

Subchapter C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PLAN

NOTE: Rules that list the sport or sports to which they apply shall apply only to the sport(s) listed.

Section 1200: PURPOSES OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The purposes of the athletic program for the member schools are:

- (a) to assist, advise and aid the member schools in organizing and conducting interschool athletics;
- (b) to devise and prepare eligibility rules that will equalize and stimulate wholesome competition between schools of similar size, and reinforce the curriculum;
- (c) to regulate competition so that students, schools and communities can secure the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contests;
- (d) to reinforce the concept to all member schools that athletics is an integral part of the educational program;
- (e) to preserve the game for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the contestant to the game;
- (f) to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
- (g) to promote among the players, schools and communities a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules;
- (h) to forward the concept of accepting decisions of sports officials without protest and treating officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition; and
- (i) to provide rules and regulations designed to promote and ensure the health and safety of all participants.

Section 1201: ATHLETIC CODES

The Athletic Code and the Athletic Code for Coaches carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of these codes will be subject to penalty.

- (a) THE ATHLETIC CODE. The general Athletic Code means to:
 - (1) Play the game in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules, both in letter and intent.
 - (2) Coach and sponsor the teams and individuals without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules, or any unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles.

- (3) Accept decisions of sports and school officials without protest and without questioning their honesty or integrity, and extend protection and courtesy to sports officials from participants, school personnel and spectators remembering that officials are guests.
- (4) Regard opponents as guests, putting clean play and good sportsmanship above victory at any cost. Win without boasting and lose without bitterness. Victory is important, but the most important thing in sports is striving to excel and the positive feelings it fosters between those who play fair and have no excuse when they lose. The development of positive human relations should be stressed in all competition.
- (5) Remember that conduct that berates, intimidates, or threatens competitors has no place in interscholastic activities.
- (6) Provide information or evidence as soon as possible regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to the local administration, then to the proper District Executive Committee. To withhold information is considered dishonorable and contrary to good sportsmanship. Schools guilty of violating this section may be subject to penalty as described in Sections 27 and 29, including disqualification from district honors in the germane activity. Covered school district personnel guilty of violating this section may be subject to the range of penalties as described in Sections 27 and 29.
- (7) Not recruit or entice any student to attend and participate at your school. Any inquiries from students outside your school district or from another high school in a multiple-high school district should be directed to the school superintendent or high school principal.

- (b) THE ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES. The code for athletic sponsors includes the principles described in Subsection (a) and the purposes listed in Section 1200. Further, the coach's code includes:

- (1) Being aware of, understanding and following all rules governing the competition for which the coach is responsible.
- (2) Informing one's immediate supervisor in writing the next school day after a contest if ejected from that contest for unsportsmanlike actions, or, in football, if given two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during one con-

- test, knowing that such conduct requires automatic penalty.
- (3) Treating athletes based on what is best for the education, general welfare and health of the student.
 - (4) Professional loyalty to other coaches.
 - (5) Not removing a team from a contest as a protest.
 - (6) Adhering to in season and out of season practice regulations.
 - (7) Adhering to policies which do not force athletes to specialize or restrict them from participation in other sports.
 - (8) Allowing students to participate in one school sport without requiring, as a prerequisite, participation in another school sport.
 - (9) Abstaining from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student's participation in a camp, clinic, league or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product.
Coaches shall not charge a fee for private instruction to student-athletes during the school year. The restriction on charging fees for private instruction applies only to those students who are:
 - (A) in grades 9-12;
 - (B) from the coach's attendance zone; and
 - (C) participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible.
 - (10) Abstaining from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.
 - (11) Avoiding any coaching practice which would endanger the welfare or safety of any player.
 - (12) Emphasizing the academic progress of all participants by a regular, documented check of their academic standing, both in season and out of season.
 - (13) Scheduling games and practices to avoid unnecessary loss of study or class time.
 - (14) Utilizing the best and most current teaching, coaching and training methods through affiliation with professional associations and publications.
 - (15) Abstaining from any practice that solicits teachers to modify a participant student's grade for eligibility purposes.
 - (16) Avoiding any actions that encourage, condone or tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs by any student-athlete.

- (17) Emphasizing a chemical awareness program that informs and educates students of the damaging effects of anabolic steroids and other illegal drugs.
- (18) Disclosing to opposing schools any known conflict of interest with an assigned sports official prior to a contest.

Section 1202: EMPLOYMENT OF COACHES

(a) HIGH SCHOOL COACHES.

- (1) *Full-Time Employees.* A school is not eligible for UIL competition in an athletic activity unless the head coach and assistant high school coaches are full-time employees of the school board of the school which the team represents.
- (2) *Full-Time Defined.* Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board of the school which the athletic team represents for the whole scholastic or calendar year, and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law. Refer to Official Interpretation 05-08-03, Appendix I.
- (3) *Exceptions.* 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, swimming and wrestling. (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 member school district 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. A full-time substitute who has coached during the school year may be permitted to continue coaching until the UIL competitive year has ended. Example: state baseball playoffs.

- (b) **SOURCE OF PAY.** Schools shall not pay coaches out of gate receipts, or draw the contracts with coaches in such a way as to make it to the financial advantage of a coach to win games. Schools shall not pay to coaches, and coaches shall not accept, funds gathered by a high school booster club or other sources within the school district. Refer to Official Interpretation 09-03-04, Appendix I.

- (c) **SCHOOL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE.** Responsibility for the proper administration, contracts, arrangements, control and scheduling of athletic

contests in all school systems shall be under the supervision of the superintendent or a designated administrator.

- (d) **SALARY: NO BONUS.** A coach's salary shall be fixed at the beginning of the year, and shall include no provisions for bonus. It shall be a violation for a contract to be based upon a percentage of the gate receipts.
- (e) **REGULAR DISBURSEMENT.** The salary of a coach shall be paid from funds under the complete control of the school board and disbursed to the coach in the regular way in which the other salaries are disbursed. A district may comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act by paying a non-exempt employee overtime, provided the rate of pay is set prior to the school year and remains at that same rate throughout the school year.
- (f) **NO FINANCIAL INTEREST IN GAME.** Any contract which makes it to the financial interest of a coach to win a game will be in violation of the spirit of the rule.
- (g) **GIFTS.** If a coach accepts money, products or services in recognition of his/her coaching, other than the items stipulated within his/her employment contract, those items come under Section 481, gift awards rule.
- (h) **PREVIOUS SUSPENSION.** The State Executive Committee shall forfeit any contest won by an individual or school if it finds a school district employee previously suspended under Section 27 participated on behalf of the individual or school in the contest plan while prohibited from doing so under order of the State Executive Committee.
- (i) **COACH OR ADULT SUPERVISOR.** No student shall represent his or her school at any time in connection with interscholastic competition unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed member of the school faculty. **Exception:** A non-school employee may serve as the adult supervisor of students when appointed by the administrator in areas where no coaching/directing takes place. These individuals may provide the transportation to and from the activity and be responsible for the supervision of participants.
- (j) **PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM.** All personnel coaching in grades 7-12 shall sign a Professional Acknowledgment Form prior to the beginning of their tenure at a member school. These forms shall be on file in the superintendent's office.
- (k) **UIL COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**
 - (1) 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.

- (2) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program will be kept on file by the school.
- (l) **COACHES EDUCATION:** All first-year coaches and any coach who is not a full-time employee of the school district **Exception:** Coaches who qualify for the exception under Section 1202 (a) (3) must complete a UIL approved fundamentals of coaching course prior to their participation as a coach for any UIL member school.

Section 1203: DUTIES OF ATHLETIC DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) **DISTRICT ORGANIZATION.** Refer to Section 28 for general responsibilities.
- (b) **PRINCIPLES.** The District Executive Committee shall uphold the principle that high school athletics, when properly controlled, are worthwhile and educational.
- (c) **RECRUITING.** The District Executive Committee shall investigate efforts on the part of any school official or local fan to recruit players. Recruiting is a violation and may subject the school at fault to disqualification. Disqualification may be made by the committee after the school has been given an opportunity to be heard. A school in violation shall remain disqualified for the period of time specified.
- (d) **SCHEDULING.** The District Executive Committee shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the deadline specified in the Official Calendar. Non-district games shall not count on a team's district win/loss percentage.
- (e) **CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.** The District Executive Committee shall certify in writing, eligible district representatives in all athletic activities. The committee shall certify eligible representatives without any conditions attached to this certification. In case of dispute, certification to the UIL office shall be in the form of a written notice naming the eligible schools and shall be signed by the majority of the District Executive Committee members present.
- (f) **DISTRICT DISQUALIFICATION.** All teams in a UIL district shall be disqualified in the playoffs if the District Executive Committee knowingly certifies a team which has used an ineligible player in any district game unless appropriate action has

been taken. Disqualification shall be by the State Executive Committee only upon presentation of sufficient evidence.

- (g) ZONES. Districts which subdivide into zones for team sports shall determine in writing prior to the season the procedure by which they will determine district representatives.
- (h) TIES. The District Executive Committee shall determine in writing prior to the season the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win/loss percentages. If the District Executive Committee has not provided a procedure prior to the season, the following tie-breaker procedures shall apply:
 - (1) *For Team Sports Playing A Single Round-Robin Format.*
 - (A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the highest available seed. The other team will be the lower available seed.
 - (B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage.
 - Step 1: If one of the teams defeated the other two, that team is the highest available seed. The other teams flip to determine the other available seeds.
 - Step 2: If none of the three defeated the other two, flip (odd coin is the highest available seed, the other two flip again to determine the other available seeds).
 - (C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage.
 - Step 1: If one of the teams has defeated the other three, that team is the highest available seed. The other three teams then flip (odd coin wins the highest available seed; second flip determines the other available seeds).
 - Step 2: If none of the four has defeated the other three, the four teams have a blind draw for the available seeds.
 - (D) For football, if the tie involves teams that will advance into different playoff brackets (i.e., Division I, Division II), the teams shall be separated by division prior to implementing tie-breaking procedures.
 - (2) *For Team Sports Playing A Double Round-Robin Format.*
 - (A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. If one team defeated the other team both times in head to head district competition, that team will be the highest avail-

able seed. If the two teams split their head to head district games, the two teams shall play one game or match (if rules permit).

- (B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. A draws bye; B plays C and C wins; C plays A. If A wins, A is the highest available seed, C is the next available seed and B is the lowest available seed. If C wins, C is the highest available seed, A plays B to determine the other available seeds.
 - (C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. Draw for spots. A plays C; B plays D. Winners of the first games play for the highest available seed; losers of the first games play for the other available seeds.
 - (D) More Than Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament.
- (3) Tournaments consisting of more than one day shall be on consecutive days at one site. The District Executive Committee may authorize preliminary round games to be played at additional sites, either within the independent school district where the championship game is to be held or at sites located in an independent school district which adjoins the championship site.
 - (4) Any situation not covered in the above tie-breaker criteria shall be determined by lot. Unless the District Executive Committee specifies otherwise prior to the season, tie games shall count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.
- (i) EXPENSES OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN ALL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. The District Executive Committee has authority to finance its expenses. It is recommended that the district activity assessment for a sport for a school shall not exceed one-half of its regular UIL membership fee.
 - (1) *Delinquent Assessments.* The failure of a school to pay its assessment promptly after having been notified is a violation.
 - (2) *Disqualification.* If a school refuses or fails to pay its assessment, it may be disqualified from participation the current and following year until the amount is paid.
 - (3) *Statement.* At the close of the season, the District Executive Committee shall furnish each participating school in the district a

financial statement showing all receipts and disbursements for the season. Refer to Section 28 (n).

- (j) **EDUCATION REQUIREMENT.** Annually each UIL District Executive Committee member, as assigned for basketball alignment, shall complete training designed by the UIL on the policies and procedures outlined in the *District Executive Committee Handbook*.

Section 1204: SPORTS OFFICIALS

- (a) **AGREEMENT.** All officials must be satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance. However, beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.
- (b) **SPORTS OFFICIALS FOR UIL CONTESTS.** UIL member schools shall use only sports officials registered with the UIL in all varsity contests including playoffs.
 - (1) If UIL registered sports officials are not available for a varsity contest, the involved member schools must receive prior written approval from the UIL Director of Athletics, or his or her designee, to use sports officials who are not currently registered with UIL.
 - (2) In cross-country, golf, swimming and diving, team tennis, tennis, track and field, and wrestling, member schools may select and use non-UIL registered referees (sports officials) for contests.
 - (3) Unless mutually decided otherwise, UIL member schools shall use UIL registered officials for non-varsity games.
- (c) **REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF SPORTS OFFICIALS.** In order to officiate a UIL varsity contest a sports official must:
 - (1) be registered with the UIL in the sports being officiated, and annually provide the UIL with directory information and, as required by law, submit to a criminal background check;
 - (2) be a member in good standing of, and assigned to the contest in a sport for which the official is registered by the local chapter or association of sports officials registered with and recognized by the UIL for that purpose;
 - (3) complete either an initial or a continuing education program regarding UIL rules as prescribed and made available by UIL. Refer to (p)(1) below; and
 - (4) agree to abide by UIL rules, including fee schedules and travel reimbursement guide-

lines for payment by UIL member schools to a sports official.

- (d) **ADMINISTRATION OF REGISTRATION; FEES.** UIL shall, consistent with this section, determine and post on its website the process through which an official may annually register with UIL. UIL may charge and collect a fee from sports officials who initiate UIL's registration process in an amount that has been reasonably determined by UIL to be necessary to cover the cost of administering registration and/or the continuing education program as set forth in subsection (p), below. This amount shall be determined annually by UIL and shall be posted on UIL's website and otherwise made available at other places as UIL determines appropriate.
- (e) **NEUTRAL OFFICIALS.** In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral sports officials.
- (f) **HOST RESPONSIBILITY.** The responsibility to obtain satisfactory sports officials is upon the host school which shall provide names of officials to the visiting school at least 14 days prior to the contest.
- (g) **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.
- (h) **FAILURE TO SHOW; CHAPTER RULES.**
 - (1) If agreed upon officials fail to show, the visiting school shall not be in violation by refusing to play. However, earnest effort should be expended to find officials so that the game may be played without additional travel expenses for team and fans. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the District Executive Committee rules that they have been negligent in contracting and securing officials.
 - (2) A sports official's failure to show after being assigned a contest in a manner consistent with the rules and/or policies of a recognized local chapter or association of sports officials constitutes a violation of UIL rules. Schools shall contact the UIL office and identify the officials who did not show for a contest.
 - (3) A recognized local chapter or association of sports officials shall provide UIL with a copy of their most current governing documents, such as its constitutions, rules and by-laws. Such governing documents shall include, but

are not limited to, rules and/or procedures governing assignment of contests and disciplinary procedures applicable to sports officials who fail to honor a chapter assignment or otherwise violate UIL rules.

(i) **SCRATCHES.**

- (1) After a school has accepted an official, and then scratches the official prior to a contest, the scratching must be in writing and approved by the superintendent, principal, athletic director or other designated representative. Note: Officials shall not be scratched the day of the game, except by mutual consent of both schools. A copy of the letter must be submitted to the other school and the officiating chapter.
- (2) When officials who have been previously agreed upon by both teams are scratched, the school scratching the officials shall pay them the fee they would have received had they worked the game minus any travel expenses and shall also pay the additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.
- (3) UIL discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees.
- (4) Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.
- (5) When officials do not show, or when the previously agreed upon officials do not show and the game has to be rescheduled, the chapter shall be responsible for the rescheduled game fee, unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials.

(j) **PENALTY.** The penalty for failure to provide officials is forfeiture of the game or match. The District Executive Committee shall determine whether or not forfeiture is applicable.

(k) **FEE VIOLATIONS.** The fee listed shall be paid to officials working varsity and sub-varsity contests. If a member school exceeds or pays less than the fee schedule for a contest, the District Executive Committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the fee violation. If the school in question proves an emergency caused the fee violation, the District

Executive Committee does not have to assess a penalty.

(l) **FEE APPROVAL/PAYMENT.** Fees are to be paid by the host school or by the game management as approved by the school. Fees should be paid promptly. Schools that do not pay within 30 days of the contest are subject to the range of penalties listed in Section 29. For contests played prior to or during a school holiday or break, the 30 day period would start the first day school is back in session.

(m) **FLAT FEE SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT.**

- (1) The flat fee schedule and mileage reimbursement, as approved by the Legislative Council, shall be posted on the UIL website.

(n) **OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES.**

- (1) *Lodging.* By agreement of the officials and schools, schools may pay lodging.
- (2) *Ground Transportation.* If prior agreement exists, schools may pay taxi fare, etc., for officials.

(o) **LIMITATION.** No other item shall be included in payment of officials.

(p) **OFFICIALS RULES COMPLIANCE PROGRAM(OCR).**

- (1) *Officials Required To Complete Online Rules Compliance Program.* All officials in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling shall annually complete an online Rules Compliance Program approved by UIL. The Officials Rules Compliance Program (OCR) is a condition of registration as prescribed by this section.
- (2) *Registration List.* UIL shall maintain, verify, and make available to member schools a list of all sports officials registered with UIL.

(q) **REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION.**

- (1) UIL may revoke or suspend UIL registration of a sports official determined by UIL to have violated the provisions of *UIL Constitution and Contest* rules governing sports officials or other UIL policy applicable to sports officials. Except in cases arising from criminal background checks, before UIL may take action to revoke or suspend a sports official's registration, UIL shall:
 - (A) notify and consult with the local chapter or association of sports officials of which the sports official is a member;
 - (B) allow the local chapter or association 15 days after the date notice is received from the UIL to take action to adjudicate the alleged violation; and

- (C) if after the 15th day following the date notice is received from UIL the local chapter or association has failed to take action against the sports official or takes action UIL finds to be insufficient, UIL may refer the matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee to consider action against the sports official through a process adopted by the committee. The process adopted shall include provisions for providing notice to the sports official in question of the allegations made and any relevant evidence as well as an opportunity for the sports official, either in writing or in person, to present his or her case to the committee.
 - (D) UIL shall advise both the sports official and the local chapter or association of sports officials in writing of any decisions and any actions taken against the sports official by the UIL Sports Officials Committee, along with any supporting evidence relied upon in reaching a decision. UIL shall maintain copies of the decisions of the UIL Sports Officials Committee for purposes of establishing precedent and guidance to local chapters or associations in regard to actions and sanctions.
- (2) *Revocation or Suspension of Registration*
- (A) Criminal Background Checks. Criminal background checks as described below, a sports official may be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working at a UIL game or event based on the information revealed by a criminal background check or for failure to report convictions as required under this section. A sports official who is disqualified under this process may, after one year, resubmit to the UIL registration, Official Rules Compliance Program and criminal background check process. For purposes of criminal background checks, the term "Sports Official" is defined under Section 33.085 (2), Texas Education Code.
 - (B) Initial Processing; Errors In Results. As part of the annual registration of sports officials, the UIL shall itself, or through an appropriate third party, conduct a criminal background check on every team sports official who engages in the registration process under this section and provide, or cause an appropriate third party to provide, the results of the criminal background check to the recognized sports officials' association of which the sports official is a member. All criminal background checks must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with UT Austin and UT System rules and regulations. The Executive Director may enter into agreements with recognized sports officials associations and other appropriate third parties to implement this section.
 - (i) In cases where the criminal background check reveals information that, if true, would require, based on the criteria below, the further review of the sports official, the Sports Officials Association of which the sports official is a member, shall give the sports official notice of the information revealed by the background check and provide the sports official a reasonable opportunity to correct any factual errors in the criminal background check results, such as mistaken identity or dates.
 - (ii) Information contained in government records or documents will be presumed to be factually correct absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. The mere assertion that the information revealed by the background check is in error or mistaken is, by itself, insufficient to rebut this presumption.
 - (iii) A sports official who claims a factual error in the information produced by the criminal background check bears the burden of proof to show the error by clear and convincing evidence. The factual error raised by a sports official must be material to the determination of the sports officials' disqualification from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events.

- (iv) All UIL recognized sports officials' chapters and associations shall adopt a fair and reasonable process for receiving, considering and deciding a challenge or complaint by a member sports official who has registered with the UIL that the information produced by the criminal background check of the sports official contains one or more material factual errors or mistakes.
 - (v) Consideration of a claim by a sports official that the criminal background check produced factually incorrect or mistaken results does not require a hearing and may be done by written submission. However, each sports officials' association shall provide written notice to its membership of the process by which such claims will be received, considered and decided.
 - (vi) When, after receiving notice from the sports officials' chapter or association regarding the criminal background check results and pending review, a sports official does not respond in writing within five days after receipt of the notice with a claim or challenge to the factual accuracy of the background check's results, it is presumed that the results of the background check are factually correct.
- (C) Review Criteria and Process.
- (i) **Review Criteria.** A sports official shall be subject to review when the results of a criminal background check show that:
 - (aa) The sports official has been convicted or placed on deferred adjudication for an offense that would require the individual to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, which includes but is not limited to, such offenses as continuous sexual abuse of a young child, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault; or an offense under the laws of another state or federal law that is equivalent to an offense requiring registration.
- In such cases, the sports official shall be reviewed by the sports officials chapter or association of which the official is a member and shall be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events unless a compelling justification to waive this standard is articulated in writing by the sports officials' chapter or association. The written request for an exception to this standard must be approved by the UIL Sports Officials Committee and in accordance with the rules and policies of The University of Texas at Austin, including UTS 124, *Criminal Background Checks*.
<http://policies.utexas.edu/policies/criminal-background-checks>
- (bb) The sports official has been convicted of a felony involving theft, bodily injury or threats of bodily injury, weapons and destruction of property during the prior seven-year period.
 - (cc) The sports official has been convicted of drug or alcohol-related

felony offenses in the prior seven-year period. In such cases, the sports official shall be reviewed by the sports officials' chapter or association in which the sports official is a member and may be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working at UIL games or events.

- (ii) *Process.* Upon resolution of any issues or complaints concerning the factual accuracy of the results of the criminal background check, if the review criteria is met, the sports officials' chapter or association in which the official in question is a member shall review the information produced by the background check, along with any other relevant information, and make a determination as to whether the official should be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events. The sports officials chapter or association shall make this determination in a manner that is consistent with its established disciplinary process or policy regarding criminal background history and shall provide a clear process in its by-laws or other governance documents; making sure to provide notice of the process to all its members. Any sports official, whose background check reveals information that causes that official to be subject to review and possible disqualification, must be given any notice required by law and at a minimum given the results of the background check along with any other relevant evidence and be provided an opportunity to respond to the decision maker(s), either in person or in writing, in a timely fashion prior to a decision being made. All such reviews

must be done on a case-by-case basis.

Except in cases involving review for convictions or deferred adjudication that would require registration as a sex offender under chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and similar offenses as set out above, a sports official who is the subject of review bears the burden of showing that the official does not pose an unreasonable risk of harm to the health, safety or welfare of any participants, spectators or other persons involved with or attending a UIL game or event or to any property or equipment that would be reasonably associated with the game or event. A determination that a sports official is disqualified from officiating or otherwise working a UIL game or event must be based on the available, credible, evidence, including but not limited to, the results of a criminal background check.

- (D) *Self-Reporting Requirement.* A sports official who is registered with the UIL must promptly report to the sports officials chapter or association in which the official is a member any conviction that would make the official subject to review under this section. Any such conviction will cause the sports official to be reviewed as set forth in this section. Failure to promptly report such convictions may cause the sports official to be subject to discipline as set forth in this section.

Refer to Official Interpretations 17-09-11, Appendix I

- (E) *Appeal To The UIL.* Any sports official who has been determined by a sports officials chapter or association to be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events based on the information revealed by the criminal background check may appeal to the UIL Sports Officials Committee. The committee's decision on an appeal is

final and is not subject to further UIL review.

The committee shall adopt an appeals process for receiving, considering and deciding appeals made by sports officials who have been disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events. The appeals process adopted by the committee must include provisions that give the appealing sports official reasonable notice of the date and time of any hearings or other relevant deadlines as well as provisions for providing copies of any evidence relied on or submitted to a sports officials chapter or association as part of its review process.

- (F) Memberships In Sports Officials Chapter Or Association. Any language in this section notwithstanding, sports officials chapters and associations control their terms of membership. All decisions regarding membership in a sports officials chapter or association are to be determined by the chapter or association.
- (r) CONDUCT AND REPORT OF ALL MAJOR INCIDENTS. Officials shall report all ejections of coaches, players, or fans, or severe verbal and physical abuse, and any major disruptions that occur during a game. Officials shall:
 - (1) hold themselves to the highest standard of conduct before, during, and after any contest and shall not instigate any verbal or physical confrontation;
 - (2) attempt to inform the game administrator immediately following the contest of any major incident, and continue to make reasonable attempts to contact the administrator until successful; and
 - (3) submit a written report from each official involved to the UIL office within 48 hours of the incident for football contests and within 24 hours for all other sport contests.
- (s) LIAISON TO CHAPTERS. It is recommended that officials' chapters secure a liaison school coach, athletic director or administrator to serve as a non-voting member of the board of directors of each chapter.
- (t) NO PROTESTS. A protest based on a game or contest official's decision will not be considered.
- (u) DISPUTES RELATED TO ASSIGNMENT, SCRATCHES, AND/OR PAY OF SPORTS OFFI-

CIALS. In situations where there is a dispute regarding the assignment, scratching, and/or pay of a sports official, a recognized chapter or association, and time is of the essence in resolving the dispute, as determined by the UIL Executive Director (or designee), the Executive Director, after consulting with the chair of the UIL Sports Officials Committee, may take any reasonable, necessary action not in contravention of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* to address the situation in the short term and refer any such matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee for any final resolution that may be necessary.

In situations where time is not of the essence but the situation involving the assignment, scratching, and/or pay of a sports official, a recognized chapter or association is not addressed in the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*, the Executive Director may refer the matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee for resolution through the committee's hearing process.

Section 1205: ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

- (a) INDIVIDUAL REPORT 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.
 - (1) *Pre-participation Physical Examination*. 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.
 - (2) *Medical History Form*. Each year prior to any practice or participation, a UIL medical history form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required. A medical history form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.
 - (3) *Parent or Guardian Permit*. Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian.
 - (4) *Rules Acknowledgment Form*. Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
 - (5) *Parent/Student Illegal Steroid Use Form*. The

- parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, shall annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.
- (6) *Concussion Acknowledgement Form.* According to Section 38.155 of the Texas Education Code, "a student may not participate in an interscholastic athletic activity for a school year until both the student and the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have signed a form for that school year that acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion " * This section also applies to students participating in the cheerleading program at the school.
 - (7) *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.* Each year prior to any practice or participation in athletics, a UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required.
 - (8) *Completion of Forms:* Completion of forms as outlined in 1, 2 and 7 above satisfies the requirements contained in Section 33.096 of the Texas Education Code (TEC).
 - (A) The UIL Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) has reviewed and updated the required forms listed to ensure compliance with TEC 33.096.
 - (B) If there is a reason why a school cannot comply with the above requirements, that school's administration should submit a request for exemption from TEC 33.096 to the UIL Executive Director or their designee.
 - (C) An electrocardiogram (ECG) is not required. Should a parent/guardian choose the option of an ECG for his or her child, the parent/guardian is responsible for having the ECG administered and read in compliance with the law. A school district may provide an opportunity for this through an ECG program and may fund the program. A school is not required to provide such a program.
- (b) **VARSITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**
- (1) *Subchapter M.* Only students satisfying all the requirements in Subchapter M of the *Constitution* are eligible for varsity competition.
 - (2) *Non-District Games.* In non-district interschool games or contests, only eligible students may participate. Each school shall complete a varsity eligibility list for each sport.
 - (3) *Eligibility Forms.* Schools shall submit comprehensive eligibility forms for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball and soccer. For all other athletic activities 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.
 - (4) *Certification.* Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be submitted before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest.
 - (5) *Suspension.* Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.
- (c) **PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM.** The Previous Athletic Participation Form is required if a new student in grades 9-12 practiced or participated with his or her former school in grades eight through twelve during any previous school year in any athletic activity.
 - (d) **MINIMUM PENALTY.** 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 reprimand to the school.
 - (e) **SUB-VARSITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.** An individual is eligible to participate in UIL contests if that individual is a full-time student of the member school the student represents, has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

RESTRICTIONS

- (a) **NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS.** (Refer to Section 383).
- (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 COMPETITION AND PRACTICES ON SUNDAY.** The UIL Executive Director, or designee, may grant exceptions to Section 1206 (b) on a case-by-case basis for team sports competitions and practices related to regional or state events when conditions exist that warrant such an exception. 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 Executive Director.
- (d) **SCHOOL OFF-SEASON WORKOUTS, IN-SCHOOL DAY PERIOD.**
 - (1) Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, skills, strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school year within the school day provided such activities do not exceed one regular classroom period, not to exceed 60 minutes when classes meet every day (300 minutes per week for block schedules). This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.
 - (2) The 7th, 8th or zero period for athletics is considered part of the school day, provided all students enrolled in the class are receiving state or local credit toward graduation and are not enrolled in any other physical education class. The 7th, 8th or zero period may not be longer than other class periods. This period may not exceed one 60-minute period.
 - (3) Schools may use non-traditional systems for length of classes provided:
 - (A) the classes meet within the regular school day;
 - (B) classes are alternated throughout the semester and meet on Monday-Wednesday-Friday one week and Tuesday-Thursday the next week; and
 - (C) the schedule is mandated at the beginning of the semester and is not changed to allow for more time during an abbreviated school week.
 - (4) This period includes dressing, the actual off-season conditioning, redressing in street clothes, etc. Passing and punting machines, chalk talks and films are permitted. Full team drills are permitted in team sport practices.
- (e) **ATHLETIC/PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES.** Student-athletes shall not be enrolled in more than one physical education and/or athletic class whether or not they are receiving credit. **Exceptions:** (with local school approval) PE Class: lifetime recreation and outdoor pursuits; PE substitutes: Partners PE, JROTC, cheerleading, drill team, marching band; innovative course: team

- sports officiating.
- (f) **OFF-SEASON SCHOOL TEAM PRACTICES AND STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING.** School teams shall not practice outside the specific allowable practice dates except during the one in-school day practice period.
- (1) Off-season skill activities before or after the school day or during the lunch periods are specifically prohibited.
 - (2) Off-season strength and conditioning sessions are allowed. 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. Students may use school issued shoes and/or clothing before or after school.
- (g) **SCHOOL SUMMER PRACTICE PROHIBITED.** Any specific grouping of high school baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer or volleyball participants during the summer months for the purpose of conditioning and/or organized athletic team instruction is prohibited except as specifically provided for within the plans for these activities and in (h) below.
- (h) **SUMMER STRENGTH/CONDITIONING PROGRAMS & SPORT SPECIFIC SKILL INSTRUCTION.** Summer strength and conditioning programs and sport specific skill instruction may be conducted by school coaches for students in grades 7-12 from that coach's attendance zone only under the following conditions.
- (1) Sessions may be conducted by school coaches starting on Monday of the first week school is not in session and ending on a date set forth by the UIL calendar. Sessions may be conducted only on Monday through Friday.
 - (A) A student may attend no more than one two-hour strength and conditioning session, conducted by a school coach or coaches, per day. Schools shall take administrative care to prohibit an athlete from working with one school coach for two hours and a separate school coach for another two hours.
 - (B) A student may attend no more than 90 minutes per day of sport specific skill instruction with no more than 60 minutes a day in a given sport, Monday through Friday.
 - (2) Sessions conducted by school coaches shall include only students who are incoming seventh graders or above.
 - (3) Sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction, exercises, and sport specific skill instruction. Football contact/restricted equipment is prohibited.
- (4) School shirts, shorts and shoes may be provided by the school.
- (5) Attendance shall be voluntary. Coaches shall not require athletes to attend in order to try out for or participate in any UIL sport. Attendance records shall be kept, however students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days. Students may work out on their own, without direction of the school coach.
- (6) Fees, if any, shall be established and approved by the superintendent and collected by the school. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures should be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.
- (7) Any payment for conducting strength and conditioning sessions to school coaches who instruct students from their attendance zone shall be from the school and no other source.
- (i) **OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE.** Athletes may attend open gyms, facilities and weight rooms. School personnel shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a school team. Attendance records may not be kept. Coaches may be present to supervise the facilities and school equipment, if permitted. Coaches shall not provide specific instruction in sport skills. Weight lifting instruction is permitted and progress charts may be kept. Facilities may be made available to athletes under the following conditions:
- (1) Recreational opportunities receive advance approval by the local school board and administration.
 - (2) The dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted or publicized so that every student attending that school is aware of the opportunity.
 - (3) Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.
 - (4) School coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their participation is strictly voluntary, never required, and is in no way a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing

- time.
- (5) No instruction may be given on a Sunday or during the off-season of a team sport.
 - (6) Someone other than a coach should be appointed to supervise facilities.
 - (7) Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes' sport. Such actions place the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.
 - (8) Use of facilities may be restricted to that school's student body. Note: If only members of an athletic team are participating in their sport in an open recreational facility, it could be deemed a violation of off-season regulations.
- Refer to sport specific manuals for further details.
- (j) DAY OF GAME RESTRICTION. Participation in an off-season program shall not be required for varsity athletes on the day of an in-season varsity competition, or for non-varsity athletes on the day of an in-season non-varsity competition.
 - (k) ROOM AND BOARD RESTRICTIONS. Workout sessions which involve meals and/or overnight lodgings are prohibited.
 - (l) HOLIDAY RESTRICTION. A school shall not conduct contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during five consecutive days of December. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. Schools may choose any five consecutive days which include December 24, 25 and 26, with the following exceptions.
 - (1) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools may participate in a tournament game on December 26.
 - (2) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools shall still follow a five-consecutive day restriction, including December 24 and 25.
 - (3) No practice shall be permitted on any of the five consecutive days.
 - (4) Travel is not permitted on December 25.
 - (5) Travel is permitted on the 26th if a tournament game is scheduled on December 27; however, no practice shall be permitted on the 26th.
 - (6) A team that has a game on December 23 could travel home on December 24 and still be in compliance with this section.
 - (7) A school may request an exception to these travel restrictions when safety concerns exist relative to travel. The UIL Executive Director, or his or her designee, may grant the exception only when the school has clearly provided evidence of the travel safety concerns and determines the school cannot reasonably be expected to comply with these restrictions.
 - (m) POWER LIFTING TEAM RESTRICTIONS.
 - (1) Power lifting teams shall be authorized by the superintendent or local board of trustees prior to their inception.
 - (2) If there is an in-school day athletic period, it is a violation for off-season athletes to participate in power lifting outside the school day unless weight training is also provided during the in-school day off-season period.
 - (3) Power lifting teams may not, in any way, be construed as part of a student's off-season conditioning responsibilities.
 - (4) Power lifting teams shall not be limited to athletes from a particular sport or to athletes specifically.
 - (n) PRE-SEASON PRACTICE REGULATIONS FOR SPORTS WHICH BEGIN PRACTICE PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL YEAR.
 - (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. **Exception:** Volleyball.

Section 1207: RULES, VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- (a) RULE VIOLATIONS. Students who violate the rules in the specific athletic plans shall be subject to the penalty in the specific athletic plan, or subject to the range of penalties applicable to student representatives in Sections 27 and 29. The regulations in the athletic plans govern all varsity and sub-varsity teams and contestants. Ninth grade (whether in junior high, on a separate campus or with other high school grades) and other sub-varsity teams and contestants are restricted to the same game limitations, season, etc. as the varsity team.
 - (1) An individual who commits an offense under section 22.01 C 2 of the Texas Penal Code

- (assault of a sports participant) while participating in UIL contests will subject themselves and any school with which they are affiliated to the full range of penalties in sections 27 and 29 of the constitution, up to and including disqualification and suspension.
- (2) Schools shall develop policies for preventing any spectator who commits an offense under section 22.01 C 2 of the Texas Penal Code (assault of a sports participant) from attending future events in activities sanctioned by the league. The policy shall provide for the school to consider all circumstances of each incident when determining the length of suspension from future events in activities sanctioned by the league.
 - (b) **ELIGIBILITY RULES.** In addition to rules in individual sports plans, each varsity team and athlete shall observe all rules contained in Subchapter M of the *Constitution*.
 - (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.
 - (e) **POSITIVE ANABOLIC STEROID TEST.**
 - (1) *First Positive Anabolic Steroid Test.* Upon a report of confirmation of a first positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection, a student-athlete shall be suspended for thirty (30) school days of competition in all UIL athletic activities. Prior to eligibility restoration, a student-athlete shall undergo an exit anabolic steroid test and receive a negative result.
 - (2) *Second Positive Anabolic Steroid Test.* Upon a report of confirmation of a second positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection of a student-athlete who has previously been subjected to the first positive test penalty, a student-athlete shall be suspended from all

UIL athletic contests for one (1) calendar year. Prior to eligibility restoration, a student-athlete shall undergo an exit anabolic steroid test and receive a negative result.

- (3) *Third Positive Anabolic Steroid Test.* Upon a report of confirmation of a third positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection of a student-athlete who has previously been subjected to the first and second positive test penalties, a student-athlete shall be suspended from all UIL athletic contests for the remainder of his/her high school career at any UIL member school.
- (4) *Responsibility for Cost of Tests.* The UIL will cover the cost for the first exit test for purposes of eligibility restoration for the penalties outlined in (1) and (2) above. Any subsequent exit test(s) for purposes of eligibility restoration are conducted at the expense of the school, student-athlete or the family of the student-athlete. Only anabolic steroid tests conducted by the UIL approved contractor will be considered for the purposes of this testing program.

Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

Schools shall abide by rules in the *Constitution*, by rules in the *Contest Rules*, by rules in the "Official Notices" column of the *Leaguer*, by regulations issued from the UIL office in the sports specific manuals, and other official notices from the UIL office. Where any term or section of the *Contest Rules* or the sports specific manuals is found to be inconsistent with the *Constitution*, the *Constitution* shall prevail and apply, and the remaining terms and sections of the *Contest Rules* and/or the sports specific manuals shall continue in effect.

- (a) **ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS.** A school shall not participate in a sports activity unless its varsity acceptance for that sport, signed by the superintendent or designated administrator, is on file in the UIL office by January 15 of the preceding school year (September 1 for football). If a school wants to register for a sport after the filing deadline, it may do so if approved by a majority of the District Executive Committee.
 - (1) A school which does not participate in football the first year of a new alignment may not participate the second year except by unanimous consent of the District Executive Committee.
 - (2) Only schools in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A are eligible to participate in UIL soccer. **Exception:** 2A and 3A schools who sign up as

- noted above for participation in soccer will be placed in a 4A district for competition.
- (3) Only schools in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A are eligible to participate in UIL team tennis. **Exception:** 3A schools who sign up as noted above for participation in team tennis will be placed in a 4A district for competition.
- (b) DISTRICTS AND CONFERENCES.
- (1) *Conferences.* Schools are placed in conferences according to enrollment figures.
- (2) *District Assignments.* Schools will be assigned to districts by the UIL office. District assignments and a list of tentative chairs will be provided to member schools prior to the season. The district shall select a permanent chair and notify the UIL office. However, the superintendent, principal or coach in each school competing under this plan, is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the name of the district chair, time of meeting, etc. If the chair moves from the district each school in the district has a responsibility to see that a new chair is elected and to notify the UIL office.
- (c) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SEASON.
- (1) *Regular Season.* A school that does not participate in a sport after signing the acceptance form should notify the UIL office prior to the season. A school may be suspended by the State Executive Committee in that activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not participating.
- (2) *Playoffs.* Any school that qualifies for the playoffs in a sport and fails to participate or complete the official schedule of games/matches unless excused for valid reasons by the State Executive Committee (and/or by the UIL office in baseball) may be suspended from that activity for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- (d) BREAKING CONTRACTS; CANCELING DISTRICT GAMES PROHIBITED.
- (1) Schools shall not forfeit any district games in order to play non-district games. Schools in violation of this provision will be subject to the range of penalties.
- (2) A game or match canceled after the contract has been signed, unless both parties agree to the cancellation, shall be forfeited by the team canceling the game or match.
- (3) In football, when two schools agree to play on a two-year basis, and agree that the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts, and the game is canceled the second year by the team that received 100% of the gate receipts the first year, the team that received no gate the first year is entitled to 50% of the net gate receipts from the first game unless mutually agreed otherwise.
- (e) PRACTICE SCRIMMAGE. A scrimmage is a meeting of not more than four teams for practice purposes which does not count as a game for any of the teams. Admission may be charged. Officials may be paid in accordance with the schedule in Section 1204 and may, by prior agreement with the school, be reimbursed for mileage and meals. Refer to Section 1204 (n) and (o). A school shall not play in a scrimmage after its first interschool game or match in that sport. Refer to individual sports sections for other limitations.
- (f) PLAYING RULES. The National Federation playing rules govern UIL sports. **Exceptions:** NCAA rules shall govern football; USTA rules shall govern tennis; USGA rules shall govern golf. Any modification of or exception to a playing rule shall be noted in the manual for that sport.
- (g) GAME ADMINISTRATOR. In all UIL varsity athletic team contests, a game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. That person shall be a coach (other than the game coach), teacher or administrator. It is recommended that a game administrator be designated by the home school for all non-varsity athletic team contests. The responsibilities of the game administrator are as follows:
- (1) see that officials are directed to their dressing room;
 - (2) meet with the officials prior to game time (preferably on the playing field or court);
 - (3) inform the officials where the game administrator will be seated;
 - (4) assist the officials if they need to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct of a fan, player or coach (such as removal from the gym);
 - (5) check with the officials after the game to see if there is any misconduct that needs to be reported;
 - (6) offer to provide an escort for the officials to their cars;
 - (7) report incidents to the appropriate school administrator; and
 - (8) report severe verbal abuse or physical contact of the official and any ejections of coaches and fans to the UIL office in writing within the next two working days.
- (h) UIL COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.
- (1) 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.
- (2) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program will be kept on file by the school.
- (i) **MINIMUM PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT.**
- (1) *Automatic Minimum Penalty.* Any coach who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, or any football coach who is given two or more 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest may accept an automatic penalty for their ejection or appeal the ejection. A coach who appeals their ejection is required to appear before the State Executive Committee. If the coach accepts their automatic penalty or their ejection is not overturned on appeal, the coach will be subject to:
 - (A) an automatic penalty of public reprimand (name will be published once in the *Leaguer*) and one year's probation in the applicable sport;
 - (B) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching Course; and
 - (C) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course.
 - (2) *Automatic Greater Penalty.* If a coach so penalized has no proof of having completed the UIL Coaches Certification Program prior to the sports season, that coach shall also be automatically suspended from the next game/contest.
 - (3) *Subsequent Violations.* Any further ejection or accumulation of two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a football game, while on probation, will require the coach to appear before the State Executive Committee for consideration of penalty.
 - (4) *Notification.* Schools shall notify the UIL within three school days if a coach has been ejected from a game or received two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties.
 - (5) *Player Ejection.* Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:
 - (A) *Football.* Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.
 - (B) *Other Team Sports.* 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.
 - (C) *Appeals.* The UIL Executive Director may develop a process for appealing student ejections.
- (j) **GATE GUARANTEES.**
- (1) *Football.* In district and non-district football games, the visiting team shall be entitled to 50% of the gate receipts after payment of game officials unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools.
 - (2) *Other Team Sports.* In district and non-district games/matches unless there is mutual agreement or District Executive Committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
 - (3) *Playoff.* In playoff games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools. Unless mutually agreed upon prior to the playoff game, the expenses as outlined in this section shall not exceed the home school's net share of the gate.
 - (4) *Excessive Demand.* A demand of a flat guarantee which is clearly in excess of expenses shall, upon action of the District Executive Committee or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting team shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.
 - (5) *Expenses.* Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services and printing in connection with the contest shall be considered as expenses of the game. Number of persons allowed upon expense account 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.
- (k) BROADCASTS OF UIL EVENTS. Refer to Section 868.
 - (l) VIDEOTAPING AND FILMING.
 - (1) *All Athletic Contests.*
 - (A) Videotaping/Filming/Recording by Schools.
 - (i) A non-competing school shall not film, videotape or otherwise make a visual recording of an athletic contest without the prior written consent of the schools competing in the contest.
 - (ii) A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape, or otherwise make a visual recording of an athletic contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape or other visual recording may only be reviewed or otherwise utilized during the contest in accordance with applicable contest rules.
 - (iii) Films, videotapes and all other kinds of visual recording of all athletic contests in compliance with UIL rules are the property of the school that made them unless their ownership, use or distribution is governed by district rule or if there is no agreement between the schools competing in the contest.
 - (B) Videotaping/Filming/Recording by Individuals and Organizations. Except for persons or organizations acting under subsections (1)(A)(i) and (ii) above, no person or organization shall film, videotape or otherwise make a visual recording of any athletic event or activity without prior written consent of the schools that are competing in the event. Any filming, videotaping or other recording of an athletic contest may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
 - (C) Commercial Use of films, videotapes or other visual recordings of regular season athletic contests for commercial purposes shall be approved in writing by all schools competing in the contest. Any agreements between the competing schools regarding the filming, videotaping or other visual recording of regular season athletic contests, including without limitation any commercial uses, shall be consistent with the UIL's *Constitution and Contest Rules* and any contracts made thereunder.
 - (m) MASCOTS, FIREARMS, PYROTECHNIC DEVICES, BALLOONS. Live animal mascots, cannons, firearms, fireworks, etc. are prohibited at UIL athletic contests. Except in their normal course of business, emergency vehicles shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a game. Noisemakers are prohibited at UIL athletic events held in field houses or gymnasiums. Releasing balloons is prohibited at UIL athletic events held outdoors.
 - (n) TOURNAMENT DEFINITION AND LIMITATIONS FOR BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL.
 - (1) *Number of Teams and Type of Play.* A tournament is defined as at least three teams assembled at one site for competition.
 - (2) *Scheduling.* Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. (Refer to each sport plan for exception to resolve ties for district representatives.) Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament shall be scheduled on Saturday.
 - (3) *Site.* A tournament should be held at the ISD of the host school or at an adjoining ISD. The host school may authorize additional sites for preliminary round games.
 - (4) Refer to individual contest plans for limitations on games/matches per day.
 - (o) SITES DEFINED FOR ALL TEAM SPORTS.
 - (1) *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.
 - (2) *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 two schools.
 - (p) 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 at a mid-point site for

- schools located more than 100 miles apart.
- (q) STATE PLAYOFF INSTRUCTIONS. Playoff instructions for all applicable sports will be provided to participating schools by the UIL office in the sports specific manual.
 - (r) STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS. The pairings for the state tournament will be made by the UIL athletic staff, in front of witnesses, as soon as regional champions have been determined and reported to the UIL office, except in football. Brackets for football post-season playoffs will be issued from the UIL office.
 - (s) REBATE FROM STATE EVENTS.
 - (1) In baseball, soccer, softball and volleyball, sixteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per mile.
 - (2) In basketball, sixteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per mile.
 - A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses (including travel reimbursement), there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be equally divided among the schools participating in the tournament. The Legislative Council may stipulate a maximum to be divided among schools.
 - (3) In football, twenty percent of the championship event gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per mile.
 - A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses (including travel reimbursement), there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be equally divided among the schools participating in the championship event. The Legislative Council may stipulate a maximum to be divided among schools.
 - (4) In all other state events, all funds collected from admissions at the state championship event shall be retained by the UIL Office.
 - (t) ALL-STAR GAMES.
 - (1) *School Equipment.* Students who have completed eligibility in the involved sport, with school superintendent approval, may use school individual player protective equipment in any all-star game.
 - (2) *School Personnel.* No athletic director, coach, teacher, school administrator or school district shall at any time assist directly or indirectly with the coaching, management, direction, selection of players, promotion or officiating in any all-star game in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of one or more players who have eligibility remaining in that sport.
 - (3) *School Facilities.* School facilities may be used for all-star games only by prior written consent of the superintendent.
 - (4) *Penalties.* Any member high school violating the provisions of this all-star contest rule shall be subject to penalty.
 - (u) NON-UIL CONTESTS.
 - (1) *Contests With Non-participating Schools.* A defeat by a non-participating Texas public high school shall eliminate a school so defeated from the district race.
 - (2) *Contests With Non-school Teams.* A school team that competes against or participates in a tournament with a non-school team, composed of one or more UIL participant high school students with remaining eligibility in that sport, (whether or not academically eligible), shall not represent the district in that sport.
 - (3) *Participating With Other Leagues.* A UIL member school that participates in an athletic activity offered by the UIL in a non-UIL league under the auspices of any other sanctioning organization is subject to the range of penalties, up to and including suspension from UIL athletic activities. This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.
 - (v) JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETICS. All athletic rules for seventh and eighth grades are listed in Sections 1400, 1401 and 1478 of the *Contest Rules*.
 - (w) JURISDICTION OF INTERDISTRICT DISPUTES. The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.

- (x) **CHEERLEADERS; SPIRIT GROUPS.** All cheer and spirit performances at any UIL activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook. Cheerleading sponsors are required to complete a course regarding Safety/Risk Minimization for Cheerleading and present proof of course completion to the school district.
- (y) **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL.** At all UIL athletic activities (including practices and contests), including cheerleading, schools shall implement and follow a concussion management protocol as prescribed by Texas Education Code Section 38 Subchapter D.
- (z) **CONCUSSION INCIDENT REPORTING.** UIL member schools in Conference 6A are required to report concussion incidents for all sports to the Contex Data System.
- (aa) **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED).** Each high school campus shall have at least one Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available on the premises. Additionally, each high school campus shall develop a plan for implementation, coordination and maintenance of its AED program.
- (bb) **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING.** UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.
- (cc) **CATASTROPHIC INJURY REPORTING.** UIL member schools shall file reports of catastrophic injuries, as defined by the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research (NCCSIR), that occur during UIL practices and/or competitions utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.
- (dd) **EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS.** UIL member schools are required to develop and implement a venue specific emergency action plan (EAP) for each venue utilized for UIL athletic practices and/or competitions.

Section 1209: NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

- (a) **REQUIRED PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED.** Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team in any sport as a prerequisite to playing on a school team.
- (b) **OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE.** Refer to Section 1206 (i).
- (c) **CAMPS.**
 - (1) *Camps After The Last Day Of The School Year: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and*

volleyball where school personnel work with their own students. After the last day of the school year in May, June, July and prior to the second Monday in August, on non-school days, all students other than students who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may attend two camps in each team sport, held within the boundaries of their school district, in which instruction is given in that team sport, and in which a 7th-12th grade coach from their school district attendance zone works with them:

- (2) *Camps During The School Year.* A member school district is allowed to sponsor camps during the school year, outside the school day, for students in grades six and below. No student is allowed to participate in more than two school sponsored camps per sport/activity during the school year.
- (3) *Camps Described Above Shall Be Conducted Under The Following Conditions:*
 - (A) **Number of Days.** Attendance at each type of sports camp is limited to no more than six consecutive days.
 - (B) **Prohibited Activities.** Students shall not attend football camps where contact activities are permitted.
 - (C) **Fees.** The superintendent or a designee shall approve the schedule of fees prior to the announcement or release of any information about the camp. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures should be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.
 - (D) **School Equipment.** Schools may furnish, in accordance with local school district policies, school-owned equipment, with the following restrictions.
 - (i) Schools may not furnish any individual baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball player equipment, including uniforms, shoes, caps, gloves, etc., but may furnish balls and court equipment including nets, standards, goals, etc., for volleyball, basketball and soccer camps.

- (ii) For football camps, schools may furnish hand dummies, stand-up dummies, passing and kicking machines and footballs. Use of any other football equipment, including contact equipment, is prohibited.
 - (iii) For baseball and softball camps, schools may furnish balls, bats, bases, pitching and batting machines, batting helmets and catcher protective equipment. Use of any other baseball and/or softball equipment is prohibited.
- (d) BONA FIDE SUMMER CAMPS. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply to bona fide summer camps giving an overall activity program to the participants.
- (e) CHANGE OF RESIDENCE FROM OUT OF STATE. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply in the case of a person who attends an athletic training camp which is allowed under the rules of the state in which the student then lives, and then makes a bona fide change of residence to Texas, provided that there has been no deliberate attempt to circumvent the rule.
- (f) OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL TEAM SPORTS.
 - (1) School coaches shall not coach 7-12 grade students from their own attendance zone on a non-school team or in a non-school camp or clinic, with the exception of their own adopted or birth children.
 - (2) School equipment shall not be used for non-school teams/leagues.
- (g) COACHING RESTRICTIONS. For non-school competition school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone. School coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and may supervise school facilities for non-school league play. School coaches shall not coach or instruct students in grades 7-12 from their school district attendance zone in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball or water polo unless specifically noted below. School coaches shall not supervise facilities for non-school activities on school time. Refer to Section 1201.
 - (1) *TABC Summer Showcase*. Basketball coaches are allowed to coach their high school team during the TABC June Summer Showcase

event only.

- (A) Students participating in the TABC June Summer Showcase may only represent the school or feeder pattern in which they were enrolled and attending the previous school year, or if attending a new school, they have a PAPF that has been submitted to the UIL for participation at the new school.
 - (B) School resources would be allowed to be utilized for the TABC Summer Showcase.
- (2) For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year, a pilot program will allow coaches to coach two players in grades 7-12 in a UIL approved state association all-star game.

Section 1210: ANABOLIC STEROID TESTING

- (a) As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 8 by the 80th Texas State Legislature, the UIL implemented an anabolic steroid testing program and adopted rules for its administration. In 2015, the legislature voted to terminate funding for the program. While the rules and laws pertaining to the program remain in effect, the UIL no longer conducts random anabolic steroid tests due to the absence of funding, which initiates the testing protocol. The testing protocol includes:
 - (1) test student-athletes in grades 9-12 for the presence of anabolic steroids in their bodies at multiple times throughout the school year;
 - (2) be administered, by random selection, at approximately 30 percent of UIL member high schools;
 - (3) randomly select a statistically significant number of student-athletes in grades 9-12 who participate in athletic competitions sponsored or sanctioned by the UIL;
 - (4) require that testing be performed only by an anabolic steroid testing laboratory with a current certification from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the World Anti-Doping Agency, or another appropriate national or international certifying organization;
 - (5) provide a process for confirming any initial positive test result through a subsequent test conducted as soon as practicable after the initial test, using a sample that was obtained at the same time as the sample used for the initial test; and

- (6) be conducted in accordance with the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program Protocol.

Section 1220: BASEBALL PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSE, CODE, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Baseball Plan.
- (b) **NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.**
 - (1) *Violations/Penalties.* The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the regulations below.
 - (2) *Total Number of Games.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 baseball 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. 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.
 - (4) *Invitational Tournament Restriction.*
 - (A) No team shall participate in an invitational baseball 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.* Baseball 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 baseball 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, but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

(c) PLAYING DATES.

- (1) *Practice Dates.* There shall be no organized or formal school baseball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated from the playoffs.
- (2) *Scrimmages.* Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per calendar 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 Baseball 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.* Refer to Section 1209.

- (d) **TIES IN DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES.** Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the beginning of 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.

- (e) **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 Baseball 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.
- (f) **Post-season PLAYOFFS.**
 - (1) *Day of Playoff Game.* Playoffs games shall not be played before Thursday of that week unless by mutual consent.
 - (2) *Playoffs.* 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. **Exception:** Starting in the 2023-2024 baseball season, as a pilot in conference 5A and 6A, playoffs will be two-out-of-three unless mutually agreed to play a single game.
 - (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 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. Refer to Section 1208 (o).
 - (6) *Playoff Games.* In playoff games, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.
 - (7) *Gate Receipts From State Tournament.* The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state baseball tournament.

Section 1230: BASKETBALL PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSE, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to

the Basketball Plan.

- (b) **DATES FOR PRACTICES, GAMES AND CERTIFICATIONS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS, ALL CONFERENCES.**
 - (1) *Practice Dates.*
 - (A) *Girls.* There shall be no school basketball practice for a student or a team in girls basketball, before or after school until the 20th Wednesday prior to the Girls State Basketball Tournament or during the five-day holiday restriction, or after the last date for certifying district champions, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.
 - (B) *Boys.* There shall be no school basketball practice for a student or a team in boys basketball, before or after school until the 20th Wednesday prior to the Boys State Basketball Tournament or during the five day holiday restriction, or after the last date for certifying district champions, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.
 - (2) *Scrimmages.* Teams in girls basketball are allowed to scrimmage beginning with the 18th Saturday prior to the Girls State Basketball Tournament. Teams in boys basketball are allowed to scrimmage beginning with the 18th Saturday prior to the Boys State Basketball Tournament. Only one scrimmage is permitted between Monday and the end of the school day on Friday of any one school week. Teams are limited to a maximum of two total scrimmages and may use them any time before playing their first game.
 - (3) *Interschool Games.* No interschool games in girls basketball shall be played until the 17th Friday prior to the Girls State Basketball Tournament. No interschool games in boys basketball shall be played until the 17th Friday prior to the Boys State Basketball Tournament. Schools may not play games during the five-day holiday restriction. Except for teams in the playoffs, schools may not play games after the last date for certifying district champions.
 - (4) *District Games.* District games may not be played prior to December 15, except by unanimous consent of all district members.
 - (5) *Basketball Season, Dates.* Refer to Official Calendar and Basketball Manual.
 - (6) *Off-Season Workouts.* Refer to Section 1206.
- (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) *Number of Games Per Day.* No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool basketball games per day, including tournament games. **Exception:** Contestants and teams may play three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.
- (3) *Total Number of Games.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 21 basketball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games and games played in pre-scheduled district tournaments. 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. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament.
- (4) *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 provided only one other matched game is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the 21 allowed games, but not 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 tournament provided only two matched games have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.
- (5) *Invitational Tournament Restriction.* No team shall participate in an invitational basketball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. (Note: This provision does not apply to (c)(4)(B) above.) However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.
- (6) *Number of Games Per Week.*
 - (A) *Matched Games Only.* No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games (as distinguished from tournaments) per calendar week. Refer to Section 5.
 - (B) *Week of an Invitational Tournament.* No team or contestant shall participate in more than one matched game during the calendar week of an invitational tournament.
 - (C) *Week of a District Tournament.* No team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games during the calendar week of a district tournament, including a district tournament authorized by the District Executive Committee to resolve a tie for district championship. To be considered a district tournament, at least three teams shall be assembled at one site for an elimination contest on consecutive days. Refer to Section 1203.
- (7) *Exception When Games Are Substituted For Tournaments.* Students and teams may play in three matched games per calendar week under the following conditions:
 - (A) Two of the three games are being played instead of a tournament; and
 - (B) Two of the three games are on a Friday and a Saturday, or on a night prior to a school holiday and a non-school day.
- (8) *Exceptions During November, December/January Holidays.* During a November holiday break of three or more days and following the five-day December holiday restriction until school resumes in January, schools may participate in no more than:
 - (A) two matched games during the calendar week of an invitational tournament;
 - (B) two matched games plus two matched games played in lieu of an invitational tournament during a calendar week; or
 - (C) three matched games during a calendar week if they are not participating in an invitational tournament or playing games in lieu of a tournament.
- (9) *Exception for Rescheduled Games.* District varsity basketball 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 exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.

- (10) *Site of Game.* The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case the two teams disagree.
- (11) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions.* No girls' team shall play in a game against a boys' team and vice versa.
- (d) **POST-DISTRICT RECEIPTS.** The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state basketball tournament.
- (e) **OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION.** Refer to Section 1209.

Section 1240: CROSS-COUNTRY PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to Cross-country.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be one division for boys and one for girls in the respective conferences. Boys' teams may not compete on or against girls' teams.
- (c) **DISTANCE.**
 - (1) *Girls, Boys.* The distance for the cross-country event will be approximately two miles for 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A girls (3200 meters) and three miles for 1A-6A boys and 5A and 6A girls (5000 meters).
 - (2) *Limitation.* A race of six miles or longer shall not be considered a cross-country meet.
- (d) **ENTRIES.**
 - (1) *Number.* A minimum of five participants and a maximum of seven participants shall constitute a team. If a school enters fewer than 5 students, it cannot compete for the team title.
 - (2) *Team Score.* The place of the first five finishers on each team will count for the total team score.
 - (3) *Team Limit.* A school may enter only one team of boys and one team of girls in the district, regional and state meets.
 - (4) *Fee.* There is no entry fee for the state cross-country meet.

(e) MEET LIMITATIONS.

- (1) *Number of Meets.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year, excluding one district meet, the regional meet and the state meet. Each meet a school team enters counts as one meet 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. Meets which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.
- (2) *School Week Limitation.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one tournament/meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** the regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(f) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

- (1) *District Meets.* District meets shall be held in districts with more than three teams and/or 10 individuals entered. District cross-country chairs shall be responsible for organizing the district cross-country meets.
- (2) *Qualifiers to Regional Meet.* The top three teams and the top 10 individuals shall qualify from district to the regional meet. An individual qualifier may also be a team member of one of the qualifying teams.
- (3) *Qualifiers to State.* The top four teams and the top 10 individuals (who are not already on the advancing teams) shall qualify from regional to the state meet.

(g) PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR. Any cross-country 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.

Section 1250: FOOTBALL PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Football Plan.
- (b) **DATES AND OFF-SEASON REGULATIONS.**
 - (1) *Spring Training.* There shall be no school football practice or training for a contestant or team, and no football equipment issued after the close of the regular season schedule, except as incidental to the football championship playoffs, and in Conferences 5A and 6A only, 18 spring training practice days which may be conducted in a period of 34 consecutive calendar days. **Exception:** Conference 5A and 6A schools may choose not to conduct the 18 days of spring training, replacing said training the next school year by following the workout days as specified for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.
 - (A) The first two days of spring training shall be conducted without any contact equipment except helmets.
 - (B) During spring training, a maximum of 12 practices may contain full contact. Refer to the football manual for explanations of full contact.
 - (C) During spring training, football players are not allowed to participate in more than 90 minutes of full contact practice per week. Refer to the football manual for explanations of full contact.
 - (D) During spring training, a maximum of three practices per calendar week may include full contact.
 - (2) *Off-Season Workouts.* Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual football skills, strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school term within the school day provided such activities do not exceed one regular classroom period, not to exceed 60 minutes per day (or 300 minutes per week on a block schedule). Practice may include eleven-on-eleven drills without contact activities or equipment. Activities before or after school or during the

lunch period are specifically prohibited. Refer to Section 1206 (d) and the Restricted and Non-Restricted Football Equipment information on the football page of the UIL website.

- (3) *Summer Practice.* Refer to Section 1206 (h).
- (4) *Summer Camps.* For rules and applicable penalties refer to Section 1209.
- (5) *Fall Practice, Beginning Dates.*
 - (A) Practice Regulations Outside the School Year. Any football practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:
 - (i) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities, with up to a one hour break, on those days during which one practice is conducted. The one hour break is not included as a part of the practice time limit. Total time shall not exceed four hours.
 - (ii) A one-hour walkthrough is allowed on days during which 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 walkthrough.
 - (iii) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
 - (iv) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.
 - (B) In Conferences 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A and all 9th graders in 5A and 6A, practice shall begin no earlier than the date set forth by the UIL calendar. In Conferences 5A and 6A, practice shall begin no earlier than the date set forth by the UIL calendar. **Exception:** If Conference

- 5A or 6A schools forego the 18 days of spring training, they may begin work-out days on the date set forth by the UIL calendar as delineated for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A and all 5A and 6A 9th graders. Interschool scrimmages shall be allowed on the date set forth by the UIL calendar.
- (C) **Acclimatization Period.** The first two days of practice shall be conducted without any contact equipment except helmets. Other contact equipment may be fitted and placed in lockers. During the first two days, however, only shoes, socks, T-shirts, shorts and helmets may be worn. On the third and fourth days of practice, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, but no player to player contact is allowed. On day five of the acclimatization period, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, and player to player contact is permitted. During the five-day acclimatization period, no full contact activities shall be permitted. All student-athletes who arrive after the first day of practice are required to undergo a five-day acclimatization period. During the five-day acclimatization period and subject to the rules as noted in (A) (i-vi) above, if more than one practice is conducted on the same day, the second practice shall be a teaching period/walkthrough practice only with no conditioning or contact activities/equipment permitted. At a minimum, there must be two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the walkthrough.
- (D) Football equipment is interpreted to mean football shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads, shoes, helmets, football pants or any other equipment used primarily in football. Football practice or training is interpreted to mean any organized instruction in football plays, formations or team skills.
- (E) Ninth grade football practice shall correspond with the high school dates whether the ninth grade is in high school, junior high or on a separate campus. Exception: 5A and 6A ninth graders may start on the date set forth by the UIL calendar as delineated for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.
- (F) **Interschool Games.** With the exception of certain sub-varsity games as outlined in the *Football Manual*, no high school (9-12) interschool games shall be allowed until the date set forth by the UIL calendar. However, schools that play prior to the first Thursday in September shall omit a scrimmage and have an open date during the season. Refer to Section 1478 for 7th and 8th grade regulations.
- (G) During the pre-season, regular season and post-season, football players are not allowed to participate in more than 90 minutes of full contact practice per week. Refer to the *Football Manual* for explanations of full contact.
- (6) **Preseason or Summer Practice for Seventh and Eighth Grade or Elementary School Students Prohibited.** Schools may not:
- (A) hold any preseason football practice in junior high school (eighth grade and below) or elementary school, individual or team, prior to the opening day of school; or
- (B) conduct any spring training either in elementary school or seventh and eighth grade the preceding spring. This section does not prevent students from participating in summer camps, as allowed in Section 1209. Penalty for violations shall be assessed by the appropriate executive committee.
- (7) **Spring Training For Ninth Graders Restricted.** Students in the ninth grade may participate in spring training in Conference 5A and 6A schools provided:
- (A) that such participation is at the same time as the high school squad practices; and
- (B) that said high school is the one which the ninth-grade students will attend the following fall. Penalty for violations shall be assessed by the appropriate executive committee.
- (c) **1A FOOTBALL.** Schools may choose to participate in 1A football with an enrollment of 104.9 or below. If enrollment in grades 9-12 is greater than 104.9, and the school is currently playing 1A football, it may continue to participate if any

one of these three conditions exist: Enrollment of 104.9 or below in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10, or grades 8, 9, 10 and 11, or grades 9 and 10 doubled. The pertinent figures that total 104.9 or below shall be submitted with reclassification and realignment figures.

- (d) **PLAYOFF ELIMINATIONS ALL CONFERENCES.** District representatives are bracketed for elimination play to the state championships on a weekly schedule beginning the first weekend after the specified date for determining district representatives. State elimination games may not be scheduled earlier than the first Thursday after the certification date for district representatives.
- (e) **NUMBER OF GAMES; TIME BETWEEN GAMES.**
 - (1) *Maximum Number of Regular Season Games.* No team or student shall participate in more than 10 games during the 11-week regular season, prior to bi-district play. **Exception:** See below for ten-team districts that zone. Some districts do not play bi-district games and have 12 weeks to play 10 regular season games.
 - (2) *Exception For Ten-Team Districts That Zone.* A football district that contains 10 schools, by majority vote of the District Executive Committee, may subdivide into zones for contest purposes. Districts that choose this option are allowed to schedule and play one additional regular season game to determine an overall district champion. This additional game is only allowed for the first and second place team in each zone. Districts choosing this option are required to play their first game during the first week games are allowed. Refer to Section 28 (k) for information on zones.
 - (3) *Minimum Time Between Regular Season Games.* Up to and including the final district game, no team or student in any conference shall be permitted to take part in more than one game within five calendar days. Example: A team playing Saturday night cannot play again until the following Thursday night. A team playing Monday night could play any time on Saturday.
 - (4) *Minimum Time Between Playoff Games.* No team or student in any conference shall be permitted to take part in more than one playoff game within six calendar days, unless mutually agreeable to play within five calendar days. This rule also applies to the first playoff game.

- (f) **PRACTICE SCRIMMAGE.** A practice scrimmage is a meeting of up to four teams for practice purposes which does not count as a game for any of the teams. Admission may be charged. Officials may be paid in accordance with the schedule in Section 1204 and may, by prior agreement with the school, be reimbursed for mileage and meals. Refer to Section 1204 (n) and (o). There shall be no kickoff.

- (1) *Scrimmages.* No team or student shall participate in more than one interschool football scrimmage during any given period of five calendar days, prior to the playing of the first football game.
 - (A) Example: A team scrimmaging on Saturday cannot scrimmage again until the following Thursday.
 - (B) A team scrimmaging on Saturday may play a game or scrimmage the next Thursday. (Five calendar day rule applies.)
 - (C) No team or student may participate in more than three scrimmages.
- (2) *Scrimmage Limits.* No interschool scrimmages shall be allowed after a school has played its first interschool game in football.

- (g) **EXPENSES.** Expenses of visiting teams, officials, advertising, labor, services and printing incident to the contest shall be considered as expenses of the game. These expenses shall be itemized with supporting bills, properly receipted. Number of participants allowed upon expense account shall be agreed upon by the school administration of the teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team will furnish a playing field without cost to the visiting school.
 - (1) *Seating.* The visiting team has the right to demand one-half of the stadium seats in relation to the 50-yard line in all UIL football contests, whether district games, non-district games or playoff games, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two schools involved. A visiting team can demand one half of the reserved seats. A visiting team has a right to split the stadium in relation to the 50-yard line, subject to the end zone situation being equal, unless mutually agreeable otherwise.
 - (2) *Season Tickets.* Proceeds from the sale of season tickets are considered a part of the receipts of the game.
 - (3) *Radio, Television Proceeds.* Proceeds from radio and television are considered a part of the

- receipts of the game.
- (4) *Gate Receipts.* Refer to Section 1208 (j).
- (h) TIED GAMES.
- (1) *Non-district Varsity, District Varsity and Post-District Games.* The NCAA overtime system shall be used in all non-district varsity games, district varsity games and post-district games tied at the end of regulation play. (Refer to *Football Manual*.)
- (2) *Other Games.* The NCAA overtime system shall not be used in any sub-varsity games or junior high games.
- (i) SITE AND DAY OF GAME.
- (1) *Non-District Games.* Mutual agreement determines site and day of game.
- (2) *District Games.* District schedules, unless unanimously agreeable otherwise, shall be made by a draw for a two-year period. Home team may designate the day of the game. **Exception:** When a school district has more than one home game per week and only one stadium, the day of the game shall be determined by a draw unless mutually agreeable otherwise. Starting time shall be set by the District Executive Committee, unless mutually agreeable otherwise.
- (3) *Playoff Games.* Excluding state championship games, unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the place for playing a playoff game shall be determined on a "home and home" basis for the past two football seasons. The team that was the visiting team the last time the two teams met on a home field in a post-district playoff game may require the game be played at its home field. In case of disagreement between two teams who have not played a post-district playoff game during the past two football seasons, the game site shall be decided by a coin toss. A school cannot be required to flip for a playoff site that is not large enough to accommodate the fans from both schools. **Exception:** In 5A and 6A, for the first round of the playoffs only, the opponent with the higher district finish will determine whether the game is played on its home field or mutually agree to play the game at a neutral site.
- (4) *Home Sites.* When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.
- (5) *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 it is more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.
- (6) *Playoff Contract.* Post-season contracts should show either home site, neutral site or mutually agreed-on site.
- (7) *Day of Game.* The home team may designate the day of the game for non-district games during the regular season only. **Exception:** If the visiting school has to miss class time to travel to the game, the game shall be played on a non-school day unless mutually agreed otherwise.
- (j) SIXTEEN PERCENT POST-DISTRICT RECEIPTS. Sixteen percent of the gross receipts of post-district games shall be paid to the UIL. The radio broadcast receipts and the telecast receipts are considered a part of the game receipts in all post-district games.
- (k) NO INTERSCHOOL SPRING SCRIMMAGE OR POST-SEASON FOOTBALL GAMES. No member school shall play any football game, practice or scrimmage with another high school after the close of its season. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed by the State Executive Committee.
- (l) POST-SEASON GAMES. No school may engage in any postseason game, other than in regular interdistrict playoffs scheduled by the UIL. A post-season football game in all conferences is one played between two schools after the deadline for certifying district representatives. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed by the State Executive Committee.
- (m) TRAINING RESTRICTED TO LOCAL ISD. The pre-season conditioning and fall training period shall be conducted on the campus of the local school or on a site controlled by the school board and lying within the boundaries of the school district. On-campus workout sessions which involve meals and/or overnight lodging are prohibited.
- (n) Refer to football manual for NCAA rules exceptions.
- (o) GAME VIDEOS. Playoff teams are required to exchange all videos leading up to the playoff game to include regular season and post-season games. Upon mutual agreement, teams may agree on trading a specific number of games.
- (1) All videos must be traded by noon on the day following the last game played by the two

teams involved. **Example:** Team (A) plays on Friday and Team (B) plays on Saturday, all videos must be traded by noon on Sunday. By mutual agreement games may be traded earlier.

Section 1260: GOLF PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 apply to the Golf Plan.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be the following divisions in girls' and boys' districts: (1) singles and (2) teams consisting of five (or a minimum of four) entries from the same high school. The singles representatives may also be a member of the team. The medalist for each respective meet is singles champion, regardless of whether he/she is a member of a team or a single entry.
- (c) **REPRESENTATION.**
 - (1) *Team Limit.* At the district meet, each high school may enter three singles and two teams in each division.
 - (2) *Qualifiers to Regional Meet.* Each district may qualify the first and second place teams and the first and second place individuals to regional competition. If one of the first two individual finishers is on an advancing team, the next highest ranked individual who is not on an advancing team shall advance. If both of the first two individual finishers are on advancing teams, the next two highest ranked individuals who are not on advancing teams shall advance. Meet director shall authorize play-offs to break ties. (Refer to golf manual).
 - (3) *Qualifiers to State Meet.* Each region may qualify the first, second and third place teams and the first, second and third place individual finishers, to state competition. If one of the first three individual finishers is on an advancing team, the next highest ranked individual who is not on an advancing team shall advance. If all three individual finishers are on advancing teams, the next three highest ranked individuals who are not on advancing teams shall advance.
 - (4) *Certification.* Winners will be certified to the next higher meet by the meet director.
 - (5) *Team Member Changes.* Teams qualifying to the next meet qualify as a school team, and members can be changed before the next qualifying meet begins.
 - (6) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions.* No girls' teams shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.
- (7) *Closing of Entries.* Entries shall not be allowed for district meets unless submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the tournament. Districts may authorize a later meeting after the entries are due, to allow for substitutions.
- (8) *Disqualifications.* A player disqualified (for other than an unsportsmanlike conduct violation) shall have the disqualification apply only to the 18-hole round in which the infraction occurred.
- (d) **SUBSTITUTION.**
 - (1) *No Singles Substitution.* There shall be no substitution allowed in the singles.
 - (2) *Team Substitution.* Once a meet has started no substitution shall be allowed to the school team composed of five players. **Exception:** Injury or illness certified by a physician prior to any 18-hole competition.
 - (3) *District Tournament.* In districts playing more than 36 holes, District Executive Committees shall authorize substitution standards prior to the beginning of competition.
- (e) **INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS.**
 - (1) *Number of Meets.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments during the school year, excluding one 36-hole maximum district tournament, the regional tournament and the state tournament. 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. Tournaments which are limited to three or fewer schools do not count as a tournament for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.
 - (2) *School Week Limitation.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one tournament per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day of the week). **Exceptions:** The regional and state tournament, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week. Schools shall not enter invitational golf tournaments scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament.

- (3) *End of Season.* Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any golf tournament after the date of the state golf tournament.
- (4) *Scoring.* In invitational tournaments consisting of 36 holes or less (e.g., a 27-hole tournament), team honors shall be determined by totaling the best four scores for all holes actually played.
- (5) *Cancellation or Continuation.* A tournament is considered a tournament when all contestants have played one half of the predetermined length. It is recommended that in order to prevent additional loss of school time, the tournament be called and a champion determined on less than the scheduled number of holes. However:
 - (A) If the second half of the tournament has not begun and the tournament cannot be continued, the remaining holes may be played at a later date without counting as another tournament provided there is no additional loss of school time.
 - (B) If less than half of the tournament has been played and the tournament cannot be continued, the tournament may be canceled and does not have to count as one of the allowable 8 tournaments. If there was a loss of school time, the tournament shall be counted.
- (6) *Time and Order of Starting.* The players shall start at the time and in the order arranged by the committee or director. The penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification.
- (f) **TIES.**
 - (1) *Individual Ties.* Individual (singles) ties shall be determined by playing additional hole or holes until the tie is broken.
 - (2) *Team Ties.* Team ties shall be broken by the five players with the best scores on the final 18 holes being involved in the playoff of additional hole or holes until the tie is broken.
- (g) **PLAYOFF STRUCTURE.**
 - (1) *Individual Medalist.* The individual with the lowest score will be the medalist. The medalist may be the representative in the singles and/or may be a member of the team. The individual, regardless if team member or singles qualifier, who has the lowest score will win the medalist honors and be the singles winner.
 - (2) *Team Honors.* Team honors shall be determined by adding the best four scores for each 18-hole round of the five players who enter as a team.
- (3) *Team Winners.* The team with the lowest score will be the team winner.
- (4) *Ties.* In case of a tie, the five players with the best scores on the final 18 holes will be involved in the playoff.
- (5) *Monitors.* In district, regional and state competition, golf coaches or qualified volunteers should be assigned to foursomes for monitoring play.
- (6) *Regional, State Meets.* All entries in the regional and state golf meets will play a total of 36 holes unless the tournament director determines it is necessary to play fewer than 36 holes (a minimum of 9 holes shall be played).
- (7) *Practice Round.* Individuals and/or teams qualifying for regional and/or state golf may be permitted one practice round of 18 holes at the site of the regional and/or state golf tournament if permitted by the regional and/or state director. Schools shall not use more than one hour during the school day for practice rounds. There shall be no more than one day loss of school time involved in practice or travel in relation to practice preceding the tournament. Once a practice round has been completed, neither teams nor individuals are allowed to return to the site on another day to chip and/or putt. Refer to Section 1206.

Section 1270: SOCCER PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Soccer Plan.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be three divisions for high school boys and three divisions for high school girls, in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A only.
- (c) **DATES FOR PRACTICE AND GAMES.** There shall be no school soccer practices for a contestant or team before or after school from the first day of school until the first Monday after Thanksgiving, and after the date for certifying district representatives, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs. Refer to Official Calendar for practice and playing dates, and certification deadlines.
- (d) **NUMBER OF GAMES, SCRIMMAGES AND TOURNAMENTS.**
 - (1) *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.

- (2) *Number of Games Per Day.* No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool soccer games per day, including tournament games. **Exception:** Contestants and teams may play three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.
 - (3) *Total Number of Games.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 15 soccer games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games and games played in pre-scheduled district tournaments. If the district champion has a bye for the first round of the play-offs, that school 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. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament.
 - (4) *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 15 allowed games provided only one other matched game is played that calendar week. It 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 tournament provided only two matched games have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.
 - (5) *Number of Games Per Week; Tournament Restrictions.*
 - (A) Matched Games Only. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games (as distinguished from tournaments) per calendar week.
 - (B) Week of an Invitational Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than one matched game during the calendar week of an invitational tournament.
 - (C) Week of a District Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games during the calendar week of a district tournament, including a district tournament authorized by the District Executive Committee to resolve a tie for district championship. To be considered a district tournament, at least three teams shall be assembled at one site for an elimination contest on consecutive days. Refer to Section 1203.
 - (D) Invitational Tournament Restriction. No team shall participate in an invitational soccer 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.
 - (E) Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity soccer 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 exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.
- (e) BOYS', GIRLS' TEAM RESTRICTIONS. No girls' team shall play in a game against a boys' team and vice versa.
 - (f) SITE OF GAME. The District Executive Committee, in arranging a schedule within the district, shall determine the site of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.
 - (g) GATE RECEIPTS FROM STATE TOURNAMENT. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state

soccer tournament.

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. Refer to 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) *Practice Dates.* There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, 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.* Refer to Section 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 com-

pleted. 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.* Playoffs games shall not be played before Thursday 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. **Exception:** In the first round of the playoffs only, the district champion will have the choice of a single game or two-out-of-three series.
 - (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. Refer to 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.

Section 1290: SWIMMING PLAN

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

the Swimming Plan.

- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be three divisions for high school boys and three divisions for high school girls, Conferences 6A, 5A and 4A and below.
- (c) **ENTRIES.**
 - (1) *Girls', Boys' Team Restrictions.* No girls' team shall compete against a boys' team and vice versa.
 - (2) *District Entry.* Each school shall submit the official entry files with qualifying times to the meet director on or before the fifth day prior to the district meet unless other arrangements have been authorized by the District Executive Committee.
 - (3) *Regional Entry.* It shall be the responsibility of the district director to submit the district report to the regional director by midnight of the final day of the district meet
 - (4) *State Entry.* It shall be the responsibility of the regional director to submit the regional report to the UIL office by midnight of the final day of the regional meet.
 - (5) *Relay Events.* In relay events, qualification is by school. Schools may change personnel on relay teams prior to the next UIL qualifying meet according to National Federation regulations.
- (d) **SUBSTITUTION IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.** After the entry deadline, there shall be no substitution allowed in the individual events according to National Federation Rules. If the individual place winner cannot compete in the next higher meet, the next place winner may be certified if time allows.
- (e) **QUALIFICATIONS.**
 - (1) *Regional Meet Qualifications.* It shall be the responsibility of the district director to submit the district report to the regional meet director by midnight of the day of the district meet. The regional director may contact alternate qualifiers to replace individual school entries who are scratched, if time permits.
 - (2) *State Meet Qualifications.* It shall be the responsibility of the regional meet director to submit the regional report to the state meet director by midnight of the day of the regional meet. The UIL office shall contact additional qualifiers to the state meet after individual school entries are received.
- (f) **NUMBER OF MEETS.**
 - (1) *Number of Meets.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year,

- excluding one district meet, the regional meet and the state meet. Each meet a school team enters counts as one meet 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. Meets, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.
- (2) *School Week Limitation.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The regional and state meet and district varsity meets postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
- (g) **CONSOLATION FINALS.** There shall be no consolation finals in district meets. Refer to Swimming Manual for scoring.
- (h) **CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.**
- (1) *District Meets.* District meets shall be held in districts with more than six individuals or relays in any event.
- (2) *Qualifiers to Regional.*
- (A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, the top six individuals and relays shall qualify from district to regional.
- (B) In the 4A and below conference, the top four individuals and relays shall qualify from district to regional.
- (3) *Qualifiers to State.*
- (A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, the first place and second place in each of eight regional swimming meets and the next eight swimmers with the best regional final times overall will advance to the state meet.
- (B) In the 4A and below conference, the first place and second place in each of four regional swimming meets and the next eight swimmers with the best regional final times overall will advance to the state meet.
- (4) *Diving.*
- (A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, in diving, three divers will qualify at each of eight regional meets.
- (B) In the 4A and below conference, in diving, four divers will qualify at each of four regional meets.
- (5) *Timing.* Swimmers shall have been electronically timed unless the UIL office grants an exception.
- (6) *Ties.* If ties occur for positions to the state competition, the times of the competitors from the regional preliminary competition will be considered first with the competitor with the fastest preliminary time advancing to the state meet. If a tie should still exist, then decision as to which qualifier will advance will be made by a coin toss.
- Section 1300: **TENNIS PLAN (INDIVIDUALS AND DOUBLES)**
- (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.

Section 1310: TEAM TENNIS PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Team Tennis Plan.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be the following divisions: Conference 6A, 5A and 4A. Conference 3A may compete for full honors in Conference 4A.
- (c) **REPRESENTATION AND TEAM COMPOSITION.**
 - (1) *Composition.* At the district level each school may enter one team consisting of a minimum of six boys and six girls.
 - (2) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions.* Girls may not qualify for boys' positions on the team and vice versa.
 - (3) *Matches.* Each team match will consist of 19 matches:
 - (A) six boys' singles;
 - (B) six girls' singles;
 - (C) three boys' doubles;
 - (D) three girls' doubles; and
 - (E) mixed doubles.
 - (4) *Singles, Doubles.* Players may, but are not required to, play both singles and doubles or mixed doubles.
 - (5) *Singles Ladder Positions.* In singles, each player is to play according to ladder position, meaning the best player at #1, the next best at #2, and so on down the lineup to #6.
 - (6) *Doubles Ladder Positions.* In doubles, players shall be placed on doubles teams according to a ladder position, meaning the best two doubles players at #1 doubles, the next two doubles players at #2 doubles and so on for #3 doubles.
 - (7) *Mixed Doubles.* Mixed doubles can consist of any boy or girl who is not participating in the doubles competition.
- (d) **TEAM SCORING AND TIES.**
 - (1) *Scoring.* The scoring system will be No Advantage-Scoring, best 2-out-of-3 set matches with a 7-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. If a third set is necessary, it

will be played as a ten-point match tiebreak.

- (2) *Point Count.* Each match won will count one point for the team.
- (e) **FORFEITS AND DEFAULTS.**
 - (1) *Forfeiture.* If after an individual match begins, a forfeit occurs due to illness, injury or penalty for misconduct, the games and set won by the forfeiting team shall stand and count.
 - (2) *Default.* In all other matches, if a default occurs before the individual match begins, then the tournament director shall record the score as 6-0, 6-0.
- (f) **NUMBER OF MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS.**
 - (1) *Number of Tournaments.* 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.) Each tournament a school team enters counts as one tournament for the team and 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) Tournaments, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a tournament for teams or 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 team or the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.
 - (3) *Exception for Rescheduled Matches.* District varsity team tennis matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup match to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup matches may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week

- limitations. District varsity matches 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.
- (4) *School Week Limitation.* No student or team representing a member school shall participate in more than one invitational meet/tournament, dual or triangular meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
 - (5) *Match Limitation.* Each player shall play in no more than three dual matches per day.
- (g) **CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.**
- (1) *District Tournaments.*
 - (A) **Format.** The District Executive Committee will make arrangements and set format to determine the district representatives.
 - (B) **Entries.** Each school shall enter the district meet by certifying entries to the district director by the entry deadline set by the District Executive Committee. If a round-robin format is utilized in lieu of a district tournament, the District Executive Committee shall specify entry and team roster regulations prior to the entry deadline.
 - (2) *Regional Tournaments.*
 - (A) **Regional qualifiers.** Regional quarterfinal winners will advance to a regional tournament. Regional tournament entries shall be certified by regional quarterfinal winners to the regional director.
 - (B) **State tournament entries** shall be certified by the regional meet director.
 - (3) *State Tournament.*
 - (A) The first-place team from each region will advance to the state tournament.
 - (B) Pairings will be made based on season records.
- (h) **SUBSTITUTIONS IN REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS.**
- (1) *Lineup Changes.* Between district and regional, or regional and state, the coach may change the lineup to reflect proper ladder position prior to the start of the tournament, following the guidelines below.
 - (2) *Singles Movement on Ladder.* After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the singles lineup.
 - (3) *Doubles Movement on Ladder.* After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the doubles lineup.
 - (4) *Doubles Moves.* After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may change a player from one doubles partner to another partner, but no player may move more than one position in the doubles lineup.
- (i) **TAUNTING PENALTY.** Refer to taunting penalty, exception to USTA rules in the *Team Tennis Manual*.
 - (j) **PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR.** Any team 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.

Section 1320: TRACK AND FIELD PLAN.

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Track and Field Plan.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.** There shall be a boys' division and a girls' division in the respective conferences. Girls' teams shall not compete against boys' teams, and vice versa.
- (c) **REPRESENTATION.** Each member school may enter one boys' team and one girls' team in the district meet, advancing to regional and state meets as provided in the *Track and Field Manual*.
 - (1) *Number in Each Event.* Each school shall be allowed a maximum of three contestants in

- each individual event. Only one relay team per school may be entered.
- (2) *Individual Events.* In individual events a school may enter in the next higher meet only the same individuals and in the same events as they qualified for in the preceding meet.
 - (3) *Alternates.* If a qualified contestant cannot enter the next higher meet, then the next place winner in that event at the lower meet shall be qualified to participate.
 - (4) *Relays.* In the relay event, qualification is by school and not individual. Individuals qualifying only as a member on the relay team may not enter any individual event in the next higher meet.
- (d) **POINTS.** The point system in scoring high school track meets shall be the same in all meets which count on UIL standing.
- (1) *Points for Individual Events and Relays.* Points shall be given in individual events as follows: First place 10 points, second place 8 points, third place 6 points, fourth place 4 points, fifth place 2 points, sixth place 1 point. Points for relays shall be as follows: first place 20 points, second place 16 points, third place 12 points, fourth place 8 points, fifth place 4 points, sixth place 2 points.
 - (2) *Points to All Finishers.* Points shall be awarded to all finishers (first through sixth).
 - (3) *Individual Honors.* In computing individual honors, a contestant's points on the relay team shall also be counted; i.e., each contestant on the winning relay team shall receive five points for individual honors.
- (e) **EVENTS.**
- (1) *Order of Events.* The events and order in which they shall be held, are:
 - (A) *Running Events.*
 - (i) 3200-meter run: girls; boys
 - (ii) 400-meter relay: girls; boys
 - (iii) 800-meter run: girls; boys
 - (iv) Girls' 100-meter hurdles (33")
 - (v) Boys' 110-meter hurdles (39")
 - (vi) 100-meter dash: girls, boys
 - (vii) 800-meter relay: girls; boys
 - (viii) 400-meter dash: girls; boys
 - (ix) Girls' 300-meter hurdles (30")
 - (x) Boys' 300-meter hurdles (36")
 - (xi) 200-meter dash: girls; boys
 - (xii) 1600-meter run: girls; boys
 - (xiii) 1600-meter relay: girls; boys
 - (B) *Girls' Field Events.*
 - (i) 4-kilo shot put
 - (ii) Discus
 - (iii) High jump
 - (iv) Long jump
 - (v) Triple jump
 - (vi) Pole vault
 - (C) *Boys' Field Events.*
 - (i) Pole vault
 - (ii) High jump
 - (iii) 12-pound shot put
 - (iv) Long jump
 - (v) Discus
 - (vi) Triple jump
- (2) *Metric Distance Only.* The 3200-meter run, the 100-meter dash and the 1600-meter run for both boys and girls shall be run at the metric distances only.
- (3) *Feet/Yard Equivalents.* In the 400, 800 and 1600 meter relays and the 200, 400 and 800 meter dashes and runs, the equivalent yard distances may be run.
- (f) **EVENT LIMITATIONS.**
- (1) *Event Limitations.* A contestant shall not be allowed to compete in more than three running events, including the relays, and in not over five events total.
 - (2) *Field Events.* Contestants may enter five field events provided they are not entered in any running events.
- (g) **ENTRIES FOR THE DISTRICT MEET.**
- (1) 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.
 - (2) Districts may authorize a scratch meeting after the entries are submitted to allow for substitutions.
 - (3) Schools should be permitted to scratch and add according to approved District Executive Committee regulations. Those events that have been entered by the school on the fifth-day-prior entry form may be subject to some changes under the following suggested guidelines:
 - (A) Students who are not eligible 5 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 assigned to events. They shall be eligible at the time they actually compete.
 - (B) Students entered, but who have lost their eligibility because of the academic

- regulations, should be permitted to be dropped or scratched.
- (C) Other eligible participants should be permitted to be added to the vacated places. These substitutes should be on an eligibility form turned into the district chair prior to the contest.
 - (D) If a school which has not entered an event 5 days prior wishes to enter an event 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.
- (h) **QUALIFICATION.** The district director shall, subject to exceptions provided in (h)(1) below, certify the first four winners to area competition, and the first four winners at area will be certified to regional competition. The regional director shall certify first and second place winners for the state meet in accordance with the schedule provided in the *Track and Field Manual*.
- (1) *All Conferences* Except in cases where the options provided for in the *Track and Field Manual* concerning district and area meets are adopted, four contestants qualify from each district to area; four contestants qualify from each area to region, and two contestants qualify from each region to state meet. Refer to #5 below.
 - (2) Qualifications are to be made in accordance with the National Federation Track and Field Rules.
 - (3) If a tie still exists after the application of these rules, then it will be decided by a coin toss and points split.
 - (4) Individual school entry forms and entry fees are not required for the state meet.
 - (5) After the regional meet directors have certified state qualifiers, the UIL staff will select one additional qualifier for each event to compete in the state meet. This qualifier will be the individual and/or relay team with the best overall time, mark, or height from all regional meets per classification that did not finish first or second. Ties will be broken as noted above.
- (i) **AREA, REGIONAL AND STATE MEET ALTERNATES.**
- (1) *Alternates.* In the event a qualified contestant is unable to compete, area, regional and state meet directors may permit the next highest place finisher to compete. Relays qualify by schools. Relay team members may be changed according to rule.
 - (2) *Restriction.* An alternate on a relay cannot participate in any other event except the relay unless the alternate qualified in another event. This rule is applicable in all area, regional meets and in the state meet.
 - (3) *Preliminaries.* A contestant in an individual event shall compete in the preliminaries in order to compete in the finals.
- (j) **AREA, REGIONAL AND/OR STATE QUALIFIERS MEETS.** All area, regional and/or state qualifiers, including alternates in individual events and relays, shall be eligible to participate in any event at the applicable area, regional and/or state qualifiers meet(s).
- (k) **REPORTING TO EVENT.** The director of the meet shall see that the preliminaries and the finals start at the scheduled times.
- (1) *No Excuse.* No excuse shall be accepted for failure of a team or contestant to appear at the time announced for the event to start.
 - (2) *Forfeiture.* Any contestant who fails for any reason to be on hand at the time of the preliminaries shall forfeit the right to compete in the preliminaries and the finals, in that event.
- (l) **NO EXTRA TRIALS FOR RECORD.** Winners in the field events at the state meet will not be allowed extra trials for a state record. Those who qualify for the finals will be allowed three additional trials, and the contestants will be credited with their best performance whether it was made in the preliminaries or in the finals.
- (m) **INVITATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD MEETS.**
- (1) *Number of Meets.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year, excluding one district meet, the area meet, the regional meet, a regional qualifiers meet and the state meet. Meets which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time. Each meet a school enters counts as one meet 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) *Cancellation.* A track and field meet is considered a meet when one-half or more of the field events and one-half or more of the track events are completed. If less than one-half of the field events and less than one-half

of the track events are completed, and the meet cannot be continued, the meet may be canceled and does not have to count as one of the allowable eight meets, unless there was loss of school time. A canceled meet shall be counted if there was loss of school time.

- (3) *School Week Limitation.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The area meet, regional and state meets, and district varsity meets postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
- (4) *Day of Week and Starting Time.* Students or teams representing a member school are permitted to participate in an invitational track and field meet only as listed below:
 - (A) After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break. **Exception:** A student representing a member school may participate in a maximum of three meets Thursday or Friday, or the last day of the school week with no restriction on start time.
 - (B) Or on Saturday or school holidays;
 - (C) Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:
 - (i) Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.
 - (ii) Schools utilizing this option are limited to a one-day meet.
 - (iii) A school or student participating in this type of meet shall not enter another track and field meet during the same school week, Monday through Friday.
 - (iv) No event shall start after 10:00 p.m.
- (5) *End of District.* A member school shall not enter a student or students in an invitational track and field meet after the final date for district certification of track and field representatives except those students qualifying for further competition as a qualifier, relay alternate (maximum of two alternates on any one relay team) or alternate (fourth place fin-

isher at district) in the UIL regional or state meets. One regional qualifiers meet would not count in the allowable total of eight meets per student per year. A state qualifiers meet would count in the allowable total of eight meets per student per year.

- (6) *End of Season.* Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any track and field meet after the date of the State Track and Field Meet.

Section 1330: GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL PLAN.

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls' Volleyball Plan.
- (b) **DATES FOR PRACTICES, MATCHES AND CERTIFICATIONS.**
 - (1) *Practice Dates.*
 - (A) There shall be no high school volleyball practice for a contestant or a team until the first week in August as determined by the UIL calendar. Refer to Section 1478 for seventh and eighth grade restrictions.
 - (2) *School Practice Regulations Outside the School Year.*
 - (A) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
 - (B) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
 - (C) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
 - (D) 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.
 - (3) *Scrimmage Dates.* Schools shall not scrimmage until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar. Teams and schools may participate in an unlimited number of scrimmages prior to the first day of school. After the first match, scrimmages are not permitted.
 - (4) *Matches.* Schools shall not participate in a match until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar or after the last date for certifying district representatives, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.
 - (5) *First Two Weeks of Season.* During each of the

- first two calendar weeks allowed for matches on the UIL Official Calendar, teams or students shall participate in no more than three matches (or dual matches) plus one tournament. The second and third match of the calendar week shall be after the last instructional day of the school week if school is in session.
- (6) *Remainder of Season.* After the first two calendar weeks allowed for matches, teams or students are limited to no more than two matches (or dual matches) during each calendar week, plus one tournament. The second match of the calendar week shall be after the last instructional day of the school week.
 - (7) *Beginning First Day of School.* On and after the first day of school, teams are limited to no more than one scrimmage, match or dual match during the school week. School week means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- (c) **NUMBER OF SCRIMMAGES, MATCHES, TOURNAMENTS.**
- (1) *Violations/Penalties.* The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.
 - (2) *Game-Matches Defined.* A game shall be defined as when a team has scored 25 points and is at least two points ahead. A match shall be defined as when a team has won three games out of five.
 - (3) *Total Number of Games, Matches, Tournaments.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 23 matches in a season, including all matches prior to the first playoff match. This shall include non-district and district matches. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools may schedule a warm-up match in addition to the match limits. This additional match shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time. Two matches may be substituted in place of a tournament.
 - (4) *Substituting Dual Matches for Regular Matches.* Dual matches consisting of two or more teams may be played. A team may play two other teams or play the same team twice at the same site. The second match shall be played as soon following the first match as possibly can be scheduled. A dual match will count as one of the two contests allowed per calendar week (in addition to a tournament), and will count as two of the 23 total matches allowed per season.
- (5) *Exception To Resolve District Ties.*
 - (A) *Two Schools Tied.* To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination match, provided only one other match is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking match may be in addition to the 23 allowed matches. It 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 tournament provided only two matches have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament matches may be played in addition to the total number of matches and tournaments allowed for the season.
 - (6) *Exception for Rescheduled Matches.* District varsity volleyball matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup match to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup matches may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.
 - (7) *Invitational Tournament Restriction.* No team shall participate in an invitational volleyball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, matches or games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.
 - (8) *Invitational Tournament Exception.* Volleyball tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament shall be scheduled on Saturday.
 - (9) *Number of Matches Per Day in Tournaments.* No team or student shall compete in more than three matches per day in tournament

play. **Exception:** Contestants or teams may play in four matches per calendar day in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday, and contestants or teams may play in four matches per day during a two-day tournament.

- (d) **SITE OF MATCH.** The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the site of matches in case of disagreement between two teams.
- (e) **BOYS PROHIBITED.** Boys shall not compete on girls' teams.
- (f) **OFF SEASON PARTICIPATION.** Refer to Section 1209.
- (g) **GATE RECEIPTS FROM STATE TOURNAMENT.** The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state volleyball tournament.

Section 1340: WATER POLO PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Water Polo Plan.
- (b) **DATES FOR PRACTICES, GAMES AND CERTIFICATIONS.**
 - (1) *Practice Dates.*
 - (A) There shall be no high school water polo practice for a contestant or a team until the first week in August as determined by the UIL calendar. see section 1478 for seventh and eighth grade restrictions.
 - (2) *School Practice Regulations Outside the School Year.* Any water polo practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:
 - (A) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
 - (B) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
 - (C) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
 - (D) 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.
 - (3) *Scrimmage Dates.* Schools shall not scrimmage until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar.

dar. Teams and schools may participate in an unlimited number of scrimmages prior to the first day of school. after the first game, scrimmages are no longer permitted.

- (4) *Games.* Schools shall not participate in a game until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar or after the last date for certifying district representatives, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.
- (c) **NUMBER OF SCRIMMAGES, GAMES, TOURNAMENTS.**
 - (1) *Violations/Penalties.* The district executive committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.
 - (2) *Total Number of Games and Tournaments.* No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 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. 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, provided only one other game is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the 17 allowed games. It 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 tournament provided only two games have been played that week, using the procedure in section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.
 - (4) *Exception for Rescheduled Games.* District varsity water polo 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 games to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the

next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.

- (5) *Invitational Tournament Restriction.* No team shall participate in an invitational water polo 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.
- (6) *Invitational Tournament Exception.* Water polo tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament shall be scheduled on Saturday.
- (7) *Number of Games Per Day in Tournaments.* No team or student shall compete in more than three games per day in tournament play. Exception: Contestants or teams may play in four games per calendar day in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday, and contestants or teams may play in four games per day during a two-day tournament.
- (d) **CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.**
 - (1) *District Tournaments.*
 - (A) **Format.** The district executive committee will make arrangements and set format to determine the district representatives.
 - (B) **Entries.** Each school shall enter the district meet by certifying entries to the district director by the entry deadline set by the district executive committee. If a round-robin format is utilized in lieu of a district tournament, the district executive committee shall specify entry and team roster regulations prior to the entry deadline.
 - (2) *Regional Tournaments.*
 - (A) **Regional Qualifiers.** Regional quarter-final winners will advance to a regional tournament. Regional tournament entries shall be certified by regional quarterfinal winners to the regional director.
 - (B) **State tournament**

Section 1350: WRESTLING PLAN.

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.** Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Wrestling Plan.
- (b) **DIVISIONS.**
 - (1) There shall be two divisions for high school boys and two divisions for high school girls, in conferences 5A and 6A only. Conference 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A schools may compete for full honors in conference 5A.
 - (2) *Boys' Girls' Restriction.* No high school boy shall wrestle against a high school girl and vice versa. This prohibition is only applicable when the contest is held in Texas or in any other state that sponsors wrestling programs for both boys and girls. Refer to Official Interpretation #05-09-01, Appendix I.
- (c) **DATES FOR COMPETITION.**
 - (1) Refer to Official Calendar.
 - (2) No school or student-athlete representing a school shall participate in a tournament or dual meet until the first Monday following the football district certification deadline and after the date for certifying district representatives.
- (d) **MEETS AND TOURNAMENTS.**
 - (1) *Number of Tournaments.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments during the school season excluding one district tournament and the regional and state tournaments. Each tournament the school team enters counts as one meet 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.* Dual, triangular and quadrangular meets do not count as a tournament for participants provided there is no loss of school time.
 - (3) *School Week Limitation.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one contest (tournament, dual, triangular or quadrangular) per school week (the first instructional day of the calendar week through the last school day).
Exception: Regional and state competition.
- (e) **END OF SEASON.** Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any wrestling meet or tournament after the date of the State Individual Championships.
- (f) **RULES.** All UIL tournaments will be conducted in accordance with National Federation Rules.

- (g) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE. Refer to the Wrestling Coaches Manual for the championship structure.