



2020 Team Tennis Calendar

All Schools:

August 17	<u>1A Through 4A Schools</u> May start Interschool Competition
September 7	<u>5A & 6A Schools</u> May start Interschool Competition
October 24	District Certification Deadline
October 26,27	Bi-District
October 29,30,31	Area
November 2,3	Regional Quarterfinal
November 6,7	Regional Semi-Final
November 9,10	Regional Final
November 13,14	State Semi-Final
November 17	State Tennis Championships (Finals Only)

- **Tournaments will be allowed during regular season with no more than 8 teams participating**
- **Tournaments for determining district representatives will be allowed with the limitation of two schools at one site**
- **For 2020 Team Tennis Playoffs only, lineup changes are allowed once per calendar week throughout the entire postseason**



2020 UIL Team Tennis Season Update

General Operational Guidelines

TEA requires all school systems to develop a plan for mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools. UIL guidelines *require* schools to include UIL activities for the 2020-2021 school year as part of this plan and carefully plan for mitigating risk of spread as students and staff participate in them. Schools must post these plans on the homepage of the school website or other easily accessible area of the school website. These plans do not require UIL or TEA approval. All [2020-2021 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines](#) can be found at [LINK HERE](#).

Face Coverings- Executive Order GA-29

[Executive Order GA-29](#), regarding face coverings, applies to all UIL activities effective July 3, 2020. This includes the 2020-2021 school year. As the public health situation changes, and/or if subsequent Executive Orders are issued by Governor Greg Abbott, these guidelines may be further modified.

1. For the purposes of this document, face coverings include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. All employees, parents, visitors and students ten years of age or older must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or playing in the contest, unless an exception listed below applies.
3. The face coverings requirements do not apply to a school in a county that meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of [Executive Order GA-29](#), unless the local school system chooses to implement these requirements locally. Even in these circumstances, the wearing of face coverings or face shields is strongly encouraged.

Exceptions to the wearing of face coverings or face shields include:

- a. Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- b. While a person is consuming food or drink;
- c. While the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water.
- d. When a congregating group of persons maintains at least 6 feet of social distancing; or
- e. Any other reason or circumstance indicated under [Executive Order GA-29](#).

***Competitive drills involving one or more students on offense against one or more students on defense may be conducted. While conducting these drills, schools must require all students not actively exercising and staff to wear face coverings as described above.**

Required Screening

Required Screening before attending or participating in activities:

If staff have not been screened by the school for purposes of participating in instructional activities, schools must implement these screening protocols before allowing staff to participate in UIL activities.

1. Schools must require staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in UIL activities or entering areas where UIL activities are being conducted. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include staff taking their own temperature. Staff must report to the school if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school if they have

had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Close contact is defined in this document below.

2. Parents must ensure they do not send a student to participate in UIL activities if the student has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the below conditions for re-entry are met. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their student from inside areas where UIL activities are being conducted.
3. Before visitors are allowed access to areas where UIL activities are being conducted, school systems must screen all visitors to determine if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, school systems must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until the 14-day incubation period has passed. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

Remote Learning

Students participating in remote learning offered by their school district, whether synchronous or asynchronous (as defined by TEA), may participate in UIL activities if they meet all other UIL eligibility requirements. Students must be enrolled in remote learning options through the school the student will represent. Schools may develop local policies with additional requirements for participation. You can find more information related to the full-time student rule in Section 406 UIL Constitution and Contest Rules <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/general/eligibility>

Academic Eligibility-Credit Requirements

For the 2020-2021 school year, UIL eligibility requirements for the first six weeks of school have been modified to allow a student to be eligible for the first six weeks if they accumulated at least two and a half credits since the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools may impose additional requirements.

<https://www.uiltexas.org/covid-19-information>

District Executive Committee (DEC) Concerns and Game Schedules

- Schools who cannot play non-district games for COVID-19 related reasons will not be required to forfeit those non-district games. These games will not be reflected in season records.
- The DEC should meet to confirm Fall Sport (FB, VB, Team Tennis, XC) schedules, playoff qualifiers, and safety protocols concerning the 2020-2021 school year.
- The DEC shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the posted district certification date.
- The DEC shall determine the place and/or time of district games in case of disagreement between two schools for both the regular season, games postponed due to weather, or disruptions in scheduled games due to COVID-19. The DEC should strongly consider schedules that allow for disruptions and for certifying district representatives in the event games cannot be made up. The DEC should develop policies to address games that cannot be played for reasons related to COVID-19 before district play begins.

- The DEC may consider a district schedule that would allow district play to be completed prior to the District Certification Deadline. This consideration may include playing district contests in place of non-district games and/or building in open dates to account for season disruptions.
- The DEC should prepare policies to address tie-breakers as well as certifying the district representatives in the event of incomplete district seasons.

Practice Regulations

- Summer Activities

- Conference 1A-4A

- Schools may allow students to continue strength and conditioning and sport specific instruction until the first day of instruction, whether in-person or remote, or the first day of in-season activities, whichever is earlier. Students who have not started in-season activities may continue summer workouts until the first day of instruction.

- Conference 5A-6A

- For football and volleyball, schools may allow students to continue strength and conditioning and sport specific instruction through September 4, 2020, whether or not the instructional school year has started.
 - For activities other than football and volleyball, students who have not started in-season activities may continue summer workouts until the first day of instruction.
 - Beginning August 3, the time for sport specific activities will increase from sixty minutes per day to two hours per day.
 - If the school year begins prior to September 7, 2020, students may continue to engage in sport specific instruction for two hours per day. The time in the athletic period counts as part of that two hour total.

- Offseason Activities During the School Year

- Athletics periods may not exceed 60 minutes per day, or 300 minutes per week. Local school policy will determine the students who may attend.
 - For the 2020-2021 school year only, students may participate in a maximum of 60 minutes per day of strength and conditioning activities outside the school day. Local school policy will determine the students who may attend.

- In-Season Activities During the School Year

- Schools may have athletics periods as described above plus a maximum of eight hours of practice outside the school day during the school week.
 - Schools utilizing an instructional model other than a traditional in-person model may hold the athletics period any time during the day. The athletics period is ***not*** required to be held during normal school hours.

- Individual Sports

- Conference 1A-4A Schools
 - Meets / tournaments may begin after August 17, 2020.
 - Conference 5A/6A Schools
 - Meets / tournaments may begin after September 7, 2020.

Team Tennis Specific Protocols

- Tournaments will be allowed during regular season with no more than 8 teams participating
- 5A& 6A only: Matches allowed - **3 matches** (or dual matches) allowed in calendar week; only 1 match during school week, 2nd and 3rd played outside the school week, Friday and Saturday
- Tournaments for determining district representatives will be allowed with the limitation of two schools at one site.
- Additional information will be released at later time concerning Regional and State Meets

Face Coverings

Face coverings do not have to be worn while actively exercising or competing on the court, in the match. Face coverings must be worn by all team personnel (coaches, managers, players not in the match) while on the bench or not actively participating.

Considerations

USTA Team Tennis Considerations

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained at all times. Avoid touching court gates, fences, benches and wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Clean and wipe down your own equipment and do not share equipment including racquets, hats, towels etc.
- Bring your own balls, water bottles to avoid sharing of equipment

During Play

- Maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing as feasible during play. Limit physical contact with other players (no shaking hands or high fives)
- Maintain appropriate social distancing from other players while taking a break
- Avoid touching other balls from other courts that enters your court of play (use racquet or foot to send back)
- Avoid changing ends of the court and benches

Performance Areas, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings

- Schools should make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.
- All congregate areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.
- Any equipment that will be kept in student lockers and/or in these areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas. Schools should develop a plan for managing the storage, cleaning and disinfecting, and redistribution of student equipment.
- Schools should consider identifying staff to monitor locker rooms and other areas where students may congregate to ensure effective use of school protocols. When possible, schools should open windows and/or doors or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in these areas.
- Schools must require staff and students to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.
- As part of their overall plan, schools should develop a plan for mitigating risk of spreading COVID-19 when disinfecting, cleaning, and laundering items such as towels, practice clothes, and uniforms. This plan should

include protocols for redistributing these items to students. Involved staff should be trained specifically on these protocols.

Practice Activities

In addition to the above general guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to practice activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

1. All surfaces in practice areas should be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
2. Any equipment should be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.
3. Schools may provide food, water or other drinks. If they provide these items, schools should do so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.

Game, Contest, and Event Management

In addition to the above guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to games, scrimmages, and events:

Teams and Participants

1. If the school is planning to offer transportation for students, schools should follow [TEA guidance](#) related to such transportation.
2. Teams and participants are required to wear face coverings as described in [Executive Order GA-29](#).
3. The host site should designate a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.
4. Visiting team /group locker rooms should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.
5. Before each game, contest, or event, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen all staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.
6. Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be at least six feet from team /group areas such as team benches or performance areas. Where distancing is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as face coverings, implementing engineered controls such as physical barriers, or other risk mitigation efforts the school deems appropriate.
7. As previously indicated, water or other drinks and/or food may be provided. Schools or host sites should consider doing so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.
8. Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.
9. The host site should provide sports and contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
10. Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
11. Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.

12. All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans. Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events.
13. The pregame officials/head coach conference will take place on the field where social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained. This conference should be 1 hour to 1.5 hours before the scheduled game time
14. For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team (head coach or 1 captain). All remaining team members must remain in the team area. Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
15. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
16. There shall be NO postgame handshake between teams following the game