

2024-2025



**SOFTBALL
COACHES' MANUAL**

Congratulations to our 2024 Softball State Champions!



Conference 1A – Jonesboro



Conference 2A – Shiner



Conference 3A – Coahoma



Conference 4A – CC Calallen



Conference 5A – Melissa



Conference 6A – Weslaco

Softball Calendar | 2024-2025

- January 10 – First day for practice
- January 25 – First day for interschool scrimmages (two scrimmages allowed in a calendar week per Softball Plan Section: 1280)
- February 10 – First day for playing interschool games
- April 22 – District Certification deadline, All Conferences * STAAR testing may affect playing dates throughout the playoffs
- April 26 – Bi-District Deadline, All Conferences
- May 3 – Area Deadline
- May 10 – Regional Semi-Final Deadline
- May 17 – Regional Final Deadline
- May 24 – State Semi-Final Deadline
- May 29-May 31 – State Tournament

Softball Coaches Checklist

Rules and Guidelines

UIL Rule Amendments and Sport Plan

Section 1280: SOFTBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.

Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls' Softball Plan.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.

Only girls eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution may try out for and participate under the high school Girls' Softball Plan.

(c) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

(1) Violations/Penalties. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

(2) Total Number of Games. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 softball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools may schedule a warm-up game in addition to the game limits. This additional game shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(3) Exception to Resolve District Ties.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season. Refer to Section 1203.

(4) Invitational Tournament Restrictions.

(A) No team shall participate in an invitational softball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(B) Tournament Restriction. Softball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.

(5) Site of Game. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

(6) Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier.

These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(d) PLAYING DATES.

(1) Practice Dates. There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs.

(2) Scrimmages. Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per week, Monday through Saturday. Scrimmages are subject to the one contest per school week limitation.

(3) Games. Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament.

(4) School Equipment. It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.

(5) Non-School Participation. Refer to Section 1209.

(e) TIES: DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES.

Unless otherwise specified by District Executive Committee minutes prior to the beginning of the season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(f) GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION.

If a district or non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(g) POST SEASON PLAYOFFS.

(1) Day of Playoff Game. Playoff games shall not be played before Thursday of that week unless by mutual consent.

(2) Playoff. Playoffs 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. Exception: In the

first round of the playoffs only, the district champion will have the choice of a single game or two-out-of-three series.

(3) Two-out-of-Three Series. If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game (3) 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.

(4) State Tournament. All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.

(5) Disputes. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. Refer to Section 1208 (o).

(6) Gate Receipts From State Tournament. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state softball tournament.

(7) Playoff Games. In playoff games beyond district, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

UIL Softball Dugout Protocol Guidance

2024-2025 UIL Rule Changes and Amendments

UIL Resources for Game Administrators

Ineligible Player and Unattached Participation

- (c) MINIMUM PENALTY FOR USING INELIGIBLE PLAYER. In the event an ineligible contestant is used in any UIL game or contest, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game, contest or event. Refer to Section 27 (c)(3).
- (d) UNATTACHED PARTICIPATION. In any UIL member school sponsored athletic contest, meet or tournament, UIL member high school students shall not be permitted to enter unattached. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed against the member school(s) in violation. This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

Ejections

Coach Ejections

- Section 1208 (i): MINIMUM PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT
 - 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:
 - an automatic penalty of public reprimand (name will be published once in the Leaguer) and one year's probation in the applicable sport;
 - completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching Course; and
 - completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course.
 - 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Player Ejections

- Section 1208 (i) (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:
 - Team Sports. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game.
 - Appeals. The UIL Executive Director may develop a process for appealing student ejections. **Player ejections cannot be overturned by a game official and/or chapter. If a coach has a question following a contest with a player ejection, the coach should contact UIL.*

Awards

Limitation of Awards

(a) LIMIT.

(1) Awards Schools May Give. A member school or member school district may give one major award not to exceed \$70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a member school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed \$20 each. Schools may give a student the \$20 minor award for an activity during the same school year the \$70 major award is given for that activity. A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship event.

(2) Awards Students May Receive. A student may not accept from any source other than the school attended or the school district, any award in money, product or service for competing in an interschool contest except as follows.

(A) A certificate, medal, trophy, ring, or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on UIL standing, if it is given:

- (i) by the school, or school district in accordance to the limitations in Section 480 (a)(1);
- (ii) the District Executive Committee or the entity that organized the competition (i.e., the regional director or zone director;
- (iii) the UIL or one of the professional, education organizations sanctioned by the UIL; or
- (iv) an outside source approved by the school or school district.

(B) A medal, trophy, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on UIL standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL, such as bowling, motorcycle racing or rodeo do not come under this rule).

(C) Unlimited awards for participating in an invitational academic or fine arts contest which does not count on UIL standing, whether or not it is an activity which the UIL sponsors.

(D) Educational trips sponsored by the school.

(E) Scholarships for college or university enrollment if awarded at or after graduation from high school.

(3) Awards Students May Receive for Intraschool Competition. A student may accept unlimited awards for participating in intraschool competition.

(b) LEAGUE STANDING DEFINED. For purposes of this rule, “counts on UIL standing” means any contest that causes an individual or team to advance toward a UIL district, bi-district, area, zone, regional or state championship.

(c) AMATEUR STATUS. Refer to Section 441 for rules governing amateur athletic status.

(d) INDIRECT AWARD. An award given to a second party to be held for later delivery to the student is considered received by the student when the award is given to the second party. This conduct is a violation by the member school or school district.

Gifts or Awards to Sponsor or Coach

Individuals who coach, direct or sponsor UIL activities in grades 9-12 may be suspended if:

(a) they accept more than \$500 in money, product or service from any source, over and above the stipend paid by the school district, in recognition of or appreciation for coaching, directing or sponsorship of UIL activities. (Refer to Section 1202). The \$500 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift;

(b) they accept money, product or service for entering their student(s) in a contest or other activity;

(c) this section includes, but is not limited to, money, gifts, use of automobiles, insurance, club privileges and any funds tendered by booster clubs for other services; and

(d) it is a violation if coaches and/or their attorney(s) accept money or other valuable consideration for payment of legal expenses incurred to file suit or take other legal action against a school, school district or the UIL.

(e) EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Scholarships. A sponsor or coach may accept from any source in any amount a postsecondary institution scholarship.

(2) Retirement. Upon retirement from the profession, sponsors or coaches may accept money or other valuable consideration in any amount from any source.

(3) Annual UIL Award for Excellence. A sponsor or coach may accept the Annual UIL Award for Excellence sanctioned by the UIL.

Charitable Cause Guidelines

The UIL has received numerous requests from member schools to support various charitable causes in conjunction with high school athletic events. The UIL is supportive of these initiatives and has developed guidelines regarding an athletic competition being held in the name of a charitable cause.

Schools may host a contest in recognition of a charitable cause under the following conditions:

- The contest of competition may be held during any one week of the designated sport season (to be determined by each individual school).
- If NFHS or NCAA rules allow, non-school colors can be worn upon mutual agreement between opponents. (ex: pink uniforms)
- A commemorative ribbon of non-school color may be worn on the jersey or school-issued uniform.
- Officials may be allowed to use a colored whistle or modified uniform in accordance with UIL guidelines.

- Colored game balls will not be allowed, however they may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest.

NFHS Rules and Rule Changes

Pre-Season Regulations (see Team Sport General Manual)

- Employment of Coaches
- Texas Education Code Requirements (State Law)
- Coaches Certification Program (CCP)
- UIL Eligibility for Athletic Contests
- Student Participation Required Forms
- Practice Regulations

Regular Season

Contest Scheduling

Contest Scheduling Rules

The following section combines State Law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules regarding scheduling and participation in a contest.

- **One contest per school week:** According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week. School districts shall ensure no more than one contest or performance per activity is scheduled per student.
***Exception:** Tournaments and post-season competition may be scheduled as an exception to the school week limit. As well, district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, provided that they are rescheduled and played on the next available date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. Junior varsity, freshman and junior high teams may not play postponed matches as an exception.
- **TEA and Participation:** The Texas Education Agency defines participation as being involved with the activity, traveling with the team, or sitting on the bench. Example: On a 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 for TEA but not UIL, this student would not be able to participate again until after school on Friday, per TEA regulations.
- **UIL and Participation:** UIL defines participation if a student athlete actually entered the contest as a player. In the example above, the contest does not count as one of the allowable games as determined by UIL policy.

Definitions:

- **Calendar week** means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- **School week** means 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.
- **Post-district play** means competition in UIL playoff series or contests such as bi-district, area, regional, etc.

Softball Scrimmages

Scrimmages

- 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 (m) and may, by prior agreement with the school, be reimbursed for mileage and meals.

- Softball teams may play two scrimmages in a calendar week (Monday-Saturday), with not more than four teams.
- Only one scrimmage may be played (with up to four teams) during the school week.
- No scrimmages may be played after a team's first interschool game.
- If more than four teams are invited to a scrimmage, each team may only scrimmage three different teams.

Allowable Contests & Game Regulations

Number of Contests allowed (2024-25)

- 0 Tournaments and 26 Matches or
- 1 Tournament and 23 Matches or
- 2 Tournaments and 20 Matches or
- 3 Tournaments and 17 Matches

UIL/TEA Side-by-Side. UIL limits participation in contests per calendar week in some sports. For UIL, participation is defined 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. The 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 enter the game.

Games

- A team or individual may only play one game (game or doubleheader) during the school week Monday (12:01 am) through Friday (after school). This means that if a team competes once Monday through Thursday, the second competition must be after the end of the school day Friday or Saturday. *Exception: See exception under Contest Scheduling Rules.
- Games for softball teams and individual(s) are unlimited after the end of the school week.
- A team or individual may play up to, but not exceed, three games per day.
- Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.
- Pre-scheduled district tournaments must count as one of the invitational tournaments unless all matches played in the district tournament are counted in the season match limitation for all schools in the district.
- **Doubleheader**
 - 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. A doubleheader can be played once during the school week and once after the end of the school week as games are unlimited.
- **Playing Rules**
 - All games will be for seven innings (unless tied). The National Federation Softball Rules, published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall govern all games. See UIL calendar for playoff dates. To order a rule book contact NFHS Customer Service, PO Box 361246, Indianapolis, IN 46236-5324; Phone 800-776-3462 or Fax 317-899-7496.

Softball Tournament Regulations

Tournaments

A tournament consists of at least three teams assembled at one site for competition.

- Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- Tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday (can be scheduled on Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday). A one-day tournament must be held on a Saturday.
- Three games per calendar day are allowed in a tournament.
- Max of six games in a tournament.
- A tournament may be played during the week in which there are two matched contests being played (ie. matches on Tuesday/Friday and a tournament on Thursday/Saturday).
- A double round robin elimination tournament shall not be used in any League contest except by unanimous consent of participating schools.
- A tournament must be held at the ISD of the host school, or at an adjoining ISD. Host schools may authorize additional sites other than same or adjoining ISD for preliminary round games.

4-Inning Pool Play Games

A team may play in pool play during the first rounds of a tournament provided the pool games consist of no more than four innings being played.

- Pool play utilizing "4-inning" pool play format will count all 4-inning games played in a day as one of the three allowed games per day. These 4-inning games do not count on the overall win/loss record for the season.
- Pool play utilizing a time limit that goes past 4-innings, each game will count as one of the allowable three games for the day.
- Participation in pool play is counted as a tournament. The win/loss record from pool play may be used to create a single elimination bracket.
- When two or more teams are tied in win/loss percentage, two steps should be taken to determine the winner.
 - The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the winner. If each team won one game in a two-game pool, the team that had fewer points scored against them in both games would be the winner.
 - If a tie still remains, a coin flip(s) would determine the winner(s).

District Certification

The DEC chair must certify district representatives by 11:59 p.m. on April 22nd, 2025

- [Instructions to certify district representatives.](#)
- The DEC shall determine the place and/or time of matches in case of disagreement between two schools.
- If not previously scheduled, a district executive committee may authorize a single-elimination match or tie-breaker tournament to resolve district ties. A one-match play-off could break a two-way tie. A tournament could resolve a tie between three or more schools.
- **Tie-breaker games** (two teams tied) must be held in compliance with calendar week and school week restrictions.
- **Tie-breaker tournaments** (three or more schools tied), if held on more than one day, must be held on consecutive days. Can be played Monday/Tuesday.
- **NOTE:** The games must be completed by the district certification deadline and will not count against the allowable games if not previously scheduled.

- If the district executive committee schedules any other matches or tournaments as part of their method for determining playoff representatives, the matches played must count in the match or tournament limitation.
- The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between districts.

Miscellaneous Softball Regulations

Practice/Game Balls

Each team is responsible for its own practice and game balls for the season. Teams are not required to use the state-sponsored softball (Baden Perfection Game Ball - 2BSFPY) until the state tournament.

Pregame Warm-Up

It is recommended that batting practice be eliminated and that each team is given 10 minutes for infield and outfield workouts prior to each game.

Coaching Boxes

Student players and coaches in uniform or coaching attire, representing school colors, may occupy the coaching boxes.

Pitching Regulations

Prior to delivery, the pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground with at least one foot on the pitcher's plate within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. The pitching arm must come to a rest, holding the ball in front of the body, with a foot on the pitcher's plate. The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop facing the batter with the shoulders in line with first and third base. This position must be maintained for at least one second and not more than 10 seconds before starting delivery. The pitcher is not required to take a signal. The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the windup after the required pause (Please refer to NFHS rule 6-4).

- The pitching distance is 43 feet.

Head Protectors

All players must wear head protectors when batting and when on the base paths.

National Federation Courtesy Runner Regulations

- The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning.
- NOTE: An unreported courtesy runner is an illegal substitute. For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.

Ten-Run Rule

The ten-run rule will be in effect for all games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 1/2 innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead).

Fifteen-Run Rule

By District Executive Committee approval, schools may use the fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings of play in district play. In non-district play, mutual consent of both schools is needed. Should a fifteen-run rule be utilized, 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).

Resolving Ties in Win-Loss Percentage

Districts should outline procedures (before the season begins) for determining playoff representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined (in writing) to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win-loss percentage. Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams or more are tied for the district runner-up spot.

Game Ending Procedures

A game ends when the team behind in score has completed its turn at bat in the seventh inning or in any extra inning. If the home team scores a go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh inning or in any extra inning, the game is terminated at that point. (NFHS rule 4-2 ART. 1)

Weather and Darkness

If a game ends because of weather conditions, or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game provided (NFHS rule 4-2 ART. 2):

- five full innings have been played; or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns.
- play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat. The score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
- A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games. However, if a state association does not have established game-ending procedures, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the plate umpire, any remaining play may be shortened at any time or the game terminated (NFHS rule 4-2 ART. 3).

Game Called Before Completion

If a district and non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game." Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

Videotaping/Filming (Non-Conference and District Contests) by Schools

- It is a violation to film or videotape a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
- A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a NON-CONFERENCE OR DISTRICT contest in which it is competing.
- Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.

Videotaping/Filming by Individuals

Any individual (other than the officially designated school camera) taping or filming must have prior written permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.

Commercial Uses

The use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

Pep Bands

- The UIL does allow “pep” bands (up to 30 members) to play at softball games at the prescribed times listed below.
- Musical instruments may not be used as noisemakers during the contest.
- The “pep” band shall not be located behind or near the opposition’s bench.
- If a “pep” band does perform the following guidelines should be followed to ensure a full appreciation of the group’s performance. Performances by the pep band should be limited to appropriate times listed below:
 - The band may play before the game begins. The director should coordinate the schedule so that the host school may introduce team members.
 - The band may play during time-outs and in between innings of the contest.
 - The band may play at the end of the contest if desired.

Post-Season

Playoff Information

Certification of District Representatives

The last date for certifying the district champions to the League office is April 22, 2025. It is mandatory that the District Chair certifies the district representatives through the UIL Portal, [Softball District Certification Instructions](#).

UIL Playoff Reporting - Teams Advancing

Starting with bi-district results, 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 brackets.

The completeness of the data presented on the UIL Texas Scoreboard will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. For more information, please see www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps.

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.).

Pre-Planning

- Details of all playoff games from bi-district to state shall be arranged by the two teams involved. This includes site selection. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin (Note: Unless mutually agreed, all games shall be played at a midpoint site for schools located more than 100 miles apart and neutral sites cannot be more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools).
- 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 both have to agree, all other days can be determined by a coin flip).
- In a series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday (ie. game 1 Wednesday (w/ mutual consent) and game 2 Thursday OR a doubleheader on Wednesday (w/ mutual consent) OR a doubleheader on Thursday). Game 3, if necessary, could not be played until after the end of instruction on Friday or anytime on Saturday.
- National Federation Rules will be followed for all playoff games.
- All games will be played to completion of seven innings.
- In all playoff games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- **Ten-Run Rule:** The Ten (10) Run Rule will be enforced in all playoff games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponents, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead).
- **Fifteen-Run Rule:** If mutually agreed upon by both schools prior to the game, the fifteen-run rule may be implemented in the bi-district and area rounds of the playoffs. 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).
- Per state law, postseason contests cannot be played on a day when a primary assessment (STAAR or STAAR EOC) is given. Teams must not schedule a contest; they have to wait the day after testing ends.
- Postseason contests have an exception to the school week limitation.

Team Information & Pictures

Teams winning the regional final game must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than Wednesday, May 19, 2025.

- Team Information Form (list of players, coaches, etc., and list of all games played) – fill out online on the UIL website at <https://www.uil texas.org/forms/team-info-softball>.
- Team Photo Form (team picture, headshot of coach, school's mascot) – fill out online on the UIL website at <https://www.uil texas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239>

Contracts

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

Sites

Sites for all rounds of playoffs prior to the state tournament are to be selected by the teams involved. 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, team tennis, and volleyball shall be a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

Warm-Up Games

Teams that have advanced to the playoffs may schedule a warm-up game after the District Certification Date that is set by the UIL calendar and before their first playoff game if a team has not reached their allowable season limit. School week limitations still apply. *Note: Prior to district certification, games left in your allowable season limit may be scheduled like any other regular-season game.*

Exception: Warm-up games for teams who have exhausted their season limit are given a UIL exception under the following conditions:

- Teams that are district champions 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.

Police Protection

Adequate police protection should be provided for all playoff games, whether the game is played at a neutral site or on the home court of one of the teams.

State Tournament

Dates

May 29th-May 31st, 2025.

Pairings for the Tournament

Teams will be assigned home/away as determined by a coin flip.

State Ball

The official game ball for the State Softball Tournament will be the Baden Perfection Game Softball (2BSFPY).

Lodging Instructions

Schools will be responsible for securing their own lodging. UIL will provide schools with a list of hotels in the area.

Rebates

Each school is responsible for paying its own tournament expenses.

State Qualifier Handbook

For those schools who qualify for the State Tournament, the UIL will send out the State Qualifier Handbook which will contain more detailed information regarding the State Tournament.

Off-Season Regulations (see Team Sport General Manual)

- Summer Strength & Conditioning & Sport Specific Instruction

- Off-Season Strength & Conditioning (during the school year)
- School Sponsored Camps
- Non-school Leagues, Camps & Clinics