



2021 Baseball Calendar

Last updated: 2/3/21

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
31						

February 2

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						

March 3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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			

April 4

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	

May 5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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					

June 6

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			

Regular Season	** New Start Date for 2021 Baseball Season** January 22 nd – First Day of Practice
	February 6 – First Day of Interschool Scrimmages
	February 22 – First Day of Interschool Games
	May 4 – District Certification

Post Season	May 8 - Bi-District
	May 15 – Area Deadline (1A – Regional Quarterfinals Deadline)
	May 22 – Regional Quarterfinals Deadline (1A – Regional Semi-Final Deadline)
	May 29 - Regional Semi-finals (1A – Regional Deadline)
	June 5 - Regional Finals
	June 9-12 – STATE TOURNAMENT

Tournament Guidelines and Restrictions

- Maximum of 4 teams per site at any one time
 - 2 teams playing in game
 - 2 teams warming up on opposite sides / ends of field
 - Teams coming onto field for next game must wait until the team before them completely leaves the field and sideline / dugout area and the area has been cleaned
 - The game must be completed and the 2 teams playing in the game must have left the facility before the next two teams can begin their warm-up on opposite sides / ends of the field.
- Participating school responsibilities
 - Follow all UIL COVID-19 protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>)
 - Follow all local district protocols
 - Follow approved NFHS sport specific rule considerations
- Host site responsibilities
 - Follow all UIL COVID-19 protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>)
 - Follow approved NFHS sport specific rules considerations
 - Communicate any local district protocols in addition to the UIL protocols, to participating teams well in advance of tournament
 - Host school must create a warm-up plan where no two teams are in the same warm-up area at the same time
 - Host school must create a plan to clean and disinfect the dugout / sideline areas between each game
 - Host school must create a plan for a deep clean and disinfecting at the end of each day to prepare for next day



2021 UIL Baseball Season Update & Considerations

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

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.
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.**

Staff – Required Screening before attending or participating in activities:

Schools must follow TEA screening requirements and screen staff members before allowing staff to participate in UIL activities. Schools may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. These protocols mirror the guidelines issued by TEA for school operations.

If a student or staff member has been screened by the school for purposes of participating in instruction, there is no reason to screen separately before allowing the staff or student to participate in UIL activities. Please see the TEA website for the most current screening guidance. [TEA website](https://tea.texas.gov/schools/health-safety)

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>

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 Spring Sport (Baseball, Softball, Track, Golf, Tennis, Wrestling) 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.

Spectators and Fans

The 50% capacity limitation for spectators and fans continues to be in effect. Local schools determine what 50% capacity is for each facility, providing for appropriate spacing between groups. In keeping with [Executive Order GA-29](#), [UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines](#) require spectators to wear face coverings when entering and exiting a facility and when six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household cannot be maintained.

Schools must allow visiting school fans to attend district contests if home school fans are allowed to attend, unless the schools involved in the district contest mutually agree to only allow home school fans

The number of tickets or percentage of allowed spectator space provided to the visiting team should be determined by the DEC. If the DEC has not made such determination, the hosting school shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate visiting fans.

For non-district contests, the two schools involved must mutually agree on home and visiting school fans attendance.

Practice Regulations

- 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.

Tournament Guidelines and Restrictions

1. Maximum of 4 teams per site at any one time
 - a. 2 teams playing in game
 - b. 2 teams warming up on opposite sides / ends of field
 - c. Teams coming onto field for next game must wait until the team before them completely leaves the field and sideline / dugout area and the area has been cleaned
 - d. The game must be completed and the 2 teams playing in the game must have left the facility before the next two teams can begin their warm-up on opposite sides / ends of the field.
2. Participating school responsibilities
 - a. Follow all UIL COVID-19 protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uil texas.org/policy/covid-19>)
 - b. Follow all local district protocols
 - c. Follow approved NFHS sport specific rule considerations
3. Host site responsibilities
 - a. Follow all UIL COVID-19 protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uil texas.org/policy/covid-19>)

- b. Follow approved NFHS sport specific rules considerations
- c. Communicate any local district protocols in addition to the UIL protocols, to participating teams well in advance of tournament
- d. Host school must create a warm-up plan where no two teams are in the same warm-up area at the same time
- e. Host school must create a plan to clean and disinfect the dugout / sideline areas between each game
- f. Host school must create a plan for a deep clean and disinfecting at the end of each day to prepare for next day

New: School Week Limitation Exception - UIL varsity district contests postponed because of COVID-19 reasons may be rescheduled and played as exceptions to the school week limit as noted in state regulations, as long as they are rescheduled and played on a date agreed upon by the two schools involved in the contest, or on a date as determined by the District Executive Committee, if the two schools cannot agree. **For games that are rescheduled on consecutive nights, pitch counts will follow the series protocols.**

Face Coverings

Face coverings do not have to be worn while actively competing in a contest. Face coverings must be worn by all team personnel (coaches, managers, players not in the game) while on the bench or not actively participating in game or warm-ups.

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 congregated 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

Student Groups not directly involved in the game or contest

Student groups such as marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, and other groups approved by the school district may attend and perform at games or contests in which they are not competing. Schools should consider limiting the number of participants to those essential to the performance.

1. These student groups should remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
2. Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in [Executive Order GA-29](#).
3. Schools should consider limiting the number of students and staff given access to the playing areas and ensure protocols for entering and exiting the playing areas are in place.
4. Fans and spectators should be located to provide at least 10 feet of distance from bands playing wind instruments from the stands.

These students should maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants at all times, including when on the sideline.

NFHS Baseball Considerations (Updated)

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

1. Baseball Rule Considerations

Face Shields (1-5-2) - Per guidance from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, Plastic shields covering the entire face (**unless integrated into the face mask and attached to a helmet**) shall not be allowed during contests. Their use during practices increases the risk of unintended injury to the person wearing the shield or teammates.

Additional Equipment (1-5-9): Cloth facial coverings are recommended but not required. Facial coverings cannot be white and/or grey. Pitchers facial coverings must be of one color, not distracting, and no designs.

Pregame Conference (2-10-2): Limit attendees to one coach from each team plus the umpires. Coaches should stay outside the width of the batter's box at home plate, maintaining 6 feet of distance between each person.

Substitutions: (3-1-1): The verbal exchange should occur 6 feet from the coach to scorer and opposing team when making lineup changes.

Coaching (3-5-1 NOTE): Umpires do not handle equipment on the field during play. Contact with the game balls should be as limited as possible. There are several strategies to protect the student athlete from cross contamination due to exposure to game balls. It is recommended each state choose a strategy that best fits their specific circumstances.

Coaching (3-2-1, 3-4-1): Coaches who wish to discuss a rule or a ruling on the field must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from the umpire.

Coaching (3-2-3): Base coaches must stay 6 feet from a runner at all times after suspension of play.

Bench and Field Conduct (3-3-1): Players are not permitted to leave the dugout area to congratulate players coming off field from defense, when scoring or after home runs. The number of individuals in the dugout is dependent on the size of dugout. Players and coaches must maintain 6 feet of social distance. NFHS rules allow for dugouts/designated warm up areas to be extended to provide for social distancing.

Charged Conferences (3-4-1, 3-4-2, 3-4-3): Coaches holding defensive conferences must stay on the home plate side of the pitcher's circle and the player or players must be on the opposite of the pitcher's circle maintaining the 6 feet distance. Only one coach is permitted during the conference. If a coach visits the pitcher, all other players should stay outside the pitching circle.

Exchange of Lineup Cards (4-1-3): Lineups should be handed to the umpire, and the umpire will verbally approve or ask any questions about the lineup. Recommended for lineup cards exchanged team to team and teams to scorekeeper to be shared via photo or text.

Plate Umpire (10-2-1): Plate umpire should stand deeper than normal to call balls and strikes.

Equipment and Apparel (10-1-9): Cloth facial coverings are recommended but not required. Must be of one color and not distracting and no designs. Umpire may wear disposable glove and masks.

2. Baseball Umpires Manual Modifications

Mechanics Sections 7-1&2

Base umpires should maintain 6 feet from any player as a starting position when rotated and/or counter rotated.

Section 6-1&2

Keep the catcher and batter at a 6-foot distance when dusting off the plate.