

UIL Football Playoffs TV Guidelines

During the UIL playoffs there may be opportunities for participating schools to have games broadcast. Please find below important information concerning game broadcasts for schools participating in the playoffs and schools that will host a playoff game. As outlined in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, the UIL owns the telecast rights for all UIL playoff games. FOX Sports Southwest has obtained the television and other telecast media rights, except for radio, from the UIL for all playoff games and will serve as the primary rights holder for those events.

FOX Sports Southwest will sub-license those rights to broadcast stations in markets across Texas interested in televising football playoff games either live or taped-delayed. FOX Sports Southwest must approve any media outlet that wishes to televise or webcast playoff games, live or tape-delayed. The UIL has also recently partnered with the NFHS Network. The NFHS Network may broadcast online select games not broadcast by FOX Sports Southwest or its sub-licensees.

In order for a game to be broadcast, it must be approved by Fox Sports Southwest by noon the Wednesday prior to the game each week of the playoffs. If a media outlet has not approached your school by the Wednesday before the game, your game will not be televised that week. Requests for Academic Telecasts must also be submitted by noon Wednesday of each week of the playoffs.

The TV format for playoff games will mirror FOX Sports Southwest's State Championship TV format so as not to interfere with the flow of the game:

- Each school is encouraged to discuss with the broadcasters prior to the game when TV timeouts should not occur.
- TV timeouts will not be taken during any series of downs or after turnovers to avoid impacting or changing momentum and game flow.
- TV timeouts will occur during halftime, during injury stoppages and after a score.

The sublicensed media outlets that partner with FOX Sports Southwest will be responsible for communication with the schools selected for broadcasts. The sublicensed broadcasters will schedule the set-up and tear-down times for their TV equipment with the schools and the venues. FOX Sports Southwest or its sub-licensees are responsible for any expenses associated with the telecast. The same guidelines apply to any playoff games that are selected for online broadcast by the NFHS Network.

One school may not have two consecutive games or three or more total games broadcast without prior approval from the UIL. Media outlets may not use a third-party web streaming service for live telecasts (i.e. Facebook Live, USTREAM, YouTube Live, etc.) Only one media outlet can telecast a game. Over the air television stations will be given priority. If more than one media outlet requests the streaming rights to a game, the schools and venue will select the preferred media outlet.

FOX Sports Southwest will have the ability to "cut-in" live to playoff games on its FOX Football Friday six-hour programming block, a show dedicated to high school football televised statewide. FOX Sports Southwest will also promote ticket sales during the playoffs for the UIL Football State Championships at AT&T Stadium. Political announcements, cigarettes or other tobacco product, gambling services or venues, sexual service or adult entertainment venues, alcohol or firearms advertisements are prohibited during broadcasts of any UIL activities.

Schools participating in the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program or schools with a student-media telecast team that wishes to telecast your playoff game may apply for a School Telecast. A school administrator should fill out the form at the following link: <https://www.uil texas.org/machform/view.php?id=35916>. The request form must be submitted by noon Wednesday in order to telecast that week's playoff game.

NFHS Network School Broadcast Program schools may produce a live playoff webcast if approved. A SBP Webcast is not an Academic Telecast. Schools interested in starting an NFHS Network School Broadcast Program should contact Pat Euart (contact info below).

An Academic Telecast is defined as a broadcast with an educational purpose that is produced solely by a UIL-member school and/or school district primarily using school facilities, equipment, staff and students without any commercial relationship for the financial benefit of another party. An Academic Telecast may be aired no earlier than one hour after the completion of the game. Academic Telecasts may not be aired on NFHS Network, Cube or any other commercial site.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the following individuals:

Chris Quattlebaum (for television station questions regarding access to games)

(972) 868-1410

Chris.Quattlebaum@Foxsports.net

Steve Simpson – FOX Sports Southwest Senior Vice President/General Manager

(972) 868-1804

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UIL Media Department

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Pat Euart – NFHS Network School Broadcast Program Contact

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