

2025



BASEBALL
Playoff Handbook

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFF HANDBOOK

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

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Important Deadlines

Certification Deadlines for Baseball Playoffs.

April 29	District Certification Deadline, All Conferences.
May 3	Bi-District Deadline
May 10	Area Deadline
May 17	Regional Semifinal Deadline
May 24	Regional Final Deadline
May 31	State Semifinal Deadline
June 5-7	UIL Baseball State Champions

Note: *The 2025 State Tournament games will all be played at Dell Diamond in Round Rock.*

Submitting Playoff Game Information

Advancement Structure for Postseason.

The last date for certifying the district to the League office is **April 29**. District chairs will be submitting directly to MaxPreps via the UIL Portal. Once district certifications are submitted, the online brackets will auto-populate with the teams from your district. The district chairs must **certify the district representatives** through the UIL Portal as soon as they are finalized. Instructions can be found here <https://www.uilTEXAS.org/baseball/page/district-certification-instructions>

NOTE: *District certification must include the indication of a 1st through 4th place finisher in the dropdown menus based on district standings. All ties must be resolved prior to submission.*

All Conferences

****State Semifinal: Region 1 vs. Region 2; Region 3 vs. Region 4**

****State Final: Region 1/2 winner vs. Region 3/4 winner**

In Conference 1A, the top two teams from each district will advance to the playoffs. Conference 1A will have one bracket playing for the 1A State Championship.

In Conferences 2A-6A, the playoff structure would consist of the top four teams advancing to the playoffs from each district. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023, in grades 9-12, are bracketed into Division I, and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for a state championship. Teams will be seeded according to their order of finish in district play.

EXAMPLE:

District Finish:

1. Green HS – Enrollment 1004
2. Red HS – Enrollment 935
3. Blue HS – Enrollment 985
4. Orange HS – Enrollment 785

Certified into Division I:

1. Green HS
2. Blue HS

Certified into Division II:

1. Red HS
2. Orange HS

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

If the enrollment figures of the 2nd and 3rd largest qualifying schools are exactly the same, the two schools will be required to submit their updated enrollment numbers to the UIL as submitted for the TEA October 25, 2024, snapshot submission to determine division placement. Should the two schools have the same updated enrollment figures, a coin flip should be conducted to determine division placement. ***The UIL will directly contact the schools that could be in this predicament to guide them through this process.***

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.)

- Updating playoff information in the brackets is **REQUIRED** starting with Bi-District results.
- **Winning teams** must submit playoff game results (scores) and next-round details (location, date, and time) **immediately** after each game via MaxPreps. (If the location is unknown immediately following the game, it should be updated as soon as possible)
- The accuracy of UIL brackets depends on timely updates from coaches.
- UIL syncs schedules, scores, and rosters from MaxPreps to uiltexas.org for postseason publications. Keep this information current throughout the season.
- Make sure that you have admin access to your team in MaxPreps so you can report scores for the UIL playoffs. Coaches and ADs may reach out to MaxPreps representative Alisa Dancer at adancer@maxpreps.com to add admin access to their account.
 - For more information, see <http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps>. To create an account, please go to [MaxPreps](#).

Pitch Count Report (*required for each game played)

The Pitch Count Rule stays in affect throughout the playoffs. The Home team is still responsible for supplying the official pitch counter to be outside the dugout. The WINNING coach is responsible for filling out the Playoff Pitch Count Verification Form on the UIL website following each game. This form requires an upload of the verification form signed by both coaches from the playoff game. This form can be found on the UIL website on the Baseball Forms Page. [Playoff Pitch Count Verification Form](#)

Playoff Broadcast Information - please remember that all video broadcasts of a postseason contest require approval from the UIL. The attached infographic outlines the options schools and media outlets have in regards to broadcasting playoff games as well as the process to be approved. All approved broadcasts will be shared each playoff round to each sport specific media page [on the UIL website](#). Any questions should be directed to pr@uiltexas.org. Full guidelines, resources and forms can be found at the UIL website: <https://www.uiltexas.org/media/broadcast-information>

State Testing Information

- If a school is testing Algebra I during the bi-district round, post-season games are not prohibited, as this week is not the primary assessment week for those tests according to the Texas Education Agency.

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

EXCEPTION DURING BI-DISTRICT ROUND

With the UIL State Track and Field Meet occurring during the week of bi-district, baseball 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 bi-district round 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, the 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 they have not reached their allowable season limit. The game can be played at the end of your school day on Friday, the last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**), or anytime on Saturday.

Inclement Weather. Both teams must make every effort to determine the winner before the certification deadline. This includes obtaining neutral sites and securing any available sites. 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 for the next round.

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

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

Playoff Game Format. Play-off games may be single elimination or two out of three from bi-district to state semi-final. A coin flip shall determine the playoff format if neither method is mutually agreeable. **Exception:** For conference 5A and 6A, all playoff rounds (with the exception of the state tournament) will be a two-out-of-three series format unless mutually agreed to play a single game.

- **Bi-District Only:** In conference 1A-4A, the **District Champion** (#1 overall district seed) can determine whether to play a single game or a series. Higher seeding by divisions has no bearing on this. The two participating teams will negotiate the site and all other game arrangements.

Two-out-of-Three Series Guidelines

- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played before Friday. Game three 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.
- Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should set parameters for the series before the first game. The parameters should include, but not be 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, official pitch counter, tie-breaking procedures if series cannot be finished, 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.

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 (ie. to play Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday both coaches would 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.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

Playoff Game Recommendations

- **Trainers:** Trainers should be available throughout playoffs.
- **Game Officials:** Officials for all playoff rounds, in all conferences, will be determined by the two competing schools. If umpires cannot be agreed upon by both teams and a neutral officiating crew is requested through UIL, the team on the top of the bracket will need to submit a UIL Official's Assignment Request Form. Please include the list of chapters that coaches prefer NOT to call the game (scratch list) that represents BOTH teams' wishes, and the UIL will make the assignment. **NOTE:** A coach cannot be forced to flip for officials, including split crews.
 - [UIL Official's Assignment Request Form](#)
 - [Baseball Officials Evaluation Form](#)
- **Police protection:** Adequate police protection should be provided for all playoff games, whether played at a neutral site or on the home site of one of the teams.
- **Balls:** The balls being used at the UIL State Tournament are Baden Perfection Pro.
- **Awards:** It is the responsibility of the participating schools to decide if awards will be provided.

State Semifinal Qualifiers

- **Baseball Team Information Form & Photos** - Teams advancing to the **State Semifinals** must submit the following materials to the UIL office by **Wednesday, May 28**. This is an important step in providing you with the best possible tournament. Your assistance in this effort is appreciated.
 - **Team Information Form** (list of players, coaches, etc. and ALL games played)
 - Fill out the team information form online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/forms/team-info-baseball>.
 - **Pictures Submission Form**
 - We will be collecting your school photo submission through an online form
 - To be completed online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239>
 - Team Picture
 - Head Coach Picture
 - Logo

State Finalists Qualifier

Immediately following your state semifinal game, the winning coach should text A.J. Martinez (cell: 361-816-1281) and report the following information:

- Head Coach Name and Team
- Score of the state semifinal game(s) with Team names
- Final season record: (Have scorebook available for questions regarding your season record)
- Winning/Losing Pitchers
- You will receive an email on Saturday to inform you of all State Championship information

Bat Check (State Championship).

At the UIL State Baseball Championships only, prior to each 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 championships. The purpose of the bat check is to ensure that all bats meet NFHS regulations.

State Baseball Composite Schedule

THURSDAY

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	2A Division 2	Dell Diamond
12:00 pm	2A Division 1	Dell Diamond
4:00 pm	3A Division 2	Dell Diamond
7:00 pm	3A Division 1	Dell Diamond

FRIDAY

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	4A Division 2	Dell Diamond
12:00 pm	4A Division 1	Dell Diamond
4:00 pm	5A Division 2	Dell Diamond
7:00 pm	5A Division 1	Dell Diamond

SATURDAY

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	1A	Dell Diamond
12:00 pm	6A Division 2	Dell Diamond
4:00 pm	6A Division 1	Dell Diamond