



**2025**

**SOFTBALL**

**Playoff Information  
Handbook**

# UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE SOFTBALL PLAYOFF INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Congratulations to schools who will represent their district in post-season play! Please read the following information carefully regarding the UIL Softball playoffs.

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## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

### Certification Deadlines for Softball Playoffs.

April 22	District Certification Deadline
April 26	Bi-District
May 3	Area
May 10	Regional Semifinals
May 17	Regional Finals
**May 19	<i>Deadline to submit team info requested below (p. 7)</i>
May 24	State Semifinal Deadline
May 29-31	UIL Softball State Tournament

\*NOTE: *The 2025 State tournament will start on Thursday and all games will be played at Red and Charline McCombs Field on the University of Texas campus.*

## SUBMITTING PLAYOFF GAME INFORMATION

### Advancement Structure for Postseason.

The last date for certifying the district to the League office is **April 22**. District chairs will be submitting directly to MaxPreps via the UIL Portal. Once district certifications are submitted, the online brackets will auto-populate with the teams from your district. The district chairs must **certify the district representatives** through the UIL Portal as soon as they are finalized. Instructions can be found here:

<https://www.uilTEXAS.org/softball/page/district-certification-instructions>

**NOTE: District certification must include the indication of a 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher in the dropdown menus based on district standings. NO TIES, all ties must be resolved prior to submission. In the event there's Co-District Champions, one of the two teams must be declared the #1 seed overall. That is the team in which would be delegated as having the opportunity in the Bi-District round to decide between a single game and a series.**

**In Conference 1A**, the top two teams from each district will advance to the playoffs. Conference 1A will have one bracket playing to the 1A State Championship.

**\*\*State Semifinal: Region 1 vs. Region 2; Region 3 vs. Region 4**

**\*\*State Final: Region 1/2 winner vs. Region 3/4 winner**

**In Conferences 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A**, the playoff structure will consist of the top four teams advancing to the playoffs from each district. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023, in grades 9-12, are bracketed into Division I, and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing to a state championship. Teams will be seeded according to their order of finish in district play.

### **EXAMPLE:**

#### **District Finish:**

1. Green HS – Enrollment 1004
2. Red HS – Enrollment 935
3. Blue HS – Enrollment 985
4. Orange HS – Enrollment 785

#### **Certified into Division I:**

1. Green HS
2. Blue HS

#### **Certified into Division II:**

1. Red HS
2. Orange HS

Enrollment figures utilized for determining division I and division II status can be found on the UIL website at <http://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

If the enrollment figures of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest qualifying schools are exactly the same, the two schools will be required to submit their updated enrollment numbers to the UIL as submitted for the TEA October 25, 2024, snapshot submission to determine division placement. Should the two schools have the same updated enrollment figures, a coin flip should be conducted to determine division placement. *The UIL will directly contact the schools that could be in this predicament to guide them through this process.*

### **Brackets.** (required for each round of playoffs)

**Bi-District Match-Ups** - Once all DEC Chairs have submitted final district standings, bi-district playoff matchups will **automatically be created** and appear on the bracket once UIL publishes the bracket. Please **do not** create your bi-district match-up in your MaxPreps account. Once you do see the match-up on your schedule in MaxPreps, please add game details (date, time & location.)

- Updating playoff information in the brackets is **REQUIRED** starting with Bi-District results.
- **Winning teams** must submit playoff game results (scores) and next-round details (location, date, and time) **immediately** after each game via MaxPreps. (If the location is unknown immediately following the game, it should be updated as soon as possible)
- The accuracy of UIL brackets depends on timely updates from coaches.
- UIL syncs schedules, scores, and rosters from MaxPreps to uiltexas.org for postseason publications. Keep this information current throughout the season.
- Make sure that you have admin access to your team in MaxPreps so you can report scores for the UIL playoffs. Coaches and ADs may reach out to MaxPreps representative Alisa Dancer at [adancer@maxpreps.com](mailto:adancer@maxpreps.com) to add admin access to their account.
  - For more information, see <http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps>. To create an account, please go to [MaxPreps](#).

**Playoff Broadcast Information** - please remember that all video broadcasts of a postseason contest require approval from the UIL. The attached infographic outlines the options schools and media outlets have in regards to broadcasting playoff games as well as the process to be approved. All approved broadcasts will be shared each playoff round to each sport specific media page [on the UIL website](#). Any questions should be directed to [pr@uiltexas.org](mailto:pr@uiltexas.org). Full guidelines, resources and forms can be found at the UIL website: <https://www.uiltexas.org/media/broadcast-information>

## **STATE TESTING INFORMATION**

*During the Postseason*

- No playoff game can be scheduled Monday through Thursday of the school week in which the **primary** administration of assessment instruments occurs, as required by **state law**.
- However, once testing is complete, teams may schedule playoff games beginning the following day, provided they remain in compliance with UIL rules for scheduling playoff games.
- On Friday, when there are timed tests that end at a certain time, with school approval, teams could travel no earlier than 30 minutes after the scheduled end of tests on Friday.
- If any test for any student on a team involved in a post-season contest occurs on Friday and is an untimed test, travel for that team is not permitted until the end of the school day.

For more information: <http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/limits-on-practice-and-performance>

## EXCEPTION DURING AREA ROUND ONLY

With the UIL State Track and Field Meet occurring during the week of area, softball teams that elect to play a three-game series may extend the series until the following Monday to complete the series provided at least one game is completed by the end of the day on Saturday. This applies to the area round only.

### Teams electing to use the exception should keep in mind:

- The next round opponent may force a coin toss to begin the next round on Thursday.
- If only one game is played by Saturday, and Monday gets rained out, the series will revert to a one-game format and the winner of that one game will advance.
- If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Monday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game shall be settled by a coin flip.

## POSTSEASON INFORMATION

**Post-Season Warm-up Games.** Teams can schedule a warm-up game after district certification and before their first playoff game if they have not reached their allowable season limit. This game can be scheduled like any other regular season game. Teams that have exhausted their allowable season limit are given a UIL one game exception under the following conditions:

- Teams that are the district champion and have a first-round bye.
- The one-game exception can be played only at the end of your school day on Friday, last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**) or anytime on Saturday.
- Teams having a bye in the bracket may play a warm-up game if team has not reached their allowable season limit. Game can be played at the end of your school day on Friday, last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**) or anytime on Saturday.

**Post-season competition.** May be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. Post-district play means competition in UIL playoff series or contests such as bi- district, area, regional, etc.

**Inclement Weather.** Every effort must be made by both teams to determine the winner before the certification deadline. This includes obtaining neutral sites and securing any available site. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another site is playable. If weather conditions make it impossible to determine a winner before certification, UIL must be contacted for an extension. The next round opponent(s) must also be contacted to inform them that the deadline will be extended.

Extreme scheduling difficulties such as those mentioned above could result in a coin flip which would determine the representatives to the next round.

**Sites.** The teams involved should select sites for all rounds of playoffs except the state site. See Section 1208 (o)(p) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. If schools cannot agree, they must flip a coin.

- **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 schools.
- **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.
- **Mid-Point Sites:** Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post-district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

### Playoff Game Timing.

- Bi-district games may not be played until after the final date for district certification in that respective conference unless ***permission is granted by all possible area round opponents***. All other playoff games may not be played until ***after*** the final date for completion of the prior round championships.
- **After the bi-district round, playoff games shall not be played before Thursday of that week** unless by mutual consent of both schools (i.e. to play Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday both coaches would both have to agree, all other days can be determined by a coin flip).

### Additional Timing Rules.

- If both schools have concluded their school year, they may play on any day.
- A team cannot be forced to flip for a time that would prevent a school from attending Graduation.
- A team cannot be required to play on the night prior to final examinations.
- All games or a game will be played to completion of seven innings.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.

**Playoff Game Agreements/Contracts.** *Competing teams should put details of their play-off game agreement in writing and signed or agreed upon through a documented process.* Any part of the agreement that the two schools cannot agree to shall be determined by a coin flip (i.e. series vs. one game, site, day, time, ball, etc.). Be sure to address anything that could potentially cause dissension or a negative game environment for the athletes, such as noisemakers, signs, location of student sections, etc.

**Playoff Game Format.** Play-off games may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format.

- In the bi-district round, ***district champions*** determine whether to play a single game or a series. In the event of Co-champions, this would ***only apply to the #1 Seed overall for the district***, as certified by the district. Site and all other game arrangements will be negotiated between the two participating teams.
- **FIFTEEN-RUN RULE: In the BI-DISTRICT and AREA rounds,** the fifteen-run rule may be implemented if mutually agreed upon by both schools prior to the game.
  - After three (3) innings of play, if one team is fifteen (15) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (or, if 2 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is fifteen or more runs ahead).

### Two-Out-of-Three Series

- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first two games may be played prior to Friday. Game 3 shall not be played until after the end of the school day on Friday (or the last instructional day of the week). If one game is played and a second game cannot be played because of weather, then the winner of the one game advances to the next round. If two games are played (and split), and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.
- Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should **set parameters for the series prior to the first game**. The parameters should include, but not limited to the following areas: how the schools will handle weather problems and delays, how far schools will travel to find an available field, giving up home field advantage, and securing officials must be discussed before one team gains a position of advantage after the first game is completed and the weather is a factor.
- A two-out-of-three series that does not get a complete game in by the end of the day Friday automatically reverts to a one-game series.
- If one game is played and a second game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather, then the winner of the game advances to the next round.
- If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, then the third and deciding game may be played on Monday of the next week.

### Playoff Game Recommendations.

- **Trainers:** Trainers should be available throughout playoffs.
- **Game Officials:** Officials for all playoff rounds, in all conferences, will be determined by the two competing

schools. If umpires cannot be agreed upon by both teams and a neutral officiating crew is requested through UIL, the team on the top of the bracket will need to submit a UIL Official's Assignment Request Form. Please include the list of chapters that coaches prefer to NOT call the game (scratch list) that is representative of BOTH teams' wishes, and the UIL will make the assignment.

- [UIL Official's Assignment Request Form](#)
- [Softball Officials Evaluation Form](#)
- **Police protection:** Adequate police protection should be provided for all play-off games whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home field of one of the teams.
- **Balls:** The balls being used at the UIL State Tournament are the Baden Perfection.
- **Housing:** Each school is responsible for its own housing throughout the playoffs.
- **Awards:** It is the responsibility of the participating schools to decide if awards will be provided.

## STATE SEMIFINAL QUALIFIERS

● **Softball Team Information Form & Photos (State Semifinal Qualifiers)** – Teams qualifying for the State Semifinals must submit the following materials to the UIL office later than **Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

- [Team Information Form](#) (list of players, coaches, etc. and all games played)
  - **Make sure to complete roster, regular season games, and playoff games**
  - For the roster, you must complete batting averages and pitching records
- [Picture Submission Form](#)
  - We will be collecting your school photo submissions through this online form.
  - Photos to be submitted include the following:
    - Team picture
    - Head coach picture
    - School logo

## STATE FINALISTS

Immediately following your State Semifinal game, the winning coach should text Grace McDowell (214-236-9279) and report the following information:

- Head Coach Name and Team
- Score of the semifinal game(s) with team names
- Final season record (Please have scorebook available for questions regarding **your season record including pitching records**).
- You will receive an email on Saturday following the completion of games to inform you of all State Championship information.

**Bat Check (State Championship).** At the UIL Softball State Championships only, prior to each game, there will be bat check administered by officials. The details of the bat check procedure will be communicated prior to the start of the championships. The purpose of the bat check is to ensure that all bats meet NFHS regulations.

**State Softball Composite Schedule**

**THURSDAY**

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
10:00 am	2A Division 2	Red and Charline McCombs Field
1:00 pm	2A Division 1	Red and Charline McCombs Field
4:00 pm	3A Division 2	Red and Charline McCombs Field
7:00 pm	3A Division 1	Red and Charline McCombs Field

**FRIDAY**

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
10:00 am	4A Division 2	Red and Charline McCombs Field
1:00 pm	4A Division 1	Red and Charline McCombs Field
4:00 pm	5A Division 2	Red and Charline McCombs Field
7:00 pm	5A Division 1	Red and Charline McCombs Field

**SATURDAY**

TIME	GAME	LOCATION
10:00 am	1A	Red and Charline McCombs Field
1:00 pm	6A Division 2	Red and Charline McCombs Field
4:00 pm	6A Division 1	Red and Charline McCombs Field