



SOFTBALL MANUAL



2020 ♡ 2021

UILTEXAS.ORG

~UIL PERSONNEL~

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~Notice of Non-Discrimination~

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs. See Section 360, Non-Discrimination Policy, *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*. <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/constitution/general/nondiscrimination>

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>
or call 1-800-421-3481
or contact OCR in Dallas, Texas -
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U.S. Department of Education
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PURPOSE | To acquaint softball coaches and administrators with the policies, rules, procedures, and forms necessary for proper enforcement of regulations for softball, and to insure a better opportunity for coaches to have first-hand information.

LIMITATIONS | This manual does not cover all rules. The Constitution and Contest Rules is the official UIL rulebook and covers information more detailed than does this manual. Coaches should confer with their principals and superintendents if there are questions concerning the rules.

NOTE | Questions concerning the UIL Softball Plan and eligibility requirements found in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules should be directed to Brandy Belk at the UIL office.

~SOFTBALL CALENDAR & UIL RULE CHANGES~

2020-21

January 22	First day for practice
January 30	First day for interschool scrimmages
February 15	First day for playing interschool games
April 27	<u>District Certification Deadline</u>
May 1	<u>Bi-District Deadline</u>
May 8	<u>Area Deadline</u>
May 15	<u>Regional Quarterfinal Deadline</u>
May 22	<u>Regional Semifinal Deadline</u>
May 29	<u>Regional Playoff Deadline</u>
June 2-5	<u>STATE TOURNAMENT</u>

UIL RULE CHANGES

GENERAL

- **Coaches Certification Program (CCP)** - The CCP consists of both UIL and state law requirements and requires a coach to complete the prescribed components on a yearly basis, prior to their sport season. Completion of the CCP will recognize coaches as UIL certified coaches. All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program prescribed by the UIL prior to their sport season or prior to the first day of school if their sport is not in season. A coach who is hired less than one week prior to the start of the sport season or after the first day of school (whichever is earlier) must complete the CCP within thirty (30) days of being hired.
- **Physicals** – For the 2020-21 school year only, any participant in athletics or marching band, in any grade level, who has not previously completed a preparticipation physical examination (PPE), and been cleared for participation, will be required to complete the medical history form as noted below, as well as a PPE prior to participation in any UIL practices, games, performances, or matches.
- **Practice Regulations** – Sessions for strength & conditioning instruction may be conducted in the offseason by school coaches for students in grades 7-12 from that coaches attendance zone starting the first day of school. A strength and conditioning session shall be no more than one hour per day outside the school day, Monday through Friday, and a student shall attend no more than one session of supervised instruction per day.
- **Officials Fees** -
- **Eligibility (1st six weeks)** –
 - (a) Grades Nine and Below. Students must have been promoted from the previous grade. (Refer to Official Interpretation 01-09-18 Appendix I).
 - (b) SECOND Year of HIGH School. Two and one-half accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements.
 - (c) THIRD Year of HIGH School. Ten accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least two and one-half credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.
 - (d) FOURTH Year of HIGH School. Fifteen accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least two and one-half credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.

SPORT SPECIFIC

- **Baseball and Softball** – Will not have rule changes for 2021.

Unless noted otherwise, effective August 1, 2020 (update)

~SOFTBALL RULES BY STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION~

1-1-2 Note By state association adoption the pitching distance shall be 50' when using a 12" ball.

- **This rule applies to female slow pitch. UIL rules for the pitching distance shall be 40' 43' for female fast pitch.**

1-2-1 Note A double first base is permitted. (8-10)

- **UIL permits but does not require.**

1-3-3 Note By state association adoption, an 11-inch softball shall be used in girls slow pitch. (1-1-2a)

- **The UIL does not offer girls slow pitch softball.**

3-2-1 State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons.

- **UIL allows, only with prior approval.**

3-2-4 By state association adoption, the for special occasions, a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey.

- **UIL allows. Not to exceed 2 ¼".**

3-3-7 (S.P.): By state association adoption, a team may use an 11th player called an Extra Player, EP.

- **UIL does not offer girls slow pitch softball.**

4-2-3 By state association adoption, game-ending procedures may be determined.

- **Unless District Executive Committee specified otherwise in writing prior to the season, UIL follows NFHS game ending procedures. In playoffs, all games will be played to completion.**

4-2-3 Note 2: By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings. Current state association game-ending procedures still apply.

- **UIL does not allow.**

4-2-6 By state association adoption, the tie-breaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association.

- **UIL schools play extra innings until a winner is determined.**

4-3-1a State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and / or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.

- **UIL leaves this to the discretion of the local DEC.**

4-4-1 It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted.

- **UIL accepts no protests of an official's decision.**

5-2-1b Note: After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or by state association adoption, suspended.

- **Unless District Executive Committee specified otherwise in writing prior to the season, UIL follows NFHS game ending procedures. In playoffs, all games will be played to completion.**
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~ 2020-21 NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES~

***There will be no NFHS rule changes for the 2021 season due to COVID-19, 2020 NFHS rule books will be used for the 2021 season ***

(see 2020 softball rule changes below)

2020 Softball Rule Changes

1-5-1e, 2-4, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE: Damaged bats are defined.

Rationale: Clarifies that a damaged bat is removed from the game without penalty.

6-1-1: Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Rationale: Clarifies that the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate, rather than on the top surface of the pitcher's plate.

9-1-1 EXCEPTION c: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by the preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.

Rationale: Clarifies that on any appeal play, a run is not scored if the third out is made by a preceding runner.

2020 SOFTBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-1-7: Clarifies that game management or a state administrator may establish a dead-ball media area within the confines of the field, but that area will remain a dead ball area throughout the game.

1-5-1d: Updates to add the new USA Softball All Games certification mark.

8-4-3d PENALTY: Clarifies that the batter-runner, not the batter is awarded bases when a fielder intentionally contacts the ball with detached equipment.

2020 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-2-3, 2-22-4, 2-57-3, 3-4-1c, 7-1-2 PENALTY 2

2020 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Bat certification marks and USA Softball's list of Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks
2. Damaged bat vs. illegal bat penalties
3. Contact with the pitcher's plate
4. Inspection of equipment

~SOFTBALL PLAN~

Excerpt from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules

Section 1280: GIRLS' SOFTBALL PLAN.

(a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls' Softball Plan.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.** Only girls eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution may try out for and participate under the high school Girls' Softball Plan.

(c) **NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.**

- (1) *Violations/Penalties.* The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.
- (2) *Total Number of Games.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 softball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools may schedule a warm-up game in addition to the game limits. This additional game shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.
- (3) *Exception to Resolve District Ties.*
 - (A) *Two Schools Tied.* To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.
 - (B) *Three or More Schools Tied.* If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season. See Section 1203.
- (4) *Invitational Tournament Restrictions.*
 - (A) No team shall participate in an invitational softball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.
 - (B) *Tournament Restriction.* Softball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.
- (5) *Site of Game.* The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams. (6) *Exception for Rescheduled Games.* District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. 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.

(d) **PLAYING DATES.**

- (1) *Off-Season Limitations.* There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, until the 19th Friday prior to the State Softball Tournament, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs.
- (2) *Scrimmages.* Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per week, Monday through Saturday. Scrimmages are subject to the one contest per school week limitation.
- (3) *Games.* Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament.
- (4) *School Equipment.* It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.
- (5) *Non-School Participation.* See 1209.

(e) **TIES: DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES.** Unless otherwise specified by District Executive Committee minutes prior to the beginning of the season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(f) **GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION.** If a district or non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(g) **POST-SEASON PLAYOFFS.**

- (1) *Day of Playoff Game.* Playoff games shall not be played before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent.
- (2) *Playoff.* Playoffs 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.

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- (3) *Two-out-of-Three Series*. If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game (3) 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.
 - (4) *State Tournament*. All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.
 - (5) *Disputes*. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. See Section 1208 (o).
 - (6) *Gate Receipts From State Tournament*. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state softball tournament.
 - (7) *Playoff Games*. In playoff games beyond district, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

~PRE-SEASON REGULATIONS~

UIL Coach Education and Training Requirements

All high school coaches must be full-time employees of the school district EXCEPTION: A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may serve as an assistant coach in all athletics and as a head coach for golf, tennis, team tennis, cross country, track and field, and swimming. (This rule shall not affect the status of a coach on a leave of absence attending college.) Also, student teachers, while they are assigned to a participant school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting athletic coaches.

Texas Education Code Requirements (State law)

- TEC Chapter 33.086 - Certification - CPR and First Aid Training
 - Athletic coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleading sponsors and other head directors of UIL extra-curricular activities must have a current certification filed with the district.
- TEC Chapter 22.902 - Certification - AED Training
 - Athletic coaches and sponsors, school nurses, PE teachers, marching band directors, and students that serve as an athletic trainer must have a current certification filed with the district.
- TEC Chapter 33.202 - Annual Requirement – Safety Training
 - Training provided by UIL within the Rules Compliance Program (RCP).
 - Athletic coaches must complete prior to contact with students.
- TEC Chapter 38.158 - Annual Requirement - Concussion Training (2 hours every other year/1 hour annually)
 - Athletic coaches, athletic trainers and potential members of the Concussion Oversight Team must complete the training annually.

Coaches Certification Program (CCP)

The CCP consists of both UIL and state law requirements and requires a coach to complete the prescribed components on a yearly basis. Completion of the CCP will recognize coaches as UIL certified coaches. All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program prescribed by the UIL prior to their sport season or prior to the first day of school if their sport is not in season. A coach who is hired less than one week prior to the start of the sport season or after the first day of school (whichever is earlier) must complete the CCP within thirty (30) days of being hired.

Required CCP Modules:

- 1) Constitution & Contest Rules
- 2) Ethics
- 3) UIL Steroid Education
- 4) Safety Training (state law)
- 5) Concussion Training (state law)
- 6) Sport Specific Training - each sport has a sport specific CCP module
- 7) **Football coaches only – Best Practices in Tackling (Atavus)** certification that will be required for all first-year football coaches and for all football coaches once every two years. All football coaches that are first time coaches in Texas are required to have this certification completed by August of 2020.
- 8) **First Year Coaches Only - Fundamentals of Coaching in Texas** – required for first year coaches (or JH volunteers) or coaches in their first year to coach in the state of Texas.
- 9) **Cheerleading Coach/Sponsor only - Safety/Risk Minimization for Cheerleading Course**
 - Must have a current certification or annual training completed prior to contact with participants.
 - Districts shall determine the organization that will provide the certification or training. Resources are available but not limited to those on the link from UIL web site.
http://www.uiltexas.org/files/health/Cheerleading_Safety_FAQs.pdf

Eligibility for Athletic Contests

Eligibility rules are found in Section 400 and 440 of the Constitution and Contest Rules. Any question regarding a student's eligibility, should be addressed to the school principal and/or superintendent. Residence requirements according to Sections 400 (d) 440, and 442 should be thoroughly investigated for any student new to school.

Students are eligible to represent their school in varsity interscholastic activities if they:

- are not 19 years of age or older on or before September 1 of the current scholastic year. (See 504 handicapped exception.)
- have not graduated from high school.
- are enrolled by the sixth class day of the current school year or have been in attendance for fifteen calendar days immediately preceding a varsity contest.
- are full-time day students in a participant high school.
- initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four calendar years ago.
- are meeting academic standards required by state law.
- live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance. (Parent residence applies to varsity athletic eligibility only.) When the parents do not reside inside the district attendance zone the student could be eligible if: the student has been in continuous attendance for at least one calendar year and has not enrolled at another school; no inducement is given to the student to attend the school (for example: students or their parents must pay their room and board when they do not live with a relative; students driving back into the district should pay their own transportation costs); and it is not a violation of local school or TEA policies for the student to continue attending the school. Students placed by the Texas Youth Commission are covered under Custodial Residence (see Section 442 of the Constitution and Contest Rules).
- have observed all provisions of the Awards Rule.
- have not been recruited. (Does not apply to college recruiting as permitted by rule.)
- have not violated any provision of the summer camp rule, Section 1209.
- have observed all provisions of the Athletic Amateur Rule, Section 441.

Limitation on Awards. Schools may give one major award, not to exceed \$70.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the UIL interschool competitions listed in Section 380. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$20.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional UIL activity listed in Section 380. The \$20.00 award may be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity. *A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship.*

Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to non-school participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. (For instance, a race of six miles or longer is not considered to be a cross-country meet, so the Amateur Rule is not applicable to students participating in this type of race.)

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:

- Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning or placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or sellable, and includes such items as t-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.
- Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.
- Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.
- Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team.

Exception:

- Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed prevailing rates for teaching or coaching activities provided they confine the work to teaching or coaching skills.
- Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed prevailing rates for officiating athletic contests.

The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. *The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.*

Student Participation Required Forms

It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uil texas.org/athletics/forms/).

- **Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form - (For 20-21 school year only).** Upon entering the first and third years of high school, a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a State Board

of Physician Assistant Examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners or a doctor of chiropractic is required. Standardized Pre-Participation Physical Examination Forms, available from the UIL office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, are required. **For the 2020-21 school year only**, any participant in athletics or marching band, in any grade level, who has not previously completed a preparticipation physical examination (PPE), and been cleared for participation, will be required to complete the medical history form as noted below, as well as a PPE prior to participation in any UIL practices, games, performances, or matches.

- **Medical History Form.** Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian
- **Parent or Guardian Permit.** Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian.
- **Rules Acknowledgment Form.** Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
- **Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form.** The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.
- **Concussion Acknowledgement Form.** Annual UIL Concussion Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.** Annual UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.

Varsity Participation Required Forms

It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required forms. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uil texas.org/athletics/forms).

- **Eligibility Form.** Schools must submit comprehensive eligibility forms for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, and soccer. For all other athletic activities, a general alphabetical listing of eligible athletes is required. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school's office. Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be postmarked before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest. Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.
- **Previous Athletic Participation Form.** New students in grades 9-12 who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest or practice in grades 8-12 in any previous school year must have a Previous Athletic Participation Form completed prior to participation in a varsity contest at the new school.
- **Late Forms.** If an eligibility form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the district executive committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of private reprimand to the school.
- **Foreign Exchange Students.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the Constitution, foreign exchange students in approved CSIET foreign exchange programs are allowed to apply for exceptions to the residence rule through the UIL waiver process. A waiver could be granted in certain activities if they have not received advanced training or have not had extensive experience in the activity of their choice. Foreign exchange students are not eligible for varsity athletic participation unless they are granted a Foreign Exchange Student Waiver.
- **Varsity Athletic Eligibility for Over-Age Student.** Subject to the other eligibility rules of the UIL Constitution, an individual is eligible to participate in a League varsity athletic contest as a representative of a participant school if that individual is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest; or has been granted eligibility based on a handicapping condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year and the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD Committee or has been identified as a 504 student prior to the end of their second year in high school (effective for entering ninth graders in the current school year).

Practice Regulations – Outside of The School Year

Practice regulations for sports that practice outside of

the school year are as follows-

- Students-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
- Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
- The maximum length of any single practice session is three hours.
- 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.
- **Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days. (Exception - Volleyball)**

When determining how to count times spent as "practice activities" please consult the following pre-season chart:

<u>What Counts</u>	<u>What Doesn't Count</u>
Actual on field/ court practice	Meetings
Sport specific skill instruction	Weight training*
Mandatory conditioning	Film study
Water breaks	Injury treatment
Rest breaks	Voluntary conditioning*

*Does not count towards practice time, but cannot be done during the two-hour rest/recovery time.

In reference to the minimum TWO-hour rest/ recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is scheduled), there can be no practice activities at all during this time. This time is exclusively for students to rest/ recover for the following practice session, whether that session is an actual on field/ court practice or a mandatory conditioning period.

Practice Regulations – When School Is In Session

- Eight Hour Rule – Practice outside the school day, from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays), is limited to a maximum of eight hours per school week, per activity.
- **Sessions for strength & conditioning instruction** may be conducted in the offseason by school coaches for students in grades 7-12 from that coaches attendance zone starting the first day of school. A strength and conditioning session shall be no more than one hour per day outside the school day, Monday through Friday, and a student shall attend no more than one session of supervised instruction per day.
- The in-school athletic period does not count towards the allotted 8 hours.
- Any time used in connection with a practice that is not part of the athletic period counts as part of the 8 hours. (dress, video/ meetings, etc).

Contest Schedule Rules

The following section combines State Law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules. The Texas Education Agency defines participation as being involved with the activity, traveling with the team, or sitting on the bench. UIL defines participation of a student athlete as actually entering the contest as a player. 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. In other words, that student cannot participate again until Friday after school because of TEA regulations, however that game does not count as one of the allowable games as determined by UIL policy.

Constitution and Contest Rules: Section 5: 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.
19 TAC 97.113 (K)(1)-
- **One contest per school week:** School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by scheduling no more than one contest or performance per activity per student. *Exception: Tournaments and post-season competition, as well as district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
- **Eight-hour practice rule:** School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by limiting practice outside the school day to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity.

Participation.

- (b) (b) SUNDAY PROHIBITION. A UIL member school shall not participate in any athletic contest or conduct any practice or teach any plays, formations or skills on Sunday.
 - (1) Violation. Any showing of films to or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instruction or reviewing of plays, formations or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation.
 - (2) Coaches Sunday Meetings. This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from seeing films or planning an instructional program, provided no athletes are involved in this meeting.
 - (3) Exceptions.
 - (A) Golf. If the regional and/or state golf tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, the one 18-hole practice round allowed at the regional and/or state tournament site may be played on the Sunday afternoon preceding the meet (no earlier than 12:00 noon) if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
 - (B) Tennis. If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to a tennis court for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
 - (C) Cross Country. If the regional and/or state cross country meets are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to the course site for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state director.
- (c) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION ON SUNDAY. Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with prior approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with prior permission from the UIL Athletic Director.

~REGULAR SEASON~

Softball Game Regulations

Number of Contests Allowed (2020-21)

- 0 Tournaments and 26 Games or
- 1 Tournament and 23 Games or
- 2 Tournaments and 20 Games or
- 3 Tournaments and 17 Games

Scrimmages. Teams are limited to two scrimmages (with up to four participating schools) in a calendar week, only one scrimmage is allowed during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday). There is not a limit on the number of weeks teams may scrimmage however, no scrimmages are allowed after a team plays their first interschool game.

Games per Week. Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate.

Doubleheader. a student could play two back-to-back varsity games or in a varsity and junior varsity game, at the same site the same night. Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season. Six total games are allowed in a tournament, no more than three games in a day.

Tournaments. Tournaments may be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Two-day tournaments can be held on Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday; one-day tournaments can only be held on Saturday.

Playing Rules. All games will be for seven innings (unless tied). The National Federation Softball Rules, published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall govern all games. See UIL calendar for playoff dates. To order a rule book contact NFHS Customer Service, PO Box 361246, Indianapolis, IN 46236-5324; Phone 800-776-3462 or Fax 317-899-7496.

Practice/Game Balls. Each team is responsible for its own practice and game balls for the season. Teams are not required to use the state sponsored softball (Dudley Thunder Heat) until the state tournament.

Pregame Warm-up. It is recommended that batting practice be eliminated and that each team be given 10 minutes for infield and outfield workouts prior to each game.

Coaching Boxes. Student players and coaches in uniform or coaching attire, representing school colors, may occupy the coaching boxes.

Pitching Regulation. The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with, but not off the side of the pitcher's plate. The pitching distance is 43 feet. (Please refer to NFHS rules).

Player Ejection - Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

- Team Sports (volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball). Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game. Soccer Exception. This Section does not alter the current point penalty structure for soccer player ejections, as required by National Federation of State High School Associations soccer playing rules, that is outlined in the soccer coaches' manual.

Coach Ejection – In addition to the penalty imposed by the local school district on a coach who is ejected from a game, the Automatic Minimum Penalty is discussed in [Section 1208: Athletic Regulations](#) of the Constitution & Contest Rules

- The automatic penalty for a coach who is ejected from a contest *who is not current* on their UIL Coaches Certification Program is suspension in the next contest.

Head Protectors. All players must wear head protectors when batting and when on the base paths.

Ten-Run Rule. The ten-run rule will be in effect for all games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead.)

Fifteen-Run Rule. By District Executive Committee approval, schools may use the fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings of play in district play. In non-district play, mutual consent of both schools is needed.

Resolving Ties in Win-Loss Percentage. Districts should outline procedures (before the season begins) for determining playoff representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined (in writing) to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win-loss percentage. Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams or more are tied for the district runner-up spot.

Game Called Before Completion. If a district and non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest “no game.” Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

Postponement. District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next available date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. 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.

Warm-Up Games – Teams that have advanced to the playoffs may schedule a warm-up game after the District Certification Date that is set by the UIL calendar and before their first playoff game if a team has not reached their allowable season limit. School week limitations still apply. **Note: Prior to district certification, games left in a team’s allowable season limit may be scheduled like any other regular season game.**

- Exception – Warm-up games for teams who have exhausted their season limit are given a UIL exception under the following conditions:
 - Teams that are a 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.

Scheduling on Nights Prior to Exams (STAAR). The UIL recommends not scheduling contests on nights prior to exams (STAAR).

Scheduling on Sunday. Schools shall not play or practice on Sunday. Do not begin a game that cannot be completed before midnight Saturday. Do not start an inning that cannot be finished before midnight Saturday.

Officials

Please refer to the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1204 on the UIL website (<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/category/constitution-athletics>), for the latest information regarding officials (fee schedule, tournament fees, travel reimbursement, mileage calculator, scrimmage fees, other allowable expenses, scratch form, evaluation form, FAQs, etc.).

Assignment of Officials Out of the UIL Office

- Member schools shall use registered officials in all varsity contests.
- Neutral Officials: In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral officials who have no affiliation with either school.
- The two schools have the right to “scratch” any chapters or officials they wish. However, the UIL office urges the use of discretion in scratching entire chapters or areas.
 - Notification: When names of officials are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall immediately notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement.
- To request officials from the UIL office, go to <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php> and complete the Softball Officials Assignment Request Form. This form will go directly to the UIL office, and all correspondence will be via email.
- After the schools have indicated officials and/or chapters they do not want, the UIL office then contacts a chapter not scratched and requests officials. **Schools are not permitted to talk with representatives of the chapter once they have agreed for the League to assign officials.**
- Once the officials have been assigned out of the UIL office, the schools may not request a change in the assignment and must pay the assigned officials if they are not used, unless:
 - a. The UIL office makes a mistake by contacting a chapter which the schools have indicated they do not want.
 - b. Communication problems between the school which contacted the UIL and the opponent results in officials being assigned from a chapter which one school had scratched.

- The UIL recommends that officials or chapters not acceptable be written down at the meeting, reviewed by each school to see if the list is complete and accurate, and signed by school authorities from both schools. This should be a part of the contract procedure and a copy retained by each school.
- Once a game has begun there shall be no protest based on the selection of game officials. Beginning a contest constitutes agreement.
- Payment of officials (for all games other than tournament games) shall be according to Section 1204 in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. <https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/officials-fee-schedule>

Allowable Contests

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. * Exception: District varsity contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be scheduled during the school week, but must be rescheduled and played on the next available date following the postponement in order to be played as an exception.

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. * Exception: District varsity contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be scheduled during the school week, but must be rescheduled and played on the next available date following the postponement in order to be played as an exception.

Post-season competition may also be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. **School week means the week beginning at 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week (defined as 12:01 am on Sunday through midnight on Saturday) 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.

Scrimmages and Games. The school is limited to one scrimmage (with up to four participating schools) during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday).

Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate. A school could play on Tuesday and after school on Friday, in addition to a Thursday/Friday/Saturday tournament during the same calendar week.

UIL/TEA Side-by-Side. UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. For UIL, participation is defined as a student actually entering a contest. Example: On Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook, but the student remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This does not count as participation in a UIL contest according to UIL (but does count according to state law. The student cannot participate again until Friday after school). The Tuesday game does not count as one of the games UIL permits the student to participate in for that calendar week or for the season because the student did not enter the game.

Baseball/Softball:

- a single game: or
- a double header (a student could play two back-to-back varsity games or in a varsity and junior varsity game, at the same site same night).

Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season. Students may play additional games at the conclusion of that school week, because UIL does not limit the number of games per calendar week in these two team sports.

District Certification

- The DEC shall determine the place and/or time of games in case of disagreement between two schools.
- If not previously scheduled, a district executive committee may authorize a single elimination game or tournament to resolve district ties. A one-game play-off could break a two-way tie. A single elimination tournament could resolve a tie between three or more schools.

NOTE: These games must be completed by the district certification deadline and will not count against the allowable games if not previously scheduled. Tie-breakers must be held in compliance with calendar week and school week restrictions. If the district executive committee schedules any other games or tournaments as part of their method for determining play-off representatives, the games played must count in the season limitation.

- The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between districts.

Guarantees for Contests

- In district and non-district games / matches, unless there is mutual agreement or a district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
- In play-off games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- A demand of a flat guarantee, which is clearly in excess of expenses, shall upon action of the district or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting team's expenses shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.
- Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services, and printing incidental to the contest, shall be considered as expenses of the game. The number of persons allowed upon expense accounts shall be agreed upon by school administrators of teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team shall furnish a playing field or court without cost to the visiting school.

Videotaping/Filming

Non-Conference and District Contests

- 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. The use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

Pep Bands & Noisemakers

- The UIL does allow "pep" bands (up to 30 members) to play at softball games during pre-game, time-outs, in between innings, and post-game. Musical instruments may not be used as noisemakers during the contest. The "pep" band shall not be located behind or near the opposition's dugout.
- If a "pep" band does perform the following guidelines should be followed to ensure a full appreciation of the group's performance. Band directors are reminded that as a courtesy to the teams and cheerleaders of both schools, performances by the band should be limited to appropriate times.

Forms and Reporting

Eligibility Form. Schools must submit a comprehensive eligibility form. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school's office. The eligibility forms should not be sent to the UIL office.

UIL Playoff Reporting - Teams Advancing. 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 <http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps>.

~SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS~

Round Robin

Pool Play

Traditional

	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Pool Play</u>	<u>Round Robin</u>
Number of Teams:	No limit	No limit	No Limit
Site:	Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tournament, prelim matches may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)	Host ISD or adjoining ISD (If no more than 8 schools in tournament, prelim round games may be played at home site of any school in tourney.)	Same or adjoining ISD unless additional sites are needed for prelims.
Days:	Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.	Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.	Thursday, Friday, Saturday (unless school is not in session) A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. One-day tournaments shall be scheduled on Saturday.
Game Limit/Make-ups:	If a semifinal Game is played, count as tournament. If not reaching semifinals, early games could count on season game and tournament limit if less than 3 games are played. • 1 GAME PLAYED – Teams will count game towards season total and add a tournament • 2 GAMES PLAYED – Teams will count the tournament and add 1 game to season limit. If Final game is played later, it must be counted on a season game and tournament limit.	If three or more games are played, count as tournament. If not reaching three games, early games could count on season game and tournament limit. • 1 GAME PLAYED – Teams will count game towards season total and add a tournament • 2 GAMES PLAYED – Teams will count the tournament and add 1 game to season limit.	Maximum: 6
Contests per Day:	Three games	No Limit	Three games
Length of Matches:	Regulation	4-inning in pools, extra inning for ties only (Regulation after advancing from pool)	Regulation
Count per UIL Season Limitation:	One of the allowed tournaments	One of the allowed tournaments	One of the allowed tournaments
Place Standing in Tournament:	N/A	Determined by win-loss record during which each team in pool plays each other	Win-loss record
Effects on Win-Loss Record:	Count all regulation matches	Only count regulation games in single elimination bracket. (Pool games do not count on season record if they are only 4 innings).	Count all regulation games
Round Robin Ties:	N/A	N/A	Ties will be broken by sudden death as determined by director.

~POST SEASON~

Playoff Information

Certification of District Representatives. The last dates for certifying the district champions to the League office is **April 27, 2021**. It is mandatory that the District Chair certifies the district representatives on the UIL website at <https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=36> as soon as they are determined.

Post-Season Warm-Up Games – Teams that have advanced to the playoffs may schedule a warm-up game after the District Certification Date that is set by the UIL calendar and before their first playoff game if a team has not reached their allowable season limit. School week limitations still apply. **Note: Scheduling games prior to district certification, games left in a team's allowable season limit may be scheduled like any other regular season game.**

- Exception – Warm-up games for teams who have exhausted their season limit are given a UIL exception under the following conditions:
 - o Teams that are district champions **and** have a first round bye.
 - o 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.

Pre-Planning.

- Details of all playoff games from bi-district to state shall be arranged by the two teams involved. This includes site selection. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin (Note: Unless mutually agreed, all games shall be played at a midpoint site for schools located more than 100 miles apart and neutral sites cannot be more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.)
- 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 Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent of both schools (ie. to play Monday or Tuesday both coaches would both have to agree, all other days can be determined by a coin flip).
- In a series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday (ie. game 1 Wednesday and game 2 Thursday **OR** a doubleheader on Wednesday **OR** a doubleheader on Thursday). Game 3, if necessary cannot be played prior to Friday.
- National Federation Rules will be followed for all play-off games.
- All games will be played to completion of seven innings.
- In all play-off games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

UIL Playoff Reporting – Teams Advancing.

- 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.

Team Information & Pictures. Teams winning the regional quarterfinal game must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than **Wednesday, May 19th**:

- Team Information Form (list of players, coaches, etc.; and list of all games played) – fill out online on the UIL website at <https://www.uiltexas.org/forms/team-info-softball>
- 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.

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

Sites. Sites for all rounds of playoffs prior to the regional tournament are to be selected by the teams involved. 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, team tennis, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

Playoff Game Regulations

SINGLE ELIMINATION OR TWO-OUT-OF-THREE SERIES

- 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.
 - District Champions (1-seed) have the choice of a single elimination or a two-out-of-three series in the first round of playoffs.
- If a school's play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game three shall not be played until Friday. Please refer to the C&CR, Section 1280 (h) for rules regarding two-out-of-three game series.
- 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.
- 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.
- If one game is played and a second game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather, then the winner of the 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, then the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

RAIN (BAD WEATHER POLICY)

- 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 field. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another field 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.
- A playoff game suspended / delayed by rain shall be restarted from the point of suspension as soon as possible as outlined in rule 4-2-5 of the National Federation Softball Rules.

Certification of Regional Champion. The last dates for certifying the regional champions to the UIL office is **May 29, 2021**. A representative from each winning team should contact Brandy Belk at (512) 635-6634.

Police protection. Adequate police protection should be provided for all playoff games, whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home court of one of the teams.

Officials. In all conferences at all playoff levels, except regional tournaments and state tournaments, 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 online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php>

State Tournament

Schools Eligible to Compete. Only the teams qualifying through the regional tournament are eligible to compete in the state tournament.

Site and Dates. Red McCombs Softball Field, University of Texas at Austin, 2001 Comal St., Austin TX 78705; **June 2-5, 2021.**

Certification. Call or text Brandy Belk at (512) 635-6634 on Saturday, May 30 after the final regional game to let us know that your team has qualified to the state tournament. **Please leave your team name, the score of your regional final games, updated pitching records, batting averages and an updated season record through the regional finals.**

Pairings for the Tournament. *The UIL staff will be calling or emailing coaches on Sunday morning with pairings and tournament information. Be sure and fill out the team information form on the UIL website. The coach's home and/or cell number from the team information form will be used to contact the coach.* Pairings will not be released until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. This information will be posted on the UIL website via a press release as well. Teams will be placed in the bracket according to their win/loss record. The two best records will be placed in opposite halves of the bracket and the third best record will be placed up or down as determined by a coin flip.

Coaches' Meeting. All information concerning the state tournament will be sent to winning coaches via email Sunday morning. Medal and awards forms should be given to UIL staff prior to the state tournament. There will not be a coaches' meeting at the state tournament.

State Equipment. The official game ball for the State Softball Tournament will be the Dudley Heat.

Lodging Instructions. The UIL will block fifteen (15) rooms per school. A UIL Staff member will contact you with additional details and hotel assignments on Sunday prior to the tournament. Schools should contact the UIL assigned hotel by 10 am on Monday prior to the tournament to avoid loss of rooms.

The League cannot guarantee rooms for cheerleaders, administrators, fans, etc. Please bring your tax-exempt number to avoid paying tax. Please settle your lodging before checking out. Coaches are responsible for the proper conduct of their players at the hotels.

Officials. In all conferences, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved for the semifinal game at the state tournament. The UIL will select officials for the final games of the state tournament. If neutral officials are requested through UIL, the **home team** must make the request. Schools must go to the UIL website to request officials online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/softball.php>

Rebates. All funds collected from admissions at the state tournament in excess of the amount necessary to defray the incidental expenses of the tournament shall be prorated up to 100 percent to the contesting teams on the basis of mileage, both ways.

- Fifteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the League office to cover officials' expenses and other expenses incurred.
- If after rebate on expenses there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be divided among the schools participating in the tournament and will be received in late summer after the tournament audit.

Filming. The UIL will contract with a video production company and schools will receive a free videotape of games. Extra copies may be purchased. No schools and/or individuals will be allowed to film and/or videotape. Still cameras will be permitted.

Radio Broadcasting and Telecasting. The UIL media department will be in charge of broadcasting and telecasting rights for the state tournament games and may be contacted at 512-471-5883.

Bat Check Procedures (State Tournament)

Prior to a team's first game, the below procedures must be followed.

1. Bats are to be delivered to a central location designated by the UIL.
 - a. Bats should be delivered no earlier than 3 hours prior to the scheduled contest unless playing in the first scheduled game of the day. Games that are scheduled at the beginning of each day must have bats checked in 2 hours prior to game time.
 - b. Approved bats will be returned to teams 1.5 to 2 hours prior to game time.
 - c. Following the semi-final game, a team could get new bats inspected prior to the championship game.
2. Trained Inspectors will conduct the bat test
 - a. Each bat will be inspected by:
 - i. Site and touch
 - ii. An inspection ring placed over the bat to insure the barrel is symmetrical and free from flat spots, dents, and/or ridges
 - iii. A "Barrel Compression" tester
3. If bat passes the above tests, a sticker is placed on the bat handle, which indicates the bat is legal for the entire 2020 UIL State Softball Tournament.
4. No bat without a sticker will be allowed for competition play.
5. A player who comes to bat with an illegal bat will be penalized according to NFHS rule along with his/her Head Coach. Any bat without a sticker is considered illegal.
6. A bat that fails the inspection test will be kept by the UIL and will be returned at the completion of the teams' participation in the tournament. A team representative would need to come to the designated bat check location to pick up the bats once their tournament has concluded.

2021 UIL Softball State Tournament Schedule:

WEDNESDAY, June 2nd

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	2A Semifinal	McCombs Field
12:00 pm	2A Semifinal	McCombs Field
3:00 pm	3A Semifinal	McCombs Field
6:00 pm	3A Semifinal	McCombs Field

THURSDAY, June 3rd

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	4A Semifinal	McCombs Field
12:00 pm	4A Semifinal	McCombs Field
3:00 pm	2A Final	McCombs Field
6:00 pm	3A Final	McCombs Field

FRIDAY, June 4th

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	5A Semifinal	McCombs Field
12:00 pm	5A Semifinal	McCombs Field
3:00 pm	6A Semifinal	McCombs Field
6:00 pm	6A Semifinal	McCombs Field

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
11:00 am	1A Semifinal	UMHB
2:00 pm	1A Semifinal	UMHB

SATURDAY, JUNE 5th

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
9:00 am	1A Final	McCombs Field
12:00 pm	4A Final	McCombs Field
3:00 pm	5A Final	McCombs Field
6:00 pm	6A Final	McCombs Field

~QUICK LINKS~

Below are links to help you find information pertaining to UIL Rules and Regulations.

Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR). The UIL Constitution and Contest Rules are the official rules that govern all UIL-sponsored activities and also define the direction, function and purpose of the League.

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution>

TEA-UIL Side-by-Side. The UIL publishes this document to provide member schools notice of the Texas Education Agency, which relate to UIL and all other extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district.

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>

Booster Club Guidelines. This document provides guidelines, which govern all booster club activities related to UIL-sponsored competition. Since the UIL regulates and governs what participants, sponsors, and coaches may and may not accept, it is very important booster club members and parents are aware of these guidelines.

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/guidelines-for-booster-clubs>

Softball Plan – Section 1280 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1280.pdf>

Employment of Coaches. Section 1202 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1200-1203.pdf>

Athletic Eligibility. Section 1205 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1205-1206.pdf>
- <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/eligibility>

School Practice and Game Restrictions. Section 1206 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1205-1206.pdf>
- <https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/summer-strength-conditioning>
- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/Non-School.pdf>

Rules Violations and Penalties. Section 1207 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1207-1210.pdf>

Athletic Regulations. Section 1208 of the C&CR

- <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1207-1210.pdf>



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