

~ **REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS** ~

~ **GENERAL INFORMATION** ~

Registration

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

A school which does not participate in swimming & diving 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 (see Appendix).

District Chair lists can be found on the UIL web site at www.uil.utexas.edu.

Eligibility Blanks

Prior to the first varsity contest, 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.

Dates

In swimming, there is no opening date for the season. The eight meet rule will apply (see below).

Divisions

There shall be two divisions for high school boys and two divisions for high school girls. They will be designated as 4A and 5A. The UIL will place schools into districts for competitive purposes. If a school offers swimming and diving for members of one gender, they must offer swimming for the other gender. This official list of schools participating is included in Appendix.

Number of Meets

A team or contestant representing a member school shall participate in no more than eight meets, excluding the district, regional or state meets.

Individual Entries

A competitor shall be permitted to enter 2 individual and/or 2 relay events; or 4 events no more than 2 of which may be individual (3 relays and 1 individual is permissible).

Events for District, Regional, and State

Boys and girls events for district, regional and state meets shall be as follows:

200 Yard Medley Relay	100 Yard Freestyle
200 Yard Freestyle	500 Yard Freestyle
200 Yard Individual Medley	200 Yard Freestyle Relay
50 Yard Freestyle	100 Yard Backstroke
1 Meter Diving	100 Yard Breaststroke
100 Yard Butterfly	400 Yard Freestyle Relay

School Meets

A meeting of more than three schools or a meet in which there results in a loss of school time is defined as a school meet and counts as one of the eight. It will also be counted as a school meet (one of the eight allowable meets) if a student is representing his or her high school in a non-school meet by wearing a school uniform, using school transportation or equipment, or is being directed in the meet by a coach paid by the school for the meet.

Official Rules

All meets shall be conducted according to the current National Federation Rules. Exceptions shall be noted in the coaches' manual. Rule books may be purchased from the National Federation. Each year coaches will be given an opportunity to complete a National Federation Rules Questionnaire to provide input to the rules committee.

Officials

A list of swimming and diving officials is available through the UIL office.

National Federation Swimming Rules Interpretations

All coaches, administrators, and swimming officials who have questions concerning the swimming rules enforcement shall contact the UIL staff. If the National Federation Swimming liaison must be contacted, it will be done by a UIL staff member. If the National Swimming and Diving Committee must be consulted, the National Federation will initiate all contacts with committee chairpersons or members.

Protests

No protests are allowed on the decisions of swimming and diving officials.

Entry Blanks

Information to be used for the district meet will be sent to district swim directors later this fall.

Entry blanks (see Appendix) are to be used for district and regional meets and must be filled out by coaches for each of these meets. Feel free to copy these for your use.

Eligibility Forms

Prior to your first varsity meet, fill out the general eligibility form included in this manual. Duplicate copies and send one to your district chairman and keep one copy in your school file. **Do not send eligibility forms to the UIL office.** General eligibility forms can be used to report all varsity athletes before the first contest. For instance, copies of this form may also be used to report non varsity swimmers who have moved up to varsity or new varsity swimmers.

Athletic Banquets

Athletic teams may be given **one** pre-season meal, such as a fish fry, ice cream supper, etc. provided it is given by a non-profit organization (usually the booster club) before the first contest. Teams or individual athletes may not be given anything during the season or during the calendar year which could be deemed as valuable consideration, defined as items which are wearable, usable or salable. (Meals may be provided on out-of-town trips, provided they are purchased out of school funds.)

One additional activity, given by a non-profit organization (with prior approval by the school), may be given following the season (usually the athletic banquet). Banquet favors considered valuable consideration would be a violation of the Amateur Rule if they are given at any time by anyone.

Athletes Teaching Lessons

Caution, eligible swimmers would be in violation of the amateur rule if they are paid to teach any level of swimming or diving, other than beginning swimming or life saving. Fees for teaching these two levels may not exceed the prevailing rate (UIL Constitution and Contest Rules Section 441{d}). Pay for coaching competitive swimming is a violation.

School Trips

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.

School Week

A student or team representing a member school shall participate in no more than one scrimmage, contest, meet or tournament per school week. Exceptions: Post-season competition, as well as district contests postponed by weather or public disaster may also be scheduled during the school week. School week means the week beginning at 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.

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 hinder 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 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.

~ 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 SWIMMING ~

~ Who is eligible for junior varsity competition?

Answer: Students may compete on the junior varsity if:

1. they are full time students,
2. they are academically eligible,
3. they have not violated the Amateur Rule.

~ May swimmers be paid to coach youth club teams?

Answer: No. Swimmers may not receive pay for coaching. Swimmers may be paid to teach beginning swimming or life saving.

~ Which time should be used when seeding the regional meet?

Answer: The performance time from the district meet should be used for all regional meets.

~ When does the swim season begin?

Answer: Swimming does not have an assigned starting date. School coaches may schedule practice and meets within guidelines set by the district.

Swimming does have a definite period when the season ends. Each swim season ends with the state meet or the last qualifying meet for district or regional representatives.

Since swimming does not have a beginning date, coaches may train and taper students to an appropriate length of season for their program. The length of season may vary between schools.

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- ~ How many meets may an individual enter?
Answer: Each swimmer may enter a maximum of eight (8) school meets prior to the district meet.

 - ~ How many varsity teams may a school enter in a meet?
Answer: Each school is allowed to enter one varsity team in the district meet. Most invitationals would also allow not more than one varsity team to enter a meet. The host school, when deviating from allowing one varsity swim team to enter, should inform visiting schools, that awards will be given in multiple varsity or sub varsity divisions.

 - ~ May club programs rent school facilities?
Answer: Yes. Swim clubs may rent from a school district according to the district policy. When clubs rent school facilities, students and coaches are subject to the eight hour rule. School coaches are discouraged from coaching non-school teams that might conflict with students in the attendance zone.

 - ~ How many events may a swimmer enter in a swim meet?
Answer: A student may enter a maximum of four events. No more than two of these events may be individual events. This would allow a student to enter three relays and one individual event.

 - ~ Do swim coaches have to be full-time employees to coach high school swimming?
Answer:

 - ~ Can club coaches coach high school swimmers and/or divers?
Answer: