

AGENDA
UIL Standing Committee on Policy
June 17, 2020

A meeting of the UIL Standing Committee on Policy will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 via teleconference beginning at the time indicated below, according to the following agenda, unless otherwise announced by the Chair.

In accordance with the waiver to certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act issued by Governor Greg Abbott on March 16, 2020, and in the interest of avoiding large gatherings and promoting social distancing during this pandemic, one or more members may participate by teleconference or videoconference.

Please note that there is no physical location for this meeting in order to ensure safe social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is only accessible via live stream at <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/legislative-council>.

Time	Agenda Item	Individual Responsible
Thursday, June 17 9:00 a.m.	<u>Business Meeting</u> A. Quorum Call B. Adoption of Meeting Rules C. Adoption of Agenda D. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2019 E. Statement of Committee Purpose	Aaron Hood, Chair

Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to consider proposals for changes in the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* that have policy related aspects in order to report recommendations to the Legislative Council on June 17, 2020.

The meeting is a business meeting of the committee and not a public hearing. Thus, presentations may not be made by outside groups or individuals during this meeting. If one of the committee members needs clarification, questions may be asked of those in attendance. The UIL Director or a designated member of the UIL staff and Legislative Council members not assigned to this committee shall be recognized to speak on any issue.

- F. Old Business
 - 1. Staff Study/Reports

- G. New Business
 - 1. Written Proposals from the Public
 - a. A proposal to use grades 8-11 for enrollment number reporting
 - b. A proposal to amend the full-time day student rule
 - c. A proposal to allow home school students to compete in sports
 - d. A proposal for an online universal pre-participation packet
 - e. A proposal for a waiver of no pass/no play for students with disabilities
 - f. A proposal to lift the Friday night broadcast rule
 - g. A proposal to allow live streaming of football games on Fridays
 - h. A proposal of a 2020-21 high school football schedule due to COVID-19
 - i. A proposal to allow students to repeat the 2019-20 school year and receive an extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19
 - j. A proposal to reverse the suspension of spring activities due to COVID-19
 - k. A proposal to excuse athletic penalties due to COVID-19
 - l. A proposal to not allow gyms to open due to COVID-19
 - m. A proposal to amend the eligibility requirements for seventh and eighth graders due to COVID-19
 - n. A proposal to extend academics student eligibility by one year due to COVID-19
 - 2. Proposals Referred to Policy Committee from Standing Committees

- H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY GO INTO CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA WHERE AUTHORIZED BY THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551.

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071, Committee members may consult with their attorney concerning pending or contemplated litigation, and all matters identified in the agenda where the Committee members seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas.
2. Action, if any, in Open Session on items discussed in the Executive Session.

Meetings of the University Interscholastic League Legislative Council are open to the public except for any posted executive session held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Persons interested in a Council meeting and desiring communication or other special accommodations should contact the UIL Office at least two working days prior to the meeting. The UIL Office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays and contact information follows: phone (512) 471-5883; fax (512) 471-5908; email policy@uilitexas.org; 1701 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78722.

Written Proposals from Public (G1) a.

A proposal to use grades 8-11 for enrollment reporting

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	<p>Enrollment numbers for alignment purposes shall be figured for the next alignment using grades 8+9+10+11. (change: Grade 12 shall be dropped and grade 8 shall be used.)</p>
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>12 grade students counted will be gone and not a part of any school.</p> <p>8th grade will be entering HS so the numbers will be far more accurate for the upcoming two year cycle and accounts for actual numbers and not a class that has since graduated.</p> <p>There have been many times, school are competing with numbers relatively far outside their classification window due to either a increase or decrease in population trends in a given community. "bubble schools" get caught playing schools with number that would put them in a larger classification had they been taken considering 12th grade is gone and 9th grade was not counted as 8th graders. It also works to the disadvantage of school who lose population and have to compete in a higher classification when in actuality they should be in a lower classification.</p>
Name	Steven Smith
Additional Questions or Comments	<p>Is there a check or formula for enrollment numbers provided on snap shot day with PIEMs and/or a more consistent average on enrollment or is snap shot day the hard number?</p> <p>Thank you for the job and service the UIL provides. We (Texas) have the best system and the most competitive programs athletically and academically in the country.</p>

Written Proposals from Public (G1) b.

A proposal to amend the full-time day student rule

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	<p>Section 406: FULL-TIME DAY STUDENT 2019-2020</p> <p>(d) Subject to local school district discretion, students attending non disciplinary 'alternative' schools such as magnet or ISD charter schools within the same independent school district that do not offer UIL participation opportunities, may be in compliance with this section and eligible to participate in the division (Academics, Athletics, Music) of UIL activities not offered at the non disciplinary 'alternative' school.</p>
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>My local school at HISD have interpreted this rule very "stickily": If magnet school offer any UIL sports, regardless what sport it is, student in the magnet school will not be allowed to participate any other sports at zoned school, even they are not offered at magnet school. For example, there is only UIL volleyball is offered at magnet school. Sports like swimming, baseball and basketball are not offered in the magnet school. HISD local school has been denying student to join local "zone" school for sports like swimming. PLEASE clarify UIL participation opportunities, make sure the local school will not deny participation to sports not offered at magnet school.</p>
Name	Yi Han

Written Proposals from Public (G1) c.

A proposal to allow home school students to compete in sports

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	Please allow students who wish to home school this upcoming year to compete in their local high school sports.
Why do you want this rule changed?	I have an upcoming junior who is committed to Pepperdine University for beach volleyball and she has no where to compete for indoor volleyball. She will definitely be an asset to our local high school. The level of home school sports doesn't even begin to meet the level of play she competes at. I have also been a coach for 20 years and have been in states where homeschool kids play with their local schools and it has been wonderful for all involved. There are currently 35 states that allow it. Texas has some of the best athletes in the country and some of those are homeschooled and just want a place to compete.
Name	Robyn Campbell

Written Proposals from Public (G1) d.

A proposal for an online universal pre-participation packet

This rule change is for:	Policy
Suggested Rule Change	<p>A universal pre participation packet available online. Similar to Rank One or other programs. This would include all UIL required paperwork, preparticipation physical, etc. Schools would have to option of uploading District specific forms in there as well.</p> <p>If a kid changes schools it would electronically transfer to the new school. A nominal fee from each school district to get this up and running would be appropriate. When and if it became "required" there would no longer be a fee.</p>
Why do you want this rule changed?	A universal program to track students health, a simple way to email a link to parents similar to PAPF Portal. Saves time/money and insures that all students are compliant.
Name	Craten Phillips

Written Proposals from Public (G1) e.

A proposal for a waiver of no pass/no play for students with disabilities

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	<p>Kids with disabilities should be able to pass to play. My grandson ever since he was old enough that the UIL decides if he could play or not based on his grades not behavior. His grades would always be two points away from passing and I would try to work with school teachers to get his grades up by those two points and then he would be out for the rest of the games. Teachers would not pass him but would make sure others passed. He is very talented in sports and I told them if he didn't play sports he wasn't interested in school and that athletics meant the world to him and instead of us concentrating on his academics we spent an hour talking about my sons shoes because the teacher wanted to hold his shoes for ransom. Consequently he didn't get to play ball. I believe that kids that are in sports stay out of trouble and I have purposed to the coach and even printed off UIL waiver form but coach said he didn't think that would work. He has a learning disability and also other mental factors like forgetting things ect. I need him to play for the rest of his high school years. His name is Cameron Shelton he is 15 and will be going Sherman High School. I want the teachers to make sure he passes or give him a waiver so he can play ball and stay active.</p>
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>I believe sports keeps kids busy and out of trouble. My son didn't start losing interest in school until he wasn't able to play due to grades. He has a learning disability, ADHD and short and long term memory problems. His fellow athletes would make comments like water boy or bench boy because he couldn't play due to grades. I would like the UIL waiver to be offered to kids with disabilities so that they may be productive in society and succeed in life like the rest of the kids that don't have learning disabilities. I would</p>

like to add some kids cheat but my kid didn't want to cheat to succeed but he needs to pass

Name

Teena Byington

Written Proposals from Public (G1) f.

A proposal to lift the Friday night broadcast rule

Dr. Charles Breithaupt
University Interscholastic League

Dear Dr. Breithaupt

Thanks to your associates and executive board members for all you do for the students of Texas. I have been an active producer of sporting events for the UIL, ESPN, CBS Sports, and others more than 30 years now. I have never seen a Virus and had so much heartache in dealing with student athletes as we have seen this year. Your direction of looking at every possible solution to this problem has been a breath of fresh air.

Please allow me to make a proposal to you and the Board to allow the FRIDAY NIGHT BROADCAST RULE to be lifted for one year so we can get athletes back on the field again. My company JWP, has spent our entire career promoting the good about High School Athletic programs. We began back in the early 90's with the High School Xtra and today do games in the DFW, Houston, San Antonio area each and every week.

I know the reasoning behind the rule, but these are different times and calls for different thinking. As per the UIL rules, timeouts, and formats we could simply adapt to the UIL / Fox Sports format and rules for broadcasting as defined in the UIL Rules and Regulations. JWP is the leader in broadcasting UIL games in their entirety. We would practice all social distancing and regulations spelled out by the CDC. We would work with the Athletic Directors to make sure their teams and specific games are produced in a positive environment.

In San Antonio, we produce 11 games per year on Thursday nights right now. If the rule was lifted, we would look at doing a game on Thursday and Friday nights on our broadcast station in the San Antonio area. In DFW area we have produced 20 games per year for more than 15 years. The UIL would win with the format set by the Fox / UIL agreement allowing the UIL to have spots into the local markets. I suggest that the UIL produce a spot about what they are doing with the control of the Virus to air in each game. I appreciate your time and look forward to working with the UIL and the Executive Board as we advance the High School Athletic programs for the communities of Texas.

Sincerely,

Jeff Watts

Written Proposals from Public (G1) g.

A proposal to allow live streaming of football games on Fridays

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	Allow Live Streaming of football games on Fridays
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>The current "no live streaming games on Friday" only applies to football. The rule was instituted because it was believed fans would not attend games if they could watch them on television. Friday Night Glory has been streaming other sports such as basketball, softball and baseball since 2011 and it has had not affected crowds. It has allowed friends and family in other areas and parents with kids playing in different areas an avenue to watch the game. As far as the Friday Night football rule I know the UIL has lifted the live rule for a hand full of games on Fox and if I'm not mistaken some of those games were sold out. The UIL is an essential part of the State of Texas where football and high school sports are a matter of state pride known across the entire nation as the best. While smaller schools may not have the facilities to tap into stadium feed or manpower to network multiple cameras there are apps available games can be streamed with a smart phone or I-phone and no internet. In the current pandemic there are a number of reasons to change the "no live football games on Friday rule".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The obvious one is if there are games but no fans. This would be the only way for fans to watch the games played on Friday.2) If Governor Abbott only allows a certain number of fans into a venue it's basically the same as number 1. There will be a number of fans that can only see the game if it's live streamed.3) If fans are allowed in venues with established guidelines to keep fans safe there will still be a number of fans that won't be able to attend. Those with compromised immune systems, respiratory issues, people over 65, the elderly and people who still don't feel comfortable gathering in crowds.

4) In 2020 elderly fans (Grand Parents) should not have to negotiate everything that comes with attending a game live.

5) Unlike other seasons schools will be looking for ways to keep crowd numbers down if fans are allowed at games but provide a way for everybody to watch the games.

6) It's not just families and fans of football athletes but drill team, band, cheerleaders and all the students that work hard each and every week preparing for football games.

7) I have discussed the issue with booster presidents from multiple schools of not being able to go out door to door and sell sponsorship for media guides which seems to be the biggest source of income for most booster clubs. Live Streaming provides another level of opportunity for booster clubs to sell advertising weather it be football, band, drill team boosters etc. There are various ads for various budgets that can be sold as well as digital media guides instead of the paper media guides that are sold and passed from one individual to another. Most schools have still been stuck selling ads not much different from the ads my dad sold as a booster president in 1981. In 2020 there are more effective ways for boosters to raise money digitally before, after and throughout a live game stream .

8) The UIL will increase revenue with multiple new streams of income not currently being taken advantage of.

9) It makes it easier for college coaches to scout games possibly scouting more than one game in an evening

10) It does not make sense to allow live streaming on Thursdays and Saturdays but not Fridays

Name

Randy Edwards

Written Proposals from Public (G1) h.

A proposal of a 2020-2021 high school football schedule due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	I'm not sure which committee
Suggested Rule Change	2020-2021 HS Football
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>I am a parent of a former 4V UIL soccer player, current 8th grade football player and I have coached on a volunteer basis at the youth level of football in TX since 2012.</p> <p>I feel the UIL's strategy for the upcoming season in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic will set the tone for amateur American Football across the nation as this state I'm undeniably the most important to the sport (most D1 NCAA players & NFL draftees).</p> <p>I have discussed the possible options with colleagues throughout the football community in El Paso and I feel the upcoming season presents opportunities to innovate and make HS sports more accessible.</p> <p>My Proposal:</p> <p>Hold contests on an abbreviated regular & post season schedule (Game 1 / mid SEP or early OCT; State Championship / DEC) and implement limited fan attendance.</p> <p>Implement edge-network based linear live multi-streaming solutions state-wide for each district's athletic program. Linear Live multi streaming is a digital video propagation technique that can distribute live streaming or recorded video to more than 2 sources simultaneously.</p> <p>For example: A high school football game can be streamed to not only Facebook, but Twitter, Twitch,</p>

broadcast television stations, YouTube, and school websites.

Districts can mitigate losses in revenue from ticket sales by offering streaming tokens to watch contests live or on-demand. Frameworks can be developed to partner with local restaurants and concessionaires for local food delivery services, further evangelizing the concept and fostering parent and local stakeholder support for continued HS athletics throughout the 20-21 school year.

Key binding systems can be implemented to dynamically interject localized advertisements throughout broadcasts and social media streaming platforms. Districts / Boosters can sell these advertisements locally - bringing greater value and participation from small business in lieu of program magazines and banners.

Lastly, the UIL as a governing body can take this opportunity and position itself to generate revenue similar to the Longhorn Network and other power NCAA conferences by provisioning a low cost, maintained, cloud native server for all districts to use as a central platform. This will attract larger advertisers and allow the UIL to offset cloud costs by recouping a small % of advertising & token sales.

For the sake of brevity, this is an extremely high level explanation of the concept.

CPT. DANTE N. LEACH (retired)
Sr. Technical Support Engineer II
Raytheon Technologies

Name

Dante Leach

Written Proposals from Public (G1) i.

A proposal to allow students to repeat the 2019-20 school year and receive an extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	Policy
Suggested Rule Change	Students should have the choice if they would like to repeat the 2019-2020 school year and if they choose to, they should be given an extra year of eligibility for athletics, academics, and music.
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>My son is a senior this year. He participates in athletics, band and academics. We were counting on him being able to place well and receive scholarships for the different activities. Since everything was cancelled, there just weren't many scholarships available. He will not be able to attend college this fall. Although his high school did an amazing job, he wasn't able to learn everything that he would have had he been in a classroom. Now he will have to take a year off to work full time to save for college. So he will basically go without a year and a half of classroom instruction through no fault of his own. This is a chance for Texas and UIL to replace a little of what was taken away from our students. I just ask that kids be given the option to repeat a grade and then let the parents and students decide what is the best for each student.</p>
Name	Kerri Dane

Written Proposals from Public (G1) j.

A proposal to reverse the suspension of spring activities due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	I'm not sure which committee
Suggested Rule Change	The suspension of 2020 UIL Spring activities.
Why do you want this rule changed?	It is unfair fall all Senior classman to be robbed of their last year and to be recognized. The decision was prematurely made. Especially with the opening up of campuses in June.
Name	Valerie Bueno

Written Proposals from Public (G1) k.

A proposal to excuse athletic penalties due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	student varsity athletes planning to move during 2019-2020 school year be excused of athletic penalties due to COVID-19
Why do you want this rule changed?	I was supposed to be moving after spring break due to personal circumstances, although i play varsity basketball, an there is already a rule about moving schools and varsity sports, i was not aloud to move due to COVID-19
Name	Corian Hudson

Written Proposals from Public (G1) I.

A proposal to not allow gyms to open due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	Athletics
Suggested Rule Change	Don't allow gyms to open.
Why do you want this rule changed?	Gatherings of people who haven't been quarantined together may spread COVID-19. Sports teams, conditioning camps, etc all bring athletes together who haven't been quarantined together.
Name	Tammy Peacock

Written Proposals from Public (G1) m.

A proposal to amend the eligibility requirements for 7th & 8th grade participants due to COVID-19

This rule change is for:	Athletics
	1478 (b) (7) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules
Suggested Rule Change	I would like a one year provision due to Covid 19 and the impact it has made and will make on 7th/8th grade students.
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>My 8th grade son meets all the academic requirements for promotion; however, as a parent I am concerned about the lack of classroom instruction during the spring semester. I also fully expect for there to be a delay or break with schools going back to online instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. This would have a tremendous educational impact on my son (and others throughout the state). The transition from middle school to high school is tough enough without having missed a third of the previous school year along with the potential of losing even more classroom instruction this upcoming year. This could be devastating for kids who are preparing for college success. I don't feel that it is fair and I would hope UIL would consider the consequences of 8th graders transitioning to HS. If we chose to hold him back due to Covid, he will be ineligible for the 1st 6 weeks and we risk his senior year of eligibility if there is an allegation of this being an athletic decision? To punish a student-athlete because his parents are doing what is best for him academically, I feel is a huge mistake. I am the HS school principal at our school district and also have a son going into 8th grade, but dont feel the need to retain him at this time because the transition from 7th to 8th is not</p>

as strenuous academically. Please consider this, as I am sure there are many other parents who are also facing this dilemma during this unprecedented time of school closures. My son would meet the age requirements for eligibility.

Name

Kyle Brown

Written Proposals from Public (G1) n.

A proposal to extend Academics student eligibility by one year

This rule change is for:	Academics
	Extended Eligibility.
Suggested Rule Change	<p>This proposal would extend UIL Academics student eligibility by one year to offset the cancellation of UIL Academics official competitions this school year. The extension would allow students to regain their lost year of competition by participating in the following year of academic competitions. Since all coaching and practice for competitors can be conducted remotely, students that elect to compete would be able to prepare for competition wherever they are and then return for the three or four days of official district, region, and state competitions. This proposal restores students' lost opportunities to qualify for TILF scholarships, earn points toward other state-level competitions such as ILPC, and receive state-level recognition for their performance.</p>
Why do you want this rule changed?	<p>UIL Academics competitions serve an important purpose for students, one that goes beyond gratification and recognition of excellent performance. The UIL Academics official competition season determines student eligibility to apply for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation (TILF) college scholarships. Competitors that qualify for and compete at the state level of competition are eligible to apply for TILF scholarships during their senior year. Unfortunately, many graduating seniors that were eager to qualify for the scholarships this year have been deprived of their last or only opportunity to do so.</p> <p>Additionally, the option for students to participate in the following year of competition is imperative since for many competitors, this year was their last or only chance to compete in these academic events. Unlike UIL Athletics competitions that have college-level sports counterparts, there are no equivalent college-level competitions for UIL Academics events.</p>
Name	UIL School Academics Coordinator