

The following amendments were passed by UIL Legislative Council at the October 2021 Legislative Council Meeting and approved by the Commissioner of Education to be effective immediately. The *Online-UIL Constitution & Contest Rules* has been updated to reflect these changes.

Section 350: Establishing Conferences - This amendment to Section 350, *Establishing Conferences*, would allow the UIL Executive Director to conduct reclassification and realignment via pre-existing approved policies in situations where new policies which have been approved by the Council have not been approved by the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), as required by law.

Section 1209: (Basketball) Non-School Participation - This amendment to Section 1209(g), *Non School Participation* would allow boys' basketball coaches the opportunity to coach their students only during the NCAA/NFHS approved June Scholastic Basketball event hosted by TABC.

Section 1220(f): Baseball Plan & Section 1280(f) Softball Plan, Post-Season Playoffs - Under current rule, playoff games shall not be scheduled before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent. This amendment would prohibit playoff games from being scheduled before Thursday without mutual consent of the two schools. Weather delays and pitch count restrictions can lead to one school having a competitive advantage over the other if a coin flip forces a game to be played prior to Thursday.

Section 1034(b)(5): One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code - The practice of physically slapping, kicking and hitting in performance, specifically above the shoulders, is dangerous. Students run the risk of breaking bones, damaging their ears, eyes, nose, lips and teeth, due to a lack of knowledge or training in stage combat techniques. Properly executed stage combat creates the illusion of fighting without causing harm. Regularly, contest directors and judges have addressed their concerns of seeing students performing dangerous strikes in the one-act play contest.

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to Section 350, *Establishing Conferences*, would allow the UIL Executive Director to conduct reclassification and realignment via pre-existing approved policies in situations where new policies which have been approved by the Council have not been approved by the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), as required by law.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

In order to make sure the reclassification and realignment process is completed efficiently and timely, the Executive Director needs this authority for situations in which Council approved policies have not been approved by the Commissioner of TEA.

C. Proposed Amendment

Section 350 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 350: ESTABLISHING CONFERENCES

Before May 1 of each even numbered year, the UIL shall establish conferences for League contests and assign each member school wishing to compete in UIL activities to an appropriate district in accordance with reclassification and realignment policies as approved by the Legislative Council. These conferences and districts shall be maintained for the next two school years. The Executive Director shall promptly notify each member school of its conference and the district to which it has been assigned and of the identity of the other schools in the district and notify each member school district of the assignments of its member schools.

WHEN RULE CHANGES THAT IMPACT RECLASSIFICATION AND REALIGNMENT ARE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER OF ODD NUMBERED YEARS, AND NOT APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AT TEA (AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 33.083 (B) OF THE TEXAS EDUCATION CODE) BY NOVEMBER 15, THE UIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THE ALIGNMENT PROCESS UNDER THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE RECLASSIFICATION AND REALIGNMENT POLICIES AS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSIONER.

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

This proposal will have no fiscal impact on member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

The Standing Committee on Policy moves that the Legislative Council pass this amendment, to be effective immediately, if approved by the Commissioner of Education.

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment to Section 1209(g), *Non School Participation* would allow boys' basketball coaches the opportunity to coach their students only during the NCAA/NFHS approved June Scholastic Basketball event hosted by TABC.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This pilot program will only be for the 2021-2022 school year and will be reevaluated after one year.

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 1209(g) of the UIL *Constitutional and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1209: NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

- (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. FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, A ONE YEAR PILOT PROGRAM WILL ALLOW BASKETBALL COACHES TO COACH THEIR HIGH SCHOOL TEAM DURING THE TABC JUNE SUMMER SHOWCASE EVENT ONLY. School coaches shall not supervise facilities for non-school activities on school time. Refer to Section 1201.

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

There should be no fiscal impact to member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

The Standing Committee on Athletics moves that the Legislative Council pass this amendment, to be effective immediately, if approved by the Commissioner of Education.

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment to Section 1220, *Baseball Plan* and Section 1280, *Softball Plan* would prohibit playoff games from being scheduled before Thursday unless by mutual consent of the two schools in the contest.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

Under current rule, playoff games shall not be scheduled before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent. This amendment would prohibit playoff games from being scheduled before Thursday without mutual consent of the two schools. Weather delays and pitch count restrictions can lead to one school having a competitive advantage over the other if a coin flip forces a game to be played prior to Thursday.

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 1220(f)(1) and Section 1280(g)(1) of the UIL *Constitutional and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1220: BASEBALL PLAN

(f) POST-SEASON PLAYOFFS

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

Section 1280: SOFTBALL PLAN

(g) POST SEASON PLAYOFFS

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

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

This proposed amendment should have no fiscal impact on member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

The Standing Committee on Athletics moves that the Legislative Council pass this amendment, to be effective immediately, if approved by the Commissioner of Education.

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to Section 1034, *One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code*, would ban physical contact strikes (including actual slaps, punches or kicks to the face, head and neck) in the UIL One-Act Play Contest. Only choreographed stage combat creating the illusion of physical contact should be used in the contest.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

The practice of physically slapping, kicking and hitting in performance, specifically above the shoulders, is dangerous. Students run the risk of breaking bones, damaging their ears, eyes, nose, lips and teeth, due to a lack of knowledge or training in stage combat techniques. Properly executed stage combat creates the illusion of fighting without causing harm. Regularly, contest directors and judges have addressed their concerns of seeing students performing dangerous strikes in the one-act play contest.

C. Proposed Amendment

Section 1034 of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1034: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST ETHICS CODE

(b) CODE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST DIRECTORS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS.

(5) Avoidance of any practice that would endanger the welfare or safety of any company member, INCLUDING ACTUAL CONTACT STRIKES TO THE PERFORMER. ONLY CHOREOGRAPHED STAGE COMBAT, CREATING THE ILLUSION OF PHYSICAL CONTACT SHALL BE USED IN THE CONTEST.

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

There would be minimal financial impact for professional stage combat training or workshops, which are readily available at state theatre conventions, UIL conferences and in the theatre community.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

The Standing Committee on Academics moves that the Legislative Council pass this amendment, to be effective immediately, if approved by the Commissioner of Education.