



DATE: July 2024
TO: Superintendents and 5A/6A Principals
FROM: Charles Breithaupt, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Orientation of UIL Sponsors, Advisors, Coaches, and Directors

Section 21 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* requires the superintendent to provide an annual orientation for all grade 9-12 UIL directors, sponsors, advisors and coaches regarding League rules, expectations, goals, purposes and appropriate conduct during UIL contests. The orientation is intended to emphasize the leadership of the superintendent in providing consistent competition within the rules, which is crucial to the success of your UIL programs.

The Legislative Council is aware of the demands on the time and energies of the superintendent. Accordingly, this responsibility may be delegated to appropriate staff members. Please instruct the administrator of each campus for students in grades 9-12 in your district to conduct an orientation for all UIL directors, advisors, sponsors and coaches near the beginning of the school year. You may have separate orientation sessions for academic coaches, music directors and athletic coaches at a time close to the beginning of their respective contest seasons.

The UIL staff has prepared the attached agenda materials and rules update. Please use as much or as little of it as appropriate for your school(s). These materials are being sent electronically to all superintendents and to principals of all 5A and 6A schools. As you will note, the agenda contains only topics with the location of detailed information about the topic. You may personalize the presentation to fit your school's needs.

We appreciate your time and work in serving the students. Best wishes for a successful UIL year. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have questions.

Charles Breithaupt
UIL Executive Director



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INCREASING BENEFITS OF COMPETITION

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF **ACADEMIC COMPETITION**

- Appoint a campus coordinator for UIL academic contests to be the liaison with the UIL academic staff.
- Emphasize academic competition.
 - Recruit outstanding teachers to coach academic contests and pay a stipend based on their number of contact hours outside the classroom with students.
- Ensure that all UIL academic contest dates are placed on your school's master calendar as soon as possible to avoid conflicts with proms, athletics, band, and other activities.
- Plan a detailed budget and implementation schedule.
 - Order study packets, handbooks and materials for contests from the UIL Online Store.
- Encourage the campus coordinator to attend district-planning meetings (typically held in August or early September) and provide input on setting the schedule to follow the conflict pattern.
- Make arrangements for academic coaches and students to attend a UIL Student Activities Conference and/or the summer Capital Conference for academic coaches, coordinators, one-act play directors and speech/debate coaches.
- Find tournaments or practice meets for students to attend (check the UIL web site for meets).
- Seniors who have participated in the State Meet anytime during their high school career are eligible to submit a TILF scholarship application.

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF **MUSIC COMPETITION**

- In word and action, emphasize the importance of the music, not the importance of the contest.
- Establish goals that stress progress towards musical goals rather than Division One ratings and trophies.
- Constantly take steps to enlighten students and patrons regarding the fact that success in contests is an outgrowth of learning and not an end in itself.
- Prepare students, administrators, and patrons for the subjective adjudication of music competition.
- Allow time after any competition to reflect upon the achievement of musical goals rather than the results of the contest.

HOW TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF **ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

- **To the School Board:** Clarify goals of athletics with the students' welfare being the central concern.
- **To the Superintendent:** Clarify educational goals of the athletic program with coaches, parents and fans. Include these goals in job descriptions and hire qualified people who will work toward these goals.
 - Continue in-service programs for sponsors, coaches and administrators. Include information on what behavior is expected of coaches and players and what is not tolerated. Explain the importance of emotional control during practice and games.
- **To the Coach:** Work with students to set personal and team goals and achieve them. Goals should include studies and sportsmanship, as well as the skills for the game. Care about students more than the sport. Know the players and help them handle pressure. Use your tremendous influence to help athletes set and attain high scholastic and behavior goals appropriate for individuals in the limelight of public attention.
 - Teach the value of fitness, exercise, nutrition, and self-awareness.
 - Give student athletes thorough physical examinations and proper equipment.
 - Cultivate good attitudes: "Give 100% no matter what the outcome."
 - Recognize students' accomplishments in academics, athletics, and other activities.
 - Encourage the media to recognize the academic as well as athletic progress of players.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (NO PASS, NO PLAY)

Eligibility for UIL Participants for The First Six Weeks

UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first six weeks of the school year provided the following standards have been met:

- (a) **GRADES NINE AND BELOW.** Students must have been promoted from the previous grade. (See Official Interpretation 01-09-18 Appendix I).
 - (b) **SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.** Five accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements.
 - (c) **THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.** Ten accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least five credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.
 - (d) **FOURTH YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.** Fifteen accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least five credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.
- A non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation for the first six weeks in accordance with Section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code must demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California achievement test, or comprehensive test of basic skills prior to the first day of school.
 - A non-enrolled student demonstrates the required academic proficiency by achieving a composite, core, or survey score that is within the average or higher than average range of scores, as established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of this subsection, a school district shall accept assessment results administered or reported by a third party.

Exceptions:

- (a) When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above applies. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.
- (b) High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria cited above or school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring.

Students who are not in compliance with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office.

Local school boards may elect to adopt these standards for all activities to avoid having different standards for student participants (e.g., football, drill team, cheerleading, and all other extracurricular activities as defined by State Board of Education rule [TAC Chapter §76]).

Eligibility for All Extracurricular Participants After the First Six Weeks of the School Year

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks (SEE INFORMATION FOR NON-ENROLLED (HOME SCHOOLED) STUDENTS BELOW). An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven-calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading period or the three-school week evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are exempted.

All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students.

In accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code, the parent or person standing in parental relation to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in a league activity on behalf of a public school must periodically, in accordance with the school's grading calendar, provide written verification to the school indicating that the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.

Dr. Jamey Harrison is the UIL staff member responsible for this area. If he is unavailable, Dr. Mark Cousins and Dr. Kevin Jones can assist you. Your leadership in all UIL matters is vital to the success of the League.

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Directors, Sponsors, and Coaches Orientation
2024-2025

I. Purposes and Philosophy of the UIL

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Academic: | Section 900 and 901 of the UIL <i>Constitution and Contest Rules</i> |
| Music: | Sections 1100 and 1101 of the UIL <i>Constitution and Contest Rules</i> |
| Athletic: | Sections 1200 and 1201 of the UIL <i>Constitution and Contest Rules</i> Section 1400 (7th and 8th grade purposes) of the UIL <i>Constitution and Contest Rules</i> |
| Spirit: | Section 1500 of the UIL <i>Constitution and Contest Rules</i> |

II. Eligibility

Academic and music eligibility requirements are different from athletic eligibility. Please see the attached sheet for general requirements and the *Constitution and Contest Rules* for specific information.

| | <u>High School</u> | <u>Elementary/Junior High</u> |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Academic: | Sections 400, 401 and 902 | Section 1405 |
| Music: | Sections 400, 402 and 1102 | Section 1102 |
| Athletic: | Sections 400, 403 and 1205 | Section 1400 and 1478 |
| Spirit: | Sections 400 and 1500 | |

III. Rules for Practice, Games and Contests

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Academic | Section 900 through Section 1036 (Specific contests are outlined separately) |
| Music: | Section 1100 through Section 1115 |
| Spirit: | Section 1500-1503 |
| Athletic: | Sections 1200-1210, and pertinent athletic sections (i.e., football, baseball) |

Athletic manuals: Please note the requirement in Section 1208(i) that a coach will receive an automatic penalty for being ejected from a contest.

NOTE: The *Constitution and Contest Rules* can be found on the UIL web site at www.uiltexas.org.

IV. Local Plan for Hosting Games, Meets and Contests

The home school is responsible for facilities, officials and security. Responsibility should be designated in each of the UIL contest areas.

V. Coordinated Communications with the UIL Staff

Designate who will make the contact. If communication within a school is good, one phone call should be sufficient. In many instances, four people from a school will contact four different UIL staff members with four slightly different fact situations about a question, possibly obtaining four slightly different answers. It is always helpful if full and consistent information is furnished.

VI. Local Behavior Expectations. Outline Methods to Achieve Expectations:

- A. Coaches, directors and sponsors
- B. Student participants
- C. Fans

VII. Goal Settings and Value Objectives:

- A. School
- B. Academic department
- C. Music department
- D. Athletic department

VIII. Other Local Items

- A. Budget for each program
- B. Scheduling to reduce loss of school time
- C. No Pass, No Play

2024-25 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

Section 400: STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL UIL CONTESTS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) is not a high school graduate (See Section 405);
- (b) is a full-time, day student in the member high school the student represents (*See Section 406, academic exception, Section 906 and Official Interpretations 08-09-10, 99-04-20, 10-03-12 and 00-99-13, Appendix I*);
- (c) has been in regular attendance at the member school since the sixth class day of the present school year or has been in enrolled and in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition (student becomes eligible on the fifteenth day) (*See Section 407 and Official Interpretation 95-11-09, Appendix I*);
- (d) is in compliance with rules of the State Board of Education; (See Section 404 and state law regarding credit requirements and grades (the school shall verify a student's grades on the basis of the official grade report and independently of involvement by the student);
- (e) has the required number of credits for eligibility during the first six weeks of school (*See Section 411*);
- (f) is enrolled in a four-year program of high school courses (*See Section 408*);
- (g) initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four years ago nor in the tenth grade not more than three years ago (*See Section 408 and Official Interpretation 07-04-18, Appendix I*);
- (h) was not recruited (*See Section 5 and section 409*);
- (i) is not in violation of the Awards Rules (*See Section 480*); and
- (j) meets the specific eligibility requirements for UIL academic competition in Section 401, for music competition in Section 402, and/or for athletic competition in Section 403.

Section 401: ELIGIBILITY - ACADEMICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity academic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and
- (b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL academic contest.

Section 402: ELIGIBILITY - MUSIC

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity music contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and
- (b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL music contest.

Section 403: ELIGIBILITY - ATHLETICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity athletic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

- (a) meets all the requirements of Section 400;
- (b) is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest, or has been granted eligibility based on a disability which delayed his or her education by at least one year (*See Section 446*);
- (c) did not change schools for athletic purposes (*See Sections 5 and 443*);
- (d) is an amateur (*See Section 441*);
- (e) was eligible according to Section 400 (c) (fifteen calendar day rule) and Section 403 (f) (residence rule) at the member school the student wishes to represent prior to the deadline for district certification (non-compliance results in ineligibility only in post-district competition in that sport); and
- (f) is a resident of the member school district (*See Section 442*), and a resident of the attendance zone in which the member school being attended is situated,
 - (1) or has been continuously enrolled in and regularly attending the school for at least the previous calendar year if his or her parents do not reside within the school district's attendance zone; see (5) (B) below for exception. Note: A student who has changed schools for athletic purposes may be declared ineligible for more than one calendar year. See Section 443 (f) (3). For students placed on a waiting list for admittance to an open enrollment charter school that is a member school, the earlier of the first day of enrollment or the first day of school for the school year following the date of application begins the time frame for compliance with the exception noted in this section.
 - (2) or the student is attending a school outside the attendance zone where the parents reside because the school board or other appropriate authority changed district or attendance zone lines.
 - (3) or is a transfer student from a public 8-grade ISD not containing a high school, who transferred at the first opportunity:
 - (A) to select a high school with geographical boundaries contiguous to his or her K-8 school;

- (B) to a high school for which the K-8 school attended receives state transportation funds; or
 (C) to the high school located nearest the student's residence.
- (4) Intra-District Transfers. A student who has an option to attend more than one high school within a school district, rather than being assigned to a school according to attendance zones, is eligible at the school first selected if he/she transfers at the first opportunity. If a student subsequently transfers to another school, the student is not eligible for varsity athletic competition until he/she has been in and regularly attended that school for at least the previous calendar year.
- (5) Foreign Exchange Students.
 (A) Foreign exchange students are ineligible for varsity athletic contests the first year they attend a member school unless they are granted a waiver of the parent residence rule as outlined in Sections 465 and 468.
 (B) Foreign exchange students who receive a Foreign Exchange Waiver and participate in UIL varsity athletic contests during their first year in the host school may not participate in those same contests if they return for a second year to the host school. The student may, however, participate in any other UIL varsity sport. *See Official Interpretations 01-09-18 and 10-03-12, Appendix I*
- (6) Charter Schools:
 (A) Students whose parents live within the boundaries of an independent school district where a charter high school is located and opt to attend the charter high school at their first opportunity to select a high school and are otherwise in compliance with varsity eligibility requirements, are eligible.
 (B) Students whose parents live within the independent school district where the charter school is located, who do not select the charter high school at their first opportunity, are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter high school for at least the previous calendar year.
 (C) Students whose parents reside outside the boundaries of the independent school district where the charter school is located are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter school for at least the previous calendar year.
 (D) Charter schools. For non-enrolled (home schooled) students, if the public Independent School District where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside decides not to allow non-enrolled (home schooled) students to participate, the non-enrolled (home schooled) student could petition for participation at a charter school located within the boundaries of the independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside, if allowed by that charter school administration.
- (7) A student who has established varsity eligibility under this section at a member school but who subsequently changed schools to another member school zone and is found to have changed schools for an impermissible reason, remains eligible at the school where eligibility was first established without the need of a waiver. A student must re-enroll in the school where eligibility was previously established within thirty (30) days of being found ineligible at the school the student moved to for this provision to apply. The Executive Director or his or her designee may inquire into such cases and may make a determination regarding a student's qualification for this exception to the parent residence rule.
- (8) This section and the rules cited herein shall be interpreted and applied to the extent reasonably possible so that, absent a specific sanction barring athletic participation, a student who meets basic varsity athletics eligibility requirements should have UIL varsity athletics eligibility at a UIL member school. This is a general rule of construction that may be impacted by the facts of a given case.

NOTE: Any time a student changes schools, UIL staff strongly recommends the school check the residence of the parent(s) for varsity athletic participation and to be sure that the student complies with local transfer and admission policies. If the student has been continuously enrolled in and attending school for one calendar year and the parents leave the attendance zone, check to be sure that the student complies with local admission and transfer policies.

SCHEDULING CONTESTS IN GRADES 9-12

Schedules - The following combines state law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules. The Texas Education Agency allows participation in one contest per school week. Participation is defined as involvement with the activity (e.g., traveling with the team, sitting on the bench). Example: On Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook but she remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This counts as participation according to state law. That student cannot participate again until Friday after school. UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. Participation is defined by the UIL as a student actually entering a contest. **Example:** On Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook but the student remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This does not count as participation in a UIL contest according to UIL but does count according to state law. That student cannot participate again until Friday after school. The Tuesday game does not count as one of the games UIL permits the student to participate in for that calendar week or for the season because the student did not go in the game.

- *Constitution and Contest Rules:* Section 5: Definitions
 - (c) Calendar week: 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
 - (ff) School week: the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC)
 - (1) *One contest per school week:* School districts shall adopt policies limiting extra-curricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by scheduling no more than one contest or performance per activity per student.
Exception: Tournaments and post-season competition, as well as district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
 - (2) *Eight-hour practice rule:* School districts shall adopt policies limiting extra-curricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by limiting practice outside the school day to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity.

For the purposes of this regulation, the following situations are considered as one contest during the school week.

Volleyball:

- (1) A single match.
- (2) A dual match (a team plays two other teams or plays the same team twice at the same site on the same day.) A dual match counts as one of the two matches UIL permits students per calendar week and counts as two of the total matches for the student per season.)
- (3) A double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity match or a ninth grade and a varsity match at the same site the same night). A double header counts as the total two allowable matches UIL permits the student for the calendar week and counts as two of the total matches for the season.

Students could also play in a tournament the same week they participate in a single match, dual match, or double header.

Basketball and Soccer:

- (1) A single game; or
- (2) a double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity game or a ninth grade and a junior varsity game at the same site the same night). It counts as the two total games the student may play for the calendar week and two of the total games for the season.

Students may not play in a tournament the same week as they play in a double header.

Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Team Tennis, Tennis, Wrestling:

An invitational meet/tournament, dual or triangular, competition. Schools shall not enter invitational tournaments/meets scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament.

Baseball/Softball:

- (1) A single game; or
- (2) a double header (a student could play two back-to-back varsity games or in a varsity and junior varsity game, at the same site the same night. Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season)

Students may play in additional games at the conclusion of that school week because UIL does not limit the number of games per calendar week in these two team sports.

For State regulations and UIL policies and procedures, please check the UIL website at www.uiltexas.org for the *TEA & UIL Side X Side* manual.

Track and Field:

Students or teams representing a participant school are permitted to participate in an invitational track and field meet only as listed below:

- (1) After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break. EXCEPTION: A student representing a participant school may participate in a maximum of three meets on a Thursday or Friday, or the last day of the school week with no restriction on start time.
- (2) Or on Saturday or school holidays;
- (3) Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:
 - (a) Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.
 - (b) Schools utilizing this option are limited to a one day meet.
 - (c) A school or student participating in this type of meet shall not enter another track and field meet during the same school week, Monday through Friday.
 - (d) No event shall start after 10:00 p.m.

Remember that the superintendent or a designee of the superintendent is responsible for approving all athletic schedules.

Dates and times for cross country, golf, swimming, team tennis, tennis, and track and field practices (involving a school coach and student athletes from that coach's attendance zone) that are scheduled during the summer vacation shall be pre-approved by the superintendent or their designee.

TESTING SCHEDULES

The Commissioner of Education encourages districts to avoid scheduling extracurricular activities or public performances the day or the evening before the administration of the Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) or Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (TAKS) for grades 3-11.

CHAPTER 33. SERVICE PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUBCHAPTER D.

§ 33.0812. SCHEDULING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

- (a) The State Board of Education by rule shall prohibit participation in a University Interscholastic League area, regional, or state competition:
- (1) on Monday through Thursday of the school week in which the primary administration of assessment instruments under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (1) occurs; or
 - (2) if the primary administration of the assessment instruments is completed before Thursday of the school week, beginning on Monday and ending on the last school day on which the assessment instruments are administered.

Districts are encouraged to consider the impact on students involved in the testing program before scheduling any extracurricular activity during this time period.

For current testing schedules, please refer to the following web sites:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| STAAR: | www.tea.state.tx.us |
| SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP: | www.collegeboard.com |
| ACT: | www.act.org |

2024-25 Testing Calendar Information

There is a two-week testing window for each STAAR content-area grouping. The primary testing week is week 1 of each two-week testing window. For UIL post season activities affecting high school testing schedules, STAAR end-of-course assessment testing windows are:

- April 8 – April 18 for English I and English II
- April 15 – April 25 for Biology and U.S. History
- April 22 – May 2 for Algebra I

For UIL post season activities, districts and campuses that are participating in the specific UIL activity should collaborate and follow the guidance below to determine the best dates.

- Avoid scheduling the UIL post season activity during the primary testing weeks, if possible.\
- Avoid scheduling English I and English II tests April 8 – 11; instead, schedule these tests April 14 - 18.
- Avoid scheduling Biology and U.S. History tests April 15 – 18; instead, schedule these tests April 21 – 22.
- Avoid scheduling Algebra I test April 22 – 25; instead, schedule this test April 28 - May 2.
- Administer make-up tests later in the testing window to individual students who participate in the UIL post season activity and are absent from testing.

IMPORTANT UIL DOCUMENTS

- **TEA/UIL SIDE-BY-SIDE**
 - The UIL publishes this document to provide member schools notice of Texas Education Agency regulations which relate to UIL and all other extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district.
 - This document provides explanations and interpretations of Commissioner of Education rules, UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, and statutes. The Side-by-Side document should be made available to elementary, middle school and junior high school principals, counselors, UIL academic coordinators and sponsors/coaches, directors of UIL music activities and one-act play, athletic administrators and coaches, and others who sponsor extracurricular activities.

- **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HANDBOOK**
 - The District Executive Committee is composed of the superintendents of participant schools competing in the assigned UIL playing district. The superintendent may designate administrators to represent participant schools in a multi-high school district. The superintendent may designate an administrator to represent more than one participant school and vote in turn for each school on matters brought before the committee. The superintendent may appoint an alternate to serve in the event the superintendent or the designated representative cannot attend a meeting.
 - The DEC Handbook provides, among other things, a DEC Agenda Template, Notice of Hearing Template, Minutes Template, and Notes for DEC Meetings.

- **CONTESTS MANUALS**
 - Each UIL department offers contest manuals that can be found on the UIL website. Where any term or section of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrators' 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 coaches and administrators' sports manuals shall continue in effect.

- **PRECEDENT MANUALS**
 - Contains the decisions of each committee that have sufficient precedential value to warrant publication. Opinions are composed of a synopsis of the facts of the case along with the panel's decision and a brief explanation of the basis for the decision.

- **BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES**
 - This document provides guidelines which govern booster club activities related to UIL-sponsored competition. Since the UIL regulates and governs what participants, sponsors, and coaches may and may not accept, it is very important booster club members and parents are aware of these guidelines.

- **PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM**
 - All new students in grades 9-12 who have ever practiced or participated in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, team tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball or wrestling in grades 8-12 at another school in the United States or Mexico must have this form completed by the last school of participation and be approved by the District Executive Committee before they are eligible to participate at the varsity level at the new school.

- **MEDICAL FORMS**
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
 - Concussion Acknowledgement Form
 - Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form
 - Pre-participation Physical Evaluation & Medical History Form
 - Concussion - Return to Play Form

UIL ACADEMIC CONTEST INFORMATION

Study Materials, Handbooks and Manuals

Academic coaches and academic coordinators must have the most recent rules and contest procedures available in the handbooks and manuals that are updated annually. These items are available for free download from the website <https://www.uil texas.org/academics/resources/contest-handbooks-manuals>.

The study packets available from UIL contain tests and answer keys from the previous contest year. Study materials may be downloaded for free from the UIL website. <https://www.uil texas.org/academics/resources/study-materials>

Student Activities Conference Dates

The UIL will conduct four Student Activities Conferences across the state in the fall featuring all the high school academic events. Check the UIL website (<https://www.uil texas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences>) and the Academic home page for specific information.

Academic Competition Dates

Check the official UIL Calendar (<https://www.uil texas.org/calendar>) for dates and the Academic home page for specific contest information.

ATHLETIC RULE BOOKS

Be sure your coaches all have rules books for the activities they coach. The conduct that causes an automatic penalty to coaches for unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the athletic rule books cited below. Be sure your staff is informed and has studied the rules of the game prior to their first contest.

Some coaches are penalized for breaking a rule due to lack of knowledge. If they have a rules book for their sport, they could avoid inadvertently breaking rules. **Superintendents should remind coaches that they are responsible for having access to UIL sports manuals and playing rules books at all times and that they are responsible for purchasing rules books prior to the first game.**

The UIL does not sell athletic rules books. Rules books may be ordered from the appropriate organization listed below.

BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL, TRACK & FIELD, VOLLEYBALL, WRESTLING, SPIRIT

NFHS Customer Service
PO Box 361246
Indianapolis, IN 46236-5324
1-800-776-3462
FAX 1-317-899-7496
www.nfhs.com

GOLF

United States Golf Assoc. Order Dept
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FAX 1-908-234-1472
www.usgapubs.com

TENNIS

USTA Online Store
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FOOTBALL

NCAA Publications
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Indianapolis, IN 46236-5323
1-888-388-9748
FAX 1-317-899-7496
<http://ncaa.publications.com>

Cheerleading Guidelines

The UIL requires schools to follow the guidelines found in the NFHS *Spirit Rules Book* for cheerleading stunts during UIL contests. We also encourage schools to do the same for all cheer events. The ordering information is the same as for the National Federation rules books listed above.

COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Legislative Council approved the UIL Coaches Certification Program (CCP) that is required for coaches of grades 7-12. The CCP includes information from the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR)* and incorporates a section devoted to ethics and sportsmanship.

The CCP also satisfies the state requirements for safety training and steroid education. The CCP, available on the UIL Portal, provides a single source for athletic coaches and trainers to understand UIL rules.

THE CCP ONLINE SYSTEM IS POWERED BY AKTIVATE AND OFFERS USER- FRIENDLY ACCESS AND IMPROVED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS.

<http://www.uil texas.org/uil-portal>

As required by Section 1208 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, all coaches shall complete the Coaches Certification Program prior to their sport season.

Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

- (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 or prior to the first day of school if their sport is not in season. A coach who is hired less than one week prior to the start of the sport season or after the first day of school (whichever is earlier) must complete the CCP within thirty (30) days of being hired.
- (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.

2024-2025 RULE CHANGES

All amendments are effective for the 2024-2025 school year, unless otherwise noted.

Academics:

UIL Robotics Handbook: This amendment adds Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (RECF) competition to the UIL Robotics program.

Design Entries: The UIL will pilot an A+ contest in middle school theatrical design for grades 6-8. The entries will be managed at the district level and can be submitted digitally or in person.

Section 1008: CONGRESS: This amendment increases the number of entries allowed in the UIL Congress contest. Each school will be allowed to enter up to five entries rather than the current limit of three.

Music:

Section 1105: REGION MARCHING BAND CONTEST: This amendment extends the amount of cumulative time that a marching band can spend practicing visual fundamentals during the summer prior to August 1st from ten hours to fifteen hours. This amendment was effective immediately.

Athletics:

Section 1204: FLAT FEE SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT: This amendment is from the UIL Sports Officials Committee (SOC). It increases the officials fee schedule for baseball and softball tournaments.

Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS: This amendment reflects current policies regarding potential travel reimbursement for schools participating in specific team sport state championship events. This amendment was effective immediately.

Section 1209: NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: This amendment allows coaches the opportunity to coach up to two of their students in a UIL approved state association all-star game. This amendment was effective immediately.

Section 1230: BASKETBALL PLAN: This amendment adds the November holiday break as a month that applies to the holiday rule exceptions.

Section 1260: GOLF PLAN: This amendment removes the language surrounding electronic equipment that no longer applies. This amendment was effective immediately.

Section 1300: TENNIS PLAN: This amendment allows for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Regional finishers in each event of each conference to advance to the UIL State Tennis Tournament.

Policy:

Section 442: RESIDENCE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ATTENDANCE ZONE & Section 466: REVIEW OF WAIVER OFFICER'S DECISION: This amendment creates varsity athletic eligibility opportunities for children of 'service members' (military) and 'peace officers' as defined in the Texas Education Code, as well as children of certain school employees who transfer to new schools. This amendment also increases the time frame for a student to appeal a decision by the UIL Waiver Officer. This amendment was effective immediately.

Coaches Manuals: This amendment changes the current playoff structure by allowing for split divisions in the postseason for 2A-6A volleyball, softball and baseball, 4A-6A soccer, and 1A-6A basketball. This change creates two state championship brackets for teams to advance through the postseason for these conferences in volleyball, softball, baseball, soccer and basketball.