

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment to Section 1204, *Sports Officials*, would refine language and provide clarification to member schools related to officials.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This proposed amendment to Section 1204 aims to enhance the clarity, consistency, and enforceability of officiating policies for UIL contests. Refined language helps streamline this section while providing clarification to schools and coaches related to the agreement of officials. The updated language also clarifies the process of scratches after agreement. Finally, the proposed language explains payment structures when games are delayed or cancelled. This proposal was approved by the UIL Sports Officials Committee (SOC) and was reviewed and discussed with Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA), Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA), and Texas High School Athletic Directors Association (THSADA).

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 1204 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education;

Section 1204: OFFICIALS

- (a) AGREEMENT. All officials must be DEEMED satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance BY BOTH PARTIES. However, beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.
- (b) SPORTS OFFICIALS FOR UIL CONTESTS. UIL member schools shall ONLY USE UIL REGISTERED SPORTS OFFICIALS FOR VARSITY CONTESTS, INCLUDING PLAYOFFS, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: ~~use only sports officials registered with the UIL in all varsity contests including playoffs.~~
 - (1) THE USE OF OFFICIALS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITH THE UIL FOR A VARSITY CONTEST MAY ONLY OCCUR if ~~registered sports officials are not available for a varsity contest,~~ the involved member schools OBTAIN ~~must receive~~ prior written approval from the UIL Director of Athletics, or his or her designee, ~~to use sports officials who are not currently registered with UIL.~~
 - (2) MEMBER SCHOOLS MAY SELECT AND USE NON-UIL REGISTERED SPORTS OFFICIALS FOR CONTESTS IN THE FOLLOWING SPORTS: ~~In~~ cross-country, golf, ~~swimming and diving,~~ team tennis, tennis, AND track and field, ~~and wrestling, member schools may select and use non-UIL registered referees (sports officials) for contests.~~
 - (3) Unless mutually decided otherwise, UIL member schools shall use UIL registered officials for non-varsity ~~games~~ CONTESTS.
- (c) REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF SPORTS OFFICIALS. In order to officiate a UIL varsity contest, a sports official must:
 - (1) be registered with the UIL in the sports being officiated, and annually provide the UIL with directory information and, as required by law, submit to a criminal background check;

- (2) be a member in good standing of, and assigned to the contest in a sport for which the official is registered by the local chapter or association of sports officials registered with and recognized by the UIL for that purpose;
 - (3) complete either an initial or a continuing education program regarding UIL rules as prescribed and made available by UIL. Refer to (p)(1) below; and
 - (4) agree to abide by UIL rules, including fee schedules and travel reimbursement guidelines for payment by UIL member schools to a sports official.
- (d) ADMINISTRATION OF REGISTRATION; FEES. UIL shall, consistent with this section, determine and post on its website the process through which an official may annually register with UIL. UIL may charge and collect a fee from sports officials who initiate UIL's registration process in an amount that has been reasonably determined by UIL to be necessary to cover the cost of administering registration and/or the continuing education program as set forth in subsection (p), below. This amount shall be determined annually by UIL and shall be posted on UIL's website and otherwise made available at other places as UIL determines appropriate.
- (e) NEUTRAL OFFICIALS. In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral sports officials.
- (f) HOST RESPONSIBILITY. The responsibility to obtain satisfactory sports officials is upon the host school. THE HOST SCHOOL SHALL ENSURE THE VISITING SCHOOL HAS ACCESS OR RECEIVED THE NAMES OF OFFICIALS ASSIGNED. ~~which shall provide names of officials to the visiting school at least 14 days prior to the contest.~~
- (g) NOTIFICATION. When names of officials are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall ~~immediately~~ notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory WITHIN 24 HOURS. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement. OFFICIALS SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE ACCEPTABLE IF THE CHAPTER IS NOT NOTIFIED WITHIN FOUR DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONTEST.
- (h) FAILURE TO SHOW; CHAPTER RULES.
- (1) 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 game may be played without additional travel expenses for teams and fans. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the District Executive Committee rules that they have been negligent in contracting and securing officials.
 - (2) A sports official's failure to show after being assigned a contest in a manner consistent with the rules and/or policies of a recognized local chapter or association of sports officials constitutes a violation of UIL rules. Schools shall contact the UIL office and identify the officials who did not show for a contest.
 - (3) A recognized local chapter or association of sports officials shall provide UIL with a copy of their most current governing documents, such as its constitutions, rules and by-laws. Such governing documents shall include, but are not limited to, rules and/or procedures governing assignment of contests and disciplinary procedures applicable to sports officials who fail to honor a chapter assignment or otherwise violate UIL rules.
- (i) SCRATCHES.
- (1) ALL SCRATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED USING THE UIL ONLINE SCRATCH FORM.
 - ~~(2)~~ (2) After a school has accepted an official, AS OUTLINED IN (G) ABOVE, IN ORDER TO SCRATCH THE ~~and then scratches the~~ official prior to a contest, the ~~scratching~~ must be SUBMITTED WITH WRITTEN APPROVAL ~~in writing and approved~~ by the superintendent, principal, OR athletic director. ~~or other designated~~

~~representative~~. IF THE HEAD COACH IS ALSO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, THEN THE WRITTEN APPROVAL MUST COME FROM THE PRINCIPAL, SUPERINTENDENT, OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE. THE SCRATCH NOTIFICATION MUST STATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- a) CONFLICT OF INTEREST (MUST CLEARLY STATE CONFLICT)
- b) LACK OF PROPER RULES KNOWLEDGE (DOCUMENTED EXAMPLES INCLUDING VIDEO PREFERRED)
- c) LACK OF PROPER JUDGEMENT (DOCUMENTED EXAMPLES INCLUDING VIDEO PREFERRED)
- d) FAILURE TO EXEMPLIFY PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDE (DOCUMENTED EXAMPLES INCLUDING VIDEO PREFERRED)

Note: Officials shall not be scratched the day of the game, except by mutual consent of both schools. A copy of the letter must be submitted to the other school and the officiating chapter.

~~(2)~~ (3) 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 and shall also pay the additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.

~~(3)~~ (4) UIL STRONGLY discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees. SIMILARLY, OFFICIATING CHAPTERS ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED FROM INDISCRIMINATELY REFUSING THEIR SERVICES TO A MEMBER SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

~~(4)~~ (5) Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.

(6) IF A CHAPTER MAKES ASSIGNMENTS BASED ON CREWS, SCRATCHING ONE OFFICIAL MAY RESULT IN THE ENTIRE CREW BEING SCRATCHED.

(7) MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND TOURNAMENTS: SCRATCHES ARE ONLY ALLOWED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL GAMES AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS IF APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS.

(j) CANCELLATIONS.

(1) WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS:

- a. IF THE CHAPTER/ASSIGNED OFFICIALS ARE NOT NOTIFIED OF A WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATION WITHIN 2 HOURS OF THE SCHEDULED GAME, THE OFFICIALS WILL BE PAID MILEAGE.
- b. IF THE OFFICIAL ARRIVES AT THE GAME SITE PRIOR TO THE GAME BEING CANCELLED, THE OFFICIAL WILL BE PAID THE GAME FEE AND MILEAGE.
- c. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE GAMES SCHEDULED AND THE OFFICIALS ARE DISMISSED PRIOR TO OR DURING THE FIRST CONTEST, THE OFFICIALS SHALL BE PAID THE GAME FEE PLUS MILEAGE FOR THE FIRST CONTEST THAT WAS SCHEDULED.
- d. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE GAMES SCHEDULED AND THE OFFICIALS ARE HELD AT THE GAME SITE UP UNTIL THE SCHEDULED START OF THE SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT GAMES, THE OFFICIALS SHOULD BE PAID THE GAME FEE FOR ALL

GAMES FOR WHICH THE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT AT THE SCHEDULED START.

- (2) NON-WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS:
 - a. IF THE GAME/MATCH IS CANCELLED WITHIN 24 HOURS FROM THE SCHEDULED START FOR NON-WEATHER-RELATED REASONS, THE OFFICIALS SHALL BE PAID A GAME FEE UNLESS IT IS DETERMINED THAT AN EMERGENCY AROSE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.
 - b. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE GAMES SCHEDULED, THE OFFICIALS SHALL BE PAID THE GAME FEE FOR THE FIRST CONTEST THAT WAS SCHEDULED.
 - c. IF THE ASSIGNED OFFICIALS OBTAIN ANOTHER GAME, THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE PAID.
- (3) When officials do not show, or when the previously agreed upon officials do not show and the game ~~has to~~ MUST be rescheduled, the chapter shall be responsible for the rescheduled game fee AND TRAVEL, unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials.

Subsections ~~(j)-(u)~~ (K-V)

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

There should be no fiscal impact to member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2025.