



**2024**

**SOFTBALL**

**Playoff Information  
Handbook**

# UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

## PLAYOFF INFORMATION HANDBOOK

### 2024 SOFTBALL

Congratulations to schools who will represent their district in post-season play! Please read the following information carefully regarding the 2024 UIL Softball playoffs.

Ray Zepeda– UIL Director of Athletics  
[rzepeda@uiltexas.org](mailto:rzepeda@uiltexas.org)  
281-594-9893

Grace McDowell – Tournament Director  
[gmcowell@uiltexas.org](mailto:gmcowell@uiltexas.org)  
214-236-9279

Sydney Johnson – Tournament Coordinator  
[sjohnson@uiltexas.org](mailto:sjohnson@uiltexas.org)  
(512) 232-4938

Dillon Bankston – Officials Coordinator  
[dbankston@uilathletics.org](mailto:dbankston@uilathletics.org)  
(512) 232-4951

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## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

### Certification Deadlines for Softball Playoffs.

April 23	District Certification Deadline
April 27	Bi-District
May 4	Area
May 11	Regional Quarterfinals
May 18	Regional Semifinals
**May 20	<b>Deadline to submit team info requested below (p. 6)</b>
May 25	Regional Finals
May 28-June 1	UIL Softball State Tournament

\*NOTE: *The 2024 State tournament will start on Tuesday and all games will be played at Red and Charline McCombs Field on the University of Texas campus.*

## SUBMITTING PLAYOFF GAME INFORMATION

### Brackets. (required for each round of playoffs)

**Bi-District Match-Ups** - Once all DEC Chairs have submitted final district standings, bi-district playoff matchups will **automatically be created** and appear on the bracket once UIL publishes the bracket. Please **do not** create your bi-district match-up in your MaxPreps account. Once you do see the match-up on your schedule in MaxPreps, please add game details (date, time & location.)

**UIL Playoff Reporting:** Brackets. (\*required for each round of playoffs beginning w/ Bi-District results). Beginning with results of the Bi-District round, 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 brackets will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. Learn more about MaxPreps Sign in or register for a MaxPreps.com account:

<https://secure.maxpreps.com/utility/member/login.aspx>

## STATE TESTING INFORMATION

*During the Postseason*

- No playoff game can be scheduled Monday through Thursday of the school week in which the primary administration of assessment instruments occurs, as required by **state law**.
- However, once testing is complete, teams may schedule playoff games beginning the following day, provided they remain in compliance with UIL rules for scheduling playoff games.
- On Friday, when there are timed tests that end at a certain time, with school approval, teams could travel no earlier than 30 minutes after the scheduled end of tests on Friday.
- If any test for any student on a team involved in a post-season contest occurs on Friday and is an untimed test, travel for that team is not permitted until the end of the school day.

For more information: <http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/limits-on-practice-and-performance>

### EXCEPTION DURING AREA ROUND (2A-6A) AND REGIONAL QUARTERFINAL ROUND (1A) ONLY

With the UIL State Track and Field Meet occurring during the week of area, softball teams that elect to play a three-game series may extend the series until the following Monday to complete the series provided at least one game is completed by the end of the day on Saturday. This applies to the area round for 2A-6A teams and regional quarterfinal round for 1A teams only.

**Teams electing to use the exception should keep in mind:**

- The next round opponent may force a coin toss to begin the next round on Thursday.
- If only one game is played by Saturday, and Monday gets rained out, the series will revert to a one-game format and the winner of that one game will advance.

- If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Monday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game shall be settled by a coin flip.

## POSTSEASON INFORMATION

**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 game. 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.
- Teams having a bye in the bracket may play a warm-up game if team has not reached their allowable season limit. Game can be played at the end of your school day on Friday, last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**) or anytime on Saturday.

**Post-season competition.** May be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. Post-district play means competition in UIL playoff series or contests such as bi- district, area, regional, etc.

**Inclement Weather.** 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 site. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another site 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.

**Sites.** The teams involved should select sites for all rounds of playoffs except the state site. 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.

### **Playoff Game Timing.**

- 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 area round opponents*. All other playoff games may not be played until *after* the final date for completion of the prior round championships.
- After the bi-district round, playoff games shall not be played before Thursday of that week unless by mutual consent of both schools (i.e. to play Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday both coaches would both have to agree, all other days can be determined by a coin flip).

### **Additional Timing Rules.**

- If both schools have concluded their school year, they may play on any day.
- A team cannot be forced to flip for a time that would prevent a school from attending Graduation.
- A team cannot be required to play on the night prior to final examinations.
- All games or a game will be played to completion of seven innings.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.

**Playoff Game Agreements.** Competing teams should put details of their play-off game agreement on paper. Any part of the agreement that the two schools cannot agree to shall be determined by a coin flip (i.e. series vs. one game, site,

day, time, ball, etc.).

**Playoff Game Format.** 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.

- In the bi-district round, *district champions* determine whether to play a single game or a series. In the event of Co-champions, this would only apply to the #1 Seed, as certified by the district. Site and all other game arrangements will be negotiated between the two participating teams.
- **NEW:** In the **BI-DISTRICT and AREA rounds**, the fifteen-run rule may be implemented if mutually agree upon by both schools prior to the game
  - After three (3) innings of play, if one team is fifteen (15) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (or, if 2 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is fifteen or more runs ahead).

#### **Two-Out-of-Three Series**

- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first two games may be played prior to Friday. Game 3 shall not be played until after the end of the school day on Friday (or the last instructional day of the week). 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.
- 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.

#### **Playoff Game Recommendations.**

- **Trainers:** Trainers should be available throughout playoffs.
- **Officials:** In all conferences at all playoff levels, except the state tournament, 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: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php>.
  - Officials evaluation form: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-evaluation/submit.php?sport=Softball>.
- **Police protection:** Adequate police protection should be provided for all play-off games whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home court of one of the teams.
- **Balls:** The balls being used at the UIL State Tournament are the Baden Perfection.
- **Housing:** Each school is responsible for its own housing through the regional finals.
- **Awards:** It is the responsibility of the participating schools to decide if awards will be provided.

## REGIONAL FINAL QUALIFIERS

### State Program Information Required.

- **Team Information Form for State Tournament:** Teams *qualifying* for the Regional Finals must fill out the team information form online at <https://www.uil texas.org/forms/team-info-softball>. **This form must be submitted via the website no later than: Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.**
- **NEW: Team Picture for State Tournament:** We will be collecting your school photo submission through an online form to be completed online at <https://www.uil texas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239> no later than **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.**
  - Please submit the following:
    - Team Picture
    - Head Coach Picture
    - Logo

## STATE QUALIFIERS

Immediately following your regional final game, the winning coach should text Grace McDowell (214-236-9279) and report the following information:

- Head Coach Name and Team
- Score of the regional final game(s) with team names
- Final season record (Please have scorebook available for questions regarding **your season record including pitching records**).
- You will receive an email on Saturday to inform you of all State Tournament information (including lodging arrangements that the UIL blocks for each team).

**Officials for State Semi-final.** The two participating schools will either agree on a crew / chapter selection or ask for UIL assignment. Officials will be assigned by the UIL if the two schools cannot reach mutual agreement. Requests must be made by **11:00 a.m., Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** prior to the State Tournament. The *state semi-final* request form can be found online here: <https://www.uil texas.org/form/officials-request/softball-state-semifinal.php> and is a different link than the one you have used previous rounds.

The home team will submit the officials request form utilizing the link above. If officials are mutually agreed upon by both the home and visiting team, then the home team will simply input the selected crew / chapter selection into the form. If officials cannot be agreed upon by both the home and visiting team, then the home team will need to include a list of chapters that they prefer not to call the game (scratch list) that is representative of both teams (home and visitor), and UIL will make assignment.

**Bat Check (State Tournament).** At the UIL Softball State Tournament only, prior to a team's first game, there will be bat check administered by officials. The details of the bat check procedure will be communicated prior to the start of the tournament. The purpose of the bat check is to ensure that all bats meet NFHS regulations.