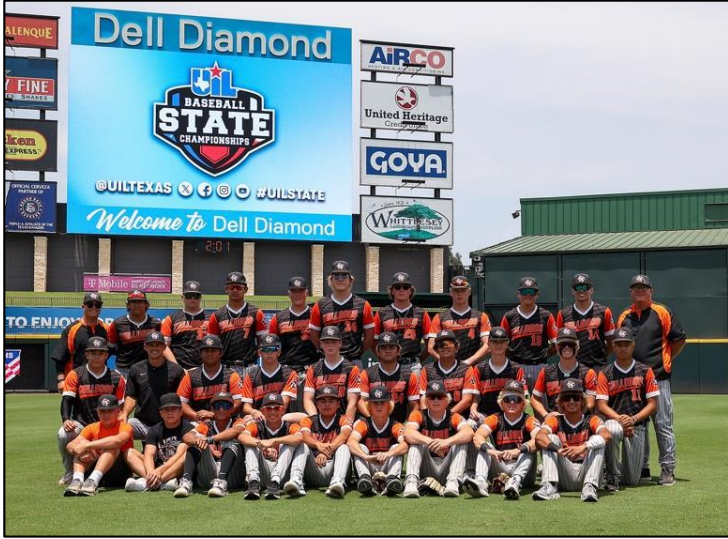


2024-2025



BASEBALL
COACHES' MANUAL

Congratulations to our 2024 Baseball State Champions!



Conference 1A – Ira



Conference 4A –Liberty-Eylau



Conference 2A – Collinsville



Conference 5A – Grapevine



Conference 3A – Franklin



Conference 6A – Tomball

Baseball Calendar | 2024-2025

January 17	First day for practice
February 1	First day for interschool scrimmages
February 17	First day for interschool games
April 29	District certification deadline
May 3	Bi-district deadline
May 10	Area deadline
May 17	Regional semifinal deadline
May 24	Regional Finals deadline
May 31	State Semifinals deadline
June 5-7	State Finals

Basketball Coaches' Checklist

UIL Rules & Guidelines

UIL Rule Amendments & Sport Plan

Section 1220: BASEBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.

Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Baseball Plan.

b) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

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

(2) Total Number of Games. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 baseball 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. 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.

(4) Invitational Tournament Restriction.

(A) No team shall participate in an invitational baseball 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. Baseball 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 baseball 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, but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

(c) PLAYING DATES.

(1) Practice Dates. There shall be no organized or formal school baseball 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 from the playoffs.

(2) Scrimmages. Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per calendar 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 Baseball 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.

(d) TIES IN DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES.

Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the beginning of 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.

(e) 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 Baseball 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.

(f) POST SEASON PLAYOFFS.

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

(2) Playoffs. 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. Exception: Starting in the 2023-2024 baseball season, as a pilot in conference 5A and 6A, playoffs will be two-out-of-three unless mutually agreed to play a single game.

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

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

[2024-2025 UIL Rule Changes & Amendments \(pdf\)](#)

[Pitch Count Implementation \(pdf\)](#)

[UIL Baseball Dugout Protocol \(pdf\)](#)

[UIL Official Baden Balls \(pdf\)](#)

[UIL Resources for Game Administrators \(pdf\)](#)

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

(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.

Player Ejections

Player Ejection – Section 1208 (i) (5):

(5) Player Ejection. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game. (Exception: Disqualification/ejection as a result of a targeting foul does not require the player to miss the first half of the following game.)

(B) Other Team Sports. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game. Soccer exception. This Section does not alter the current point penalty structure for soccer player ejections, as required by National Federation of State High School Associations soccer playing rules, that is outlined in the soccer coaches' manual.

(C) Appeals. The UIL Executive Director may develop a process for appealing student ejections.

**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.*

Limits on Awards

Section 480: 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.

Section 481: 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 in regard to 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:

1. The contest of competition may be held during any one week of the designated sport season (to be determined by each individual school).
2. If NFHS or NCAA rules allow, non-school colors can be worn upon mutual agreement between opponents. (ex: pink uniforms)
3. A commemorative ribbon of non-school color may be worn on the jersey or school-issued uniform.
4. Officials may be allowed to use a colored whistle or modified uniform in accordance with UIL guidelines.
5. Colored game balls will not be allowed, however they may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest.

NFHS Rules & Rule Changes

[National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association \(NAERA\) Helmet Recommendations \(pdf\)](#)

[Decertification of 33 inch Stinger Bat Missile II](#)

[NFHS Baseball Rules Information](#)

[Baseball/Chest Protector Updated Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)

[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

Baseball Game Regulations

Number of Contests allowed

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

Playing Rules - All games will be for seven innings (unless tied). The National Federation Baseball 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.

Scrimmages - Teams are limited to two scrimmages (with up to four participating schools) in a calendar week, only one scrimmage is allowed during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday). There is not a limit on the number of weeks teams may scrimmage however, no scrimmages are allowed after a team plays their first interschool game.

Games Per Week - Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate.

Tournaments - Tournaments may be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Two-day tournaments can be held on Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday; one-day tournaments can only be held on Saturday.

Practice/Game Balls - NOCSAE/NFHS certified baseballs are now MANDATORY for all levels of play (Varsity, SubVarsity, Junior High). Each team is responsible for its own practice and game balls for the season.

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

Pitching Limitation - See pitch count implementation [here](#).

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

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

Tie Games - National Federation Baseball Rule 4, Section 3, Article 1, Note 1: A regulation called game where a winner cannot be determined shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team and the game shall not be replayed, unless district minutes specify otherwise prior to the season.

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 are tied for second and third place.

Game Called Before Completion - In district and non-district games if a game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in the National Federation Baseball Rule Book, 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.

Postponement - District varsity baseball 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, but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

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

National Federation Courtesy Runner Regulations -

- The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the 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 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead).

Scheduling on Nights Prior to Exams (STAAR) - The Commissioner of Education recommends not scheduling contests on nights prior to exams (STAAR).

Scheduling on Sunday - Schools shall not play or practice on Sunday. Do not begin a game that cannot be completed before midnight Saturday. Do not start an inning that cannot be finished before midnight Saturday.

Coach Ejection - In addition to the penalty imposed by the local school district on a coach who is ejected from a game, the Automatic Minimum Penalty is discussed in Section 1208: Athletic Regulations of the Constitution & Contest Rules

- The automatic penalty for a coach who is ejected from a contest who is not current on their UIL Coaches Certification Program is suspension in the next contest.

Player Ejection - Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

- Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game.
- Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty as described above. Player ejections cannot be overturned by a game official. If a coach has a question following a contest where a player was ejected, please contact the UIL.

NFHS Baseball Bat Standard - The bat, which may be a wood or non-wood product shall be a smooth cylinder implement with a knob that is permanently and securely fastened. All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark. No BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color to read: "BBCOR .50". There shall be no devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the handle to become flush with the knob. Molded grips are illegal. Only bats may be used in loosening up (including weighted bats for this purpose) at any location. Only bats and devices designed to remain part of the bat, such as weighted bats, batting donuts, and wind-resistant devices are legal at any location. A non-wood bat must have a safety grip of cork, tape, or composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob. Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. A bat made of a single piece of wood may be roughened or wound with tape not more than 18 inches from the handle end of the bat. No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle. No foreign substance may be inserted into the bat. NOTE: Effective January 1, 2012 shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR).

NOCSAE Standard for Catcher's Headgear - The NOCSAE standard for a catcher's headgear is in effect and MANDATORY for all levels of play (Varsity, Sub-Varsity, Junior High). The NOCSAE standard for a catcher's helmet and mask only applies to products where the helmet and face guard (mask) are attached together by some means, either permanent means or something as simple as Velcro. It is not possible for a catcher's face guard (mask) or a catcher's helmet to be NOCSAE tested and certified as individual units. If however these individual units are used together in a combination intended by the manufacturer(s), they have to be tested together to the NOCSAE standard in that combination in order to be legal. Remember the face guard (mask) portion must attach to the helmet, and only the helmets will have the NOCSAE stamp. This means that it will be virtually impossible for umpires on the field to determine if different manufactured components have been tested and certified together. If the umpires have any doubt regarding the legality of any combination, then the umpires shall require the head coach to provide written documentation verifying the legality of that combination in question. The written verification shall include a statement indicating that the individually manufactured components of the combination have been tested and certified together as called for in the standard. Any helmet and mask combination that has been manufactured together as a single unit (hockey style helmets) and has been certified to meet the NOCSAE standard will have their stamp on it. Umpires can then tell if it is a legal helmet by the identifying stamp. The stamp is depicted in the NFHS Baseball Rules Book and the NFHS Web site.

Officials

Please refer to the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, [Section 1204](#) on the UIL website, for the latest information regarding officials (fee schedule, tournament fees, travel reimbursement, mileage calculator, scrimmage fees, other allowable expenses, scratch form, evaluation form, FAQs, etc.)

Assignment of Officials Out of The UIL Office

- Member schools shall use registered officials in all varsity contests.
- Neutral Officials. In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral officials who have no affiliation with either school.
- The two schools have the right to "scratch" any chapters or officials they wish. However, the UIL office urges the use of discretion in scratching entire chapters or areas.
 - NOTIFICATION: When names of officials are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall immediately notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory. Failure of the visiting

school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement.

- To request officials from the UIL office, utilize the [Baseball Officials Assignment Request Form](#). This form will go directly to the UIL office, and all correspondence will be via email.
- After the schools have indicated officials and/or chapters they do not want, the UIL office then contacts a chapter not scratched and requests officials. Schools are not permitted to talk with representatives of the chapter once they have agreed for the League to assign officials.
- Once the officials have been assigned out of the UIL office, the schools may not request a change in the assignment and must pay the assigned officials if they are not used, unless:
 - a. The UIL office makes a mistake by contacting a chapter which the schools have indicated they do not want.
 - b. Communication problems between the school which contacted the UIL and the opponent results in officials being assigned from a chapter which one school had scratched.
- The UIL recommends that officials or chapters not acceptable be written down at the meeting, reviewed by each school to see if the list is complete and accurate, and signed by school authorities from both schools. This should be a part of the contract procedure and a copy retained by each school.
- Once a game has begun there shall be no protest based on the selection of game officials. Beginning a contest constitutes agreement.
- Payment of officials (for all games other than tournament games) shall be according to Section 1204 in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. <https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/officials-fee-schedule>

Allowable Contests & Game Regulations

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate on one day per activity during the school week.

- ****Exception:** District varsity contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be scheduled during the school week, but must be rescheduled and played on the next available date following the postponement in order to be played as an exception.

Post-season competition may also be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. School week means the week beginning at 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week (defined as 12:01 am on Sunday through midnight on Saturday) 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.

Scrimmages and Games - The school is limited to one scrimmage (with up to four participating schools) during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage with up to four participating schools at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday).

Schools are limited to one contest (game or doubleheader) per school week. From Friday after school until Saturday midnight, schools are not limited in the number of games in which they participate. A school could play on Tuesday and after school on Friday, in addition to a Thursday/Friday/Saturday tournament during the same calendar week.

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 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.

- Baseball/Softball:
 - a single game: or
 - 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 same night)

Each game counts as one of the student's total games for the season. Students may play 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.

District Certification

- 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 tournament to resolve district ties. A one-match play-off could break a two-way tie. A single elimination tournament could resolve a tie between three or more schools.
 - NOTE: These matches must be completed by the district certification deadline and will not count against the allowable matches if not previously scheduled. Tie-breakers must be held in compliance with calendar week and school week restrictions. If the district executive committee schedules any other matches or tournaments as part of their method for determining play-off representatives, the matches played must count in the match or tournament limitation.
- The district executive committee may permit district varsity baseball matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness), to be played as an exception to the two-matched-contests per-week rule, 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.
- The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between districts.

Guarantees for Contests

- In district and non-district games/matches, unless there is mutual agreement or a district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
- In play-off games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- A demand of a flat guarantee, which is clearly in excess of expenses, shall upon action of the district or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting team's expenses shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.
- Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services, and printing incidental to the contest, shall be considered as expenses of the game. The number of persons allowed upon expense accounts shall be agreed upon by school administrators of teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team shall furnish a playing field or court without cost to the visiting school.

Videotaping/Filming

Non-Conference and District Contests

- Videotaping/Filming 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. However, the film or videotape shall not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.
- 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 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 to play at baseball games during pre-game, time-outs, in between innings, and post-game. Musical instruments may not be used as noisemakers during the contest. The “pep” band shall not be located behind or near the opposition’s dugout.
- If a “pep” band does perform the following guidelines should be followed to ensure a full appreciation of the group’s performance. Band directors are reminded that as a courtesy to the teams and cheerleaders of both schools, performances by the band should be limited to appropriate times.
- Guidelines listed below indicate appropriate playing times for the band:
 - 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 sets of the contest.
 - The band may play at the end of the contest if desired.

Baseball Tournament Regulations

[Baseball Tournament Regulations](#)

[Pitch Count Implementation](#)

Rest Chart

High School Pitch Count (Grades 9-12):

0-30 Pitches	0 Days Rest
31-45 Pitches	1 Day Rest
46-65 Pitches	2 Days Rest
66-85 Pitches	3 Days Rest
86-110 Pitches	4 Days Rest

Junior High Pitch Count (Grades 7-8):

0-20 Pitches	0 Days Rest
21-35 Pitches	1 Day Rest
36-50 Pitches	2 Days Rest
51-65 Pitches	3 Days Rest
66-85 Pitches	4 Days Rest

General Expectations

During regular season, pitch count limit is determined after each single game appearance.

Only official game pitches will count (not warm up pitches).

Rest is defined as not using a pitcher in a contest.

Rest days are counted for the full day regardless of appearance start time. (ex: Varsity Pitcher throws 95 pitches on Friday. Rest days are Sat, Sun, Mon, and Tues. He is eligible to pitch on Wednesday, not Tuesday night).

A pitcher will be allowed to complete current at-bat even if they hit pitch count LIMIT (threshold) during the at-bat, but must exit as a pitcher after that hitter regardless of recording an out or number of outs in inning.

There are no restrictions on allowing any game day pitcher (starter or reliever) from resuming play in the field after being removed as a pitcher, regardless of pitch count.

There will be NO change to regulations in post-season play (i.e.: no increase in pitch count max or leeway in rest days).

Tournaments or Series:

In multi game series or tournaments, pitch count can be divided into separate appearances as long as combined total does not exceed appropriate pitch count max. Days of rest will be determined by final pitch count of the series or tournament.

(ex: In post season series, starter goes (X) innings for a total pitch count of (X) (amount not exceeding max count) in first game of 3 game series. That same athlete can be used as short reliever in either of next 2 games of the same series, up to combined total pitch count max (85/110). At conclusion of series, combined total number of pitches will determine days of rest based on chart.)

Back to Back Games due to Postponement:

In the case of games that are rained out, and rescheduled on consecutive nights, pitch counts will follow the series protocol.

Double Header:

In the case of a doubleheader, the second game will not serve as a rest day for pitchers who threw in the first game. However, pitch count max can be split up between both games and total pitches after second appearance will determine rest day period.

***If pitcher is used twice in 3-day series, the rest day start period will begin after the second appearance even if there was a day of rest in between.

Pitch Count Accountability and Reporting

UIL Pitching Regulations and procedures apply to all levels of play (Junior High, Freshman, JV, and Varsity).

Each game will need an official pitch counter provided by the home team. The official pitch counter will not be allowed to be in the dugout for varsity games. Coaches/team representative should meet between innings to verify counts. Pitch counts will be verified at the conclusion of the game with a signature on a verification form.

DEC will establish the means for the record of tracking pitches and the protocol for game reporting for both pre-season and district play. DEC will maintain record of pitch counts and establish procedures accordingly.

The home team is responsible for submitting the verification form to their District Chair within 48 hours of the end of the contest for filing.

District Chairs are responsible for keeping the Certification and providing access to those numbers when requested.

In post season, official pitch count verification forms must be uploaded to the UIL on the UIL Baseball web page. The home team will provide the official pitch counter (the same as in regular season games).

Should any dispute arise, the primary source for final pitch count will be the official pitch counter supplied by the home team.

Umpires will NOT have any kind of jurisdiction or involvement in pitch count.

In tournament play – the home team may keep the official pitch counts in the dugout.

Penalties

Alleged violations of the Pitch Count Rule occurring during the regular season will be handled by the District Executive Committee in accordance with section 29 of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*.

Alleged violations of the Pitch Count Rule occurring during the post season will be handled by the State Executive Committee in accordance with section 27 of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*.

POST-SEASON

Certification of District Representatives - The last dates for certifying the district champions to the League office is May 3, 2025. It is mandatory that the District Chair certifies the district representatives on the UIL website as soon as they are determined.

- [District Certification Instructions](#)

Teams Advancing to the Playoffs -

Conference 1A: Top two teams from each district advance to the playoffs to compete for one state championship.

Conference 2A-6A: Top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships.

Post-Season 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: Scheduling games prior to district certification, games left in a team's 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, last day of instruction (with no loss of school time) or anytime on Saturday.

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 and game 2 Thursday OR a doubleheader on Wednesday 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 play-off games.
- All games will be played to completion of seven innings.
- In all play-off games, suspended games shall be continued at the point of suspension.
- The 10-run rule is enforced in all play-off games.

UIL Playoff Reporting – Teams Advancing

- 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 Texas Scoreboard will be dependent upon the participation of schools and coaches. For more information, please see www.uil-texas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps.

Team Information & Pictures - Teams winning the regional final game must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than Wednesday, May 28, 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.uiltexas.org/baseball/forms>
- Picture Submission Form - To be completed online at <https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239>
 - Picture of Head Coach (head and shoulder shot)
 - Team Picture
 - School's Mascot/Logo

Failure to submit this information could result in a range of penalties as described in Section 27 (b) of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* or your team not appearing in the State Tournament program.

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

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.

- (o) Sites Defined for All Team Sports:
 - (1) *Home Sites*. When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field or court, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.
 - (2) *Neutral Sites*. A site mid-point or near mid-point, or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if its distance from either school is more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.
- (p) Mid-point Sites. Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, team tennis, and volleyball shall be at a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

Playoff Game Regulations

SINGLE ELIMINATION OR TWO-OUT-OF-THREE SERIES

- Play-off games may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format.
 - EXCEPTION: Starting in the 2023-2024 baseball season, as a pilot in conference 5A and 6A, playoffs will be two-out-of-three unless mutually agreed to play a single game.
- If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game three shall not be played until Friday. Please refer to the C&CR, [Section 1220 \(g\)](#) for rules regarding two-out of-three game series.
- Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should set parameters for the series prior to the first game. The parameters should include, but not limited to the following areas: how the schools will handle weather problems and delays, how far schools will travel to find an available field, giving up home field advantage and securing officials must be discussed before one team gains a position of advantage after the first game is completed and the weather is a factor.
- A two-out-of-three series that does not get a complete game in by the end of the day Friday automatically reverts to a one game series.
- If one game is played and a second game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather, then the winner of the game advances to the next round.
- If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, then the third and deciding game may be played on Monday of the next week.

RAIN (BAD WEATHER POLICY)

- 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 field. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another field 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.
- A playoff game suspended/delayed by rain shall be restarted from the point of suspension as soon as possible as outlined in rule 4-3-1-2 of the National Federation Baseball Rules.

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.

Officials - In all conferences at all playoff levels, except the final 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 online utilizing the [Baseball Officials Assignment Request Form](#).

State Tournament

Site - Dell Diamond, Round Rock.

Certification - Please contact AJ Martinez (cell: 361-816-1281) immediately after your state semifinal game(s) to let him know that your team has qualified for the state finals.

No Workouts - There will be no workouts permitted at the state baseball tournament fields prior to the tournament.

Supervision of Students - Each school is responsible for their students and behavior exhibited during all contests.

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

Team Pictures - Team pictures will be taken prior to the state championship games. Players' numbers should correspond with the program roster. If there are errors, please contact the tournament director before the pictures are taken. Order forms will be given to coaches for ordering team pictures.

Awards - Medals are given to each team. Extra medals may be ordered at the tournament by filling out the form in the coaches' packet.

Officials - In all conferences, officials are to be obtained by the two schools involved for the semifinal game at the state tournament. The UIL will select officials for the final games of the state tournament. If neutral officials are requested through UIL, the home team must make the request. Schools must go to the UIL website to request officials online at <https://www.uiltxas.org/form/officials-request/baseball.php>.

State Equipment - The official game ball for the State Championships will be the Baden Perfection Pro.

Rebate to State Tournament - All funds collected from admissions at the state championships in excess of the amount necessary to defray the incidental expenses of the meet shall be prorated up to 100 percent to the contesting teams on the basis of mileage, both ways.

Radio Broadcasting and Telecasting - The UIL media department will be in charge of broadcasting and telecasting rights for the state tournament games and may be contacted at 512-471-5883.

Courtesy Runners

- At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher.
- The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the same game.
- 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. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- The umpire-in-chief shall record and announce to the scorer courtesy runner participation.
- A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.

Ten-Run Rule - In the State Championships, the ten-run rule will be in effect. 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).

Pitching Limitation

- The Pitch Count Rule stays in affect during the state championship games. Pitch counts will be tabulated by an onsite statistician (teams will not have to supply an official pitch counter). Each team will be at "Full-Strength" with all pitchers. Each pitcher will have a maximum of 110 pitches.

Bat Check Procedures (State Championship) - Prior to the championship game, the below procedures must be followed:

- 1) Bats are to be delivered to a central location designated by the UIL.
- 2) Bats should be delivered no earlier than 3 hours prior to the scheduled contest unless playing in the first scheduled game of the day. Games that are scheduled at the beginning of each day must have bats checked in 2 hours prior to game time.
 - a) Approved bats will be returned to teams 1 1/2 to 2 hours prior to game time.
- 3) Trained Inspectors will conduct the bat test
 - a) Each bat will be inspected by:
 - i. Site and touch
 - ii. An inspection ring placed over the bat to insure the barrel is symmetrical and free from flat spots, dents, and/or ridges
 - iii. A "Barrel Compression" tester
- 4) If bat passes the above tests, a sticker is placed on the bat handle, which indicates the bat is legal.
- 5) No bat without a sticker will be allowed for competition play.
- 6) A player who comes to bat with an illegal bat will be penalized according to NFHS rule along with his/her Head Coach. Any bat without a sticker is considered illegal.
- 7) A bat that fails the inspection test will be kept by the UIL and will be returned at the completion of the teams' participation in the tournament. A team representative would need to come to the designated bat check location to pick up the bats once their tournament has concluded.

UIL Baseball State Tournament Schedule - The schedule will be posted on the UIL website at <http://www.uil texas.org/baseball/state> once finalized.

[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