

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

This amendment would allow schools that violate rules listed under 1033(c) (2) to receive individual acting awards and would require that they attend the critique.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

At this time schools who are declared ineligible are ineligible to receive individual awards and have the option of a critique. This change would retain the structure the rules while allowing companies in violation to receive public validation for their work in the form of awards and participation in the critique like other non-advancing companies.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

Section 1033 (c) (2) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows effective August 1, 2015, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

1033 (c) (2) Contest Play Eligibility. The contest manager is required to declare ineligible **FOR ADVANCEMENT OR RANKING** a play that violates Section 1033 (c) (2) (C), (D) (i and ii) H, I and J. ~~No play, which is declared ineligible by the contest manager, shall be included in final ranking or be considered for any honors, and members of the company of an ineligible play shall not be given individual awards.~~ Violations of any other rules shall be reported to the appropriate Executive Committee.

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

No impact

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

Add an additional tiebreaker in the high school individual speaking events. This would apply to Prose and Poetry Interpretation, Informative and Persuasive Speaking contests.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

The C&CR designates six tiebreaking procedures when tabulating speaking events with panel judges: 1) majority or better, 2) lowest sum, 3) judges' preference, 4) decimal equivalent, 5) judges' preference to break decimal ties, 6) blind draw, except at state finals. This proposal would add an additional tiebreaker, cumulative event ranks for the entire tournament, before the procedure defaults to a blind draw.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

Section 1003 (b) (4) (B), (G), and (H) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows effective August 1, 2015, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

(vi) If after converting to decimal values two contestants remain tied with equal sums of decimal values, this tie shall be broken by judges' preference.

(vii) ~~Should a tie among three or more contestants occur which cannot be broken by these methods, it shall be broken by a blind draw, except for state finals~~ IF, AT THIS POINT, CONTESTANTS REMAIN TIED, THE SUM OF THE RANKS OF ALL TOURNAMENT BALLOTS IN THE CONTEST EVENT OF THE TIED CONTESTANTS, INCLUDING PRELIMINARY ROUNDS, SHALL BE TAKEN. THE CONTESTANT WITH THE LOWEST SUM SHALL BE PLACED HIGHER.

viii) ~~The order of this procedure shall be followed to determine all ranks. When determining second place, a majority of second place ranks OR BETTER is the first criterion. When determining third place, a majority of third place ranks OR BETTER is the first criterion, etc.~~ SHOULD A TIE AMONG THREE OR MORE CONTESTANTS OCCUR WHICH CANNOT BE BROKEN BY THESE METHODS, IT SHALL BE BROKEN BY A BLIND DRAW, EXCEPT FOR STATE FINALS.

(G) ~~If, at this point, a tie still exists among three or more contestants whose decimal value of ranks is equal, the tie shall be broken by a blind draw, except at state finals. The following example illustrates a tie among three contestants which shall be broken by a blind draw.~~

~~All three contestants shall be awarded ranks by a blind draw before any other contestant or place is considered. Pints shall be divided equally in accordance with Section 902.~~ CONTESTANTS REMAIN TIED, THE SUM OF ALL TOURNAMENT BALLOTS IN THE CONTEST EVENT OF THE TIED CONTESTANTS, INCLUDING PRELIMINARY ROUNDS, SHALL BE TAKEN. THE CONTESTANT WITH THE LOWEST SUM SHALL BE PLACED HIGHER.

(H) ~~Contestants who are disqualified receive no place and no points.~~ IF, AT THIS POINT, SHOULD A TIE STILL EXIST THAT CANNOT BE BROKE BY THESE METHODS, THE TIE SHALL BE BROKEN BY A BLIND DRAW, EXCEPT AT STATE FINALS. ALL TIED CONTESTANTS SHALL BE AWARDED RANKS BY A BLIND DRAW BEFORE ANY OTHER CONTESTANT OR PLACE IS CONSIDERED. POINTS SHALL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 902.

(I) CONTESTANTS WHO ARE DISQUALIFIED RECEIVE NO PLACE AND NO POINTS.

**D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools**

There is no fiscal impact to schools related to this proposal.

**E. Legislative Council Consideration, Effective Date**

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposal***

This proposal would authorize development of a robotics competition for UIL Academics.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Development of STEM activities is a key objective for the future of the UIL Academic program. Robotics incorporates numerous STEM components, including mechanical and software engineering, computer programming and mathematics. Participation in robotics fosters creativity and innovation, while teaching students to work collaboratively and to think critically and analytically.

Additionally, robotics is a well-established activity, presenting a unique opportunity for UIL to partner with an existing robotics organization.

UIL staff would develop a partnership structure, contest rules, procedures and timelines to implement a UIL robotics pilot event beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The pilot would include high school competition culminating in a state championship event. Consideration would also be given to competition for younger grades.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

A robotics competition would be added as a pilot program effective August 1, 2015 pending approval of the Commission of Education.

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

School districts would choose whether to participate. For those that participate, there would be costs for registration and equipment, as well as travel to a qualifying event and to the state event for teams that qualify. However, significant grant funds are available that can help mitigate costs, including \$1 million in grant funding available through the Texas Workforce Commission.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this proposed pilot shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

This proposal would authorize development and pilot testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade versions of the A+ Music Memory contest. The pilot would allow Music Memory to also serve as a pilot test for a new divisional structure that could be applied to other A+ events.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Music Memory is one of the most popular events in the A+ program, and it can easily be adapted for younger grades as well as for older students. As with all A+ events, whether to offer Music Memory, and at what grade levels, is decided by each local district.

Working with the Music Memory Committee, UIL staff would develop modified contest rules and materials suitable for Music Memory at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, and at the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade contest would be available to any district that wishes to participate by the spring of the 2014-2015 school year.

The pilot for grades 7 and 8 would be available to any district that wishes to participate beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Districts would also be able to choose the new divisional structure for Music Memory beginning in 2015-2016.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

A+ Music Memory for grades 2, 7 & 8 would be added as a pilot program effective August 1, 2015 pending approval of the Commission of Education.

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

Limited fiscal impact. Local districts choose which elementary school events to offer and at what grade levels. Study and practice materials would be included with the materials already used by other grades. District contest materials are provided by the League office.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this proposed pilot shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

This proposal would authorize development and pilot testing of a computer science event for A+ Academics.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Development of STEM activities is a key objective for the future of the UIL Academic program, including A+ Academics. An emerging trend in STEM is the growth of coding-based activities, both curricular and extracurricular. UIL has a very successful coding-based event in the high school Computer Science contest; there is tremendous opportunity to expand from that platform, including activities for younger grades. Coding provides several possible avenues for development of contests that would be well-suited for A+ Academics.

Working with the Computer Science Advisory Committee and experts in Computer Science education, UIL staff would develop contest rules and materials for a computer science or coding-based event in A+ Academics. Consideration would be given to the middle school and elementary grades, with the possibility of a phased implementation by grade level. Depending on development timetables, the first pilot contest could be available to any district that wishes to participate as soon as the spring of the 2014-2015 school year.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

A+ computer science competition would be added as a pilot program effective August 1, 2015 pending approval of the Commission of Education.

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

Limited fiscal impact. Local districts choose which elementary and middle school events to offer and how to structure divisions. Study and practice materials would available online, often at no cost. District contest materials are provided by the League office.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this proposed pilot shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

This amendment would authorize development of a copy editing contest as a pilot program for the 2015-16 school year.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Current journalism contests do not fully address the skill of copy editing. Regardless of how the media changes and evolves, copy editing will continue to be a vital and necessary skill. And regardless of what field a student chooses in life, copy editing is an important skill for all professions. The contests will help students understand the value of editing and the need for clear, concise communication. Rules and guidelines will be developed for 2015-16 school year that tests students on their copy editing abilities including but not limited to grammar, spelling, punctuation and Associated Press Style.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

A copy editing contest would be added as a pilot program effective August 1, 2015 pending approval of the Commission of Education.

***C. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

Minimal. Possible purchases of AP Stylebooks to help students prepare.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this proposed pilot shall be effective August 1, 2015.

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment***

This amendment would eliminate the speaker at the state level for the Feature Writing Contest.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

The Feature Writing Contest is the only contest in UIL Academics that changes abruptly at the State Level. Instead of writing from a prompt (how students compete at the District and Regional level), the students have a live interview and a bio sheet to write a story. This is a hard adjustment for students, and the earlier contests (District and Regional) do not prepare students for this type of contest. Also, interviewing with 71 other people asking questions is not a real world environment that a feature writing would encounter.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

Section 1024 (e) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows effective August 1, 2015, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education.

~~STATE MEET CONTEST. At the State Meet level only, feature writing contestants shall be given a biographical sketch of a person who then will be interviewed by the contestants as a group. The live interview will last 30 minutes. The contestants then will have one hour in which to develop their stories from the information in the biographical sketch and from the interview.~~

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

None.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2015.