

2024-2025



TENNIS
COACHES' MANUAL

Tennis Calendar | 2024-2025

An official start date and final tennis meet have not been set by the Legislative Council. A start date should be set by school administration.

- April 30 – District Certification
- May 7-10 – Regional Tournament
- May 15-16 – State Tournament

Tennis Coaches Checklist

UIL Rules & Guidelines

UIL Rule Amendments & Sport Plan

Section 1300: Tennis Plan

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.

Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Tennis Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS.

(1) Boys', Girls' Divisions. There shall be the following divisions in the respective conferences:

- (A) high school boys, singles and doubles;
- (B) high school girls, singles and doubles; and
- (C) mixed doubles.

(2) Entries. At the district meet, each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles and two girls' doubles, and two mixed doubles teams.

(3) Girls', Boys' Team Restrictions. No girls' team shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.

(c) PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS.

In contests which count on UIL standing, an individual shall not be allowed to compete in both singles and doubles or mixed doubles, or in both doubles and mixed doubles.

(d) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) Closing District Entries. No entries shall be allowed for district meets which are not submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the meet unless other arrangements have been previously authorized by the District Executive Committee. Districts may authorize a meeting after the entry deadline to allow for substitutions.

(2) Regional Contests. The winners of first and second places in district contests, singles and doubles, boys and girls, and mixed doubles are eligible to enter the regional contests. The UIL staff will provide tournament seeding recommendations.

(3) State Contests. The first, second, and third place contestants in the regional tournaments in all conferences qualify to enter the state tournament.

(4) Number of Matches and Sets.

(A) Determining the Winners. In all matches, the best two-out-of-three sets shall determine the winners.

(B) Limit on Matches. No contestant or team shall play more than three matches per day. Note: Under the team tennis plan, different restrictions exist. There shall be a minimum of one hour's rest for a team or player between the close of one match and the beginning of another. This rule shall apply only to district, regional and state competition.

(5) Substitutions.

(A) District. In district meets, the District Executive Committee shall set entry deadlines. The District Executive Committee may set guidelines on substitutions prior to the start of the tournament.

(B) Regional and State. In regional and state meets, no substitutions in singles will be allowed. A substitution for tennis doubles and mixed doubles will be permitted prior to the start of the tournament if a player is injured, ill or academically ineligible.

(C) Limit on Substitution. After a tournament has begun, no substitution will be allowed.

(e) INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

(1) Number of Tournaments. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments (total for tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding one district tennis tournament, the regional tournaments and the state tournament.

(Note: The team tennis district tournament counts as one of the eight allowable tournaments if school time is lost.) Each tournament a school team enters counts as one tournament for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.

(2) Exceptions:

(A) Triangular matches, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a tournament for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(B) If no more than four teams meet to play predetermined opponent(s), it shall not be counted as one of the eight tournaments allowed the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.

(3) School Week Limitation. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one contest (tournament, dual or triangular match) per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). Schools shall not enter invitational tennis tournaments scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament.

Exceptions: The regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(4) End of Season. Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any tennis tournament after the date of the state tennis tournament.

(f) WEATHER CANCELLATION OR CONTINUATION.

A tournament postponed or canceled by weather is considered a tournament when all semi-final matches have been completed. The remaining matches may be played at a later date (preferably Monday or Tuesday of the next week) without its counting as another tournament, provided there is no loss of school time. When all semi-final matches have not been completed, the tournament director has three options:

(1) The tournament may be canceled and not count as a tournament for the individuals or the school.

(2) The tournament may be continued, provided there is no additional loss of school time.

(3) The tournament may be continued with loss of school time and shall count as two tournaments.

(g) PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Any tennis practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

- (1) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
- (2) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
- (3) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
- (4) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.
- (5) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

2024-2025 UIL Rule Changes & Amendments

UIL Resources for Game Administrators (pdf)

Ineligible Player and Unattached Participation

- (c) MINIMUM PENALTY FOR USING INELIGIBLE PLAYER. In the event an ineligible contestant is used in any UIL game or contest, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game, contest or event. Refer to Section 27 (c)(3).
- (d) UNATTACHED PARTICIPATION. In any UIL member school sponsored athletic contest, meet or tournament, UIL member high school students shall not be permitted to enter unattached. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed against the member school(s) in violation. This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

Awards

Limitation of Awards

(a) LIMIT.

(1) Awards Schools May Give. A member school or member school district may give one major award not to exceed \$70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a member school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed \$20 each. Schools may give a student the \$20 minor award for an activity during the same school year the \$70 major award is given for that activity. A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship event.

(2) Awards Students May Receive. A student may not accept from any source other than the school attended or the school district, any award in money, product or service for competing in an interschool contest except as follows.

(A) A certificate, medal, trophy, ring, or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on UIL standing, if it is given:

- (i) by the school, or school district in accordance to the limitations in Section 480 (a)(1);
- (ii) the District Executive Committee or the entity that organized the competition (i.e., the regional director or zone director;

(iii) the UIL or one of the professional, education organizations sanctioned by the UIL; or

(iv) an outside source approved by the school or school district.

(B) A medal, trophy, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on UIL standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL, such as bowling, motorcycle racing or rodeo do not come under this rule).

(C) Unlimited awards for participating in an invitational academic or fine arts contest which does not count on UIL standing, whether or not it is an activity which the UIL sponsors.

(D) Educational trips sponsored by the school.

(E) Scholarships for college or university enrollment if awarded at or after graduation from high school.

(3) Awards Students May Receive for Intraschool Competition. A student may accept unlimited awards for participating in intraschool competition.

(b) LEAGUE STANDING DEFINED. For purposes of this rule, “counts on UIL standing” means any contest that causes an individual or team to advance toward a UIL district, bi-district, area, zone, regional or state championship.

(c) AMATEUR STATUS. Refer to Section 441 for rules governing amateur athletic status.

(d) INDIRECT AWARD. An award given to a second party to be held for later delivery to the student is considered received by the student when the award is given to the second party. This conduct is a violation by the member school or school district.

Gifts or Awards to Sponsor or Coach

Individuals who coach, direct or sponsor UIL activities in grades 9-12 may be suspended if:

(a) they accept more than \$500 in money, product or service from any source, over and above the stipend paid by the school district, in recognition of or appreciation for coaching, directing or sponsorship of UIL activities. (Refer to Section 1202). The \$500 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift;

(b) they accept money, product or service for entering their student(s) in a contest or other activity;

(c) this section includes, but is not limited to, money, gifts, use of automobiles, insurance, club privileges and any funds tendered by booster clubs for other services; and

(d) it is a violation if coaches and/or their attorney(s) accept money or other valuable consideration for payment of legal expenses incurred to file suit or take other legal action against a school, school district or the UIL.

(e) EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Scholarships. A sponsor or coach may accept from any source in any amount a postsecondary institution scholarship.

(2) Retirement. Upon retirement from the profession, sponsors or coaches may accept money or other valuable consideration in any amount from any source.

(3) Annual UIL Award for Excellence. A sponsor or coach may accept the Annual UIL Award for Excellence sanctioned by the UIL.

Charitable Cause Guidelines

The UIL has received numerous requests from member schools to support various charitable causes in conjunction with high school athletic events. The UIL is supportive of these initiatives and has developed guidelines regarding an athletic competition being held in the name of a charitable cause.

Schools may host a contest in recognition of a charitable cause under the following conditions:

- The contest of competition may be held during any one week of the designated sport season (to be determined by each individual school).
- If NFHS or NCAA rules allow, non-school colors can be worn upon mutual agreement between opponents. (ex: pink uniforms)
- A commemorative ribbon of non-school color may be worn on the jersey or school-issued uniform.
- Officials may be allowed to use a colored whistle or modified uniform in accordance with UIL guidelines.
- Colored game balls will not be allowed, however they may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest.

USTA and Rules Information

Pre-Season Regulations (See Individual Sport General Manual)

- Employment of Coaches
- Texas Education Code Requirements (State Law)
- Coaches Certification Program (CCP)
- UIL Eligibility for Athletic Contests
- Student Participation Required Forms

Regular Season

Contest Scheduling and Allowable Contests

The following section combines State Law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules regarding scheduling and participation in a contest.

- **One contest per school week:** According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. School districts shall ensure no more than one contest or performance per activity is scheduled per student.
- ***Exception:** Tournaments and post-season competition may be scheduled as an exception to the school week limit. As well, district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, provided that they are rescheduled and played on the next available date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. Junior varsity, freshman and junior high teams may not play postponed matches as an exception.

- Junior varsity, freshman and junior high teams may not play postponed matches as an exception.
- District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee, but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.
- **TEA and Participation:** The Texas Education Agency defines participation as being involved with the activity, traveling with the team, or sitting on the bench. Example: On a Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook but she remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This counts as participation for TEA but not UIL, this student would not be able to participate again until after school on Friday, per TEA regulations.
- **UIL and Participation:** UIL defines participation if a student athlete actually entered the contest as a player. In the example above, the contest does not count as one of the allowable games as determined by UIL policy.

Definitions:

- **Calendar week** means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- **School week** means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- **Post-district play** means competition in UIL playoff series or contests such as bi-district, area, regional, etc.

Allowable Contests

Number of Tennis Tournaments Allowed (team tennis plus individual tennis)

No student or team representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments (total for tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding one district tennis tournament, the regional tournaments and the state tournament. Note: The team tennis district tournament counts as one of the eight allowable tournaments if school time is lost.

Scrimmage

For the purposes of UIL Team Tennis and Individual Tennis there is no such thing as a scrimmage. Any competition between students of different schools is a match and must be counted as such. Therefore, subject to the one match per school week limitation and all eligibility rules.

Divisions

Conferences

Participating schools shall be divided into conferences according to UIL spring meet alignments.

Divisions:

There shall be the following boys' and girls' divisions in the respective conferences:

- High school boys' singles and doubles
- High school girls' singles and doubles
- Mixed doubles

Entries: At the district meet each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles teams and two girls' doubles teams, and two mixed doubles teams.

- Girls' and boys' team restrictions: No girls' team shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.

Tennis Regulations

Official Rules

The United States Tennis Association playing rules shall be used in all League matches with exceptions as noted in this manual. Coaches should be aware of National Federation taunting rules as well.

Weather Cancellation or Continuation

A tournament postponed or canceled by weather is considered a tournament when all semi-final matches have been completed. The remaining matches may be played at a later date (preferably Monday or Tuesday of the next week) without it counting as another tournament, provided there is no loss of school time. When all semi-final matches have not been completed, the tournament director has three options:

- The tournament may be canceled and not count as a tournament for the individual or the school.
- The tournament may be continued, provided there is no additional loss of schooltime.
- The tournament may be continued with loss of school time and shall count as two tournaments.

Awards

High school participants may receive a trophy, medal, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition.

Videotaping/Filming Non-Conference and District Contest

- Videotaping/Filming by Schools: It is a violation to film or videotape a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
- A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a NON-CONFERENCE OR DISTRICT contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape shall not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.
- Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.
- Videotaping/Filming by Individuals: Any individual (other than the officially designated school camera) taping or filming must have prior permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
- Commercial Uses: Use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

Number of Matches and Sets

In all boys' and girls' matches in the district, regional and state contests, the best two out of three sets shall determine the winners. A contestant or team shall not play more than three matches per day and there shall be a minimum of one hour's rest for a team or player between the close of one match and the beginning of another. This rule shall apply only to contests which count on League standing for individual tennis or mixed doubles.

Participation Limits

A boy or girl shall not be allowed to compete in both singles and doubles or mixed doubles, or in both doubles and mixed doubles for spring meet tennis. This rule shall apply only to contests which count on League standing.

Coaching

Number of Coaches Allowed

A maximum of 3 coaches may coach the team during a team match.

Appropriate Timing of Coaching

Coaches are allowed to coach between points and in breaks of play.

Protocols of Coaches on Court

- Coaches may coach from on court but must be at or around the net post or bench area (specifically between the net post and half way down the service box). Only one coach may be on any one court at a time.
- Coaches should refrain from moving around during points and distracting players and/or disrupting continuous play.
- Coaches may move from court to court as long as it is between points and does not disrupt continuous play on any court.

Protocols of Coaches Off Court

- No coaching is allowed when inside the court area unless at or around the net post or bench area.
- Coaching is allowed if the coach is outside the court area as long as it is between points, in any breaks of play, and does not interfere with continuous play on any court.
- Coaches may encourage their kids while on court. Coaches are responsible for proper court etiquette.

Opposing Players

- Coaches shall not initiate conversation with an opposing player.
- Coaches shall not inject themselves in any on court problem unless the opposing coach is also present.
- Players shall not initiate conversation with an opposing coach.

Post Season

District Tournament

Representation

At the district meet each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles and two girls' doubles teams, and two mixed doubles teams. The winners of first and second place in district contests, singles and doubles, boys and girls, and mixed doubles advance to the regional contests. The first, second and third place contestants in the regional tournaments in all conferences advance to the state tournament.

Dates

The last day for reporting the district certification is **April 30, 2025**.

Entries

- No entries shall be allowed for district meets, which are not submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the meet. Districts may authorize a scratch meeting after the entries are submitted to allow for substitutions. Schools should be permitted to substitute according to approved district executive committee regulations.
- Changes in the entries that were made by the deadline should follow the suggested guidelines:
 - Students who are not eligible five days prior to the meet but may become eligible at the time of the scheduled district meet may be listed on the entry form and designated as a singles or doubles or mixed doubles player for competition. They must be eligible at the time they actually compete.
 - Students entered, but who have lost their eligibility because of the academic regulations, should be permitted a substitution. Students that are eligible participants from the same school should be permitted to occupy the vacated places. These substitutions should be on an eligibility form turned into the district chairman prior to the contest, postmarked no later than the day of the meet.
 - If a school, which has not entered the tournament five days prior, wishes to enter the tournament at the time of the scratch meeting, it would be up to the district executive committee's policy or authorized meet director to determine if that school could enter.

Substitutions

- In district meets, the district executive committee shall set entry deadlines. The district executive committee may set guidelines on substitutions prior to the start of the tournament.
- Limit on Substitution: After a tournament has begun, no substitution will be allowed.

Tie Breakers

The 7-point tie-breaker scoring system will operate when the score reaches six games all in any set.

Procedure for playing the tie-breaker are as follows:

- Procedure for Playing the Singles Tie-Breaker
 - A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set provided he/she leads by a margin of two points. If the score reached six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-breaker.
 - The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point, which is delivered from the right court. His/her opponent shall be the server for the second and third point (delivered from the left court, then the right court), and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (left court, then right court) until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
 - Players shall change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie-breaker. Note that after any change ends the server will be serving his second serving point.
 - The player who served first in the set that ended in a tie-breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.
- Procedure for Playing the Doubles Tie-Breaker
 - In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply: The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.
 - Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie-breaker.

- The team that served first in the set that ended in a tie-breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.
- Procedure for Playing the Mixed Doubles Tie-Breaker
 - In mixed doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply: the player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter, each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.
 - Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie-breaker.
 - The team that served first in the set that ended in a tie-breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

Playoffs for Second Place

In tennis district tournaments, the loser in the finals will play the winner of the third-place match (to determine second place) unless these two contestants (or doubles or mixed doubles teams) played each other in the semifinal round. The tournament director must start the finals and consolation matches at the same time.

Regional Tournament

Dates

Regional tournaments will be held **May 7-10, 2025**.

Regional Sites and Directors

Regional sites and directors may be found on the UIL website [here](#).

Substitutions

- Before the tournament has begun, a substitution may be made in a school tennis doubles or mixed doubles team but not in singles. A school may not substitute for a singles player, an entire doubles team or an entire mixed doubles team.
- The alternate single, doubles or mixed doubles must be used. If at all possible, call the regional director prior to Monday afternoon regarding changes in doubles or mixed doubles teams. Other doubles or mixed doubles substitutes may be permitted before beginning the tournament by notifying the site director.
- **Reminder:** Substitutions may be made for illness, injury, academic ineligibility or if a student is penalized by the school for misconduct or violation of the code of conduct.

Seeding

The regional tournament director has two options for making the draw: 1) draw by lot; 2) seeding.

Regardless of the procedure used, the directors should place the first-place winners and the second-place winners from the same district in opposite brackets.

- **Draw:** The director will draw the names of the players and put them on the unoccupied lines of the bracket in the order in which they are drawn, starting at the top of the bracket and moving downward in sequence. As previously stated, the director should place the first and second place winners from the same districts in opposite brackets.
- **Seeding (in accordance with the USTA):** The tournament director/committee is allowed to seed players at a maximum ratio of one seed for every four players (e.g. with eight players, seed two players; with 16 players, seed four players). The ratings must be justified by a reasonable amount of factual evidence. After the seeded players (and byes if applicable) have been written in, fill in the rest of the draw by drawing names of the remaining players and putting them on the

unoccupied lines in the order in which they are drawn, starting at the top and moving downward in sequence.

State Tournament

Dates

The state tournament will be held May 15-16, 2025.

Schedule

The tennis state tournament schedule can be found on the UIL website [here](#).

Pairings

The UIL staff will conduct a drawing to determine the pairings. A (#1) region winner will play a (#2) region runner-up in the first round. Seeding will not be used, therefore seeding information is not needed or required. The draw will be random and regional representatives placed in opposite halves of the bracket.

Substitution

Before the tournament has begun, a substitute may be made by the qualifying school in tennis doubles or mixed doubles but not in singles. A school may not substitute for a singles player, an entire doubles team or an entire mixed doubles team. The alternate single, doubles or mixed doubles must be used. If at all possible, call the League 23 office prior to Monday afternoon regarding changes in doubles teams or mixed doubles. Other doubles or mixed doubles substitutes may be permitted before beginning the tournament by notifying the site director. Reminder: Substitution may be made for illness, injury or academic ineligibility or if a student is penalized by the school for misconduct or violation of the code of conduct.

Balls

UIL will furnish balls for all matches at the state tournament. They will be the Pro Penn Marathon Extra Duty.

Awards

Upon qualifying for the state tournament please submit the total number of players and coaches that will represent your team at the state meet. Awards shall be distributed at the tennis tournament at the conclusion of the match. Site directors will present the awards.

Off-Season Regulations (see Individual Sport General Manual)

- Summer Strength & Conditioning & Sport Specific Instruction
- Off-Season Strength & Conditioning (during the school year)
- School Sponsored Camps
- Non-school Leagues, Camps & Clinics