

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

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to Section 902(1), *Sunday Participation*, would modify the limit on the number of competitions from two to four that a school may sponsor students and allow school employees to attend in an academic contest similar to ones offered by the UIL that are held on a Sunday. UIL competitions will still be prohibited on Sundays.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This change would allow member schools to sponsor students, which includes financial assistance and/or the school employee attendance, to a maximum of four national circuit academic (speech) tournaments, rather than the current limit of two, that have competitions on Sunday. Currently, students on teams participating in national tournaments with contests similar to those offered by UIL have to make a choice between attending a school sponsored national tournament and UIL State Meet in that speech event. Debaters have to attend a minimum of two qualifying tournaments, many of which have Sunday rounds, to win a bid to compete in the national championship. The choice is often to relinquish their UIL eligibility so they can compete at the national championship tournament. Expanding from two to four allowable tournaments would enable schools the choice of supporting a national qualifier and possibly decreasing the number of students who have to choose between UIL State or the national tournament.

C. Proposed Amendment

Section 902(1) of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 902: General Regulations

- (1) SUNDAY PARTICIPATION. UIL member schools shall not sponsor students in a UIL contest or aN ACADEMIC contest similar to one offered by the UIL on Sunday. Exceptions:
 - (1) ~~UIL area, regional and state~~ competitions may be held on Sunday, due to unavoidable circumstances that cause hardship to participating schools, provided they are approved by THE UIL OFFICE. ~~all of the following:~~
 - ~~(A) a UIL staff director;~~
 - ~~(B) a majority of superintendents or their designees of the affected schools and~~
 - ~~(C) the meet director.~~
 - (2) School district personnel may instruct high school students and accompany them to school-sanctioned academic competitions held on Sunday that do not count on UIL standing under the provisions listed below.
 - (A) A student shall not represent a UIL member school in more than ~~two~~ FOUR such competitions on Sunday during the school year. **Example:** if a student competes in a tournament scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the tournament counts as one of the ~~two~~ FOUR allowable Sunday competitions regardless of whether the student competes on Sunday.
 - (B) The participation of the student, academic coach, sponsor or director shall have prior approval of the superintendent or designated administrator. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed, accompanied, or transported by a school employee or persons on behalf of school personnel.
 - (C) Participation is limited to contests that are sponsored by colleges or universities.
EXCEPTION: ROBOTICS

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

Schools who choose to participate in these events, who have not previously participated, may incur expenses related to the event. However, any additional expenses are not related to UIL competition.

E. Legislative Council Consideration Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2019.