

~ REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ OFFICIALS ~

Football Officials.

1. Chain carrier and down-box operators need to be responsible adults;
2. Chain crews should report to the officials on the field at least 30 minutes before kickoff;
3. Chain crews should wear vests or other apparel so that they may be recognized as members of the chain crew;
4. The coaching staff should be responsible for introducing the members of the chain crew to the official's contact; This is an important function and should not be handled by students.

Coaches may contact the Texas Association of Sports Officials for football playing rule interpretations regarding the NCAA Official Football Rules. TASO; P.O. Box 30287; Austin, Texas, 78755; 512/345-9640; 866-283-TASO (8276); website: www.taso.org. The TASO Office will NOT be able to help with League related problems or questions.

Fee Schedules.

Listed below are the maximum fees schools may pay for officiating and travel.

<i>Varsity</i>	
Gross Gate Receipts	1 Game
Up to \$150	\$.45
\$150 to \$250	\$.50
\$250 to \$500	\$.55
\$500 to \$1,000	\$.60
\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$.65
\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$.70
\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$.75
\$4,000 to \$5,000	\$.80
\$5,000 to \$7,500	\$.85
\$7,500 to \$10,000	\$.90
\$10,000 to \$12,500	\$.95
\$12,500 to \$15,000	\$1.00
\$15,000 to \$17,500	\$1.15
\$17,500 to \$20,500	\$1.25
Each additional \$5,000	\$.20
 <i>Sub-Varsity</i>	
12-Minute Quarters	\$.45
10-Minute Quarters	\$.40
8-Minute Quarters /	\$.30
8-Min Running / 6-Min Quarters	\$.25

Fee Violations. The fee listed shall be paid to officials working varsity and sub-varsity contests. If a participant school exceeds or pays less than the fee schedule for a contest, the district executive committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the fee violation. If the school in question proves an emergency caused the fee violation, the district executive committee does not have to assess a penalty.

Scrimmages. TASO or UIL chapters shall be paid for scrimmages using the following fee schedule: (Fees are based on a three-hour scrimmage.)

Football	100.00
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A scrimmage fee will be assessed per field or gymnasium regardless of the number of participating schools. The school hosting the scrimmage is responsible for payment of scrimmage fees to the chapter.

Example: School A is hosting a volleyball/basketball scrimmage utilizing 1 gymnasium with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a \$50 scrimmage fee to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

Example: School A is hosting a football scrimmage utilizing 1 field with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a \$100 scrimmage fee to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

On the same day at the same time, school A also has JV teams participating in a scrimmage on an adjacent field (not the same field as the varsity) with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a scrimmage fee on that field in addition to the fee charged for the varsity scrimmage on a different field.

Example: School A is hosting a baseball/softball/soccer scrimmage utilizing 1 field with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a \$50 scrimmage fee to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

On the same day at the same time, school A also has JV teams participating in a scrimmage on an adjacent field (not the same field as the varsity) with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a scrimmage fee on that field in addition to the fee charged for the varsity scrimmage on a different field.

Example: School A is hosting a volleyball/basketball/baseball/softball/soccer scrimmage utilizing 1 gymnasium/field with 4 participating teams, lasting 4 hours. School A is responsible for a \$75 scrimmage fee (\$50 for the first 3 hours and an additional \$25 each hour after that) to the chapter providing officials for that scrimmage.

NOTE: After three hours, each additional hour is \$25. The fees paid are regardless of the level of competition. The fee will be paid to the local chapter and not to the individual officials, to be used in place of assignment or service fees. A portion of these fees should be used for education, retention and recruitment of officials.

Chapters that agree to provide officials and charge for scrimmages are under obligation to provide officials for the school for the entire season, grades 7-12.

A chapter that requests a service/assignor fee from schools will not be a chapter in good standing with TASO or UIL and thus will not be eligible for UIL post-season assignments.

Mileage Reimbursement

- a. Officials shall be paid mileage, one car, round trip from the official's home to the site of the game.
- b. Officials shall be paid the state mileage reimbursement rate in effect on September 1 of the current school year.
- c. Each additional official shall receive a \$10 rider fee. By prior consent of the school, a second car could be paid a mileage fee.
- d. Schools shall not pay a mileage fee to more than two cars.
- e. By prior agreement between officials and school authorities, airfare may be substituted for automobile mileage fee.

Other Allowable Expenses.

- a. Meals. Schools shall not pay for any meals for officials unless the distance traveled round trip from the official's home to the game site is greater than 200 miles. If meals are paid, the amount shall be paid according to the per diem policy for that school district
- b. Lodging. By agreement by the officials and schools, schools may pay lodging.
- c. Ground Transportation. If prior agreement exists, schools may pay taxi fare, etc., for officials.
- d. Limitation. No other items shall be included in payment of officials.
- e. Fee Approval. Fees are to be paid by the host school or by the game management as approved by the school.

- f. Prompt Payment. Fees should be paid promptly. **Schools that do not pay within 45 days of the contest are subject to the range of penalties listed in Section 29 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.**
- g. Exceeding Fees. If a member school exceeds or pays less than the fee schedule for a contest, the district executive committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the excess fee(s). If the school in question proves an emergency caused the fee violation, the district executive committee does not have to assess a penalty.

Limitation. No other items shall be included in payment of officials.

Fee Approval. Fees are to be paid by the host school or by the game management as approved by the school.

Prompt Payment. Fees should be paid promptly.

Protection and Courtesy to Game Officials.

All schools, when they join the League and are assigned to a district, accept the respective athletic plans. The code states in part--To accept decisions of officials without protest; to see that officials are extended protection and courtesy, by players, school personnel and laymen; to treat your opponents as your guests, and to put clean play and good sportsmanship above victory at any cost.

The State Executive Committee has assessed more penalties to coaches and players for abuse of game officials than for any other one rule violation. There can be no athletic activities without officials. Unless they are protected, the educational benefits of athletics could be denied to high school pupils. Officials must be mutually agreed upon in advance. If no prior agreement is reached, beginning the game constitutes agreement. It is strongly recommended that:

1. Police protection be furnished at all football games. The officers should meet the game officials and escort them to dressing facilities, before and after the game. Officers should be situated on the field so that they can protect the officials.
2. Each member school should construct a fence around the playing field to restrain fans from moving onto the field. In many cases where officials are abused, there has not been an adequate fence or barrier around the field.
3. The public address system should be used prior to each game to explain to the fans the meaning of the football code and that the officials are guests of both teams and should be so treated. Pre-game announcements along with the playing of the National Anthem are also recommended to help create a proper atmosphere.

It is the responsibility of the coach to set the example of proper conduct toward officials. The coach, through his actions, generally sets off the "spark" which results in misconduct of lay people toward the officials. The coach sets the proper example in conduct, to students and to the fans. The coach as a member of the school faculty is evaluated very critically by the League, in any case of mistreatment of officials.

For all varsity athletic contests, a designated administrator is to be appointed to act as a security and hospitality aide for officials. Officials chapters should be notified prior to the season or game as to procedures for items such as parking, dressing rooms, security, and method of payment.

If an attack should occur on a game official, the school administration and the school board should take immediate steps to see that the person making the attack on the official or officials is identified and reported to local authorities. Token punishments will not carry much weight.

Schools must take proper precautions to see that all game officials are protected and extended courtesy. In case of any misconduct by a fan, player or a coach schools should identify this person and report them to local authorities. Proper preparation can prevent most misconduct relative to officials.

NOTE: If extreme verbal abuse is directed toward an official or if an official is struck, pushed, bumped, or handled in any way, there shall be a penalty assessed by the State Executive Committee. This penalty will be either: 1) public reprimand; 2) disqualification; 3) suspension from coaching for up to three years. **THINK BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR TEMPER!**

Rating Officials.

The League office sends "Poor" and "Unacceptable" ratings back to the local officiating chapters. In order for this system to improve officiating in Texas coaches need to be objective in grading. A comment such as, "The umpire stinks," does not help the football chapter officers evaluate the kind of job done in the game. Try to be more specific with, "Was out of position on drop-back passes" or "failed to apply the holding rules," etc. These will help the officials improve their performance. Your evaluations and constructive criticisms are important. Serious-minded officials have learned to live, adjust, and improve with criticism.

When to file report? Please complete the form as soon as you can after a game. If your report is faxed in by Monday following the game, the League office can process it and get input back to the officials sooner. This form can be found on the UIL website under football.

School Administrator Liaison Program.

UIL school administrators shall serve on the Texas Association of Sports Officials or UIL local Board of Directors (ex officio) in a role as a school administrator liaison. The local TASO or UIL chapter should contact and invite one or more (depending on number of schools and varying size of schools) administrators (superintendent, principal, athletic director or head coach) to attend the local TASO or UIL Board of Directors meetings. These individuals will be helpful in providing input from the viewpoint of the school. The administrators responsibility is to report back to other area administrators relative to officials local problems, fees, payment procedures, and other pertinent policies. Although these individuals will not substitute for other necessary contacts with local schools, it is hoped the communication gap will narrow as a result of these efforts.

Assignment Of Officials Out Of The League Office

1. TASO or UIL Officials. Member schools shall use registered TASO or UIL officials in all varsity contests.
2. Neutral Officials. In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral officials who have no affiliation with either school.
3. The two schools have the right to "scratch" any officials they wish. However, the League office urges the use of discretion in scratching entire chapters or areas.
4. After the schools have indicated officials and/or chapters they do not want, the League office then contacts a chapter not scratched and requests officials. Available officials, size of chapter, travel distance, ratings of officials in the chapters and requests for ethnic breakdown of officials will be considered. **Schools are not permitted to talk with representatives of the chapter once they have agreed for the League to assign officials.**
5. Once the officials have been assigned out of the League office, the schools must pay the assigned officials if they are not used, unless:
 - a. The League 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 League and the opponent results in officials being assigned from a chapter which one school had scratched.
6. 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.
7. Once a game has begun there shall be no protest based on the selection of game officials. Beginning a contest constitutes agreement.
8. Payment of officials (for all games other than tournament games) shall be according to the Athletic Plans in the Constitution and Contest Rules. "Maximum fees" are for varsity contests. Junior varsity or junior high fees are usually substantially less.

~ GAMES ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION ~

Schedules.

Athletic schedules will not be considered official until approved by the superintendent of the member school district.

Adult Supervision.

A coach or adult supervisor must always accompany students. A student shall not represent his or her school at any time in connection with interscholastic competition unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed member of the school faculty. **Exception:** A nonschool person may serve as the adult supervisor of students when appointed by the administrator in areas where no coaching/directing takes place. These individuals may provide the transportation to and from the activity and be responsible for the supervision of participants.

Warning About The Inherent Dangers Of Athletic Participation

Student athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

The UIL encourages student athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks and risk minimization with coaches and school administrators.

Games Administration and Protection of Players

School officials should exert every effort to reduce athletic injuries. Football is one of the most hazardous sports, and every care should be exercised for the protection and safety of the players. The following suggestions are offered for consideration:

1. Have a written permit from the parents to secure emergency medical services in case of injury.
2. See to it that players are properly equipped with adequate protection such as shoulder, hip, kidney and knee pads; helmets; etc.
3. Give immediate attention to all injuries, even seemingly unimportant scratches and bruises. Be prepared for hot weather practice.
4. Have all players covered by an athletic insurance policy, and arrange for a physician to be present at every game.
5. Secure TASO or UIL officials who will enforce the rules designed to protect the players. Be courteous to officials, and see that they are given adequate protection.
6. See to it that the playing field is well sodded and in the best possible condition. The playing field should have a restraining fence around it to restrain the crowd and keep them from moving onto the field.
7. Do not use unslaked lime. The use of unslaked lime for marking football fields is dangerous.
8. The home team should provide four deputized persons or officers to be placed in each corner of the football field for the purpose of stopping improper conduct of fans and to provide an escort for game officials.

Game Administrator Procedures

In all UIL varsity athletic team contests, a game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. That person must be a coach (other than the game coach), teacher, or administrator. It is recommended that a game administrator be designated by the home school for all non-varsity athletic team contests. The responsibilities of the game administrator are as follows:

1. Meet with the officials prior to game time (preferably on the playing field or court); If officials are not notified by the designee by ten minutes prior to beginning of a game, the referee shall ask the home head coach if there is a designee and if so, who that person is.
2. See that officials are directed to their dressing room;
3. If there is no designated administrator, the officials shall inform the UIL in writing the next working day.
4. Inform the officials where the game administrator will be seated.
5. Assist the officials if they need to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct of a fan, player, or coach (such as removal from stadium or gym).
6. Check with the officials after the game to see if there is any misconduct that needs to be reported.
7. Offer to provide an escort for the officials to their cars.
8. Report incidents to the appropriate school administrator (home team or visitor).
9. Report severe verbal abuse or physical contact of the official and any ejections of coaches and fans to the UIL office in writing within the next three working days.
10. The home school is responsible for security. In playoff games/ matches, both schools are responsible.
11. In playoff games/ matches both schools shall have a game administrator.

Crowd Management and Game Security.

In our complex and open society there are numerous problems which hinders the public school administrator. Crowd management and game security are two problems which have haunted even the most conscientious administration. This area goes beyond the spectator who is intoxicated in the stands or those who insist on running onto the field at the end of the game. Schools in some states have been forced to abandon night games, while others in some states must seek a neutral site with little or no publicity surrounding the event to prevent added disturbances. Fortunately, this has not been a great problem for athletics in Texas. However, disturbances can occur at even the smallest of schools during a game which has no bearing on the district championship. Each school system should develop a master plan for management of crowds.

Administrative duties for controlling crowds involves a well thought out plan of action. Actions prescribed should be endorsed by the school board as policy for the district, prior to each school year. Plans may then be viewed for comparison with other school systems. Naturally, each system will include variations to fit their own unique situation.

The UIL views this as a positive way to defend against possible trouble at athletic events. School personnel are more apt to act with confidence, knowing where they stand when written policy is in place. Schools that have operated without a crowd management and/or game security policy may see this as an opportunity to add consistency while upgrading their procedures, not to mention serving as a guide for legal implications. It is better to operate somewhat anonymously and behind the scenes so that fans may enjoy their favorite events than to spend little time in planning and be faced with an unchecked security problem.

Administrative Responsibility. The school district superintendent and/or their designee is responsible for enacting and enforcing a crowd management policy for contests sponsored by his/her district. Likewise, all phases of interscholastic competition are under the careful supervision of the superintendent.

Guidelines. (These basic guidelines may be supplemented by local schools.)

1. A crowd control policy for season athletic contests shall be endorsed by the school board and should be kept on file with the district executive chairman and in possession of those in the individual school directly responsible.
2. No interscholastic contest may be arranged without the knowledge and sanction of the superintendent or his designee.
3. A game administrator or manager (usually the athletic director or principal) shall be in charge of the various administrative duties not associated with the contest at all home games. This person shall be on duty during the actual playing of the contest.
4. In all cases where students are competing against those of another school there must be an authorized faculty representative on the premises. In team sport contests such as basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the superintendent and/or a designated game administrator shall be present at all home games and should be present at games away from home when large numbers of students and fans are attending the game.
5. Students, participants and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Failure to do so may be in violation of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and subject the school, students and sponsors to penalty.
6. The member school superintendent is responsible for initiating appropriate disciplinary measures against those guilty of violations of the State Education Code.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the host administration to insure the safety of the officials.

SAFETY

Our baseline responsibility is to assure that every person who comes to school or to a school event is ensured the opportunity of returning home safely that day or night. The following suggestions are not complex, but hopefully will stand the test of time.

1. Principals and athletic directors should meet with the police and fire chiefs, emergency medical service head, and school superintendent. At this meeting establish roles of responsibility. For example, whose decision it is to evacuate a school or athletic site? Also discuss all of the other issues (e.g. lightning, power outage, bomb threats, weapons) that are concerns of the respective participants in this meeting. It would be well if written protocols resulted.
2. Form a School Safety Committee which should be representative of students, custodians (who may know your facility better than anyone else), staff, administration, parents, and the community. All of these constituents are stakeholders who should share in responsibility for safety.
3. Consider safety to be a "team" effort. Inform your students and other constituencies that you want them to keep their eyes open, and to report anything they see or hear that may be troubling. "Intelligence" is important and can be reasonably easy to acquire through such a network.
4. Every student should have an advocate member of the school staff. Too often children are without a good adult role model. A staff member, making it a point to check on each student once a week, may be enough to keep the student connected, or to detect a potentially significant personality change.
5. Recognize that you are surrounded by trained observers. Educators, like police, are accustomed to observing individuals, groups, and crowds. Anyone or anything that does not "look right", probably isn't. Station trained observers at the entrance to athletic events. Assign staff in fan sections, have the police detail deployed to observe fan behavior, and place administrators at vantage points where spectators and observers can be viewed.
6. Cell phones can be critical during an emergency when phone lines are cut; incoming phone traffic precludes making calls, etc.
7. Don't believe "it can't happen here." The profiles of perpetrators of recent school tragedies are suburban, affluent young people who spend time on computers or who may have access through family to guns.
8. Continue to work to keep high school athletic programs within the perspective of their educational mission. Do not place athletes on a pedestal. Honor equally achievements of all your students (e.g. academics, community service, drama, National Honor Society).

9. A communication system (e.g. walkie-talkies) is important among school personnel, fire, police, EMS, etc .
10. Remain calm, and use the PA system to deliver pre-developed messages / instructions.

Pregame Activities and Regulations

Pregame Activities: Schools select their pregame activities. Pre-game activities must be completed and the field cleared of all non-team personnel no later than 6 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. This includes the national anthem, the school songs, etc. In addition, the team personnel need to be fully aware of the timing of pregame events, and have their captains and teams ready to go, without delay, at the appropriate times. This will permit the unhindered administration of the coin toss, and, thus, the prompt starting of the game.

Coin Toss Time: The coin toss should be executed at three minutes before game time in all UIL football contests.

Game Balls and Ball Persons: The home team should provide a minimum of three legal game balls, and the visiting team, if it desires to use its own game balls, should also provide a minimum of three legal game balls. The home team shall provide a minimum of two ball persons (preferably age 12 or older); one ball person should be positioned on the home sideline, and the other should be positioned on the visiting sideline. In this case, each ball person should assist the officials with the game balls for both teams. The visiting team shall have the option of providing two additional ball persons (preferably age 12 or older) to assist the officials with their own game balls, if desired. Note: If the visiting team chooses to use its own ball persons, they must provide two persons; one to be positioned on the visiting sideline, and one on the home sideline. In this case, the ball persons from each team would handle only the game balls for their respective teams.

Video Replay Boards

In stadiums where video replay boards are utilized replays of game action may only be shown once. Slow motion replays may not be shown. Coaches may not utilize video monitors in press box coaches' booths.

Half-Time Regulations

The NCAA Football Rules specify a penalty be assessed to the home team at the beginning of the second half if the half-time exceeds allowable limits. Texas high schools play by NCAA rules, therefore the half-time length regulations will be enforced by football officials.

1. Maximum half-time length for UIL varsity games is 28 minutes. Please note that half-time is not required to be this long. Many districts have adopted a shorter period of time, for example 24 minutes. Note: Junior high and sub-varsity half-time should not be longer than 20 minutes.
2. Timing for the half-time should begin when all players and personnel have cleared the field at the end of the first half of play.
3. Bands should be ready at that time to come onto the field for their half-time show. Undue delay by the visiting team band could result in a penalty being assessed to the home school. Many schools are placing a time limit on each band, insuring that the first part of the half-time intermission will not cause the entire half-time to exceed the allotted time limit.
4. Football teams should have at least 3-4 minutes to warm up after the half-time intermission prior to the second-half kickoff.
5. When homecoming activities and/or other half-time activities necessitate an extra long half-time, it may be advisable for the visiting band to give its show prior to the game.
6. Both schools should cooperate to ensure proper half-time procedures.

Videotaping/Filming

Non-Conference and District Contests

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Commercial Uses. Use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

Policy on Rain/Flood Games

Games scheduled for Friday night canceled by rain or inclement weather:

Options:

1. Find another site and play the game on Friday night as scheduled: a) Option to go to visiting school, if mutually agreeable; b) Option to find a neutral field.
2. Play Saturday at original site, visiting site, or neutral field: a) Mutual agreement or b) district executive committee action.
3. If conditions which do not permit any of the above persist: The district executive committee may reschedule district games for Monday night. Then the game scheduled for the following Friday must be rescheduled for Saturday, to meet the five-day interval requirement of the Football Plan of the Constitution and Contest Rules.
4. Note: It may be necessary to have the district executive committee reschedule a number of games.
5. For non-district games - agreement between two schools involved.

Live Regular Season Telecast

UIL member schools shall not have a live telecast or video webcast/live videostream of a Friday night regular season football game when other schools are having interschool football games in the telecast area.

Football Questions and Answers

25-Second Clock

~ Is the 25-second clock required?

Answer: No! If a 25-second clock is in operation and the home team will use it, the visiting team will also use it. There is no mandate to install a 25-second clock any time in the near future because of the added cost to schools for installation and operation. If schools want to purchase a 25-second clock or a new scoreboard with a 25-second clock, they may do so. However, to repeat, Texas' high schools are not required to use the clock in their football games.

Goalposts

~ May schools install the NCAA goalposts (18' 6" width) on high school fields?

Answer: No! Texas high schools use the wider 23' 4" goalposts unless they mutually agree to play a game at a college field which has the narrow goalposts. Goalposts must be padded.

~ Are schools required to have the single pedestal (sling shot) goalposts?

Answer: No! We do suggest if you install new goal posts to use this single pedestal type.

~ Are uprights required to extend upward 30' above ground (or 20 feet above the crossbar)?

Answer: No! The UIL recommends the 30' uprights. If new goal posts are installed, please install the 30' uprights for better judgment on kicks.

Hashmarks

~ Are high schools required to remark the hashmarks to meet the new NCAA requirement?

Answer: Yes. Texas schools will use the 60 foot (measured in from each sideline). Artificial surface fields also are required to mark the new hashmarks. The old 53' 4" hashmarks do not have to be removed (even though they are no longer used) if doing so harms the integrity of the playing surface.

Beginning Practice Dates

~ When can non-contact practice begin in 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A with no spring training?

Answer: August 3 (we recommend no earlier than 6:00 a.m.). Contact equipment other than the helmet and chin strap may not be used, but may be fitted and placed in lockers.

~ When can non-contact practice begin in 4A and 5A schools who have had spring training?

Answer: August 10 (we recommend no earlier than 6:00 a.m.). Contact equipment other than the helmet and chin strap may not be used, but may be fitted and placed in lockers.

~ When can 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A with no spring training begin contact practice?

Answer: August 7 (we recommend no earlier than 6:00 a.m.).

~ When can 4A and 5A with spring training begin contact practice?

Answer: August 14 (we recommend no earlier than 6:00 a.m.).

~ The first four days of practice must be conducted without contact activities and with no contact equipment except the helmet.

~ There shall be no team or individual practices, conditioning, or individual or team meetings on Sunday.

~ Practices on Friday, August 7, can be full contact activities. (Friday, August 14, for 4A and 5A with spring training.)

~ When can I have an interschool scrimmage?

Answer: All schools except 4A and 5A with spring training, Saturday, August 15, after seven days of allowable contact activities.

~ When can I have the second scrimmage if I scrimmage on August 15?

Answer: Thursday, August 20.

~ May I have a third interschool scrimmage?

Answer: Yes, if the above schedule is followed and the third scrimmage is scheduled on Tuesday, August 25, starting no earlier in the day than the August 20 scrimmage. There must be five days between scrimmages (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday). Teams opting for a third scrimmage shall not play on the zero week.

~ When can I hold my first scrimmage if I am 4A and 5A and had spring training?

Answer: August 22. Exception--A school may participate in a scrimmage after six (6) days of contact practice activities if either team participating in the scrimmage conducted spring training and plays a zero [0] week game.

~ When can I play my first high school game.

Answer: Thursday, August 27, all conferences, (if five days have elapsed since last scrimmage)

~ May I have an interschool scrimmage after I play my first game?

Answer: No!

~ When can I begin practice for 8th grade football and below?

Answer: The first day of school.

~ When can I scrimmage or play a game in eighth grade and below?

Answer: No junior high student or team shall participate in any scrimmage or contest until they have had four days of practice without any contact equipment except helmets, and seven additional days of contact practice.

~ When can I issue equipment in eighth grade and below?

Answer: Football equipment may be checked out to the players on any one day during the week preceding the first day of school.

~ When is the last day for junior high or middle school football?

Answer: From the first day of school, schools shall have 80 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day, 63 of the 80 days may be used to complete scrimmages and games.

Sunday

~ Even though I cannot practice, play, or have individual or team meetings on Sunday, is it permissible for athletes to be treated for injuries on Sunday?

Answer: Yes, provided the treatment is not extended to non-injured players, coaches do not require all athletes to come pick up materials or allow injured athletes to study scouting reports or view films.

Charging Admission for Scrimmages

~ Can schools charge admission for interschool scrimmages?

Answer: Yes.

~ Will gate receipts have to be divided among participating schools in the scrimmage?

Answer: There is no provision to share proceeds. Schools could do so by mutual agreement.

~ Are schools required to charge for scrimmages?

Answer: No. The decision to do so rests with the host school.

Football Camps (Local camps where local school coaches work with incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th grade players from their school district in single high school districts or from the attendance zone of a high school in a multi-school district.)

~ When can these camps be conducted?

Answer: After the last day of the school year and prior to the second Monday in August.

~ Can incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th grade athletes students help in these camps?

Answer: No. Incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th grade players cannot work in a camp conducted by a school coach for athletes in grades 7-9 from their school district in single high school districts or from the attendance zone of a high school in a multi-school district.

~ PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ~

Public Address Announcements

It is recommended that the following public address announcements be made prior to the game:

"These are high school athletes performing tonight. They are friendly rivals, not enemies."

"Friendly competition is the theme of interschool sports. The visiting team and fans are our guests. Please show courtesy and good sportsmanship."

"Officials are assigned by mutual agreement of both schools. Sportsmanship should be shown by all spectators, no matter which team they are backing."

"Good Evening. Welcome to this game between the _____ and the _____. A special welcome is extended to our neighbors from _____ for this exciting contest between two fine schools. Tonight's event provides a showcase for the talents and skills of the students from each school through friendly competition, which is the theme of all interscholastic events.

The performances you will see are the result of many hours of preparation. The teams, the bands, the drill teams and the cheerleaders have worked hard for your entertainment and appreciation. Please encourage them by your cheers, your applause, and your good sportsmanship. These students, along with their directors and coaches, represent their school with pride and honor.

The game will be conducted according to the rules of the University Interscholastic League. The officials were selected with the consent of both schools, and their rulings should be respected by all. The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited on all school property, as well as the possession of illegal weapons and public gambling. The use of all tobacco products is forbidden except in designated areas.

You are reminded that spectators are not allowed on the field until players and officials have had an opportunity to leave after the game.

Thank you for your attendance. Get ready to enjoy the special performances of the talented students from these two fine schools."

Radio Announcements

The following requirements should be put in a written contract with any radio or television station carrying a high school athletic activity. This is important because some announcers criticize game officials. Each station should agree not to criticize the officiating, the school, or the League. It is recommended that the following be included in any agreement to broadcast a high school athletic activity:

1. There shall be no political announcements or advertising of tobacco, liquor, wine or beer during the broadcast;
2. The Station is to be responsible for any expenses incidental to setting up the broadcasting arrangements;
3. The Station shall not feed the broadcast of this game to any other radio station without the signed approval of a school official;
4. The _____ School District shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by Station _____ in putting on the broadcast;
5. There shall be no criticisms of officials' decisions;
6. No mention shall be made of injuries, unpreventable accidents, or other incidents which may cause any anxiety on the part of listeners; and
7. There shall be no discussion of school or League policies which are of a derogatory nature.