

~ **BASEBALL CALENDAR** ~

**JANUARY**

30 First day for practice

**FEBRUARY**

9 First day for interschool scrimmages

23 First day for interschool games

**MAY**

5 Last day to determine district baseball representatives

9 Last day to certify bi-district baseball champions, conferences

16 Last day to certify area baseball champions, conferences

23 Last day to certify regional quarterfinal baseball champions

30 Last day to certify regional semifinal baseball champions

**JUNE**

6 Last day to certify regional final baseball champions

10-13 State Baseball Tournament

~ **NATIONAL FEDERATION BASEBALL RULE CHANGES** ~

1-2-2

Change: All non-permanent lines on the playing field shall be marked white with a material not injurious to the eyes or skin. Lime or caustic material of any kind is prohibited.

6-2-3

Change: Intentionally pitch close to a batter.

7-3-4 Penalty

Change: Penalty: The batter remains at bat (pitch is a ball or strike) unless the pitch was a third strike or ball four.

10-1-9 and Umpires' Manual

Delete: ... word "heather" gray

~ **UIL RULE CHANGES** ~

All amendments below are effective for the 2008-09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Allow for a fee increase for officials in all sports.
- Clarify the fee schedule and reimbursement paid by schools to officials.
- Require all first year coaches and any coach who is not a full-time employee of the school district to complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course prior to their participation as a coach for any UIL member school (Exception: Retired teachers/administrators with 20 or more years experience and student teachers).
- Alter the penalty for a coach who is ejected from a contest, and fails to have the ejection overturned, by requiring the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course.
- In Conference 4A, allow four teams to advance from each district to the playoffs in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball.

- In Conference 4A, establish regional tournaments in soccer and volleyball.
- Require annual training for at least one member of each UIL district executive committee for basketball.
- In soccer, expand the 4A alignment from 32 to 64 districts.
- Establish the penalties for a positive anabolic steroid test result.
- Create a mechanism for a procedural appeal of a positive anabolic steroid test result.

## ~ BASEBALL PLAN ~

Following is an excerpt from the UIL Constitution & Contest Rules.

### Section 1220: BASEBALL PLAN

- (a) **ATHLETIC PURPOSE, CODE, 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 2 invitational tournaments plus 19 baseball games or 3 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.
  - (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 19 allowed games 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) *Substituting Games for Tournaments.* Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. If a team or student does not play in any invitational tournaments, four additional games (total of 23) may be played.
  - (5) *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.
  - (6) *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.
  - (7) *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, until the 19th Friday prior to the State Baseball Tournament, 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 until the 18th Monday prior to the State Baseball Tournament, 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.* See 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) **PLAYOFF GAMES.** In playoff games, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.
- (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 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.
- (g) **GRADUATING SENIORS.** Sections 400 (a) and 402 of the Constitution shall not disqualify a contestant during the baseball season, who is eligible in all other respects at the time of spring graduation. This exception refers only to contestants whose playoff competition extends into the summer from the end of school.
- (h) **POST SEASON PLAYOFFS.**
- (1) *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.
  - (2) *Two-out-of-Three Series.* If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first (and only the first) game may be played prior to Friday, provided there is no loss of school time traveling to or participating in the game. Games 2 and/or 3 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.
  - (3) *State Tournament.* All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.
  - (4) *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. See Section 1208 (q).
  - (5) *Day of Playoff Game.* Baseball playoff games shall not be played before Wednesday of that week unless by mutual consent.
  - (6) *Gate Receipts From State Tournament.* The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state baseball tournament.