

DATE: July 2016
TO: Superintendents and 5A/6A Principals
FROM: Charles Breithaupt, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Orientation of UIL Sponsors, Advisors, Coaches, and Directors

Section 21 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* requires the superintendent to provide an annual orientation for all grade 9-12 UIL directors, sponsors, advisors and coaches regarding League rules, expectations, goals, purposes and appropriate conduct during UIL contests. The orientation is intended to emphasize the leadership of the superintendent in providing consistent competition within the rules, which is crucial to the success of your UIL programs.

The Legislative Council is aware of the demands on the time and energies of the superintendent. Accordingly, this responsibility may be delegated to appropriate staff members. Please instruct the administrator of each campus for students in grades 9-12 in your district to conduct an orientation for all UIL directors, advisors, sponsors and coaches near the beginning of the school year. You may have separate orientation sessions for academic coaches, music directors and athletic coaches at a time close to the beginning of their respective contest seasons.

The UIL staff has prepared the attached agenda materials and rules update. Please use as much or as little of it as appropriate for your school(s). These materials are being sent electronically to all superintendents and to principals of all 5A and 6A schools. As you will note, the agenda contains only topics with the location of detailed information about the topic. You may personalize the presentation to fit your school's needs.

We appreciate your time and work in serving the students athletes. Best wishes for a successful UIL year. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have questions.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Increasing Benefits of Competition.....	pg 1
Academic Requirements (No Pass No Play).....	pg 2
Directors, Sponsors, and Coaches Orientation.....	pg 3
General Eligibility Rules.....	pg 4-5
Scheduling Contests in Grades 9-12.....	pg 6-7
Academic Contest Information.....	pg 8
Testing Schedules.....	pg 9
Important UIL Documents.....	pg 10
Athletic Rules Books.....	pg 11
Rules Compliance Program.....	pg 12
Summary of Rule Changes for 2016-2017.....	pg 13-18

INCREASING BENEFITS OF COMPETITION

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF ACADEMIC COMPETITION

- Appoint a campus coordinator for UIL academic contests.
 - This person will be responsible for all materials, information and mailings regarding UIL academics, including the UIL web site and the online Leaguer. This person will also distribute the UIL *Constitution & Contest Rules* and calendars to all sponsors and coaches.
- Emphasize academic competition.
 - Recruit outstanding teachers to coach academic contests and pay them a stipend based on their number of contact hours outside the classroom with students.
- Insure that all UIL academic contest dates are placed on your school's master calendar as soon as possible and avoid conflicts with proms, athletics, band, etc.
- Plan a detailed budget and implementation schedule.
 - Order study packets, handbooks and materials for contests from the UIL Online Store.
- Encourage the campus coordinator to attend district-planning meeting (typically held in August or early September) and provide input on setting the schedule to follow the conflict pattern.
- Campus coordinators should be instructed to prepare academic team rules, regulations and procedures.
 - This might include everything from where to meet on the day of a trip to listing requirements for financial liability.
- Make arrangements for academic coaches and students to attend a UIL Student Activities Conference and/or the summer Capital Conference for academic coaches, coordinators, one-act play directors and speech/debate coaches.
- Find tournaments or practice meets for students to attend (check the UIL web site for meets).
- Seniors who have participated in the State Meet anytime during their high school career are eligible to submit a TILF scholarship application.
- Create a booster club for students competing in UIL and other academic competitions.
- Request local media coverage for academic and fine arts activities.

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC COMPETITION

- In word and action, emphasize the importance of the music, not the importance of the contest.
- Establish goals that stress progress towards musical goals rather than Division One ratings and trophies.
- Constantly take steps to enlighten students and patrons regarding the fact that success in contests is an outgrowth of learning and not an end in itself.
- Prepare students, administrators, and patrons for the subjective adjudication of music competition.
- Allow time after any competition to reflect upon the achievement of musical goals rather than the results of the contest.

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF ATHLETIC COMPETITION

- **To the School Board:** Clarify goals of athletics with the students' welfare being the central concern.
- **To the Superintendent:** Clarify educational goals of the athletic program with coaches, parents and fans. Include these goals in the job descriptions, and hire qualified people who will work toward these goals.
 - Continue in-service programs for sponsors, coaches and administrators. Include information on what behavior is expected of coaches and players and what is not tolerated. Explain the importance of emotional control during practice and games.
- **To the Coach:** Work with students to set personal and teams goals and achieve them. Goals should include studies and sportsmanship, as well as the skills for the game. Care about students even more than the sport. Know the players and help them handle pressure. Use your tremendous influence to help athletes set and attain high scholastic and behavior goals appropriate for individuals in the limelight of public attention.
 - Teach the value of fitness, exercise, nutrition, and self-awareness.
 - Give student athletes thorough physical examinations and proper equipment.
 - Cultivate good attitudes: "Give 100% no matter what the outcome."
 - Recognize students' accomplishments in academics, athletics, and other activities.
 - Encourage the media to recognize the academic as well as athletic progress of players.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (NO PASS, NO PLAY)

Eligibility for UIL Participants For The First Six Weeks

UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first six weeks of the school year provided the following standards have been met:

- Students beginning grades nine and below must have advanced from the previous grade prior to the beginning of the current school year.
- Students beginning their second year of high school must have earned five credits that count toward state high school graduation requirements.
- Students beginning their third year of high school either must have earned a total of ten credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or a total of five credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements must have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.
- Students beginning their fourth year of high school either must have earned a total of 15 credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or a total of five credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements must have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

Exceptions:

- (a) When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above applies. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.
- (b) High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria cited above or school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring.

Students who are not in compliance with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office.

Local school boards may elect to adopt these standards for all activities to avoid having different standards for student participants (e.g., football, drill team, cheerleading, and all other extracurricular activities as defined by State Board of Education rule [TAC Chapter §76]).

Eligibility For All Extracurricular Participants After The First Six Weeks Of The School Year

A student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year) in any academic class (other than an honors class as defined in TAC Chapter 74.30) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes, other than honors classes as defined in TAC Chapter 74.30 and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility and seven calendar day waiting period.

All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six, nine, or twelve weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period.

Dr. Jamey Harrison is the UIL staff member responsible for this area. If he is unavailable, Dr. Kevin Jones can assist you. Your leadership in all UIL matters is vital to the success of the League.

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Directors, Sponsors, and Coaches Orientation
2016-2017

I. Purposes and Philosophy of the UIL

- Academic: Section 900 and 901 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*
- Music: Sections 1100 and 1101 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*
- Athletic: Sections 1200 and 1201 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*
 Section 1401 (7th and 8th grade purposes) of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*

II. Eligibility

Academic and music eligibility requirements are different from athletic eligibility. Please see the attached sheet for general requirements and the *Constitution and Contest Rules* for specific information.

	<u>High School</u>	<u>Elementary/Junior High</u>
Academic:	Sections 400, 401 and 902	Section 1405
Music:	Sections 400, 402 and 1102	Section 1102
Athletic:	Sections 400, 403 and 1205	Section 1400 and 1478

III. Rules for Practice, Games and Contests

- Academic: Section 900 through Section 1036 (Specific contests are outlined separately)
- Music: Section 1100 through Section 1114
- Athletic: Sections 1206-1208, and pertinent athletic sections (i.e., football, baseball, etc.)
- Athletic manuals: Please note the requirement in Section 1208 that a coach will receive an automatic penalty for being ejected from a contest.

NOTE: The *Constitution and Contest Rules* can be found on the UIL web site at www.uil texas.org.

IV. Local Plan for Hosting Games, Meets and Contests

The home school is responsible for facilities, officials and security. Responsibility should be designated in each of the UIL contest areas.

V. Coordinated Communications with the UIL Staff

Designate who will make the contact if communication within a school is good, one phone call should be sufficient. In many instances, four people from a school will contact four different UIL staff members with four slightly different fact situations about a question, possibly obtaining four slightly different answers. It is always helpful if full and consistent information is furnished.

VI. Local Behavior Expectations. Outline Methods to Achieve Expectations:

- A. Coaches, directors and sponsors
- B. Student participants
- C. Fans

VII. Goal Settings and Value Objectives:

- A. School
- B. Academic department
- C. Music department
- D. Athletic department

VIII. Other Local Items

- A. Budget for each program
- B. Scheduling to reduce loss of school time
- C. No Pass, No Play

2016-17 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

Section 400: STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL UIL CONTESTS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) is not a high school graduate (See Section 405);
- (b) is a full-time, day student in the member high school the student represents (See Section 406, *academic exception, Section 906 and Official Interpretations 08-09-10, 99-04-20, 10-03-12 and 00-99-13, Appendix I*);
- (c) has been in regular attendance at the member school since the sixth class day of the present school year or has been in enrolled and in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition (student becomes eligible on the fifteenth day) (See Section 407 and *Official Interpretation 95-11-09, Appendix I*);
- (d) is in compliance with rules of the State Board of Education; (See Section 404 and state law regarding credit requirements and grades (the school shall verify a student's grades on the basis of the official grade report and independently of involvement by the student);
- (e) has the required number of credits for eligibility during the first six weeks of school (See Section 411);
- (f) is enrolled in a four year program of high school courses (See Section 408);
- (g) initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four years ago nor in the tenth grade not more than three years ago (See Section 408 and *Official Interpretation 07-04-18, Appendix I*);
- (h) was not recruited (See Section 5 and section 409);
- (i) is not in violation of the Awards Rules (See Section 480); and
- (j) meets the specific eligibility requirements for UIL academic competition in Section 401, for music competition in Section 402, and/or for athletic competition in Section 403.

Section 401: ELIGIBILITY - ACADEMICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity academic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and
- (b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL academic contest.

Section 402: ELIGIBILITY - MUSIC

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity music contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and
- (b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL music contest.

Section 403: ELIGIBILITY - ATHLETICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity athletic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400;
- (b) is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest, or has been granted eligibility based on a disability which delayed his or her education by at least one year (See Section 446);
- (c) did not change schools for athletic purposes (See Sections 5 and 443);
- (d) is an amateur (See Section 441);
- (e) was eligible according to Section 400 (c) (fifteen calendar day rule) and Section 403 (f) (residence rule) at the member school the student wishes to represent prior to the deadline for district certification (non-compliance results in ineligibility only in post-district competition in that sport); and
- (f) is a resident of the member school district (See Section 442), and a resident of the attendance zone in which the member school being attended is situated,
 - (1) or has been continuously enrolled in and regularly attending the school for at least the previous calendar year if his or her parents do not reside within the school district's attendance zone; see (5) (B) below for exception. Note: A student who has changed schools for athletic purposes may be declared ineligible for more than one calendar year. See Section 443 (f) (3). For students placed on a waiting list for admittance to an open enrollment charter school that is a member school, the earlier of the first day of enrollment or the first day of school for the school year following the date of application begins the time frame for compliance with the exception noted in this section.
 - (2) or the student is attending a school outside the attendance zone where the parents reside because the school board or other appropriate authority changed district or attendance zone lines.
 - (3) or is a transfer student from a public 8-grade ISD not containing a high school, who transferred at the first opportunity:

- (A) to select a high school with geographical boundaries contiguous to his or her K-8 school;
 - (B) to a high school for which the K-8 school attended receives state transportation funds; or
 - (C) to the high school located nearest the student's residence.
- (4) Intra-District Transfers. A student who has an option to attend more than one high school within a school district, rather than being assigned to a school according to attendance zones, is eligible at the school first selected if he/she transfers at the first opportunity. If a student subsequently transfers to another school, the student is not eligible for varsity athletic competition until he/she has been in and regularly attended that school for at least the previous calendar year.
- (5) Foreign Exchange Students.
- (A) Foreign exchange students are ineligible for varsity athletic contests the first year they attend a member school unless they are granted a waiver of the parent residence rule as outlined in Sections 465 and 468.
 - (B) Foreign exchange students who receive a Foreign Exchange Waiver and participate in UIL varsity athletic contests during their first year in the host school may not participate in those same contests if they return for a second year to the host school. The student may, however, participate in any other UIL varsity sport. *See Official Interpretations 01-09-18 and 10-03-12, Appendix I*
- (6) Charter Schools:
- (A) Students whose parents live within the boundaries of an independent school district where a charter high school is located and opt to attend the charter high school at their first opportunity to select a high school and are otherwise in compliance with varsity eligibility requirements, are eligible.
 - (B) Students whose parents live within the independent school district where the charter school is located, who do not select the charter high school at their first opportunity, are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter high school for at least the previous calendar year.
 - (C) Students whose parents reside outside the boundaries of the independent school district where the charter school is located are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly

NOTE: Any time a student changes schools, UIL staff strongly recommends the school check the residence of the parent(s) for varsity athletic participation and to be sure that the student complies with local transfer and admission policies. If the student has been continuously enrolled in and attending school for one calendar year and the parents leave the attendance zone, check to be sure that the student complies with local admission and transfer policies.

SCHEDULING CONTESTS IN GRADES 9-12

Schedules - The following combines state law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules. The Texas Education Agency allows participation in one contest per school week. Participation is defined as involvement with the activity (e.g., traveling with the team, sitting on the bench). Example: On Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook but she remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This counts as participation according to state law. That student cannot participate again until Friday after school. UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. Participation is defined as a student actually entering a contest. **Example:** On Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook 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. That student cannot participate again until Friday after school. The Tuesday game does not count 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 go in the game.

- *Constitution and Contest Rules*: Section 5: Definitions
 - (b) Calendar week: 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
 - (ee) School week: the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC)
 - (1) *One contest per school week*: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extra-curricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by scheduling no more than one contest or performance per activity per student.
Exception: Tournaments and post-season competition, as well as district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
 - (2) *Eight-hour practice rule*: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extra-curricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by limiting practice outside the school day to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity.

For the purposes of this regulation, the following situations are considered as one contest during the school week.

Volleyball:

- (1) A single match.
- (2) A dual match (a team plays two other teams or plays the same team twice at the same site on the same day.) A dual match counts as one of the two matches UIL permits students per calendar week and counts as two of the total matches for the student per season.)
- (3) A double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity match or a ninth grade and a varsity match at the same site the same night). A double header counts as the total two allowable matches UIL permits the student for the calendar week and counts as two of the total matches for the season.

Students could also play in a tournament the same week they participate in a single match, dual match, or double header.

Basketball and Soccer:

- (1) A single game; or
- (2) a double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity game or a ninth grade and a junior varsity game at the same site the same night). It counts as the two total games the student may play for the calendar week and two of the total games for the season.

Students may not play in a tournament the same week as they play in a double header.

Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Team Tennis, Tennis, Wrestling:

An invitational meet/tournament, dual or triangular, competition. Schools shall not enter invitational tournaments/meets scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament.

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 the same night. Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season.)

Students may play in 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.

For State regulations and UIL policies and procedures, please check the UIL website at www.uil texas.org for the *TEA & UIL Side X Side* manual.

Track and Field:

Students or teams representing a participant school are permitted to participate in an invitational track and field meet only as listed below:

- (1) After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break. EXCEPTION: A student representing a participant school may participate in a maximum of two meets which start no earlier than 12:00 noon on Friday.
- (2) Or on Saturday or school holidays;
- (3) Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:
 - (a) Students shall not miss any school time other than the in-school athletic class period.
 - (b) Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.
 - (c) Schools utilizing this option are limited to a one day meet.
 - (d) A school or student participating in this type of meet shall not enter another track and field meet during the same school week, Monday through Friday.
 - (e) No event shall start after 10:00 p.m.

Remember that the superintendent or a designee of the superintendent is responsible for approving all athletic schedules.

Dates and times for cross country, golf, swimming, team tennis, tennis, and track and field practices (involving a school coach and student athletes from that coach's attendance zone) that are scheduled during the summer vacation shall be pre-approved by the superintendent or his designee.

UIL ACADEMIC CONTEST INFORMATION

Study Materials, Handbooks and Manuals

Be sure your coaches and academic coordinators have the most recent rules and contest procedures available in the handbooks and manuals that are updated annually. The high school study packets available from UIL contain the tests and answer keys from the previous contest year.

Study Materials, handbooks and manuals may be ordered for high school and A+ contests. Many are available for free download from the website or digital copies are available in the Online Store for a minimal cost (<http://uiltexas.org/store>).

Student Activities Conference Dates

The UIL will conduct four Student Activity Conferences this fall, featuring all the high school academic events at these four sites.

September 17	West Texas A&M University, Canyon
September 24	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
October 22	University of Texas-Austin
November 5	University of Texas-Arlington

- They're free! No pre-registration needed.
- Sessions will include discussions on contest preparation, demonstrations, performances and contest administration.
- The conferences begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m.
- Conferences feature lectures and presentations by UIL contest directors, college professors and high school teachers designed for beginning students, advanced students coaches, and academic coordinators.
- Tentative programs for each site will be posted on the UIL web site, and final programs will be available at each site.

TESTING SCHEDULES

The Commissioner of Education encourages districts to avoid scheduling extracurricular activities or public performances the day or the evening before the administration of the Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) or Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (TAKS) for grades 3-11.

CHAPTER 33. SERVICE PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUBCHAPTER D.

- § 33.0812. SCHEDULING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
- (a) The State Board of Education by rule shall prohibit participation in a University Interscholastic League area, regional, or state competition:
 - (1) on Monday through Thursday of the school week in which the primary administration of assessment instruments under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (1) occurs; or
 - (2) if the primary administration of the assessment instruments is completed before Thursday of the school week, beginning on Monday and ending on the last school day on which the assessment instruments are administered.

Districts are encouraged to consider the impact on students involved in the testing program before scheduling any extracurricular activity during this time period.

For current testing schedules, please refer to the following web sites:

TAKS/STAAR:	www.tea.state.tx.us
SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP:	www.collegeboard.com
ACT:	www.act.org

IMPORTANT UIL DOCUMENTS

- **TEA/UIL SIDE-BY-SIDE**
 - The UIL publishes this document to provide member schools notice of Texas Education Agency regulations which relate to UIL and all other extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district.
 - This document provides explanations and interpretations of Commissioner of Education rules, UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, and statutes. The Side by Side document should be made available to elementary, middle school and junior high school principals, to counselors, UIL academic coordinators and sponsors/coaches, directors of UIL music activities and one-act play, and athletic administrators, coaches, and others who sponsor extracurricular activities.

- **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HANDBOOK**
 - The district executive committee 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. The superintendent may designate an administrator to represent more than one participant school and vote in turn for each school on matters brought before the committee. The superintendent may appoint an alternate to serve in the event the superintendent or the designated representative cannot attend a meeting.
 - The DEC Handbook provides, among other things, a DEC Agenda Template, Notice of Hearing Template, Minutes Template, and Notes for DEC Meetings.

- **CONTESTS MANUALS**
 - Each UIL department offers contest manuals that can be found on the UIL website. Where any term or section of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrators' manuals is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail and apply, and the remaining terms and sections of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrators' sports manuals shall continue in effect.

- **PRECEDENT MANUALS**
 - Will contain the decisions of each committee that have sufficient precedential value to warrant publication. Opinions will be composed of a synopsis of the facts of the case along with the panel's decision and a brief explanation of the basis for the decision.

- **BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES**
 - This document provides guidelines which govern all booster club activities related to UIL-sponsored competition. Since the UIL regulates and governs what participants, sponsors, and coaches may and may not accept, it is very important booster club members and parents are aware of these guidelines.

- **PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM**
 - All new students in grades 9-12 who have ever practiced or participated in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, team tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball or wrestling in grades 8-12 at another school in the united states or Mexico must have this form completed by the last school of participation and be approved by the district executive committee before they are eligible to participate at the varsity level at the new school.

- **MEDICAL FORMS**
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
 - Concussion Acknowledgement Form
 - Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form
 - Pre-participation Physical Evaluation
 - Return to Play Form
 - Concussion Management Protocol

ATHLETIC RULES BOOKS

Be sure your coaches all have rules books for the activities they coach. The conduct that causes an automatic penalty to coaches for unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the athletic rules books cited below. Be sure your staff is informed and has studied the rules of the game prior to their first contest.

Some coaches are penalized for breaking a rule due to lack of knowledge. If they have a rules book for their sport, they could avoid inadvertently breaking rules. **Superintendents should remind coaches that they are responsible for having access to UIL sports manuals and playing rules books at all times and that they are responsible for purchasing rules books prior to the first game.**

The UIL does not sell athletic rules books; however, each high school is mailed a complimentary copy of the following rules books: NCAA Football Rules, NFHS Volleyball Rules, NFHS Basketball Rules (one for girls' coach and one for boys' coach), NFHS Soccer Rules, NFHS Softball Rules, NFHS Baseball Rules. Rules books may be ordered from the appropriate organization listed below.

BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL, TRACK & FIELD, VOLLEYBALL, WRESTLING

NFHS Customer Service
PO Box 361246
Indianapolis, IN 46236-5324
1-800-776-3462
FAX 1-317-899-7496
www.nfhs.com

GOLF

United States Golf Assoc. Order Dept
P.O. Box 2000
Far Hills, NJ 07931
1-800-336-4446
FAX 1-908-234-1472
www.usgapubs.com

TENNIS

USTA Online Store
Attention: Orders
2605 East Oakley Park Road, Suite C
Commerce Township, MI 48390
1-800-677-0275
FAX: 1-248-313-0393
www.ustashop.com

FOOTBALL

NCAA Publications
P.O. Box 361147
Indianapolis, IN 46236-5323
1-888-388-9748
FAX 1-317-899-7496
<http://ncaa.publications.com>

Cheerleading Guidelines

The UIL requires schools to follow the guidelines found in the NFHS *Spirit Rules Book* for cheerleading stunts during UIL contests. We also encourage schools to do the same for all cheer events. The ordering information is the same as for the National Federation rules books listed above.

RULES COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

The Legislative Council approved the UIL Rules Compliance Program (RCP) that is required for coaches and athletic trainers of grades 7-12. The RCP includes information from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR) and incorporates a section devoted to ethics and sportsmanship to replace COPE.

The RCP also satisfies the state requirements for safety training and steroid education. The RCP, available on the UIL web site, provides a single source for athletic coaches and trainers to understand UIL rules.

As required by Section 1208 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, all coaches shall complete the Rules Compliance Program prior to their sport season.

Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

(h) UIL RULES COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

- (1) All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Rules Compliance Program prescribed by the UIL prior to their sport season.
- (2) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Rules Compliance Program will be kept on file by the school.

(i) MINIMUM PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT.

- (1) *Automatic Minimum Penalty.* Any coach who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, or any football coach who is given two or more 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest may accept an automatic penalty for their ejection or appeal the ejection. A coach who appeals their ejection is required to appear before the State Executive Committee. If the coach accepts their automatic penalty or their ejection is not overturned on appeal, the coach will be subject to:
 - (A) an automatic penalty of public reprimand (name will be published once in the *Leaguer*) and one year's probation in the applicable sport;
 - (B) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching Course; and
 - (C) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course.
- (2) *Automatic Greater Penalty.* If a coach so penalized has no proof of having completed the UIL Rules Compliance Program prior to the sports season, that coach shall also be automatically suspended from the next game/contest.
- (3) *Subsequent Violations.* Any further ejection or accumulation of two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a football game, while on probation, will require the coach to appear before the State Executive Committee for consideration of penalty.
- (4) *Notification.* Schools shall notify the UIL within three school days if a coach has been ejected from a game or received two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties.

RULES COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (RCP)

Updated instructions for new users that have never registered, current users who need to update information and athletic directors/coordinators. [CLICK HERE](#) (*This pamphlet is meant to be printed, tri-folded, and distributed to all coaches*)

Topics included:

- New coach registration
- Changing email
- Changing schools within the same district
- Changing ISDs
- Reset password with text message
- AD/Coordinator instructions

Please read the FAQs to help troubleshoot before contacting the UIL office:

[2016 Coach FAQs](#)

[2016 Athletic Director FAQs](#)

- [Proceed to UIL Online to self-register for the Rules Compliance Program \(RCP\)](#)

2016-2017 RULE CHANGES

All amendments are effective for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.

Chapter One: Subchapters A-R

- ***Pilot Program***
 - Developed in collaboration with the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, for the 2016-2017 school year for an injury data collection program. The program will be for a select number of schools and will be voluntary in nature.
- ***Section 1-15, Name of Organization & General Membership***
 - Updates language from existing rules and incorporates what has been general practice of the UIL.
- ***Section 21, Responsibilities of the Superintendent***
 - Makes clear that this section applies to persons who are the chief administrators of a member school district or school regardless of their actual title.
 - Provides for clarification regarding a superintendent's duties in the areas of health and safety and reporting requirements while emphasizing the importance of DEC training.
- ***Section 22, UIL Director***
 - Makes the title of the UIL's chief administrative officer consistent with University nomenclature and clarifies his or her duties and responsibilities for developing support and sponsorships along with media and other contracts.
- ***Section 23, UIL Binding Actions***
 - Removes unnecessary language and makes a grammatical edit.
- ***Section 24, UIL Officers***
 - Updates this rule by adding the Sports Officials Committee as well as the administrative position of Deputy Director as officers of the UIL, and clarifies position of legal counsel.
- ***Section 25(c), Legislative Council (Election)***
 - Amends the Legislative Council election process by reducing the number of persons nominated to be on the ballot from five to two.
 - Amends the election process by making it a straightforward vote for a single nominee and then simply counting the results to determine who received the most votes rather than ranking all nominees on a preferential "scale."
 - Clears up records retention issues regarding election ballots.
- ***Section 25(i), Legislative Council (Standing Committees)***
 - Adds language regarding standing committees of the Legislative Council.
- ***Section 25, Legislative Council***
 - Adds language that clarifies the Legislative Council's authority to call emergency meetings and the chair's authority to appoint advisory committees.
 - Removes unnecessary language and adds a provision concerning the Medical Advisory Committee as directed by the Sunset Commission.
- ***Section 26, State Executive Committee***
 - Clarifies qualification for appointment to the State Executive Committee (SEC); strikes "sue and be sued" language; adds additional language to better reflect the jurisdiction of SEC and, as required by the Sunset Commission, adds language creating a precedent manual along with a related process.
- ***Section 27(b), Penalties The State Executive Committee Can Impose (Student Penalty Guidelines)***
 - Provides general guidelines for student violations of UIL rules.

- **Section 27(d), Penalties The State Executive Committee Can Impose (Participant and UIL Member Schools Penalty Guidelines)**
 - Provides general guidelines for violations of UIL rules by participant or UIL member schools, participant school student representatives, patrons, personnel or fans and penalties that may be imposed on participant and member schools.
- **Section 27(e), Penalties The State Executive Committee Can Impose (School District Personnel Penalty Guidelines)**
 - Provides general guidelines for school district personnel violations of UIL rules. The Sunset Commission has required that penalty guidelines be implemented.
- **Section 28(a), (f), (j), District Executive Committee**
 - Adds clarifying language regarding the DEC hearing process, voting on cases and scope of investigations.
- **Section 28(m), District Executive Committee**
 - Serves to collect important financial data and to provide insight into what constitutes best financial practices for districts as well as giving the Legislative Council factual bases for taking any action it may deem appropriate.
- **Section 28, District Executive Committee (Hearing Process)**
 - Provides process and templates for DEC hearings in the DEC Handbook.
- **Section 100, General**
 - Adds language that includes the Sports Officials Committee as a body that can hear appeals and clarifies the role of legal counsel in UIL hearings along with other procedural points.
- **Section 150, Appeals**
 - Adds language explicitly making student eligibility cases appealable to the State Executive Committee (SEC) and the standard of review to be employed to SEC appeals.
- **Section 303, Rule Promulgation Process**
 - Cleans up language regarding the publication of proposed rules and also makes the online version of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules the official version of the rules.
- **Section 360-361, Non-Discrimination Policy**
 - Combines section 360 and 361 and clarifies the current rules regarding non-discrimination in UIL contest.
 - Declares a student's birth certificate is to be used when determining gender.
- **Section 400-440, Eligibility**
 - Reorganizes and edits these sections to improve organization and flow.
- **Section 403, Full-Time Day Student**
 - Identifies intra-district participation opportunities for students attending non-disciplinary 'alternative' (magnet, ISD charter, etc) schools within the same school district (or open enrollment charter school) system that do not offer UIL participation opportunities.
- **Section 404, Regular Attendance**
 - Provides an exception to the fifteen-day rule for dependents of active duty military personnel.
- **Section 405, Four-Year Program of High School Courses**
 - Adds the language of the official interpretation into the rule.
- **Section 407-408, Eligibility Burden of Proof**

- Clarifies what the burden of proof is for persons responding to allegations or in student eligibility cases.
- **Section 440, Eligibility – Athletics**
 - Alters the application of the one-year of consecutive enrollment exception for the parent residence rule for open enrollment charter school students who have been placed on a waiting list for entrance into a charter school that is a member school of UIL.
- **Section 441, Amateur Athletic Status**
 - Clarifies the current rules regarding athletic amateur status.
 - Eases restrictions on athletes being able to receive reasonable fees for coaching, teaching, or officiating.
 - Removes the official interpretations #11 and 12 along with language preventing parents or guardians from accepting tickets.
 - Allows schools the choice of how and when students can receive meals.
 - Defines “participating” and “League sponsored school sport.”
- **Section 443, Changing Schools for Athletic Purposes**
 - Allows intra-district transfer student’s immediate eligibility for one sport not offered at their previous school when transferring for athletic purposes. They would remain ineligible for all other sports for one year.
- **Section 446, Age**
 - Amends the language regarding the requirement for a student to prove their age.
 - Currently, UIL rule indicates that a birth certificate is the best evidence of the date of birth of a student participant. This proposal requires that the birth certificate, or other similar government document if the birth certificate is unavailable, be used to determine the age of a student participant.
- **Section 465, Decision by Waiver Officer**
 - Adds language that addresses the placement of foreign exchange students based on athletic interests to the criteria considered when making a decision on a waiver request or an appeal of the waiver officer’s decision
- **Section 466, Review of Waiver Officer’s Decision**
 - Adds language regarding a precedent manual for Waiver Review Board decisions along with another edit regarding Board rules.
- **Section 480, 482, Limitation of Awards**
 - Allows schools to contribute to a second major award for a student in honor of winning a UIL State Championship.
 - Allows a student to accept certificates, medals, trophies, rings or other symbolic awards from sources approved by the school.
 - Deletes Section 482, Music Awards.
- **Section 867, Sources of Income**
 - Updates language to include more recent sources of income that the UIL has included in their budget as well as provides for more transparency by listing fees outlined in this section.
- **Section 868, Broadcasts of UIL Events**
 - Removes language that otherwise could cause confusion in this policy.

Chapter Two: Subchapter A. ACADEMICS

- **Section 903(f), Regional Meet (Duties of the Regional Executive Committee and Regional Director)**
 - Adds a financial reporting requirement to the duties of the Regional Executive Committee and Regional Director.

- **Section 900-906, High School Spring Meet Plan**
 - Clarifies the academics section of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules to create a more balanced district alignment based on schools intending to participate in academics in order to curtail districts with 15-20 participating schools and some with less than three in academic events, and to ensure all academic events receive sweepstakes points to culminate in a true overall academic state champion for each conference.
- **Section 920-966, 1000-1037, Academic Contests, Speech Debate, Journalism, Theatre**
 - More closely aligns academics with the structure of athletics and music.
 - Clarifies the language in the C&CR so that it truly becomes a book about the structures and rules of the competition.
 - Handbooks for each event would become the interpretation of the rules in the C&CR.
- **Section 1008, Congress**
 - Adds Congress as a sanctioned contest for high school.
- **Section 1036, Young Film Makers**
 - Adds The UIL Young Filmmakers Festival as a sanctioned contest for high school.

Chapter Two: Subchapter B. MUSIC

- **Section 1102(b)(1)(B), General Regulations (Limited Competition)**
 - Removes the current requirement for a student to be enrolled in a corresponding class to participate in any music organization event.
- **Section 1102(c), General Regulations, (Non-UIL Contests)**
 - Removes the existing rule that a music organization may not cancel its participation in a UIL contest to enter a non-UIL contest.
- **Section 1102(e), General Regulations (School Transfer Rule)**
 - Clarifies that travel hardship is the only reason that a school may be granted a region transfer.
- **Section 1102(j)(2), General Regulations (Additional Groups)**
 - Allows the existing non-varsity provision for new or under developed music programs to be extended beyond the time that the organization receives a first division rating in concert evaluation.
- **Section 1102(j)(3), General Regulations (Additional Groups)**
 - Allows the existing 5A/6A treble-as-varsity provision for new or under developed music programs to be extended beyond the time that the organization receives a first division rating in concert evaluation.
- **Section 1102(j)(6)(b), General Regulations (Combined Groups)**
 - Extends the middle school/junior high combined school option to high schools, but no advancement past region is permitted.
- **Section 1102(k), General Regulations (Sunday Participation)**
 - Clarifies the Sunday exceptions in music and eliminates (2), which will be a local decision.
- **Section 1106(k), 1107(h), Area, State Marching Band Contests (Rebate)**
 - Removes the rebate language from the music rules, which will now be covered in the finance section of the constitution.
- **Section 1108(i)(3), Solo and Small Ensemble Competition (Performance Regulations)**
 - Removes the current provision that allows a student who earns a Division I at TSSEC to then perform a solo from a PML list different from that student's instrument.

- **Section 1110(g)(2), Concert Organization Contest (Required Music)**
 - If a varsity full-orchestra performs 3 full-orchestra pieces, the existing requirement for that same school to enter a varsity string orchestra would be removed, provided that the full-orchestra performs at least two grade 5 works (most difficult level) or an acceptable substitution as currently provided in the performance requirements.
- **Section 1113(a), (b), Awards**
 - Removes the awards language, as awards for non-state events are not regulated by the League office.

Chapter Two: Subchapter C – HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PLAN

- **Pilot Program**
 - Adds to the baseball and softball state championships, and follows the format used for the current 1A volleyball pilot program. All schools in conference 1A will be grouped into districts with 2A schools but will advance toward a state championship in a separate playoff bracket.
- **Baseball and Softball Coaches Manuals**
 - Sets the number of teams advancing to the playoffs at two (2) teams per district in specific circumstances. In activities where two complete conferences are combined for play during the regular season, but then those conferences are split back into separate conferences for the post season, this rule would set the number of teams advancing to the playoffs from each district for the smaller conference at two (2).
- **Section 1200-1478, Athletic Contest Rules**
 - Edits the high school and junior high athletic plans as recommended by the Athletic Contest Rules Committee.
- **Section 1204, Sports Officials**
 - Increases in fees for sports officials.
 - Clarifies what it means to be a “registered UIL official.”
- **Section 1206(b)(3), Sunday Prohibition**
 - Exception for cross country regional meet sites which reflects similar language provided for golf and tennis that have contests regularly scheduled on a Monday or Tuesday.
- **Section 1208, Athletic Regulations**
 - Allows schools in conference 3A to play up in the 4A conference. There will still be three conferences in soccer for conferences 4A, 5A and 6A.
- **Section 1208(t), Section 1250(j), Athletic Regulations, Football Plan**
 - Adds language clarifying the rebates for specific team sports and differentiating them from other team sports and individual sports and other state events.
 - Outlines the rebates that schools receive from UIL state tournaments in more detail than the current version of the rule, allowing for greater transparency.
 - Increases the percentages from football playoffs and state championships retained by UIL to cover increased operational expenses.
- **Section 1290(h), Swimming Plan (Championship Structure)**
 - Creates the opportunity for eight (8) additional participants per event to qualify for the state meet. The twenty-four (24) qualifiers in swimming events will consist of the top two (2) place finishers from each of the eight regions and the next eight (8) best performances from any region. The twenty-four (24) qualifiers in the diving event will consist of the top three (3) finishers from each of the eight regions.
- **Section 1320(f), Track and Field Plan (Event Limitations)**

- Allows the contestant to choose from any three running events entry without restrictions to the distance of the races.
- **Section 1330(7)(A), Dates for Practice, Scrimmages and Matches**
 - Clarification of the volleyball start date for practice.

Amendments to Chapter Two: Subchapter D. ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & JUNIOR HIGH

- **Section 1400-1478, A+ Sections**
 - More closely aligns academics with the structure of athletics and music.
 - Clarifies the language in the C&CR so that it truly becomes a book about the structures and rules of the competition.
 - Handbooks for each event would become the interpretation of the rules in the C&CR
- **Section 1200-1478, Athletic Contest Rules**
 - Edits the high school and junior high athletic plans as recommended by the Athletic Contest Rules Committee.