

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment clarifies the appeal structure for Reclassification and Realignment.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This proposal would recognize that not all alignments are released at the same time and clarifies the provisions under which a school can choose to opt up or appeal to a higher conference and the potential impact of that decision.

C. Proposed Amendment

Section 354 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows effective pending approval by the Legislative Council and Commissioner of Education:

Section 354: FIRST APPEAL: DISTRICT REASSIGNMENT BY AGREEMENT

SUBJECT TO SECTION 355 (B) BELOW FOR RELEASE OF THE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL ALIGNMENTS, if within one month after the district assignments have been released FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES, a school that is not satisfied with its assignment obtains the unanimous written approval by the superintendents of the schools in the district to which it was assigned and of the schools in the district to which it wants to be assigned, and the contiguous relationship of all of the schools involved is not disturbed by the proposed reassignment, the school is entitled to be reassigned as it proposed. A school may appeal to be assigned to a district within a higher conference than that to which its membership qualifies it ~~only under extreme travel conditions~~, and if the appeal is granted, it will be assigned to the higher conference for all UIL activities; EXCEPTION: MUSIC. A school shall not appeal to be assigned to a district within a lower conference than that to which it is assigned. The school shall promptly inform the Executive Director of the proposed reassignment, furnishing the supporting statements. If the Executive Director finds that the school is entitled to be reassigned, the Executive Director shall reassign the school as it proposed and shall notify all the other schools and school districts concerned of the district reassignment.

Section 355: DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

- (a) APPEAL COMMITTEE. The chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint from the Legislative Council the members of the District Assignment Appeal Committee and designate a chair.
- (b) REQUEST. Within 10 days after the conference and district assignments have been released, a school whose first appeal was denied by the sending and/or receiving district may request a review of the district assignment by filing its request and a supporting statement with the District Assignment Appeal Committee and informing in writing the superintendent and principals of the schools in the district to which it was assigned and in the district to which it wishes to be assigned.
- (c) RULES. The Committee shall adopt and publish rules of procedure to be followed in the reviews.
- (d) REVIEW. Upon receipt of a timely request for review, the Committee shall set the date for the review and inform the applicant school and the schools in the affected districts of the time and place of the review. Parties may provide oral testimony.
- (e) MEMBER INVOLVED. If a member of the Committee is involved in the appeal, that member shall abstain from deliberations and voting, and the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint a member of the Council to sit in that member's place.

- (f) **GROUND FOR CONFERENCE REVIEW.** The only ground for review of conference assignment is an error in the enrollment basis. It is not considered an error in enrollment when a school wants to revoke its decision to be elevated one conference after the deadline for making this decision has passed. Schools shall not appeal to be assigned to a smaller conference based on evidence that they submitted figures that were too high, unless original documents verifying the error(s) are presented to the UIL staff prior to the release of the cutoff figures. A charter school that is physically located within the boundaries of an independent school district with three or more high schools, and is placed in a conference higher than the one for which its enrollment qualifies it, may appeal its conference assignment according to the UIL reclassification and realignment policies.
- (g) **DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall make a decision in writing within two days after the review. The Executive Director shall promptly inform the applicant school and the schools in the affected districts of the decision.

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

There would be no fiscal impact to member schools with this amendment

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2017.