



**2020-2021
FOOTBALL
Playoff Information
Handbook**

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

FOOTBALL PLAYOFF HANDBOOK

Congratulations on representing your district for the football playoffs. Since your school is advancing to the playoffs, the following points should clarify questions asked by participating schools. If the League office can be of further assistance during your tournament preparation period, please call.

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2020-21 UIL Football Playoff Information (COVID-19)



1A through 4A:

November 11						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 12						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

5A & 6A:

December 12						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 1						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

YELLOW – District Certification

GREEN – Bi-Dist. thru Semi-Final Certification

BLUE – State Championships

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION	- The district chair must go to the UIL website at http://www.uilTEXAS.org/football/forms and fill out the corresponding conference District Certification Form before the district certification deadline. The district certification deadline is November 7, 2020 (1A thru 4A) and December 5, 2020 (5A & 6A). Each district must have a true 1st through 4 th place district finish when submitting this form. In the event one of the designated teams cannot participate due to COVID-19 after the district certification deadline, a bye will be placed into the playoff bracket for that spot.
If One Team is unable to play on the scheduled playing date due to COVID-19	Bi-District thru State Semi-Final Rounds: If the team that advanced to the bi-district round is unable to play due to COVID-19, a bye will be placed on the bracket. For area round through state semi-final rounds if one team can play and the other is unable to play due to COVID-19, the team that can play will advance to the next round. Teams previously eliminated from the postseason will not advance.
If Both Teams are unable to play on the scheduled playing date due to COVID-19	Bi-District thru State Semi-Final Rounds: If the two teams that advanced in that competitive round are unable to play due to COVID-19, a bye will be placed on the bracket. Teams previously eliminated from the postseason will not advance.
State Championship	For the State Final game only: If one or both teams are unable to play in the state championship game due to COVID-19, teams will be allowed to re-schedule games at a site determined by both schools. These games will be required to be completed by January 16 (1A thru 4A) & February 13 (5A & 6A).

**Disruptions in scheduled post season contests due to COVID -19 must be reported to UIL prior to the certification deadline:
Contact Brian Polk – 903-821-4242**

General Guidelines

- All current COVID-19 mitigation protocols are in place during the post-season.
- All UIL Playoff protocols may be found in the Post Season Packet

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Dates and Links:

- **UIL Playoff Reporting Form:** 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.
- **Certification of District Representatives:** The last dates for certifying the district champions to the League office is **November 7th (1A-4A), & December 5th (5A-6A)**. It is mandatory that the **district chairs certify the district representatives** on the UIL webpage <http://www.uiltexas.org/football/forms> as soon as they are finalized. **NOTE: Each district certification must have a separate 1st through 4th place finisher based on district standings.**
- **Week One:** The match should be played by **November 14 (1A-4A) or December 12 (5A-6A)**. The winning team is REQUIRED to report the score immediately following the game online through MaxPreps.
- **Week Two:** The match should be played by **November 21 (1A-4A) or December 19 (5A-6A)**. The winning team is REQUIRED to report online the score and win/loss record immediately following the game through MaxPreps.
- **Week Three:** The match should be played on **November 28 (1A-4A) or December 26 (5A-6A)**. The winning team is REQUIRED to report the score immediately following the game online through MaxPreps.
- **Week Four:** The match should be played on **December 5 (1A-4A) or January 2 (5A-6A)**. The winning team is REQUIRED to report the score immediately following the game online through MaxPreps.
- **Week Five:** The match should be played on **December 12 (1A-4A) or January 9 (5A-6A)**. The winning team is REQUIRED to report the score immediately following the game online through MaxPreps. (Conference 1A Six-Man will not play on Week Five)
- **State Championships: December 16-18 (1A-4A) or January 15-16 (5A-6A).**

Team Information & Pictures: Teams advancing to semifinals must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than **Monday, December 7, 2020 for 1A-4A and Monday, January 5, 2021 for 5A-6A**

- Team Information Form (list of players, coaches, etc.; and list of all games played) – fill out online on the UIL website - <http://www.uiltexas.org/football/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.

Incident Weather: If weather conditions make it impossible to determine a winner before certification, **UIL must be contacted for an extension.** The next round opponent(s) or regional site must also be contacted to inform them that the deadline has been extended.

Extreme scheduling difficulties could result in a coin flip, which would determine the representatives to the next round.

POSTSEASON GAME INFORMATION

Site Selection: All potential neutral and home sites (town and stadium) should be designated prior to any coin toss. For the first round of the playoffs only in classifications 5A and 6A, the higher district finish will determine whether the game is played on the top seed's home field or mutually agree to play the game at a neutral site.

Constitution and Contest Rules:

Section 1250: FOOTBALL PLAN

(i) SITE AND DAY OF GAME

(3) Playoff Games. Excluding state championship games, unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the place for playing a playoff game shall be determined on a "home and home" basis for the past two football seasons. The team that was the visiting team the last time the two teams met on a home field in a post-district playoff game may require the game be played at its home field. In case of disagreement between two teams who have not played a post-district playoff game during the past two football seasons, the game site shall be decided by a coin toss. A school cannot be required to flip for a playoff site that is not large enough to accommodate the fans from both schools. Exception: In 5A and 6A, for the first round of the playoffs only, the opponent with the higher district finish will determine whether the game is played on its home field or mutually agree to play the game at a neutral site. If the opponents have the same district finish, the two teams will flip a coin or agree on a neutral site.

Constitution and Contest Rules: Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

(p) SITES DEFINED FOR ALL TEAM SPORTS.

- (1) *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.
- (2) *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 two schools.

Example:

San Antonio and Dallas have not met in the playoffs for the past 2 years:

Step 1: Designate potential sites. San Antonio: Belton-neutral; Alamo Stadium-home. Dallas: Temple-neutral; Cotton Bowl-home.

Step 2: Flip for type of site (either neutral or home and home).
Heads for home and home.
Tails for neutral.
Comes up heads.

Step 3: Flip to see who wins home.
Dallas calls tails for home.
San Antonio calls heads for home.
Comes up tails.
Game is played at the Cotton Bowl as the Dallas home site.

NOTE: In the 1st round of the playoffs each district team must be represented by a 1st through 4th place finish from their district play. Home field advantage for 5A & 6A is determined by district finish.

- **Contracts:** All playoff arrangements between two schools should be made in writing and signed to protect both parties. Sample football game contracts for use of schools can be found on our website: http://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/forms/Football_Game_Contract.pdf

Gate Receipts

The following paragraph is taken from the Football Plan.

(j) SIXTEEN PERCENT POST-DISTRICT RECEIPTS. Sixteen percent of the gross receipts of post-district games shall be paid to the UIL. The radio broadcast receipts and the telecast receipts are considered a part of the game receipts in all post-district games.

The school that handles the receipts of the game, usually the "home team", submits a financial form to the UIL office. The updated football financial form can be found on the football forms page on our website: <http://www.uiltexas.org/football/forms>.

Post Season Halftime Structure:

- Playoff games – Halftimes shall be 24 minutes for post-season games. The intermission between halves for post-season games may be 28 minutes if mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- State Championship Games - Halftimes shall be 24 minutes.

Championship Structure (advancement structure):

- **Playoff Qualifiers:** District representatives are bracketed for weekly playoffs leading to a state championship beginning the first weekend after the designated date for determining district champions. See the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org) for the brackets to determine the elimination schedule for each conference.

In Conference 1A-six man football, both Division I and Division II advance two teams from each district to the playoffs, with each division playing to a state championship.

In Conferences 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A both Division I and II advance four teams from each district to the playoffs, with each division playing to a state championship.

In the Conference 6A playoff structure, the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2019, in grades 9-12 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing to a state championship.

Enrollment figures utilized for determining division I and division II status for 6A can be found on the UIL website at <http://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

- **Playing dates:** Playoff games past the district level may not be scheduled earlier than the first Thursday after the certification date for district champions. Other playoff games may be played on Thursday, Friday or Saturday as bracketed. Section 1250(e)(4) of the Constitution and Contest Rules states: *Minimum Time Between Playoff Games*. No team or student in any conference shall be permitted to take part in more than one playoff game within six calendar days, unless mutually agreeable to play within five calendar days.
- **Ties:** If two or more schools are tied for district representation at the end of the regular season, the district executive committee must devise a policy to select the schools to represent the district in post-district play. For tie games in the playoffs, Section 1250 (h) of the Football Plan in the *Constitution and Contest Rules* applies in all conferences.
 - (h) TIED GAMES.
 - (1) *Non-District Varsity, District Varsity and Post-District Games.* The NCAA overtime system shall be used in all non-district varsity games, district varsity games and post-district games tied at the end of regulation play. (See manual.)
 - (2) *Other Games.* The NCAA overtime system shall not be used in any sub-varsity games or junior high games.

Officials - Dressing facilities should be available for officials at least 1 1/2 hours prior to the game. Officials should be at the site of the game at least one hour before kickoff. Timers, statisticians and the "chain crew" should meet with the officials at least 30 minutes prior to the game. A police escort should meet the officials at the half and after the game at a designated place. They should accompany the officials to the dressing room.

- **Requesting Officials:** The League office may assign officials if the two schools cannot reach mutual agreement. This can be done on the UIL website: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/football.php>
- **Official Evaluations:** After your contest, you may fill out the officials evaluation form on the UIL website: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-evaluation/submit.php?sport=Football>

Broadcasting - Below is information to assist you with questions about telecasts, webcasts or radio broadcasts of UIL postseason events. The UIL has all rights to postseason contests, and has granted rights to its broadcast partners. The rights to contests not selected by UIL broadcast partners may be sublicensed to interested media outlets that meet certain criteria.

Live Streaming

Using live streaming sites including Facebook Live, Instagram Live, Twitter Live and YouTube Live to stream the game is strictly prohibited and in direct violation of the UIL's agreement with its broadcast partners. Please notify media, fans and parents of this policy.

Football Playoff Telecasts

Media outlets interested in telecasting a football playoff contest must have permission from FOX Sports Southwest. More information can be found here: [UIL Football Playoffs TV Guidelines](#)

UIL Member School Playoff Telecasts (all sports)

A school can request to telecast a postseason event by submitting the [UIL Member School Playoff Telecast Request](#) Form on the UIL website before noon the business day prior to the event. Schools approved for an NFHS Network School Broadcast Program can webcast the event live. Schools approved for an Academic Broadcast, can webcast the event delayed. The UIL defines an Academic Telecast as a broadcast with an educational purpose that is produced solely by a UIL-member school and/or school district primarily using school facilities, equipment, staff and students without any commercial relationship for the financial benefit of another party.

Radio Playoff Guidelines (all sports)

Radio stations must follow the [Radio Playoff Guidelines](#) found on the UIL website. Radio stations must play two minutes of commercials, read the state championship promotional information, and submit the [Radio Playoff Request](#). The Radio Playoff Request form is for tracking purposes only, the UIL will not approve or deny radio broadcasts. **The radio station must receive permission from schools involved in the contest and the venue.**