

2024



BASEBALL
Playoff Handbook

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

BASEBALL PLAYOFF HANDBOOK

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

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Important Deadlines

Certification Deadlines for Baseball Playoffs.

April 30	District Certification Deadline, All Conferences.
May 4	Bi-district, 2A-6A Conferences. (May 6, 1A Conference)
May 11	Area (2A through 6A), Regional quarterfinals (1A).
May 18	Regional quarterfinals (2A through 6A), Regional semifinals (1A).
May 25	Regional semifinals, (2A through 6A). (*1A has 2 weeks for the next deadline)
June 1	Regional Deadline, All Conferences.
June 5-8	UIL Baseball State Tournament, All Conferences.

Submitting Playoff Game Information

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.)

UIL Playoff Reporting: Brackets. (*required for each round of playoffs beginning w/ Bi-District results). Beginning with results of the Bi-District round, coaches are required to submit playoff results immediately following their contest. The winning school should submit playoff game results and next round information via MaxPreps through the assigned coach/admin account. The score reported by a coach on a team's page will automatically fill in the bracket. The completeness of the data presented on the UIL brackets will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. Learn more about MaxPreps Sign in or register for a MaxPreps.com account:

<https://secure.maxpreps.com/utility/member/login.aspx>

Pitch Count Report (*required for each game played)

The Pitch Count Rule stays in affect throughout the playoffs. The Home team is still responsible for supplying the official pitch counter to be outside the dugout. The WINNING coach is responsible for filling out the Playoff Pitch Count Verification Form on the UIL website following each game. This form requires an upload of the verification form signed by both coaches from the playoff game. This form can be found on the UIL website on the Baseball Forms Page. [Playoff Pitch Count Verification Form](#)

State Testing Information

- If a school is testing Algebra I this week, post-season games are not prohibited, as this week is not the primary assessment week for those tests according to the Texas Education Agency.

Please reference <http://www.uil texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/limits-on-practice-and-performance> for more information.

EXCEPTION DURING BI-DISTRICT ROUND

With the UIL State Track and Field Meet occurring during the week of bi-district, baseball 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 bi-district 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, the 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 the team has not reached their allowable season limit. The game can be played at the end of your school day on Friday, the last day of instruction (**with no loss of school time**), or anytime on Saturday.

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 sites. 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.

Contracts. All playoff arrangements between the two schools should be made in writing and signed to protect both parties.

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 the playoff format.

- In the bi-district round, *district champions* can determine whether to play a single game or a series. The site and all other game arrangements will be negotiated between the two participating teams.
- **EXCEPTION:** Starting in the 2023-2024 baseball season, as a pilot in conference 5A and 6A, all playoff rounds (with the exception of the state tournament) will be a two-out-of-three series format unless mutually agreed to play a single game.

Two-out-of-Three Series

- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played before Friday. Games three shall not be played until Friday. 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 before the first game. The parameters should include, but not be 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, official pitch counter, tie-breaking procedures if series cannot be finished, 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 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 (ie. to play Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday both coaches would 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.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

Playoff Game Recommendations.

- **Trainers:** Trainers should be available throughout playoffs.
- **Officials:** In all conferences at all playoff levels, except the state championship game, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved. If neutral officials are requested through UIL, the **home team** must make the request.
 - Schools must go to the UIL website to request officials: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-request/baseball.php>.
 - Officials evaluation form: <https://www.uiltexas.org/form/officials-evaluation/submit.php?sport=Baseball>.
- **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 court of one of the teams.
- **Balls:** The balls being used at the UIL State Tournament are Spalding Pro NFHS.
- **Housing:** Each school is responsible for its own housing
- **Awards:** It is the responsibility of the participating schools to decide if awards will be provided.

Regional Final Qualifiers

- **Baseball Team Information Form & Photos** - Teams qualifying for the Regional Finals must submit the following materials to the UIL office by **Wednesday, May 29**. This is an important step in providing you with the best possible tournament. Your assistance in this effort is appreciated.
 - **Team Information Form** (list of players, coaches, etc. and all games played)
 - Fill out the team information form online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/forms/team-info-baseball>.

- **Pictures Submission Form** ****New for 2024****
 - We will be collecting your school photo submission through an online form
 - To be completed online at <https://www.uil texas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239>
 - Team Picture
 - Head Coach Picture
 - Logo

State Qualifiers

Immediately following your regional final game, the winning coach should text A.J. Martinez (cell: 361-816-1281) and report the following information:

- Head Coach Name and Team
- Score of the regional final game(s) with Team names
- Final season record: (Have scorebook available for questions regarding your season record)
- Winning/Losing Pitchers
- You will receive an email on Sunday to inform you of all State Tournament information (including lodging arrangements that the UIL blocks for each team).

Officials' (State Tournament). Coaches of the two competing schools will select officials for the semifinal games. The two schools will either agree on crew/chapter selection or ask for a UIL assignment. Officials will be assigned by the UIL if the two schools cannot reach a mutual agreement. Requests must be made by **12:00 p.m., Sunday, June 2nd** prior to the State Tournament. The baseball request form can be found online here: <https://www.uil texas.org/form/officials-request/baseball.php>.

The home team will submit the officials request form utilizing the link above. If officials are mutually agreed upon by both the home and visiting team, then the home team will simply input the selected crew/chapter selection into the form. If officials cannot be agreed upon by both the home and visiting teams, then the home team will need to include a list of chapters that they prefer not to call the game (scratch list) that is representative of both teams (home and visitor), and UIL will make the assignment.

Bat Check (State Tournament).

At the UIL State Baseball Tournament only, prior to a team's first 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 tournament. The purpose of the bat check is to ensure that all bats meet NFHS regulations.