~2015-16 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS~

Shiner
2A State Champions

West
3A State Champions

La Grange
4A State Champions

North Richland Hills Birdville
5A State Champions

Keller
6A State Champions
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~Notice of Non-Discrimination~

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs. See Section 360, Non-Discrimination Policy, UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. [https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/general/nondiscrimination](https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/general/nondiscrimination)

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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Director of Compliance and Education,
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Austin, TX 78722
(512) 471-5883
policy@uiltexas.org

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit [http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm](http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm) or call 1-800-421-3481 or contact OCR in Dallas, Texas -
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
1999 Bryan Street, Texas 75201-6810
Telephone: 214-661-9600
Fax: 214-661-9587
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov
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PURPOSE | To acquaint softball coaches and administrators with the policies, rules, procedures, and forms necessary for proper enforcement of regulations for softball, and to insure a better opportunity for coaches to have first-hand information.

LIMITATIONS | This manual does not cover all rules. The Constitution and Contest Rules is the official UIL rulebook and covers information more detailed than does this manual. Coaches should confer with their principals and superintendents if there are questions concerning the rules.

NOTE | Questions concerning the UIL Softball Plan and eligibility requirements found in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules should be directed to Darryl Beasley at the UIL office.
~SOFTBALL CALENDAR & UIL RULE CHANGES~

2016-2017

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UIL RULE CHANGES

GENERAL

- Alter the one-year consecutive enrollment exception to member charter school students who have been placed on a waiting list.
- Allow an exception to the 15-day rule for dependents of active duty military personnel.
- Set the number of teams advancing to the playoffs at two (2) teams per district for the smaller conference when two complete conferences are combined for play during the regular season and then advance to separate conference brackets for the playoffs. (1A Baseball and 1A Softball)
- Change to the athlete amateur rule to ease restrictions on athletes being able to receive reasonable fees for coaching, teaching, or officiating.
- Allow intra-district transfer participation opportunities when the school attended does not offer UIL participation opportunities.
- Allow a one-time only intra-district transfer students’ immediate eligibility for one sport not offered at the previous school when transferring for athletic purposes.
- Provide Sports Officials an increase in the fee schedule.
- Allow schools to contribute to a second major award.
- Allow schools to provide transportation for college visits.
- Continue the pilot program for Spirit.
- Continue the pilot for 5A and 6A three-day tryout period in May for sixth graders.

BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

- Create a pilot program for 1A baseball and 1A softball. This pilot program would create a separate state championship bracket for Conference 1A baseball & 1A softball. 1A baseball and 1A softball will be in districted together for the regular season, but advance to separate brackets for the playoffs.
- Allow loss of school time in the post season for first game of two-out-of-three elimination series.
SOFTBALL RULES BY STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION

1-1-2 Note  By state association adoption the pitching distance shall be 50’ when using a 12” ball.
- This rule applies to female slow pitch. UIL rules for the pitching distance shall be 40’ for female fast pitch.

1-2-1 Note  A double first base is permitted. (8-10)
- UIL permits but does not require.

1-3-3 Note  By state association adoption, an 11-inch softball shall be used in girls slow pitch. (1-1-2a)
- The UIL does not offer girls slow pitch softball.

3-2-1  State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons.
- UIL allows, only with prior approval.

3-2-4  By state association adoption, the for special occasions, a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey.
- UIL allows. Not to exceed 2 ¼”.

3-3-7 (S.P.):  By state association adoption, a team may use an 11+ player called an Extra Player, EP.
- UIL does not offer girls slow pitch softball.

4-2-3  By state association adoption, game-ending procedures may be determined.
- Unless District Executive Committee specified otherwise in writing prior to the season, UIL follows NFHS game ending procedures. In playoffs, all games will be played to completion.

4-2-3 Note 2:  By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings. Current state association game-ending procedures still apply.
- UIL does not allow.

4-2-6  By state association adoption, the tie-breaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association.
- UIL schools play extra innings until a winner is determined.

4-3-1a  State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and / or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.
- UIL leaves this to the discretion of the local DEC.

4-4-1  It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted.
- UIL accepts no protests of an officials decision.

5-2-1b Note:  After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or by state association adoption, suspended.
- Unless District Executive Committee specified otherwise in writing prior to the season, UIL follows NFHS game ending procedures. In playoffs, all games will be played to completion.
1-5-2c
Taper. The taper is the transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider barrel portion of the bat. The taper shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. Its length and material may vary.

Rationale: This change brings the NFHS in line with other rules codes concerning the surface of the taper.

3-2-1 ART. 1
Uniforms of all team members shall be of the same color and style. State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons, inclement weather, etc.

Rationale: There may be circumstances in which state associations make accommodations relative to inclement weather, religious exceptions, or other situations.

3-2-7 ART. 7
Exposed undergarments, if worn, are considered part of the official uniform. All exposed undergarments shall be a solid single color: black, white, gray or a solid school color.
   a. For individual players, exposed upper-body undergarments do not have to be the same color as exposed lower-body undergarments.
   b. Among players For all team members, all exposed upper-body undergarments shall be the same solid single color, and all exposed lower-body undergarments shall be the same solid single color.
   c. Garments other than team uniforms such as arm sleeves, leg sleeves, and tights are permissible. Anything worn on the arm or leg is a sleeve, except a brace, and shall meet the color restrictions.

Rationale: Multi-color undergarments and sleeves are a distraction and create a possible safety concern. This rule establishes solid color requirements similar to other NFHS sport rules.

3-2-15 ART. 15 NEW
All equipment shall be inspected by the umpire, and is to be placed outside the dugout/bench prior to the start of the game.

Rationale: Placing all equipment in one location at one time is a more efficient method to conduct this inspection.

3-6-7 ART. 7
Players and substitutes shall not enter the contest unreported.

PENALTY: (Arts. 2 through 10) The umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game. (Art. 2) A fake tag without the ball is obstruction (8-4-3b). (Art. 7) The head coach is also restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game for a second violation. (Arts. 8, 9, 10) For coaches who violate, depending on the severity of the act, the umpire may issue a warning, restrict the offender to bench/dugout for the remainder of the game or eject the offender.

Rationale: Language in the Article 7 penalty was not clear as to when the coach is restricted. This added statement makes it clear that the coach is only restricted on the second offense.

6-2-2 ART. 2
The pitcher shall not at any time during the game be allowed to use tape or any other substance on the ball or contact points of the pitching hand or fingers; nor shall any other player apply a foreign substance to the ball. A pitcher who licks her fingers shall wipe them off before bringing them in contact with the ball. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin or any comparable drying agent may be used to dry the hand. It is not necessary to wipe off the drying agent before making contact with the ball. The pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.

Rationale: Confusion exists regarding whether drying agents must be removed from the hand before making contact with the ball. This language clarifies the rule.
7-4-8 NOTE ART. 8
The batter hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box or while touching the plate.

**NOTE:** A follow-through with the bat may carry one of the batter's feet entirely outside the box so it touches the ground as the ball is leaving the bat. It is customary for the umpire to ignore this if both feet were in legal position at the start of the swing and if it is not considered an attempt to circumvent the spirit of the rule.

Rationale: The note does not clarify the rule, and often creates confusion in the administration of the rule.

8-1-2
b. (F.P.) a pitched ball is entirely within the batter’s box and it strikes the batter or her clothing. No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required. However, the batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.

c. (F.P.) a pitched ball (not entirely in the batter’s box) not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter’s person or clothing. It does not matter if the ball strikes the ground before hitting the batter. The batter’s hands are not to be considered part of the bat.

Rationale: Language that was originally inserted in 2013 was inadvertently omitted.

8-2-4 Exception
The batter-runner shall be called out when:

**ART. 4 . . .** The batter-runner fails to advance to first base and enters the dugout/bench area after a batted fair ball, a base on balls, a hit batter (F.P.), a dropped third strike (F.P.), or catcher obstruction.

**EXCEPTION:** (S.P.) The ball is dead on a base on balls (S.P.), or on a hit batter who is injured (F.P.), the ball is dead, the batter-runner is not out and runners cannot advance unless forced.

Rationale: Rule 8-2-4 states that the batter is out if the player does not advance to first base and enters the dugout/bench area after being hit by the pitch. The exception (F.P.) excludes a batter who enters the dugout because the player was injured by a pitched ball. The change clarifies language in the exception.

2017 NFHS Points of Emphasis
1. Pitching
2. Uniforms
3. DP/FLEX
~SOFTBALL PLAN~

Section 1280: GIRLS’ SOFTBALL PLAN.

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls’ Softball Plan.

(b) ELIGIBILITY. Only girls eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution may try out for and participate under the high school Girls’ Softball Plan.

(c) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

1. Violations/Penalties. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

2. Total Number of Games. No team or student shall compete in more than two invitational tournaments plus 17 softball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools may schedule a warm-up game in addition to the game limits. This additional game shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament. A tournament may be substituted in place of three games. Schools can only utilize this exception to participate in one additional tournament.

3. Exception to Resolve District Ties.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season. See Section 1203.

4. Invitational Tournament Restrictions.

(A) No team shall participate in an invitational softball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(B) Tournament Restriction. Softball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.

5. Site of Game. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

6. Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(d) PLAYING DATES.

1. Off-Season Limitations. There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, until the 19th Friday prior to the State Softball Tournament, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs.

2. Scrimmages. Schools shall not scrimmage until the 18th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament, not to exceed two scrimmages per week, Monday through Saturday. Only one scrimmage is permitted between Monday and the end of the school day Friday.

3. Games. Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament.

4. School Equipment. It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.

(e) **TIES: DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES.** Unless otherwise specified by District Executive Committee minutes prior to the beginning of the season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(f) **GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION.** If a district or non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest “no game”. Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(g) **GRADUATING SENIORS.** Sections 400 (a) and 405 of the Constitution shall not disqualify a contestant during the softball season who is eligible in all other respects at the time of spring graduation. This exception refers only to contestants whose playoff competition extends into the summer from the end of school.

(h) **POST SEASON PLAYOFFS.**

1. **Day of Playoff Game.** Playoff games shall not be played before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent.

2. **Playoff.** Playoffs may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format.

3. **Two-out-of-Three Series.** If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday. Games 2 and/or 3 shall not be played until Friday. If one game is played and a second game cannot be played because of weather, then the winner of the one game advances to the next round. If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

4. **State Tournament.** All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.

5. **Disputes.** In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. See Section 1208 (q).

6. **Gate Receipts from State Tournament.** The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state softball tournament.

7. **Playoff Games.** In playoff games beyond district, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.
~PRE-SEASON REGULATIONS~

**High School Coaching Requirements**

All high school coaches must be full-time employees of the school district. Coaches who knowingly and willfully violate rules may be penalized according to the Constitution and Contest Rules by the District Executive Committee (reprimand) or State Executive Committee (reprimand, public reprimand, suspension). EXCEPTION: A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may serve as an assistant coach in all athletics and as a head coach for golf, tennis, team tennis, cross country, track and field, and swimming. (This rule shall not affect the status of a coach on a leave of absence attending college.) Also, student teachers, while they are assigned to a participant school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting athletic coaches.

- **TEC Chapter 33.086 - Certification - CPR and First Aid Training**
  - Athletic coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleading sponsors and other head directors of UIL extra-curricular activities must have a current certification filed with the district.

- **TEC Chapter 22.902 - Certification - AED Training**
  - Athletic coaches and sponsors, school nurses, PE teachers, marching band directors, and students that serve as an athletic trainer must have a current certification filed with the district.

- **TEC Chapter 33.202 - Annual Requirement – Safety Training**
  - Training provided by UIL within the Rules Compliance Program (RCP).
  - Athletic coaches must complete prior to contact with students.

- **TEC Chapter 38.158 - Annual Requirement - Concussion Training (2 hours every other year/1 hour annually)**
  - Athletic coaches, athletic trainers and potential members of the Concussion Oversight Team must complete the training annually.

**UIL Coach Education and Training Requirements**

- **C&CR 1202(j), UIL Professional Acknowledgment Form - completed and on file with district**

- **C&CR Section 1208(i), Annual Requirement - Rules Compliance Program (RCP)**
  - Training available ONLY on the UIL website - www.uiltexas.org
  - Athletic coaches must complete prior to contact with students.

- **C&CR 1209(k), One Time Requirement – National Federation of High Schools (NFHS): Fundamentals of Coaching**
  - 6-hour course/$35 - all first-year coaches and any coach (or JH volunteer) who is not a full-time employee of the school district.
  - Available through a link on the UIL website or visit www.nfhslearn.org (Print certificate to verify completion)

- **C&CR 1208(y), Cheerleading Program Coach/Sponsor – Safety/Risk Minimization for Cheerleading Course**
  - Must have a current certification or annual training completed prior to contact with participants.
  - Districts shall determine the organization that will provide the certification or training. Resources are available but not limited to those on the link from UIL web site.

- **C&CR 1208(j), Coach with Misconduct – Minimum Educational Requirement**
  - Any coach ejected from a contest shall complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course. The course is catalogued for a 6-hour course/$35. http://www.nfhslearn.com
  - Any coach ejected from a contest shall complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course. The course is catalogued for a 1.5-hour course/$20. (http://www.nfhslearn.com).

**Eligibility for Athletic Contests**

Eligibility rules are found in Section 400 and 440 of the Constitution and Contest Rules. Any question regarding a student’s eligibility, should be addressed to the school principal and/or superintendent. Residence requirements according to Sections 400 (d) 440, and 442 should be thoroughly investigated for any student new to school.
**Students are eligible to represent their school in varsity interscholastic activities if they:**

- are not 19 years of age or older on or before September 1 of the current scholastic year. (See 504 handicapped exception.)
- have not graduated from high school.
- are enrolled by the sixth class day of the current school year or have been in attendance for fifteen calendar days immediately preceding a varsity contest.
- are full-time day students in a participant high school.
- initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four calendar years ago.
- are meeting academic standards required by state law.
- live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance. (Parent residence applies to varsity athletic eligibility only.) When the parents do not reside inside the district attendance zone the student could be eligible if: the student has been in continuous attendance for at least one calendar year and has not enrolled at another school; no inducement is given to the student to attend the school (for example: students or their parents must pay their room and board when they do not live with a relative; students driving back into the district should pay their own transportation costs); and it is not a violation of local school or TEA policies for the student to continue attending the school. Students placed by the Texas Youth Commission are covered under Custodial Residence (see Section 442 of the Constitution and Contest Rules).
- have observed all provisions of the Awards Rule.
- have not been recruited. (Does not apply to college recruiting as permitted by rule.)
- have not violated any provision of the summer camp rule, Section 1209.
- have observed all provisions of the Athletic Amateur Rule, Section 441.

**Limitation on Awards:** Schools may give one major award, not to exceed $70.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the UIL interschool competitions listed in Section 380. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed $10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional UIL activity listed in Section 380. The $10.00 award may be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity. A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship.

Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to non-school participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. (For instance, a race of six miles or longer is not considered to be a cross-country meet, so the Amateur Rule is not applicable to students participating in this type of race.)

**Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:**

- Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning or placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or sellable, and includes such items as t-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.
- Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.
- Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.
- Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team.

**Exception:**

- Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed prevailing rates for teaching or coaching activities provided they confine the work to teaching or coaching skills.
- Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed prevailing rates for officiating athletic contests.

The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. *The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.*
It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms/).

- **Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form.** As a minimum requirement, a Physical Examination Form must be completed prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to first and third years of high school athletic participation. Local district policy may require an annual physical exam. The form must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner, will not be accepted.

- **Medical History Form.** Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian.

- **Parent or Guardian Permit.** Annual participation permit signed by the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Rules Acknowledgment Form.** Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form.** The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.

- **Concussion Acknowledgement Form.** Annual UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.** Annual UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form signed by the student and the student’s parent or guardian.

It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required forms. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms/).

- **Eligibility Form.** Schools must submit comprehensive eligibility blanks for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, and soccer. For all other athletic activities’ general alphabetical listing of eligible athletes is required. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school’s office. Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be postmarked before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest. Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.

- **Previous Athletic Participation Form.** New students in grades 9-12 who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest or practice in grades 8-12 in any previous school year must have a Previous Athletic Participation Form completed prior to participation in a varsity contest at the new school.

- **Late Forms.** If an eligibility form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the district executive committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of private reprimand to the school.

- **Foreign Exchange Students.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the Constitution, foreign exchange students in approved CSIET foreign exchange programs are allowed to apply for exceptions to the residence rule through the UIL waiver process. A waiver could be granted in certain activities if they have not received advanced training or have not had extensive experience in the activity of their choice. Foreign exchange students are not eligible for varsity athletic participation unless they are granted a Foreign Exchange Student Waiver.

- **Varsity Athletic Eligibility for Over-Age Student.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the UIL Constitution, an individual is eligible to participate in a League varsity athletic contest as a representative of a participant school if that individual is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest; or has been granted eligibility based on a handicapping condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year and the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD Committee or has been identified as a 504 student prior to the end of their second year in high school (effective for entering ninth graders in the current school year).
Practice Regulations

- Pre-season practice regulations for sports that begin practice prior to the school year are as follows.
- Students-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
- Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
- The maximum length of any single practice session is three hours.
- On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, TWO hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.
- Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days. (Exception - Volleyball)

When determining how to count times spent as "practice activities" please consult the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Counts</th>
<th>What Doesn't Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual on field/court practice</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport specific skill instruction</td>
<td>Weight training*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory conditioning</td>
<td>Film study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water breaks</td>
<td>Injury treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest breaks</td>
<td>Voluntary conditioning*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not count towards practice time, but cannot be done during the two hour rest/recovery time.

In reference to the minimum TWO-hour rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is scheduled), there can be no practice activities at all during this time. This time is exclusively for students to rest/recover for the following practice session, whether that session is an actual on field/court practice or a mandatory conditioning period.

Contest Schedule Rules

The following section combines State Law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules. The Texas Education Agency defines participation as being involved with the activity, traveling with the team, or sitting on the bench. UIL defines participation of a student athlete as actually entering the contest as a player. Example: On a 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 for TEA but not UIL. In other words, that student cannot participate again until Friday after school because of TEA regulations, however that game does not count as one of the allowable games as determined by UIL policy.

Constitution and Contest Rules: Section 5: Definitions

- **Calendar week** means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- **School week** means 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.
- **One contest per school week**: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular 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.
- **Eight-hour practice rule**: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular 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.
Participation.
  (b) SUNDAY PROHIBITION. A UIL member school shall not participate in any athletic contest or conduct any practice or teach any plays, formations or skills on Sunday.
  (1) Violation. Any showing of films to or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instruction or reviewing of plays, formations or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation.
  (2) Coaches Sunday Meetings. This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from seeing films or planning an instructional program, provided no athletes are involved in this meeting.
  (3) Exceptions.
    (A) Golf. If the regional and/or state golf tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, the one 18-hole practice round allowed at the regional and/or state tournament site may be played on the Sunday afternoon preceding the meet (no earlier than 12:00 noon) if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
    (B) Tennis. If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to a tennis court for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
    (C) Cross Country. If the regional and/or state cross country meets are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to the course site for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state director.
  (c) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION ON SUNDAY. Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with prior approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with prior permission from the UIL Athletic Director.

District Executive Committee (DEC)

Jurisdiction. The DEC shall rule on protests and reports of violations concerning eligibility and other violations of the Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR) that occur within its district.

Composition. The DEC 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.

Responsibilities.
- The DEC shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the deadline specified in the official calendar.
- The DEC shall certify in writing, eligible district representatives in all athletic activities.
- Pre-Season Regulations
- The DEC shall determine in writing, prior to the season, the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win/loss percentages. (NOTE: If a tie-breaker procedure is not provided prior to the season, the UIL tie-breaker will be used.)
- The DEC shall enforce all rules contained in the C&CR.
- The DEC shall investigate the eligibility of contestants.
- The DEC shall settle within the district all disputes.
- The DEC does not have the authority to require a school to purchase equipment, which is not required by rules stated in the C&CR.
- The DEC shall take such other action that is reasonable, necessary or desirable, and consistent with the UIL C&CR, the rules of the State Board of Education and the law.
- The DEC shall determine the place of games in the case there is a disagreement between two teams.
- The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.

School Authority Responsible. The superintendent shall be responsible for the proper conduct of athletic contests in a school system.

Observe Rules. Each school shall abide by all rules contained in the Constitution. In case an ineligible contestant is used in any League game, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game.
~REGULAR SEASON~

**Softball Game Regulations**

**Number of Contests Allowed (2016-17)**

- 0 Tournaments and 23 Games or
- 1 Tournament and 20 Games or
- 2 Tournaments and 17 Games or
- 3 Tournaments and 14 Games

**Practice/Game Balls.** Each team is responsible for its own practice and game balls for the season. Teams are not required to use the state sponsored softball (Lexum 2BSFPY) until the state tournament.

**Coaching Boxes.** Student players and coaches in uniform or coaching attire representing school colors, may occupy the coaching boxes.

**Pitching Regulation.** The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with, but not off the side of the pitcher’s plate. The pitching distance is 43 feet. (Please refer to NFHS rules).

**Pregame Warm-up.** It is recommended that batting practice be eliminated and that each team be given 10 minutes for infield and outfield workouts prior to each game.

**Head Protectors.** All players must wear head protectors when batting and when on the base paths.

**Resolving Ties in Win-Loss Percentage.** Districts should outline procedures (before the season begins) for determining playoff representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined (in writing) to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win-loss percentage. Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams or more are tied for the district runner-up spot.

**Game Called Before Completion.** If a district and non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest “no game.” Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

**Postponement.** District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the district executive committee.

**National Federation Courtesy Runner Regulations.**

- The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning.

**NOTE:** An unreported courtesy runner is an illegal substitute. For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.

**Ten-Run Rule.** The ten-run rule will be in effect for all games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead.)

**Fifteen-Run Rule.** By District Executive Committee approval, schools may use the fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings of play in district play. In non-district play, mutual consent of both schools is needed.
**Scheduling on Nights Prior to Exams (STAAR).** The UIL recommends not scheduling contests on nights prior to exams (STAAR).

**Scheduling on Sunday.** Schools shall not play or practice on Sunday. Do not begin a game that cannot be completed before midnight Saturday. Do not start an inning that cannot be finished before midnight Saturday.

**Coach Ejection Penalty.** See Section 1208 (j), in the Constitution and Contest Rules for automatic penalty for any coach ejected from a game.

**NFHS Softball Bat Rule Information.**


ASA 2004 PERFORMANCE STANDARD—ASA has adopted a bat performance standard, effective January 1, 2004. This change has been made in light of recent scientific developments. Much of the research leading to the new bat standard and the new ASTM test method has been funded by ASA. ASA has determined that this change is necessary because some of the highest performing bats on the market are adversely affecting the character and integrity of the game and rendering a player’s performance more a product of his/her bat than his/her individual skill.

The ASTM F1980 test method is no longer the industry standard, even though some softball associations continue to rely on this test method. ASTM has just recently developed the ASTM F2219 test method. The most recent version of F2219 is available at www.astm.org – click on “standards.” This test method provides a number of improvements over the old F1980 test method. For example, F2219 allows bats to be tested in the lab at a much higher speed, including speeds actually found in the field of play. It also places tighter tolerances on testing procedures, such as the softballs that are used in conducting the bat test. ASTM F2219 allows the testing to be done at the “sweet spot” of the bat - regardless of where that point is along the barrel of the bat.

The ASA 2004 bat standard relies on the swing speed of the batter. ASA has learned and now takes into account that a batter’s swing speed is more dependent on the distribution of the weight across the length of the bat than just the total weight of the bat alone. This weight distribution feature is often referred to as the bat’s moment of inertia, and is incorporated into the new 2004 standard. The 2004 standard is also on more accurate information about the speeds involved in the “bat-ball collision,” which are swing speed of the bat and the pitch speed of the ball.

The 2004 bat standard has a maximum -batted ball speed (BBS) limit of 98 mph when tested according to the ASTM F2219 test method (as approved for balloting). Even though this limit is numerically higher than the ASA 2000 bat performance standard, in science and in practice the 2004 bat standard is actually a reduction compared to the 2000 bat standard. The F2219 testing is done at higher speeds than under the old F1980 standard. As a result, some bats that satisfied the old ASA standard of 125 fps will not pass the new 98 mph standard. Bats that do not satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will not be permitted in NFHS play, effective January 1, 2004. Bats that satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will be authorized to display a new 2004 ASA certification mark. Older bats that pass the new standard will be added to the list of approved bats and will be permitted for NFHS play.

**Allowable Contests**

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. * Exception: District varsity contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be scheduled during the school week, but must be rescheduled and played on the next available date following the postponement in order to be played as an exception.

Post-season competition may also be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. **School week means the week beginning at 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week (defined as 12:01 am on Sunday through midnight on Saturday) and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.** Post-district play means competition in UIL playoff series or contests such as bi-district, area, regional, etc.

**Scrimmages and Games.** The school is limited to one scrimmage (with up to four participating schools) during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday).
Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate. A school could play on Tuesday and after school on Friday, in addition to a Thursday/Friday/Saturday tournament during the same calendar week.

**UIL/TEA Side-by-Side.** UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. For UIL, 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. The student cannot participate again until Friday after school). The Tuesday game does not 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 enter the game.

**Baseball/Softball:**
- a single game: or
- 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 same night).

Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season. Students may play 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.

### District Certification

- The DEC shall determine the place and/or time of matches in case of disagreement between two schools.
- If not previously scheduled, a district executive committee may authorize a single elimination match or tournament to resolve district ties. A one-match play-off could break a two-way tie. A single elimination tournament could resolve a tie between three or more schools.

**NOTE:** These matches must be completed by the district certification deadline and will not count against the allowable matches if not previously scheduled. Tie-breakers must be held in compliance with calendar week and school week restrictions. If the district executive committee schedules any other matches or tournaments as part of their method for determining play-off representatives, the matches played must count in the match or tournament limitation.
- The district executive committee may permit district varsity volleyball matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness), to be played as an exception to the two-matched-contests per-week rule, provided that they are rescheduled and played on the next available date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. Junior varsity, freshman and junior high teams may not play postponed matches as an exception.
- The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between districts.

### Guarantees for Contests

- In district and non-district games/matches, unless there is mutual agreement or a district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
- In play-off games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- A demand of a flat guarantee, which is clearly in excess of expenses, shall upon action of the district or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting team’s expenses shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.
- Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services, and printing incidental to the contest, shall be considered as expenses of the game. The number of persons allowed upon expense accounts shall be agreed upon by school administrators of teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team shall furnish a playing field or court without cost to the visiting school.
**Videotaping/Filming**

*Non-Conference and District Contests*

- Videotaping/Filming by Schools.
  - It is a violation to film or videotape a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
  - A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a NON-CONFERENCE OR DISTRICT contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape shall not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.
-Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.
- Videotaping/Filming by Individuals. Any individual (other than the officially designated school camera) taping or filming must have prior permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
- Commercial Uses. The use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

**Pep Bands**

- The UIL does allow “pep” bands (up to 30 members) to play at softball games during pre-game, time-outs, in between innings, and post-game. Musical instruments may not be used as noisemakers during the contest. The “pep” band shall not be located behind or near the opposition’s dugout.
- If a “pep” band does perform the following guidelines should be followed to ensure a full appreciation of the group’s performance. Band directors are reminded that as a courtesy to the teams and cheerleaders of both schools, performances by the band should be limited to appropriate times.
- Guidelines listed below indicate appropriate playing times for the band:
  - The band may play before the game begins. The director should coordinate the schedule so that the host school may introduce team members.
  - The band may play during time outs and in between sets of the contest.
  - The band may play at the end of the contest if desired.

**Forms and Reporting**

**Eligibility Form.** Schools must submit a comprehensive eligibility form. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school’s office. The eligibility forms should not be sent to the UIL office.

**UIL Playoff Reporting - Teams Advancing.** Coaches are required to submit playoff results immediately following their contest. The winning school should submit playoff game results and next round information via MaxPreps through the assigned coach/admin account. The score reported by a coach on a team’s page will automatically fill in the bracket. The completeness of the data presented on the UIL Texas Scoreboard will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. For more information, please see http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/ual-maxpreps.
### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Pool Play</th>
<th>Round Robin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Teams:</strong></td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Site:</strong></td>
<td>Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tournament, prelim round matches may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)</td>
<td>Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tournament, prelim round games may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)</td>
<td>Same or adjoining ISD unless additional sites are needed for prelims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days:</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Game Limit/Make-ups:</strong></td>
<td>If a semifinal Game is played, count as tournament. If not reaching semifinals, early games could count on season game and tournament limit if less than 3 games are played. • <strong>1 GAME PLAYED</strong> – Teams will count game towards season total and add a tournament • <strong>2 GAMES PLAYED</strong> – Teams will count the tournament and add 1 game to season limit. If Final game is played later, it must be counted on a season game and tournament limit.</td>
<td>If three or more games are played, count as tournament. If not reaching three games, early games could count on season game and tournament limit. • <strong>1 GAME PLAYED</strong> – Teams will count game towards season total and add a tournament • <strong>2 GAMES PLAYED</strong> – Teams will count the tournament and add 1 game to season limit.</td>
<td>Maximum: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contests per Day:</strong></td>
<td>Three games</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Three games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length of Matches:</strong></td>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>4-inning in pools, extra inning for ties only (Regulation after advancing from pool)</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Count per UIL Season Limitation:</strong></td>
<td>One of the allowed tournaments</td>
<td>One of the allowed tournaments</td>
<td>One of the allowed tournaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Place Standing in Tournament:</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Determined by win-loss record during which each team in pool plays each other</td>
<td>Win-loss record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effects on Win-Loss Record:</strong></td>
<td>Count all regulation matches</td>
<td>Only count regulation games in single elimination bracket. (Pool games do not count on season record if they are only 4 innings).</td>
<td>Count all regulation games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Round Robin Ties:</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ties will be broken by sudden death as determined by director.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
~POST SEASON~

**Playoff Information**

Certification of District Representatives. The last dates for certifying the district champions to the League office is April 25, 2017. It is mandatory that the District Chair certifies the district representatives on the UIL website at [https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=36](https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=36) as soon as they are determined.

**UIL Playoff Reporting.**

- Coaches are required to submit playoff results immediately following their contest. The winning school should submit playoff game results and next round information via MaxPreps through the assigned coach/admin account. The score reported by a coach on a team’s page will automatically fill in the bracket.
- The completeness of the data presented on the UIL Texas Scoreboard will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. For more information, please see [www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps](http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps).

**Team Information & Pictures.** Teams winning the regional quarterfinal game must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than Wednesday, April 5th:

- Team Information Form (list of players, coaches, etc.; and list of all games played) – fill out online on the UIL website at [http://www.uiltexas.org/soccer/forms](http://www.uiltexas.org/soccer/forms)
- Team Picture – 1MB, color, email to pictures@uiltexas.org
- Picture of Head Coach (head and shoulder shot) – 1 MB, email to pictures@uiltexas.org
- School’s Mascot (camera ready art work if possible, if not a copy of the mascot from your letterhead, etc.) – 1MB email to pictures@uiltexas.org

Failure to submit this information could result in a range of penalties as described in Section 27 (b) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules or your team not appearing in the State Tournament program.

**Contracts.** All playoff arrangements between two schools should be made in writing and signed to protect both parties.

**Sites.** Sites for all rounds of playoffs prior to the regional tournament are to be selected by the teams involved. See Section 1208 (o)(p) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. If schools cannot agree, they must flip a coin.

- **Neutral Sites:** A site mid-point or near mid-point, or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if its distance from either school is more than two-thirds the total distance between the schools.
- **Home Sites:** When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field or court, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.
- **Mid-Point Sites:** Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post-district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

**Post-Season Warm-up Games.** Teams can schedule a warm-up game after district certification and before their first playoff game if they have not reached their allowable season limit. This game can be scheduled like any other regular season match. Teams that have exhausted their allowable season limit are given a UIL one game exception under the following conditions:

- Teams that are the district champion and have a first-round bye.
- The one-game exception can be played only at the end of your school day on Friday, last day of instruction (with no loss of school time) or anytime on Saturday.

**Playoff Game Regulations**

- Details of all playoff games from bi-district to state shall be arranged by the two teams involved. This includes site selection. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin (Note: Unless mutually agreed, all games shall be played at a midpoint site for schools located more than 100 miles apart and neutral sites cannot be more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.)

- Bi-district games may not be played until after the final date for district certification in that respective conference.
unless permission is granted by all possible next round opponents. All other playoff games may not be played until after the final date for completion of the prior round championships.

- Play-off games may not be played until after the final date for completion of the prior round championships, exception bi-district.
- National Federation Rules will be followed for all play-off games.
- All games will be played to completion of seven innings.
- In all play-off games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

SINGLE ELIMINATION OR TWO-OUT-OF-THREE SERIES

- Play-off games may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format.
- If a school’s play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday. Please refer to the C&CR, Section 1280 (h) for rules regarding two-out-of-three game series.
- Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should set parameters for the series prior to the first game. The parameters should include, but not limited to the following areas: how the schools will handle weather problems and delays, how far schools will travel to find an available field, giving up home field advantage and securing officials must be discussed before one team gains a position of advantage after the first game is completed and the weather is a factor.
- A two-out-of-three series that does not get a complete game in by the end of the day Friday automatically reverts to a one game series.
- If one game is played and a second game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather, then the winner of the game advances to the next round.
- If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, then the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

RAIN (BAD WEATHER POLICY)

- Every effort must be made by both teams to determine the winner before the certification deadline. This includes obtaining neutral sites and securing any available field. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another field is playable.
- If weather conditions make it impossible to determine a winner before certification, UIL must be contacted for an extension. The next round opponent(s) must also be contacted to inform them that the deadline will be extended.
- Extreme scheduling difficulties such as those mentioned above could result in a coin flip which would determine the representatives to the next round.
- A playoff game suspended/delayed by rain shall be restarted from the point of suspension as soon as possible as outlined in rule 4-2-5 of the National Federation Softball Rules.

Bi-District Playoffs. The game(s) must be played by April 29, 2017. The winning team is REQUIRED to report the score immediately following the game online (Softball Playoff Reporting Form via MaxPreps).

Area Playoffs. The game(s) must be played by May 6, 2017. The winning team is REQUIRED to report online the score immediately following the game (Softball Playoff Reporting Form via MaxPreps).

Regional Quarterfinal Game. The game(s) must be played by May 13, 2017. The winning team is REQUIRED to report online the score immediately following the game (Softball Playoff Reporting Form via MaxPreps).

Regional Semifinal Game. The game(s) must be played by May 20, 2017. The winning team is REQUIRED to report online the score immediately following the game (Softball Playoff Reporting Form via MaxPreps).

Certification of Regional Champion. The last dates for certifying the regional champions to the UIL office is May 27, 2017. A representative from each winning team should contact Darryl Beasley at (512) 238-0968.
Police protection. Adequate police protection should be provided for all playoff games, whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home court of one of the teams.

 Officials. In all conferences at all playoff levels, except regional tournaments and state tournaments, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved. If neutral officials are requested through UIL, the home team must make the request. Schools must go to the UIL website to request officials online at https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/volleyball.php.

**State Tournament**

**Schools Eligible to Compete.** Only the teams qualifying through the regional tournament are eligible to compete in the state tournament.

**Site and Dates.** Red McCombs Softball Field, University of Texas at Austin, 2001 Comal St., Austin TX 78705; May 31-June 3, 2017.

**Certification.** Call Darryl Beasley at (512) 238-0968 on Saturday, May 27 after the final regional game to let us know that your team has qualified to the state tournament. Please leave your team name, the score of your regional final games, updated pitching records, and an updated season record through the regional finals.

**Pairings for the Tournament.** The UIL staff will be calling or emailing coaches on Sunday morning with pairings and tournament information. Be sure and fill out the team information form on the UIL website. The coach’s home and/or cell number from the team information form will be used to contact the coach. Pairings will not be released until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. This information will be posted on the UIL website via a press release as well. Teams will be placed in the bracket according to their win/loss record. The two best records will be placed in opposite halves of the bracket and the third best record will be placed up or down as determined by a coin flip.

**Coaches’ Meeting.** All information concerning the state tournament will be sent to winning coaches via email Sunday morning. Medal and awards forms should be given to UIL staff prior to the state tournament. There will not be a coaches’ meeting at the state tournament.

**Lodging Instructions.** The UIL will block fifteen (15) rooms per school. A UIL Staff member will contact you with additional details and hotel assignments on Sunday prior to the tournament. Schools should contact the UIL assigned hotel by 10 am on Monday prior to the tournament to avoid loss of rooms.

The League cannot guarantee rooms for cheerleaders, administrators, fans, etc. Please bring your tax-exempt number to avoid paying tax. Please settle your lodging before checking out. Coaches are responsible for the proper conduct of their players at the hotels.

**Rebates.** All funds collected from admissions at the state tournament in excess of the amount necessary to defray the incidental expenses of the tournament shall be prorated up to 100 percent to the contesting teams on the basis of mileage, both ways.

- Fifteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the League office to cover officials’ expenses and other expenses incurred.
- If after rebate on expenses there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be divided among the schools participating in the tournament and will be received in late summer after the tournament audit.

**Filming.** The UIL will contract with a video production company and schools will receive a free videotape of games. Extra copies may be purchased. No schools and/or individuals will be allowed to film and/or videotape. Still cameras will be permitted.

**Radio Broadcasting and Telecasting.** The UIL media department will be in charge of broadcasting and telecasting rights for the state tournament games and may be contacted at 512-471-5883.

**2017 UIL Softball State Tournament Schedule (TBD):**
~OFF-SEASON REGULATIONS~

**Off-Season Regulations**

**Team Practice.** School teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during the specified practice dates and during the one allowable period during the school day.

**Off-Season Participation.** Varsity or non-varsity athletes shall not be required to participate in an off-season program on the day of an in-season competition.

**Participation Requirement.** Students shall not be required to participate in one school sport as a prerequisite for participation in another school sport.

**Policies.** Written school policies for use of facilities during the off-season, outside the school day, and during the summer months should be approved by the school administration and dispersed to all staff and students.

**Off-Season Period Limits.** Off-season activities are limited to one regular classroom period (max. 60 minutes) per day within which all suiting out, related activity, and redressing must occur. (See Side-by-Side Manual for block schedules, etc.)

**Power and/or Weight Lifting.** Off-season athletes whose schools have an athletic period during the school day may not participate on power lifting teams unless weight training is provided for off-season athletes during the in-school-day athletic period. It would also make it a violation for power lifting teams to be limited to athletes or to be required as part of an athlete’s off-season program.

- A number of member schools have power lifting or weight lifting clubs. These clubs are involved in weight lifting tournaments or contests throughout the academic year. These guidelines are intended to control a problem that now exists as opposed to encouraging or requiring year-round workouts. It is the intent to insur that the use of summer weight rooms is a strictly voluntary activity on the part of any athlete.
  - Schools may open weight-training facilities for general student body use. Schools may NOT open weight-training facilities for members of athletic teams only.
  - Supervision of the facility by faculty members is permitted for safety and security purposes. Supervisors may NOT provide specific sport team skills instruction for members of school athletic teams.
  - A schedule of when the weight training facility will be open should be publicized. Schools may NOT set a schedule for members of athletic teams to appear at the facility at a particular time or have a sign-in sheet or check-in list for athletes.
  - It is permissible to have a supervisor of the facility provide instruction for proper lifting, spotting, care of and placement of weight apparatuses. The supervisor of a facility may NOT require athletes to lift specified amounts of weight or require that they complete prescribed sets.
  - Schools may hire a coach or another faculty member to supervise the facility as outlined in #2. This hiring or appointment must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee. Schools may have more than one school employee in a supervisory capacity at any one time.
  - Schools may provide a general weight schedule for students, but may NOT provide athletes’ individual workout schedules which require activities to be at specified hours, specify a number of workouts, or designate specified groups of students to be involved at a certain time.
  - Weight training schedules provided to students may be sequential. Schedules may NOT be provided that include calendar designations requiring specific days for certain sequential activities such as July 1 upper body, July 2 lower body, etc.
  - Students may keep progress charts but shall NOT be required to turn them in to coaches.
  - If there is a report of a violation, the burden of proof to the contrary rests with the school or school employee.
  - If a large majority of a team is working out together, it could be considered strong evidence that it is a team workout and a possible violation.
  - All weight training facility use and policies must be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee.
Schools may make available to the general student body any and all recreational facilities according to local school board policies. Coaches shall not require or coerce members of athletic teams to workout at these facilities at times other than specifically listed in their respective sport plans in the Constitution and Contest Rules. Below are clarifications of permissible activities. If a particular situation is not covered, please contact the UIL office.

- Facilities if open, must be open to members of the general student body. Facilities may not be reserved at specific times for members of athletic teams outside the school day.
- Equipment (excluding uniforms or wearing apparel) may be used by the general student body. This equipment may not be available exclusively to athletes or members of athletic teams.
- Supervision of facilities for safety and security may be provided by a faculty member or non-faculty member approved by school administrator or school board. Supervisors shall not provide skill instruction to members of school athletic teams.
- If the majority of a school team is using the facility at the same time, participating in any team skill activity, it indicates a violation has taken place even though a coach is not present. Students may train on their own, but a member of a team shall not be required to perform a prescribed set of skills on a weekly or daily basis. It is not necessary for a coach to be present in order for a workout to be judged as "organized."
- The presence of a coach or coaches at a facility where members of their team(s) are participating in activities usually is an indication that an activity is an organized workout.
- If there is a report of a possible violation, the burden of proof rests with the school or school employee.
- The dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted, or publicized so that every student attending that school is aware of the opportunity.
- Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.
- School coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their off season and summer participation is on their own, not required or checked, and is in no way a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing time.
- Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes’ sport. Such actions place the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.
- Varsity or non-varsity athletes may not be required to participate in an off-season program on the day of an in-season competition.
- Students may not be required to participate in one school sport as a prerequisite for participation in another sport.
- Required attendance in an off-season program is prohibited. Attendance sheets could be a strong indication that a violation has occurred.
- School teams shall be prohibited from practicing team skills before or after school except during the specified practice dates and during the one allowable period during the school day. During this period, all suiting out, related activity and re-dressing must occur.

### Summer Strength and Conditioning Programs

School coaches may conduct strength and conditioning programs for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone for a total of six weeks under the following conditions:

**Limitations.** Sessions may be conducted from the first day of summer vacation until the second Monday in August. A session shall be no more than two consecutive hours per day, Monday through Thursday only, and a student shall attend no more than one session of supervised instruction per day for a total of six weeks.

**Activities Allowed.** The sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction and exercises. No specific sports skills shall be taught and no specific sports equipment, such as balls, dummies, sleds, contact equipment, etc., shall be used. School shorts, shirts and shoes may be provided by the school (local school option).

**Attendance.** Attendance in a maximum of one session per day shall be voluntary and not required in order to try out for or participate in any UIL activity. Attendance records shall be kept, however, students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days or workouts.

**Fees.** Fees, if any, shall be established by the superintendent and collected by the school. Any payment to coaches shall be from the school and from no other source.
Important points to remember for coaches, athletes and parents are as follows:

- Strength and conditioning sessions may be held after the last official day of school until the second Monday in August.
- School coaches may conduct sessions only on Monday through Thursday of each week.
- Sessions conducted by coaches shall be no more than two consecutive hours per day.
- A student shall not attend more than one two-hour session (conducted by a school coach) per day.
- Sessions conducted by school coaches shall only include students who are incoming seventh graders or above from their attendance zone.
- Sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction and exercises.
- Sport specific skill instruction is prohibited.
- Sports specific equipment (balls, dummies, sleds, contact equipment) is prohibited.
- The school (local school option) may provide school shirts, shorts and shoes.
- Attendance shall be voluntary. Coaches shall not require athletes to attend in order to try out for or participate in any UIL sport.
- Attendance records shall be kept, however students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days. Students may work out on their own without direction from the school coach.
- Fees, if any, shall be established and approved by the superintendent and collected by the school.
- Any payment for conducting strength and conditioning sessions to school coaches who instruct students from their attendance zone in grades 7-12 shall be from the school and no other source.
- Schools must take administrative care to prohibit an athlete from working with one school coach for two hours and a separate school coach for another two hours.

Non-School Activities

I. The Constitution and Contest Rules state:

Section 1209

(a) REQUIRED PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED. Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team in any sport as a prerequisite to playing on a school team.

(b) OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE. See Section 1206.

(c) BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL CAMPS WHERE SCHOOL PERSONNEL WORK WITH THEIR OWN STUDENTS. After the last day of the school year in May, June, July and prior to the second Monday in August, on non-school days, all students other than students who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may attend one camp in each team sport, held within the boundaries of their school district, in which instruction is given in that team sport, and in which a 7th-12th grade coach from their school district attendance zone works with them, under the following conditions:

1. Number of Days. Attendance at each type of sports camp is limited to no more than six consecutive days.

2. Prohibited Activities. Students shall not attend football camps where contact activities are permitted.

3. Fees. The superintendent or a designee shall approve the schedule of fees prior to the announcement or release of any information about the camp. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures must be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.

4. School Equipment. Schools may furnish, in accordance with local school district policies, school-owned equipment, with the following restrictions:

   A. Schools may not furnish any individual baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball player equipment, including uniforms, shoes, caps, gloves, etc., but may furnish balls and court equipment including nets, standards, goals, etc., for volleyball, basketball and soccer camps.

   B. For football camps, schools may furnish hand dummies, stand-up dummies, passing and kicking machines and footballs. Use of any other football equipment, including contact equipment, is prohibited.

   C. For baseball and softball camps, schools may furnish balls, bats, bases, pitching and batting machines, batting helmets and catcher protective equipment. Use of any other baseball and/or softball equipment is prohibited.

(d) BONA FIDE SUMMER CAMPS. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply to bona fide summer camps giving an overall activity program to the participants.

(e) CHANGE OF RESIDENCE FROM OUT OF STATE. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply in the case of a person who attends an athletic training camp which is allowed under the rules of the state in which the student then lives, and then makes a bona fide change of residence to Texas, provided that there has been no deliberate attempt to circumvent the rule.
(f) **OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL TEAM SPORTS.**

1. School coaches shall not coach 7-12 grade students from their own attendance zone on a non-school team or in a non-school camp or clinic, with the exception of their own adopted or birth children.
2. School equipment shall not be used for non-school teams/leagues.

(g) **COACHING RESTRICTIONS.** For non-school competition, school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone. School coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and may supervise school facilities for non-school league play. School coaches shall not coach or instruct 7-12 grade students from their school district attendance zone in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball. School coaches shall not supervise facilities for non-school activities on school time. See Section 1201.

**Team Sports**

**Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball**

In accordance to Section 1201, 1206 and 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7, lineman challenges) coaches:

The C&CR prohibits the following:

- Shall not instruct any student in 7th – 12th grade from his/her own attendance zone unless the student is his/her own biological or adopted child.
- Shall not schedule matched games/scrimmages, practices, or contests.
- Shall not transport students.
- Shall not use school athletic equipment, school uniforms and school health/first aid supplies.
- Shall not use school or booster funds for any expenses associated with the activity.
- Shall not be the primary director.
- Shall abstain from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student’s participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product (Section 1201[b, 9]).
- Shall abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 1201[b, 10]).
- Should not participate with their athletes in the athlete’s sport (Section 1206[i]).

In accordance to Section 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7) coaches or a group of coaches:

The C&CR allows the following:

- Can supervise facilities.
- Can assist with organization to include, but not limited to: assignment of officials, helping to secure facilities, development of schedules, scheduling of facilities, assisting with registration process, helping to secure equipment.
- Can assist the primary coordinator or point of contact with the selection of coaches, but cannot assign coaches to teams.
- Can assist the primary coordinator or point of contact with the selection of players, but cannot determine who can play on what teams.
- Can distribute information regarding the details of the non-school event for informational purposes. Distribution of such materials should be in accordance to the policies and procedures of the local school district regarding non-school activities.
- Can collect registration fees for coordination purposes only. No checks may be made payable to the school or the coach and no funds shall be deposited in any school or coaches account.
~QUICK LINKS~

Below are links to help you find information pertaining to UIL Rules and Regulations.

**Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR)**. The UIL Constitution and Contest Rules are the official rules that govern all UIL-sponsored activities and also define the direction, function and purpose of the League.

  - [Constitution & Contest Rules](#)

**TEA-UIL Side-by-Side**. The UIL publishes this document to provide member schools notice of the Texas Education Agency, which relate to UIL and all other extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district.

  - [Download the 2015-2016 TEA-UIL Side-by-Side](#)

**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.

  - [Download the UIL Booster Club Guidelines](#)

**Softball Plan** – Section 1280 of the C&CR

  - [Softball Plan](#)

**Employment of Coaches** – Section 1202 of the C&CR

  - [Sections 1200 - 1203](#)
  - [Required Training](#)

**Athletic Eligibility** – Section 1205 the C&CR

  - [Sections 1205 - 1206](#)
  - [Eligibility Standards for UIL Contests](#)

**School Practice and Game Restrictions** – Section 1206 of the C&CR

  - [Sections 1205 - 1206](#)
  - [Summer Strength and Conditioning Program Regulations](#)
  - [Off Season and Non-School Participation Regulations](#)
  - [Preseason Practice Regulations Activities Outside the School Year (updated)](#)

**Rules Violations and Penalties** – Section 1207 of the C&CR

  - [Sections 1207 - 1210](#)

**Athletic Regulations** – Section 1208 of the C&CR

  - [Sections 1207 - 1210](#)
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