

2024-2025



SOCCKER
COACHES' MANUAL

Congratulations to our [2024 Soccer State Champions!](#)



Girls | Conference 4A – Celina



Boys | Conference 4A – San Elizario



**Girls | Conference 5A – Frisco
Wakeland**



Boys | Conference 5A – Midlothian



Girls | Conference 6A – Prosper



**Boys | Conference 6A – Katy Seven
Lakes**

Soccer Calendar | 2024-2025

December 2	First Day for practice
December 12	First Day for scrimmages
December 30	First Day for games
March 18	District Certification
March 20-22	Bi-District
March 24-25	Area
March 27-29	Regional Semifinal
March 31-April 1	Regional Final
April 3-5	State Semifinals
April 10-12	State Championships

Soccer Coaches' Checklist

UIL Rules & Guidelines

UIL Rule Amendments & Sport Plan

Section 1270: SOCCER PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE.

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

(b) DIVISIONS.

There shall be three divisions for high school boys and three divisions for high school girls, in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A only.

(c) DATES FOR PRACTICE AND GAMES.

There shall be no school soccer practices for a contestant or team before or after school from the first day of school until the first Monday after Thanksgiving, and after the date for certifying district representatives, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs. Refer to Official Calendar for practice and playing dates, and certification deadlines.

(d) NUMBER OF GAMES, SCRIMMAGES AND TOURNAMENTS.

(1) 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.

(2) Number of Games Per Day. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool soccer games per day, including tournament games. Exception: Contestants and teams may play three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(3) Total Number of Games. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 15 soccer games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games and games played in pre-scheduled district tournaments. If the district champion has a bye for the first round of the play-offs, that school 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. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(4) 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 15 allowed games provided only one other matched game is played that calendar week. It 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 tournament provided only two matched games have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

(5) Number of Games Per Week; Tournament Restrictions.

(A) Matched Games Only. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games (as distinguished from tournaments) per calendar week.

(B) Week of an Invitational Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than one matched game during the calendar week of an invitational tournament.

(C) Week of a District Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games during the calendar week of a district tournament, including a district tournament authorized by the District Executive Committee to resolve a tie for district championship. To be considered a district tournament, at least three teams shall be assembled at one site for an elimination contest on consecutive days. Refer to Section 1203.

(D) Invitational Tournament Restriction. No team shall participate in an invitational soccer 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.

(E) Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity soccer 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 exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.

(e) BOYS', GIRLS' TEAM RESTRICTIONS.

No girls' team shall play in a game against a boys' team and vice versa.

(f) SITE OF GAME.

The District Executive Committee, in arranging a schedule within the district, shall determine the site of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

(g) GATE RECEIPTS FROM STATE TOURNAMENT.

The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state soccer tournament.

2024-2025 UIL Rule Changes & Amendments

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.*

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 Soccer Rules & 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

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, if 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 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.

Holiday Restriction (Section 1206 of C&CR)

(l) HOLIDAY RESTRICTION. A school shall not conduct contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during five consecutive days of December. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. Schools may choose any five consecutive days which include December 24, 25 and 26, with the following exceptions.

- (1) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools may participate in a tournament game on December 26.
- (2) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools shall still follow a five-consecutive day restriction, including December 24 and 25.
- (3) No practice shall be permitted on any of the five consecutive days.
- (4) Travel is not permitted on December 25.
- (5) Travel is permitted on the 26th if a tournament game is scheduled on December 27; however, no practice shall be permitted on the 26th.
- (6) A team that has a game on December 23 could travel home on December 24 and still be in compliance with this section.
- (7) A school may request an exception to these travel restrictions when safety concerns exist relative to travel. The UIL Executive Director, or his or her designee, may grant the exception only when the school has clearly provided evidence of the travel safety concerns and determines the school cannot reasonably be expected to comply with these restrictions.

Allowable Contests

Number of Contests allowed (2023-24)

- 0 Tournaments and 21 games or
- 1 Tournament and 19 games or
- 2 Tournaments and 17 games or
- 3 Tournaments and 15 games

Scrimmages. Schools are limited to two total scrimmages (with up to 4 participating schools) per calendar week. **This is the only limitation to scrimmages.

Games:

Season Total. A team or contestant shall not compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 15 high school games. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. Exception: The district executive committee may authorize a single elimination game or tournament to resolve district ties. This game cannot be pre-scheduled and it must count on the game per week limitation.

Games Per Day. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool soccer games per day, including tournaments. Exception: three games may be played in a one day tournament on a Saturday.

Games Per Week. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games per calendar week. The week of an invitational tournament only one matched game may be played. The state law limiting school week participation must be followed, (i.e., one contest Monday through Thursday night with the second contest after school Friday or Saturday).

Double Header. A student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity game or a ninth grade and a junior varsity game at the same site, the same night. It counts as the two total games the student may play for the calendar week and two of the total games for the season. Students may not play in a tournament the same week as they play in a double header.

Basketball and Soccer:

(1) A single game; or

(2) a double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity game or a ninth grade and a junior varsity game at the same site the same night). It counts as the two total games the student may play for the calendar week and two of the total games for the season. Students may not play in a tournament the same week as they play in a double header.

Soccer Tournament Regulations

Tournaments may be played during a week in which there is another scheduled contest if there is no violation of Texas Education Agency/State Board of Education regulations.

- **Number of Teams and Type of Play.** A tournament is defined as at least three teams assembled at one site for competition.
- **Scheduling.** Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. (See each sport plan for exception to resolve ties for district representatives.) Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one day tournament must be scheduled on Saturday.
- **Pool Play.** Teams can play regulation games (two per day) in pool play or they can play shortened pool play games of 20 minute halves with sudden death for ties. If teams are playing 20-minute halves pool play games, all pool play games combined would count as one of the two allowable games for that day.
- **Site.** A tournament must be held at the ISD of the host school, or at an adjoining ISD. If the tournament does not exceed eight teams, the host school may authorize additional sites for preliminary round games.
- **Invitational Tournament Tie Games.** In an invitational tournament, the tournament director shall set the tie breaking procedure to be used. This procedure should be explained to the coaches and referees prior to the start of the tournament.

Game Regulations

Playing Rules. The current National Federation Soccer Rules shall govern League soccer. Rulebooks will be sent from the UIL office every other year. Additional rulebooks may be ordered from the National Federation customer service office (800-776-3462) or www.nfhs.org. Schools may obtain scorebooks, court diagrams, lineup sheets, and libero tracking sheets from the National Federation.

Length of Periods. Two equal halves of 40 minutes each shall be played. (Periods may be shortened due to conditions which make it impossible to play). The half-time interval shall be 10 minutes. **NEW FOR**

2024 *At 20 minutes or beyond in the second half of play, if one team has a goal differential of +8 goals or more, the game would be stopped and declared as final.*

Official Clock. If a visible time clock is available, it must be used and will keep the official time. National Federation Rules states: The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, by mutual agreement of opposing schools the official time may be kept by the head referee

Tie Games. Each district Executive Committee must decide whether to: (A) end the game in a tie resulting in ½ game lost and 1/2 game won; (B) play two 10 minute overtimes; and/or (C) move directly to a shoot-out. The interval between the second half and the first overtime period shall be five minutes. The interval between the first overtime period and a second overtime period shall be two minutes.

Postponements.

- District varsity soccer games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next available date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. These makeup games may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. 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.
- Districts shall follow the rules set forth in their district executive committee meeting minutes which are set before the beginning of the season as they pertain to tie breaking situations but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

Officials.

- **Number of Officials:** Rule 5, Article 1: The officials shall be a head referee and a referee, a single referee and two assistant referees or a center referee and two side referees assisted by a timer, scorer and at least two ball holders. Note: If a state high school association chooses not to select one system, competing schools may do so by prior mutual agreement. Suggested mechanics are included in the back of the Soccer Rule book for both the dual and diagonal systems of officiating.
- **Timer:** The home school timer shall be the official timer. However, by mutual agreement of opposing coaches, the official time may be kept by the head referee.
- **Scorer:** A reserve official may be appointed to assume the duties of the scorer. The reserve official is under the jurisdiction of the head referee and performs those duties as assigned.

[Soccer Card Point System.](#)

[Kicks from the Penalty Mark Procedure.](#)

District Certification

- **Sites.** The district executive committee shall determine the site of district games in case of disagreement between the two teams.
- **District Disqualification.** All schools in a district shall be disqualified from the state playoffs if its committee certifies to the League office a team which has used an ineligible player in any game that counted on League standing without taking appropriate penalties.
- **District Win/Loss Percentage.** Non-district games between participating schools shall not count on a team's percentage for district standings. Unless the district executive committee specifies otherwise prior to the season, tie games shall count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.

- **Inter-district Disputes.** The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes past the district level.
- [Instructions to certify district representatives](#)

Miscellaneous Soccer Regulations

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.

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 teams 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. Number of persons allowed upon expense account 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.

POST-SEASON

Playoff Information

Certification of District Representatives. The District Chairman will certify representatives. The last day for determining the district champions is March 18, 2025.

- Playoff packets will be available to district representatives on the UIL website at <https://www.uiltexas.org/soccer/post-season-packet>

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.

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.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps.

Sites. Sites for all rounds of playoffs prior to the regional 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.

Playoffs. In all playoff games, bi-district through the state tournament, if a tie exists at the end of regulation time, the following procedure shall be followed:

- Play two ten-minute overtime periods, and if a tie still exists,
- A shoot out shall be conducted.

Suspended Playoff Games. In games beyond the district level, a game begun then suspended, shall continue from the point of suspension as soon as a playable field is available. Playoff certification deadlines may not be extended without the permission of the UIL athletic director or soccer director.

Officials. The process for officials' selection for the regional and state semifinals and finals will be outlined in the post-season handbook.

- [Official's Assignment Request Form](#)

Team Information & Pictures. Teams winning the regional quarterfinal game must submit the following materials to the UIL no later than Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

- Team Information Form (list of players, coaches, etc.; and list of all games played) – fill out online on the UIL website
 - [Boys' Team Information Form](#)
 - [Girls' Team Information Form](#)
- Photo Submissions - submitted through the following form:
<https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=949239>
 - Team Photo
 - Head Coach (headshot)
 - School Mascot/Logo

State Tournament

Site and Dates. Birkelbach Field in Georgetown, TX, April 10-12, 2025.

Lodging Instructions. Each school will be responsible for securing their own lodging. The UIL will provide a list of hotels in the area for reference. Each school must settle all lodging bills before checking out. Coaches are responsible for the proper conduct of their players at the hotels.

State Ball. The official game ball for the State Soccer Tournament will be the Baden Perfection Thermo Soccer Ball ST7.

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