
~ REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~

Registration

A school should have registered for UIL volleyball 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 volleyball 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/ath/chair/vb.html.

Districts should not schedule a match 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 match(es) to break a tie.

Eligibility Blanks

Prior to the first varsity match, 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.

Games and Tournaments

a. Understanding Rules for Scheduling Contests in Grades 9-12.

Schedules. The following combines State Law, State Board of Education regulations, and UIL rules. The Texas Education Agency defines participation as being involved with the activity, traveling with the team, sitting on the bench, etc. UIL defines participation of a student athlete as actually entering the contest as a player. (Example: On a Tuesday night, the student's name is on the scorebook but she remains on the bench and does not actually enter the game. This counts as participation for TEA but not UIL. In other words, that student cannot participate again until Friday after school because of TEA regulations, but that game does not count as one of the games UIL allows the student to participate in.)

Constitution and Contest Rules: Section 5: Definitions

- (1) Calendar week means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- (2) School week means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. 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.

19 TAC 97.113 (K) (1).

- (1) One contest per school week: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by scheduling no more than one contest or performance per activity per student.* Exception: Tournaments and post-season competition, as well as district varsity contests postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
- (2) Eight-hour practice rule: School districts shall adopt policies limiting extracurricular activities from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays) by limiting practice outside the school day to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity.

* For the purposes of this regulation the following situations are considered as one contest during the school week.

Volleyball:

- (1) A single match.
- (2) A dual match. (A dual match is where a team plays two other teams or plays the same team twice at the same site. A dual match counts as one of the two matches UIL permits students per calendar week and counts as two of the total 23 matches for the student per season.)
- (3) A double header (a student may play in a varsity and a junior varsity match, a junior varsity match and a ninth grade match, or a ninth grade and a varsity match the same night), counts as the total two allowable matches UIL permits the student for the calendar week and counts as two of the total 23 matches for the season.

Students could also play in a tournament the same week they participate in a single match, dual match, or double header.

- b. Number. A team or student shall not compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 23 volleyball matches in a season. The 23 matches includes non-district and district matches as well as warm-up games in preparation for the playoffs. All matches including warm-up matches, must be completed prior to the bi-district game. The district champion, if it has a bye for the first round of the play-offs, may schedule a warm-up game in addition to the game limits. This additional game shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time.

Two matches may be substituted in place of a tournament. Pre-scheduled district tournaments must count as one of the three invitational tournaments unless all matches played in the district tournament are counted in the 23 match limitation for all schools in the district.

- c. Per Day. A team or individual may play up to, but not exceed, three matches per day. There is no required rest break between matches. Exceptions: Contestants or teams may play in four matches per calendar day in a one day tournament scheduled on a Saturday or during a two-day tournament. NOTE: It is not permissible to play four matches in a Friday tournament.
- d. Warm-up Games. Teams in the play-offs may play warm-up matches. All warm-up matches must count in the 23 match limitation for the school year. EXCEPTION: If the district champions have a bye for the first round, those schools may schedule a warm-up match in addition to the match limits. This additional match shall be played on a non-school night with no loss of school time. NOTE: A bi-district game may be played on Thursday during the week of a warm-up game (according to Texas Education Agency interpretations).
- e. Calendar Week Limitation. According to UIL rules, a team or individual may play up to, but not exceed, two contests per calendar week (Monday through Saturday) plus a tournament. (Example: 2 contests and 1 invitational tournament). Three matches may be played during the first two calendar weeks allowed for matches (according to the official UIL calendar). If school is in session, the one contest per school week rule must be followed.
- f. School Week Limitation. According to State Law and TEA rules, a team or individual may only play one contest (or dual match) during the school week Monday (12:01 am) through Friday (after school). This means that if a team competes once Monday through Thursday, the second competition must be after school Friday or Saturday. Exception: Tournaments, post district play, or district varsity play postponed due to weather or public disaster.
- g. Dual Matches. Dual matches played at the same site (with the second match played as soon as can be scheduled for one team after their first match) will be considered as one contest for the calendar week and one contest for the school week according to Texas Education Agency interpretations. However, each "dual match" will count as two of the total 23 matches a team can play in a regular season. Examples: 1) Team A plays B, B plays C, and A plays C; or 2) Team A plays B twice. A dual match can be held any day of the week. Note: A dual match can be held for one team at a site, but all teams at one site do not have to play a dual match.
- h. Tournaments. In volleyball, tournaments may be played during a week in which there are two matched contests if there is no violation of Texas Education Agency/State Board of Education school week regulations.
 - 1) Tournament shall be defined as: At least three teams assembled at one site for competition. Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one day tournament must be held on a Saturday.

- 2) A double round robin elimination tournament shall not be used in any League contest except by unanimous consent of participating schools.
- 3) A tournament must be held at the ISD of the host school, or at an adjoining ISD. Host schools may authorize additional sites other than same or adjoining ISD for preliminary round games provided tournament format does not involve more than eight teams.
- 4) A high school volleyball team shall not participate in an invitational volleyball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday except on a school holiday. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.
- 5) Pool Play: Pool play may be used in place of the first rounds of a volleyball tournament. If a team participates in pool play, it is counted as one of the three allowable games per day while in a tournament. When season records are compiled, pool play games are not counted on win/loss record.

Number of teams: No limit

Site: Same ISD or adjoining ISD

Days: Thursday, Friday, Saturday (may be non-consecutive days)

Length of games: Pool play must consist of two rally scored games to 15 (cap at 20).

Standing in pool: Standings in pool are determined by your win/loss record. The win loss record from pool play may be used to create a single elimination bracket.

Game Count: Participation in pool is counted as a tournament. Pool play games are considered mini games and have no effect on the overall win/loss record.

Breaking ties: When two or more teams are tied in win/loss percentage, two steps should be taken to determine the winner. 1) The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the winner. If each team won one game in a two game pool, the team that had fewer points scored against them in both games would be the winner. 2) If a tie still remains, a coin flip(s) would determine the winner(s).

- 6) See appendix for chart on UIL tournament regulations for further clarification on tournaments.
- j. Ties. If not previously scheduled, a district executive committee may authorize a single elimination match or tournament to resolve district ties. A one-match play-off could break a two-way tie. A single elimination tournament could resolve a tie between three or more schools. NOTE: These matches must be completed by the district certification deadline and will not count on the 23 allowed matches if not previously scheduled. These tie breakers must be held in compliance with calendar week and school week restrictions. If the district executive committee schedules any other matches or tournaments as part of their method for determining play-off representatives, the matches played must count in the 23 match or 3 tournament limitation.
- k. Postponements. The district executive committee may permit district varsity volleyball matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness), to be played as an exception to the two-matched-contests per-week rule, provided that they are rescheduled and played on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled.

Junior varsity, freshman and junior high teams may not play postponed matches as an exception.

Note: Before the school year begins, the UIL game limitations are to be enforced but school week limitations are not in effect.

Interdistrict Disputes

The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between districts.

Participation Against Non-UIL Schools

A defeat by a non-participating Texas public high school shall eliminate a school so defeated from the district race.

Definition of Scrimmage

A scrimmage is a meeting of not more than four teams for practice purposes which does not count as a game for any of the teams. Admission may be charged. Officials may be paid in accordance with the schedule in Section 1204 and may, by prior agreement with the school, be reimbursed for mileage and meals. A school shall not play in a scrimmage after its first interschool game or match in that sport. See individual sports sections for other limitations.

Contracts

A match cancelled after a contract has been signed, unless both parties agree to the cancellation, shall be forfeited to the team not at fault.

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.

Line Judges

Participating schools are responsible for providing line judges (minimum 2). It is recommended only adults be used. It is a violation of National Federation playing rules if line judges are not used.

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.

Guarantees

- a. Home Team. In district and nondistrict games/matches, unless there is mutual agreement or a district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
- b. Play-offs. In play-off games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- c. Excessive Demand. A demand of a flat guarantee which is clearly in excess of expenses shall, upon action of the district or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting teams expenses shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.

- d. Expenses. Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services, and printing incidental to the contest, shall be considered as expenses of the game. Number of persons allowed upon expense account shall be agreed upon by school administrators of teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team shall furnish a playing field or court without cost to the visiting school.

Sites

The district executive committee shall determine the place or time of matches/games in case of disagreement between two teams.

Playing Rules

The current National Federation Volleyball Rules shall govern League volleyball. Rule books will be sent from the UIL office. It is wise to order a rule book for the junior varsity and junior high coaches. Additional rule books may be ordered from the National Federation customer service office (800-776-3462). Schools may also obtain scorebooks, court diagrams, lineup sheets, and libero tracking sheets from the National Federation.

Rally Scoring Format

VARSIITY

- 3 out of 5 to 25 (no cap)
- 5th game to 15 (no cap)
- The let serve shall be allowed
- Each team shall be allowed two time-outs per game
- Dual and tri-matches must be played using the 3 out of 5 format. **No exceptions.**

SUB-VARSITY

- 2 out of 3 to 25 (cap at 30)
- 3rd game to 25 (cap at 30)
- The let serve shall be allowed
- Each team shall be allowed two time-outs per game
- By mutual consent, sub-varsity teams may play 3 out of 5 to 25 (cap at 30), with the 5th game being played to 15 (cap at 20). If one school wants to play 2 out of 3, then the sub-varsity guidelines for 2 out of 3 will be used.

JUNIOR HIGH

- 2 out of 3 to 25 (cap at 30)
- 3rd game to 25 (cap at 30)
- The let serve shall be allowed
- Each team shall be allowed two time-outs per game
- By mutual consent, 7th and 8th grade teams may play the third game of a match even if the same team has won the first two games. Any student who has not played in the first two games must be allowed to participate in the entire third game.

TOURNAMENT PLAY – ALL LEVELS

- Pool play "mini games" must consist of two rally scored games to 15 (cap at 20)
- Pool play games start at 0-0
- During pool play, regulation matches can be utilized, provided no team exceeds their total number of allowed matches per day (three matches per day in a three-day tournament, or four matches per day during a two-day tournament or a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday).

EXCEPTION: Varsity tournaments can choose to play 2 out 3 matches for bracket play (it is up to the discretion of the tournament director). If the 2 out of 3 format is used, it will be 2 out of 3 to 25 (cap at 30), with the third game being played to 25 (cap at 30).

WARM-UP PROCEDURES

It is recommended that schools use the 15 minute warm-up procedure that is used at the state tournament: Each team will have the court for six minutes. Both teams will share the court for the last three minutes for serves.

~ OFFICIALS ~

Conflict of Interest

All coaches must disclose any known conflict of interest with an assigned sports official to opposing schools prior to a contest.

Advance Agreement

All officials must be satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance. Beginning a match 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, report to the UIL office within a recommended seven days stating the reasons non TASO or UIL officials were used.

Contacting TASO or UIL Chapters

A TASO or UIL Volleyball chapter roster can be found on the TASO or UIL web site at www.TASO.org or www.uil.utexas.edu.

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 by not 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. Note: Officials cannot be scratched the day of the game except by mutual consent of both schools. A copy of the letter must be provided to the other school and the official's chapter.

- 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

1. VOLLEYBALL: VARSITY

Gross Gate Receipts	One Match	Dual/ 2 Matches	Three Matches
Up to \$150	\$35	\$55	\$85
\$150 to 300	\$45	\$65	\$95
\$300 to 500	\$60	\$80	\$110
\$500 to 700	\$65	\$85	\$115
\$700 to 1,500	\$85	\$110	\$135
\$1,500 to 2,000	\$95	\$120	\$145
Each additional \$1,000	\$20		

Sub-Varsity/Junior High

	2-out-of-3	3-out-of-5
1 Match	\$25	\$30
2 Matches	\$50	\$60
3 Matches	\$75	\$90
4 Matches	\$100	\$120

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.

There is no fee set by the UIL office for pool play or round robin tournaments (see guidelines listed below).

Game Fees Review. Game fees and possible increases for officials will be reviewed every three years.

2. **Tournament Fees.** Guidelines for paying officials for working tournaments.

1. total 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.
- Travel and other expenses must have prior approval by the school.

3. **Scrimmages.** TASO or UIL chapters shall be paid for scrimmages using the following fee schedule:

Volleyball	50.00
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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.

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.

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.

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. 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!**

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. The fee listed shall be paid to officials working varsity contests.

~ 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. Volleyball can be a dangerous sport, 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.
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.
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 surface is clear and in the best possible condition.

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 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 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.

~ **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.