLANEOUS

Outside of Section 26 / 27 on the south concourse, The Erwin Center has a guest services booth. At this booth guests may locate items that were left behind at previous sessions, lost parents can be re-united with their children, wheelchairs may be checked out or checked in for the mobility impaired and assistive listening devices for the hearing impaired may be checked out. In addition to assistive listening devices, there is a T.D.D. telephone available in the Reception office located on Red River.

Due to the increased popularity of cell phones, there are no pay phones in the building.

There are four A.T.M. s in the building. Two are located on the south end of the arena concourse, one is located in the mezzanine concourse at Section 80 and one is located in Upper Red River.

If you don't want to leave the building, the Lone Star dining room is available and located in the building on the street level. You may access this using the escalator outside section 22. Just look for any one of a number of signs on the wall that has directions and a menu. The prices are reasonable, the food is good and best of all . . . you don't lose your parking space or have to pay again to re-enter the parking lot.

Austin has an abundant and diverse selection of restaurants from which to choose when you decide it's time to eat. If you wish to leave the building you'll find an Italian restaurant (The Brick Oven), a barbecue restaurant/music venue (Stubbs . . . the barbecue sauce is outta sight) and a restaurant/political "waterin' hole" (Scholtz's . . . very active during years when the Legislature is in session) as well as a Denny's diner directly across the interstate from The Erwin Center. Ask ushers for directions to any of them. All are within a 15 minute walk of The Erwin Center

Once again, welcome to Austin (Keep It Weird), good luck and please call / e-mail with any questions you may have.

Savor the moment.

"Practice as if you are the worst, perform as if you are the best."

Author Unknown

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