

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: 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.
- (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. See 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. All funds collected from admissions at the state tournaments in excess of the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the tournament, less UIL percentage, shall be prorated to the participating teams on the basis of a uniform rate per mile.

(2) In basketball, sixteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. All funds collected from admissions at the state tournament in excess of the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the tournament, less UIL percentage, shall be prorated to the participating teams on the basis of a uniform rate per mile.

A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses, 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. All funds collected from admissions at the state championship event in excess of the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the championship event, less UIL percentage, shall be prorated to the participating teams on the basis of a uniform rate per mile.

A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses, 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.

(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. For the 2019-2020 school year only, 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.