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## ~ REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

### ~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~

#### Registration

A school should have registered for UIL softball by January 15 the preceding school year. The district executive committee may by majority vote accept a school after that date.

A school which does not participate in softball after registering may be suspended in this activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not entering a team. Conference and district assignments are included with this manual.

District Chair lists can be found on the UIL web site at [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu).

Districts should not schedule a game on the last playing date of the regular season or the last two playing dates if the district is in a zone situation — to allow for a game(s) to break a tie.

#### Eligibility Blanks

Prior to the first varsity game, complete the eligibility blank found at the end of this manual. This form is for varsity athletes only. Send one copy to your district chairman, and retain one copy in the school file. Copies of the same eligibility blank (as enclosed) or additions to the original eligibility blank should be used to report new varsity players. To save paperwork, athletes who will become eligible at a later date, due to grades or other rules, may be reported on the original eligibility blank and asterisked (\*) to indicate pending eligibility on a certain date.

#### Softball Rules

All games will be scheduled for seven innings (unless tied). The National Federation Softball Rules, published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, Customer Service, Box 361246, Indianapolis, Indiana 46236, shall govern all games. To order a copy go to [nfhs.org](http://nfhs.org). See UIL calendar for playoff dates.

#### Scrimmages and Games

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

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

#### Practice Balls

Each team is responsible for its own practice balls for warmups in batting and infield practice.

#### Coaching Boxes

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

#### Pitching Regulation

The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with, but not off the side of the pitchers plate.

**Pregame Warmup**

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

**Head Protectors**

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

**Resolving Ties in Win-Loss Percentage**

Districts should outline procedures (before the season begins) for determining playoff representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined (in writing) to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win-loss percentage. Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams are tied for the district runner-up spot.

**Game Called Prior to Five Innings Being Completed**

In district and nondistrict games, if a game is called before 5 full innings, or the home team leads after less than four and one-half times at bat, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game."

**Postponement**

District varsity softball 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.

**Courtesy Runner Regulations**

National Federation Courtesy Runner regulations.

- a. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- b. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- c. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning.

NOTE: An unreported courtesy runner is an illegal substitute.

PENALTY: For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.

**Ten-Run Rule**

The ten-run rule will be in effect for all games. After five (5) innings of play, if one team is ten (10) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game shall be over. (Or if 4 1/2 innings have been completed and the home team is ten or more runs ahead.)

**Fifteen-Run Rule**

By District Executive Committee approval, schools may use the fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings of play in district play. In non-district play, mutual consent of both schools is needed.

**Scheduling on Nights Prior to Final (TAKS). Exams**

The UIL recommends not scheduling contests on nights prior to final (TAKS) exams.

**Scheduling on Sunday**

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

**Coach Ejection Penalty**

See Section 1208 (j), in the Constitution and Contest Rules for automatic penalty for any coach ejected from a game.

**NFHS Softball Bat Rule Information**

NFHS BAT RULE — NFHS Softball Rules Book, Rule 1-5-4 states: “Effective January 1, 2004, the bat shall meet the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) 2004 Bat Performance Standard.”

ASA 2004 PERFORMANCE STANDARD—ASA has adopted a new bat performance standard, effective January 1, 2004. This change has been made in light of recent scientific developments. Much of the research leading to the new bat standard and the new ASTM test method has been funded by ASA. ASA has determined that this change is necessary because some of the highest performing bats on the market are adversely affecting the character and integrity of the game and rendering a player’s performance more a product of his/her bat than his/her individual skill.

The ASTM F1890 test method is no longer the industry standard, even though some softball associations continue to rely on this test method. ASTM has just recently developed the ASTM F2219 test method. The most recent version of F2219 is available at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org) – click on “standards.” This test method provides a number of improvements over the old F1890 test method. For example, F2219 allows bats to be tested in the lab at a much higher speed, including speeds actually found in the field of play. It also places tighter tolerances on testing procedures, such as the softballs that are used in conducting the bat test. ASTM F2219 allows the testing to be done at the “sweet spot” of the bat - regardless of where that point is along the barrel of the bat.

The ASA 2004 bat standard relies on the swing speed of the batter. ASA has learned and now takes into account that a batter’s swing speed is more dependent on the distribution of the weight across the length of the bat than just the total weight of the bat alone. This weight distribution feature is often referred to as the bat’s moment of inertia, and is incorporated into the new 2004 standard.† The 2004 standard is also on more accurate information about the speeds involved in the “bat-ball collision,” which are swing speed of the bat and the pitch speed of the ball.

The 2004 bat standard has a maximum batted ball speed (BBS) limit of 98 mph when tested according to the ASTM F2219 test method (as approved for balloting). Even though this limit is numerically higher than the ASA 2000 bat performance standard, in science and in practice the 2004 bat standard is actually a reduction compared to the 2000 bat standard. The F2219 testing is done at higher speeds than under the old F1890 standard. As a result, some bats that satisfied the old ASA standard of 125 fps will not pass the new 98 mph standard. Bats that do not satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will not be permitted in NFHS play, effective January 1, 2004. Bats that satisfy the ASA 2004 Bat Performance Standard will be authorized to display a new 2004 ASA certification mark. Older bats that pass the new standard will be added to the list of approved bats and will be permitted for NFHS play.

**PERMANENT 2004 CERTIFICATION MARK**

To indicate that a bat meets the new 2004 standard, the permanent mark, as shown below, is placed only on those bats that have been recently manufactured and meet the 2004 performance standard.

**Two-Out-Of-Three Series**

If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first game may be played prior to Friday, provided there is no loss of school time traveling to or participating in the game. Only one game of a two-out-of-three series may be played prior to Friday.

A two-out-of-three series that does not get a complete game in by the end of the day Friday automatically reverts to a one game series. This means that if game one of a series has been suspended and cannot be completed by the end of the day Friday, that the winner of that completed game will advance.

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 game two is started and cannot be completed because of weather, it may be completed (from point of suspension) on Monday of the next week. The third game, if necessary, should also be played Monday.

If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, then the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

Schools playing a two-out-of-three series should set parameters for the series prior to the first game. The parameters should include how the schools will handle weather problems and delays. Things such as how far the schools will travel to find an available field, giving up home field advantage, etc. must be discussed before one team gains a position of advantage after the first game is completed and weather becomes a factor.

**Designated School Administrator**

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.

At each varsity home contest, schools shall designate a principal or other employee (who is not coaching at the contest) to meet the officials as they arrive at the site, tell the official where he/she will be sitting and help if problems arise. The administrator will also report any official abuse to the appropriate administrator (home/visiting school) the next school day.

1. For varsity softball games, meet umpires when they arrive at the field (30 minutes prior to the game at the conference with coaches and umpires).
  - a. Introduce himself/herself
  - b. Indicate where he/she will be sitting.
2. If officials are not notified by the designee 30 minutes prior to beginning of a game, the umpire shall ask the home head coach if there is a designee and if so, who that person is.
3. If there is no designated administrator, the umpires shall notify the UIL in writing the next working day and so inform.
4. The designee shall meet briefly with the umpires after the game to discuss the game and any problems during the game dealing with ejection of players, coaches, or fans, or any misconduct that either school should be aware of. The designee shall also offer to provide an escort to walk with the officials to their respective vehicles.

5. The designee is responsible to inform the administration of both schools by phone the next school day of unsportsmanlike behavior of fans, players, coaches, and any unprofessional behavior on the part of umpires. Written reports are to be sent to the superintendents and principals of each school as soon as possible.
6. The home school is responsible for security. In playoff games, both schools are responsible.
7. Each school is responsible for the behavior of its fans, players, and employees.
8. In playoff games both schools shall have a designated school administrator.

### **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.

### **Schedules**

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

### **Crowd Management and Game Security**

In our complex and open society there are numerous problems which land in the lap of the public school administrator. Crowd management and game security are two 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 his 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/her 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 meet 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 good 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.

## 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.

## ~ OFFICIALS ~

### Advance Agreement

All officials must be satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance. Beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.

### TASO or UIL Officials

Member schools shall use, unless mutually decided otherwise, registered TASO or UIL officials in all varsity contests. If schools do not use TASO or UIL officials, a report shall be filed with the UIL office (within seven days of the contest, if possible).

### Contacting TASO or UIL Chapters

A list of TASO or UIL chapter presidents and assigning secretaries is available on the TASO or UIL website at [www.taso.org](http://www.taso.org).

### Neutral Officials

In all contests, schools should attempt to secure neutral officials.

### Host Responsibility

The responsibility to obtain satisfactory officials is upon the host school which must provide the names of officials to the visiting school at least 14 days prior to the contest.

### Notification

When officials names are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall immediately notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement.

### Failure to Show

If agreed upon officials fail to show, the visiting school shall not be in violation by refusing to play. However, earnest effort should be expended to find officials so that the contest may be played without additional travel expenses for team and fans. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the district executive committee rules that the host school has been negligent in contracting and securing approved officials.

### Scratches

When officials who have been previously agreed upon by both teams are scratched, the school scratching the officials shall pay them the fee they would have received had they worked the game minus any travel expenses. The school scratching the officials must also pay additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid

- 1) After a school has accepted an official, and then scratches the official prior to a contest, the scratching must be in writing and approved by the athletic director in multiple-high school districts, and the principal and/or superintendent in single-member districts. A copy of the letter must be mailed/faxed to the other school and the official's chapter. Note: Officials cannot be scratched the day of the game except by mutual consent of both schools.
- 2) The League discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees.
- 3) Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.
- 4) When officials do not show, or when the previously-agreed-on officials do not show, and the game has to be rescheduled, the chapter should be responsible for the rescheduled game fee. Note: Unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials. The penalty for failure to provide officials is forfeiture of the game or match. The district executive committee shall determine whether or not forfeiture is applicable.

### Fee Schedule

Gross Gates Receipts	1 Game	2 Games
Up to \$150	\$40	\$65
\$150 to \$300	\$45	\$70
\$300 to \$500	\$50	\$75
\$500 to \$700	\$55	\$80
\$700 to \$1,000	\$60	\$85
\$1,000 to \$1,500	\$65	\$90
\$1,500 to \$2,000	\$70	\$95
Each additional \$1,000	\$20	

There is no fee set by the UIL office for pool play or round robin tournaments (see guidelines listed below). For sub-varsity sports, tournaments, and other arrangements not listed above, fees may not exceed listed fees for respective varsity sports.

## Scrimmages

TASO or UIL chapters shall be paid for scrimmages using the following fee schedule:

Softball	50.00
(Fees are based on a three-hour scrimmage.)	

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 in an adjacent gym (not the same gym as the varsity) with 4 participating teams, lasting 3 hours or less. School A is responsible for a scrimmage fee in that gym in addition to the fee charged for the varsity scrimmage in a different gym.

**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.

*Sub-varsity/Varsity Gate Receipts Combined.* When sub-varsity games/matches are played prior to varsity games/matches at the same site with the gate receipts combined, the game/match fees plus mileage paid to the sub-varsity officials may be deducted from the gross gate receipts prior to calculating the varsity officials' game fees.

*Other sub-varsity sports and tournaments* may not exceed listed fees for respective varsity sports. In game arrangements not listed above, schools and officials shall agree on a fee not to exceed listed fees for varsity sports.

*Tournament Fees.* Officials may receive fees based on:

- 1) session or game receipts;
- 2) average session or game receipts from the entire tournament; or
- 3) average session or game receipts from the previous year's tournament.
- 4) travel and other expenses must have prior approval by the school.

### 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. Fee Violation. 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 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.

### 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. Schools that do not pay within 45 days of the contest are subject to the range of penalties listed in Section 29 in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.

### Fee Violations

If a member school violates the fee schedule, 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 its fee violation, the district executive committee does not have to assess a penalty.

### **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 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. Official's 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!**

### **School Administrator Liaison Program.**

UIL school administrators shall serve on the TASO 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 chapters and/or officials they wish. However, the UIL 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 UIL office then contacts a chapter not scratched and requests officials. **Schools are not permitted to talk with representatives of the chapter once they have agreed for the UIL to assign officials.**

5. Once the officials have been assigned out of the UIL office, the schools may not request a change in the assignment and must pay the assigned officials if they are not used, unless:
  - a. The UIL office makes a mistake by contacting a chapter which the schools have indicated they do not want.
  - b. Communication problems between the school which contacted the UIL and the opponent results in officials being assigned from a chapter which one school had scratched.
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.

### School Host

It is recommended that the principal or superintendent of the school appoint a school representative as the officials' host for each home contest.

The secretary of the assigning TASO or UIL chapter will be notified of this appointment. This notification will include the following:

- 1) Name and telephone number(s) of the officials' host.
- 2) Exact location at the contest site where the officials are to report.
- 3) Location of officials' parking area.
- 4) Location of officials' dressing room, if available, or statement that dressing and/or shower facilities are not available.
- 5) Telephone number at the school to be used in case of emergency, such as late arrival of officials, change in officials, etc.

The head official will notify the school's host at least 24 hours prior to the contest of:

- 1) Arrival time at the game site.
- 2) Parking requirements.
- 3) Scheduled time of officials' pre-game / match conference.

School host will:

- 1) Prior to meeting the officials, arrange for adequate parking, dressing and pre-game / match meeting facilities when available.
- 2) Arrange for prompt payment of the officials, **in the officials' dressing room**, if appropriate.
- 3) Arrange for adequate security for the officials during their stay.
- 4) Meet the officials on their arrival, stay with them, when appropriate, until they leave the contest site.
- 5) Escort the officials to and from dressing / meeting place and to and from the court / field.
- 6) Insure that security personnel are performing their assigned duties prior to, during and after the contest.
- 7) Provide officials with administrative information, such as, but not limited to: a) pre-game / match activities; b) anticipated administrative problem areas.

### School Host to Chapters

It is recommended that officials' chapters appoint a host school coach, athletic director or administrator from their area to serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors of each chapter.

### **School Trip Expenses and Supplies**

Schools can pay the expenses of athletes or teams on trips away from home as representatives of the school for contests. Supplies and services furnished during a game or a practice period (related only to that practice period or game) may be provided.

### **Non-UIL Competition**

A high school team can play a church or private school and be defeated without jeopardizing its opportunity for a district championship. If a public school which has not accepted the UIL Softball Plan defeats a UIL member, the member shall be eliminated from the district, regional or state race.

### **Non-District Games**

Non-district games may be played after district games have been played.

## **~ PUBLIC ADDRESS AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS ~**

### **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.

### ~ QUESTIONS COMMON TO SOFTBALL COACHES ~

1. May players take private lessons during the school season?  
Answer: Yes. Players may take private lessons anytime, except during the school day or during school practice time.
2. May players attend camps or participate in non-school play during the school season?  
Answer: Yes. UIL no longer prohibits camps, clinics, or non-school play during the school season.
3. What determines subvarsity eligibility?  
Answer: A student is eligible for junior varsity competition by meeting the following three criteria. The student must:
  1. be academically eligible
  2. be enrolled as a full time student.
4. What ball will be used for girls' softball?  
Answer: A 12 inch ball will be used in UIL competition. (Dudley Model #WT12YFP Core 47 Red Stitch Polycore)
5. If a school does not offer softball at the Junior High level, may the 7th and 8th grade girls play on the high school team?  
Answer: No. Seventh and eighth grade girls may not play on high school teams unless they are overage (15 on or before September 1). If the middle school does not offer softball, middle school girls may attend camps and clinics, receive private instruction, and play on non-school teams, without jeopardizing the high school teams.
6. May athletes participate on non school teams during the school season?  
Answer: Yes. UIL rule does not prohibit students from playing on nonschool teams during the school year. Local policy may be more restrictive than UIL rules.