

~ PRE-SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES ~

UIL Rules Compliance

District Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the DEC to: 1) enforce all rules and regulations; 2) investigate and check eligibility of athletes; 3) uphold principles of high school athletics as a valuable educational activity; and 4) arrange a schedule for district competition and representation.

School Authority Responsible. The superintendent shall be responsible for the proper conduct of athletic contests in a school system.

Observe Rules. Each school shall abide by all rules contained in the Constitution. In case an ineligible contestant is used in any League game, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game.

Rule Violations. Students who violate the rules shall be ineligible for at least one year from the date of the violation unless otherwise specified by rule. Regulations in the athletic plans of the Constitution and Contest Rules govern all varsity and sub-varsity teams. Specific rules within the junior high section of the Constitution govern eighth grade and below.

Penalties. (1) Fighting, i.e. unauthorized entrance on to the playing field/court area to engage in a fight with an opponent, teammate, fan, and/or an official and (2) Failure to complete an athletic contest, i.e. removing a team from a field/court in protest, will be included under the UIL penalty structure.

Eligibility for UIL Contest

Eligibility rules are found in Section 400 and 440 of the Constitution and Contest Rules. Any question regarding a student's eligibility, should be addressed to the school principal and/or superintendent. Residence requirements according to Sections 400 (d) 440, and 442 should be thoroughly investigated for any student new to school.

Students are eligible to represent their school in varsity interscholastic activities if they:

- are not 19 years of age or older on or before September 1 of the current scholastic year. (See 504 handicapped exception.)
- have not graduated from high school.
- are enrolled by the sixth class day of the current school year or have been in attendance for fifteen calendar days immediately preceding a varsity contest.
- are full-time day students in a participant high school.
- initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four calendar years ago.
- are meeting academic standards required by state law.
- live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance. (Parent residence applies to varsity athletic eligibility only.) When the parents do not reside inside the district attendance zone the student could be eligible if: the student has been in continuous attendance for at least one calendar year and has not enrolled at another school; no inducement is given to the student to attend the school (for example: students or their parents must pay their room and board when they do not live with a relative; students driving back into the district should pay their own transportation costs); and it is not a violation of local school or TEA policies for the student to continue attending the school. Students placed by the Texas Youth Commission are covered under Custodial Residence (see Section 442 of the Constitution and Contest Rules).
- have observed all provisions of the Awards Rule.
- have not represented a college in a contest.
- have not been recruited. (Does not apply to college recruiting as permitted by rule.)

- have not violated any provision of the summer camp rule. Incoming 10-12 grade students shall not attend a baseball, basketball, football, soccer, or volleyball camp in which a seventh through twelfth grade coach from their school district attendance zone, works with, instructs, transports or registers that student in the camp. Students who will be in grades 7, 8, and 9 may attend one baseball, one basketball, one football, one soccer, one softball, and one volleyball camp in which a coach from their school district attendance zone is employed, for no more than six consecutive days each summer in each type of sports camp. Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball camps where school personnel work with their own students may be held in May, after the last day of school, June, July and August prior to the second Monday in August. If such camps are sponsored by school district personnel, they must be held within the boundaries of the school district and the superintendent or his designee shall approve the schedule of fees.
- have observed all provisions of the Athletic Amateur Rule. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months received money or other valuable consideration for teaching or participating in a League sponsored school sport or received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan, or service related to a League contest or accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose. It is a violation of the athletic amateur rule for parents of student athletes to accept tickets to athletic contests where their children are participating. It is also a violation for parents of student athletes to accept free pass gate admission to athletic contests where their children are participating unless they are at the contest in another capacity, i.e., if the parent is an employee of the school or a board member, or working at a concession booth, etc.

If a student did not realize that accepting the valuable consideration was a violation of the amateur rule, and returns the valuable consideration within 30 days after being informed of the violation, that student may regain athletic eligibility as of the date the valuable consideration is returned. If a student fails to return it within 30 days, that student remains ineligible for one year from when he or she accepted it. During the period of time a student is in possession of valuable consideration, he or she is ineligible for varsity athletic competition in the sport for which the violation occurred. Any games or contests in which the student participated during that time would be forfeited as the minimum penalty.

This rule is sport-specific. For example if a student violates the rule in one sport, such as accepting a prize for winning a hole-in-one contest in golf, that student would be ineligible only for golf.

- did not change schools for athletic purposes.

Athletic Eligibility

Athletic Amateur Rule

Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to non-school participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. (For instance, a race of six miles or longer is not considered to be a cross country meet, so the Amateur Rule is not applicable to students participating in this type of race.)

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:

1. Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning/placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or sellable, and includes such items as tee-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.
2. Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.
3. Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.
4. Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team.

The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. **The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so that a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.**

Limitation on Awards. Schools may give one major award, not to exceed \$70.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the UIL interschool competitions listed in Section 380. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional UIL activity listed in Section 380. The \$10.00 award may be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity.

Required Forms. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uil.utexas.edu).

- a. Pre Participation Physical Examination Form. As a minimum requirement, a Physical Examination Form must be completed prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to first and third years of high school athletic participation. Local district policy may require an annual physical exam. The form must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner, will not be accepted.
- b. Medical History Form. Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian.
- c. Parent or Guardian Permit. Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian.
- d. Rules Acknowledgment. Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
- e. Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form. The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.

Other Forms. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required forms. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uil.utexas.edu).

- a. Eligibility Form. Schools must submit comprehensive eligibility blanks for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, and soccer. For all other athletic activities general alphabetical listing of eligible athletes is required. One copy shall be sent to the district executive committee chair and one copy shall be filed in the school's office. Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be postmarked before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest. Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.
- b. Previous Athletic Participation Form. New students in grades 9-12 who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest or practice in grades 8-12 in any previous school year must have a Previous Athletic Participation Form completed prior to participation in a varsity contest at the new school.
- c. Late Forms. If an eligibility form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the district executive committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of private reprimand to the school.
- d. Foreign Exchange Students. Subject to the other eligibility rules of the Constitution and Contest Rules, foreign exchange students in approved CSIET foreign exchange programs are allowed to apply for exceptions to the residence rule through the UIL waiver process. A waiver could be granted in certain activities if they have not received advanced training or have not had extensive experience in the activity of their choice. **Foreign exchange students are not eligible for varsity athletic participation unless they are granted a Foreign Exchange Student Waiver.**

- e. Varsity Athletic Eligibility for Over-Age Student. Subject to the other eligibility rules of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, an individual is eligible to participate in a League varsity athletic contest as a representative of a participant school if that individual is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest; or has been granted eligibility based on a handicapping condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year and the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD Committee or has been identified as a 504 student.

New Student Varsity Athletic Eligibility Questionnaire

The following are questions which should be answered before any new student in a high school is allowed to participate in a varsity athletic competition.

- * Is the student enrolled on a full time basis?
- * Do the parents of the student reside in the attendance zone of the school for which they wish to participate?
- * Are parents together/divorced/separated? (If parents are separated, a waiver of the parent residence rule is required.)
- * Does the student's parent, guardian, or other person who residence determines the student's residence own a house or condominium or rent a house, apartment or other living quarters in the school district and attendance zone?
- * Do the student and the parent or guardian have their furniture and personal effects in the district and attendance zone?
- * Do the student and the parent or guardian receive their mail (other than office mail) in the district and attendance zone?
- * Are the parents or guardians registered to vote in the district and attendance zone?
- * Do the parents or guardians regularly live in the district and attendance zone, and intend to live there indefinitely?
- * Has a Previous Athletic Participation Form been signed and completed by all concerned parties?
- * Is there any indication the student changed schools for athletic purposes?
- * Was the student recruited?
- * If the student is not living with either parent, was the student placed by a court or other state agency? If so, when and why? (If not residing with parent(s), a waiver of the Parent Residence Rule is required.)
- * If the student is living with a guardian, has the guardianship been in effect for one year with the guardian having custodial care of the student for that time? If not, has the student applied for a waiver?
- * Was the student in good standing at the former school? (i.e. was the student removed from the athletic program at the former school?)
- * If enrolled after the sixth class day of the school year, has the student sat out the required fifteen days?
- * Is the student a foreign exchange student? If so, a waiver is needed for varsity athletic participation.

~ HIGH SCHOOL COACHING REQUIREMENT ~

All high school coaches must be full-time employees of the school district. All coaches/sponsors at the high school level must sign a Professional Acknowledgment Form prior to the beginning of their tenure at a participant school. Coaches who knowingly and willfully violate rules may be penalized according to the Constitution and Contest Rules by the District Executive Committee (reprimand) or State Executive Committee (reprimand, public reprimand, suspension). EXCEPTION: A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may serve as an assistant coach in all athletics and as a head coach for golf, tennis, team tennis, cross country, track and field, and swimming. (This rule shall not affect the status of a coach on a leave of absence attending college.) Also, student teachers, while they are assigned to a participant school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting athletic coaches.

Coaches Education

All first year coaches and any coach who is not a full-time employee of the school district must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations "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. The cost of the course is \$35 and shall be paid for by the coach or school district. Upon completion of the course, coaches shall print a copy of the Completion Certificate and submit it to their Athletic Director, who will keep it on file at the school.

UIL Coaches and Officials Positive Expectations Program (COPE)

The UIL Legislative Council requires all coaches to complete the COPE program each year. As of May, 2008 the COPE program is available only via the UIL Website. Upon completion of the program, coaches shall print a copy of the Completion Certificate and submit it to their Athletic Director, who will keep it on file at the school.

Minimum Penalty for Miscoduct.

- (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, is required to appear before the State Executive Committee. If the ejection is not overturned, 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; and
 - (B) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching Course.
- (2) Automatic Greater Penalty. If a coach so penalized has no proof of having taken the COPE 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 must notify the UIL within three school days if a coach has been ejected from a game or received two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties.