



SOCCKER
CCP TRAINING

UIL SOCCER TEAM



Ray Zepeda
Athletic Director



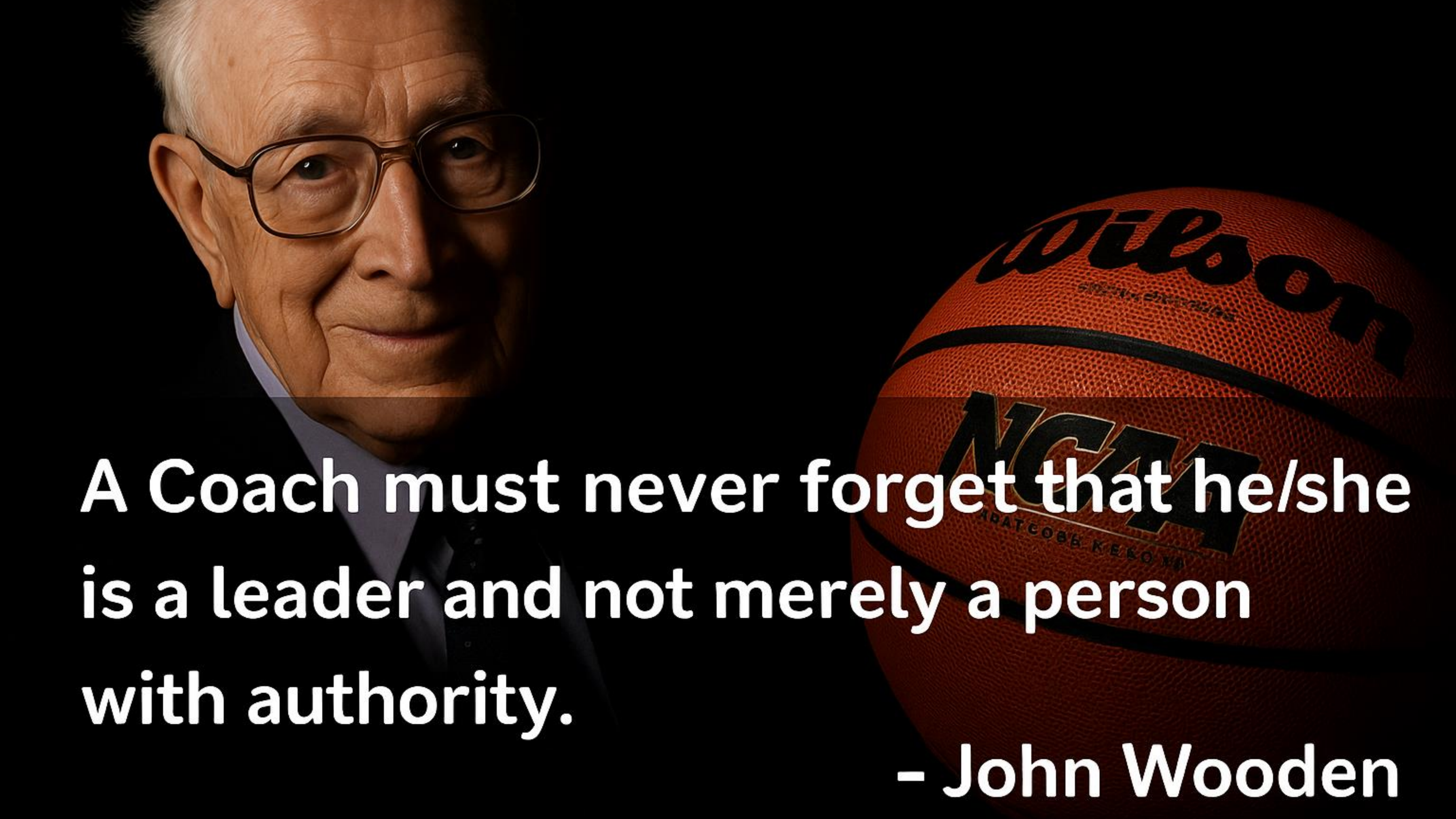
Virginia Flores
Assistant AD



Hannah Higgins
Senior Event
Coordinator



Dillon Bankston
Officials Coordinator



**A Coach must never forget that he/she
is a leader and not merely a person
with authority.**

– John Wooden

CCP AGENDA

- What's New for 2025-2026
- 2025-2026 Areas of Focus
 - Coaching Reminders
 - Soccer Specific Info
 - NFHS Rule Changes
 - UIL Rule Reminders



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025-2026

HOMESCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

- All homeschool students are eligible to participate in UIL activities, practices and processes unless their local school district has opted out of the law.
- If the local district has opted out, student would be eligible at nearest school that allows participation to their address.
- School districts that do allow participation can elect to not allow students from other districts to participate.



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025-2026

NIL:

- **UIL rules now allow student-athletes 17 years or older to enter into NIL agreements with colleges & universities while participating in that UIL sport.**
- **Athletes are still prohibited from entering into NIL agreements with any other entity until exhausting their eligibility in that applicable sport.**
- **Athletes are still prohibited from promoting a product or service related to their UIL sport.**
- **UIL rules do not prohibit an athlete from obtaining professional representation.**



ELIGIBILITY (What's New)

PAPF REQUIREMENT

The UIL Legislative Council approved a change to Section 443 of the UIL C&CR

The completion of the Page 1 of the PAPF in the UIL portal is now REQUIRED prior to participation at ANY level at a new school.

It is recommended that coaches send the PAPF to the previous school once page 1 is completed.

Proposed Amendment to the Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules

Amendment

3, Changing Schools for Athletic Purposes, and S
Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF) and
to participation at any level at a new school.

ons

not filing timely PAPFs when students enter new s
school in grades 9-12 must complete the New Student
school. The amendment also reorganizes the flow of sec

(c) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would b
of Education:

CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

NT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE. THE NEW STUDEN
AIRE (PAGE 1 OF THE PAPF) IS REQUIRED FOR ANY M
2. THE NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE
D AND SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE STUDENT PARTICI

ELIGIBILITY

PAPF

(PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM)

WHO NEEDS TO HAVE A PAPF?

1. Is the student **NEW** to your school?
2. Did they participate in 8th grade or beyond at a different feeder school or high school in the US or Mexico?

***If the answer to both questions is YES, then a fully completed PAPF is required.**

****If the student is NEW but did not previously participate, only page 1 of the PAPF is required.**

Previous Athletic Participation Form University Interscholastic League

Eligibility Questionnaire for New Student Athletes in Grades 9-12

Must be on File with School Before Participation at any Level in Grade 9-12
(To be filled out by the student and/or parent and filed with the school.)

____ Grade ____ Birthdate ____
____ City ____ State ____
____ City ____ ☐ Public ☐ Charter ☐ Private
____ City ____ State ____ ☐ Public ☐ Charter
____ Date of withdrawal from previous school: ____
Enrolled in the new school for one calendar year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the student practiced or participated in extracurricular athletic activities (before school, after school or during school) in the United States or Mexico in grades 8-12? If yes, the student must complete page 2 in addition to page 1 and file with the District Executive Committee Chairperson. If no, the student must complete page 1 and file with the school.

Has the student ever enrolled or participated in a Home School program, Magnet program, Charter school, Open Enrollment or International Baccalaureate (IB) program in grades 9-12? If yes, provide the name of the school ____ and school year ____

NOTE: *QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION ARE REFERRING TO BIOLOGICAL PARENTS. REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Does the student live with ☐ one parent ☐ both parents ☐ guardian ☐ foster parent(s)? If the student lives with a GUARDIAN or FOSTER PARENT(S), a UIL Parent Residence waiver may be required. You must contact the district Athletic Director/Coordinator then contact the UIL Athletics Department at (512) 471-5883.

Are the parents of the student ☐ married ☐ never married ☐ married- living apart ☐ divorced? If the parents are MARRIED-LIVING APART or MARRIED and the student is LIVING WITH ONE PARENT, a UIL Parent Residence waiver may be required. You MUST contact the district Athletic Director/Coordinator then contact the UIL Athletics Department at (512) 471-5883.

Do any parent(s) of the student reside outside the attendance zone of the school the student wishes to represent? If yes, a UIL Parent Residence waiver may be required. You MUST contact the district Athletic Director/Coordinator then contact the UIL Athletics Department at (512) 471-5883.

Has there been a change in schools but no change in address? If yes, please attach an explanation.

Do the parents own, rent or maintain more than one residence? If yes, please attach an explanation.

Are any members of the family still residing at the previous residence? If yes, it should be investigated prior to participation.

Are there other family members in grades K-12 attending a different school district other than the school district the student is attending?

TIME STUDENT RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Has the student enrolled in less than an average of four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school for the current year?

If yes, please attach an explanation.

FOUR YEAR RULE AND AGE RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 400 & 405(FOUR YEAR) & 440(C), 446 (C).

Did the student first enroll in the 9th grade more than 4 years ago? The first date of enrollment in 9th grade ____

ELIGIBILITY

PAPF REMINDERS

New school must verify that student athletes meet the parent residence rule (See Sec 442 of the C&CR)

- Contact previous school
- Appropriate documentation
- Could conduct a home visit

***In reference to PAPF Section III., the appropriate use of the automatic bypass feature is important. (14 days)

Previous Athletic Participation Form University Interscholastic League

Eligibility Questionnaire for New Student Athletes in Grades 9-12

Must be on File with School Before Participation at any Level in Grade 9-12
(To be filled out by the student and/or parent and filed with the school.)

Grade Birthdate
City State
City ☐ Public ☐ Charter ☐ Private
City State ☐ Public ☐ Charter
Date of withdrawal from previous school:
Enrolled in the new school for one calendar year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the student practiced or participated in extracurricular athletic activities (before school, after school or during school) in the United States or Mexico in grades 8-12? If yes, the student must complete page 2 in addition to page 1 and file with the District Executive Committee Chairperson. If no, the student must complete page 1 and file with the school.

Has the student ever enrolled or participated in a Home School program, Magnet program, Charter school, Open Enrollment or International Baccalaureate (IB) program in grades 9-12?

Provide the name of the school and school year

RESIDENCE RULE: *QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION ARE REFERRING TO BIOLOGICAL PARENTS. REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Does the student live with ☐ one parent ☐ both parents ☐ guardian ☐ foster parent(s)?
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Has there been a change in schools but no change in address? If yes, please attach an explanation.

Do the parents own, rent or maintain more than one residence? If yes, please attach an explanation.

Are any members of the family still residing at the previous residence? If yes, it should be investigated prior to participation.
Are there other family members in grades K-12 attending a different school district other than the school district the student is attending?

TIME STUDENT RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Has the student enrolled in less than an average of four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school for more than 14 days? If yes, please attach an explanation.

FOUR YEAR RULE AND AGE RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 400 & 405(FOUR YEAR) & 440(C), 446 (C).

Did the student first enroll in the 9th grade more than 4 years ago? The first date of enrollment in 9th grade

ELIGIBILITY

PAPF REMINDERS

VARSITY PARTICIPATION

District Executive Committee must determine that student did not move for athletic purposes & approve/submit the PAPF to the UIL for a student to be eligible for varsity participation.

****A PAPF does not have to be ‘filed’ in the UIL office before a student can participate, it only needs approval from the DEC.****

Previous Athletic Participation Form University Interscholastic League

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(To be filled out by the student and/or parent and filed with the school.)

____ Grade ____ Birthdate ____
____ City ____ State ____
____ City ____ ☐ Public ☐ Charter ☐ Private
____ City ____ State ____ ☐ Public ☐ Charter
____ Date of withdrawal from previous school: ____
Enrolled in the new school for one calendar year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the student ever practiced or participated in extracurricular athletic activities (before school, after school or during school hours) in the United States or Mexico in grades 8-12? If yes, the student must complete page 2 in addition to page 1 and file with the District Executive Committee Chairperson. If no, the student must complete page 1 and file with the school.

Has the student ever enrolled or participated in a Home School program, Magnet program, Charter school, Open Enrollment, or International Baccalaureate (IB) program in grades 9-12? If yes, provide the name of the school ____ and school year ____

HOUSE RULE: *QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION ARE REFERRING TO BIOLOGICAL PARENTS. REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Where does the student live with ☐ one parent ☐ both parents ☐ guardian ☐ foster parent(s)? If the student lives with a GUARDIAN or FOSTER PARENT(S), a UIL Parent Residence waiver may be required. You must contact the district Athletic Director/Coordinator then contact the UIL Athletics Department at (512) 471-5883.

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Are any members of the family still residing at the previous residence? If yes, it should be investigated prior to participation.

Are there other family members in grades K-12 attending a different school district other than the school district the student is attending?

HOUSE STUDENT RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 403.

Has the student enrolled in less than an average of four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school for the current year? If yes, please attach an explanation.

FOUR YEAR RULE AND AGE RULE: REFERENCE C&CR SECTION 400 & 405(FOUR YEAR) & 440(C), 446 (C)

Did the student first enroll in the 9th grade more than 4 years ago? The first date of enrollment in 9th grade ____

FOCUS ON PRESEASON AND IN-SEASON ELIGIBILITY PROCESSES

- 2 coaches verify all eligibility processes
- PAPF's for all students that require one completed prior to first contest at any level of play
- Factually complete PAPF when sending school
- Appropriate verification of residence (Section 442) & contact previous school

25-26 COACHES AREAS OF FOCUS



CONTINUED FOCUS ON APPROPRIATE ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Removal of situational ethics**
- **Willingness to act and be responsible when necessary (Do your part)**
- **Power of a positive example (Be what you expect others to be)**

25-26 COACHES AREAS OF FOCUS



CONTINUED FOCUS ON APPROPRIATE ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Removal of situational ethics**
- **Willingness to act and be responsible when necessary (Do your part)**
- **Power of a positive example (Be what you expect others to be)**

25-26 COACHES AREAS OF FOCUS



CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF SPORTSMANSHIP & RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY

- **Begins with expectations & example of the COACH!**
- **What is your system for teaching sportsmanship?**
- **Active Engagement with the Texas Way Program**
- **Focus on athlete conduct & supervision**
- **Positive Expectations for Parents/Spectators**

**25-26
COACHES
AREAS OF
FOCUS**





GIRLS SOCCER

2023-24

Coach Ejections: 16
Player Ejections: 274
Total Fan Ejections: 65

2024-25

Coach Ejections: 16
Player Ejections: 197
Fan Ejections: 22

SPORTSMANSHIP



2023-24

Coach Ejections: 37
Player Ejections: 1055
Total Fan Ejections: 65

2024-25

Coach Ejections: 19
Player Ejections: 874
Fan Ejections: 31

BOYS
SOCCER

SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER EJECTIONS

- Ejected soccer players miss the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all the following game. Soccer Exception: This does not alter the current point penalty structure for soccer player ejections found in manual.
- Player ejections **cannot** be overturned by a game official and/or chapter.
- If a coach has a question following a contest with a player ejection, the coach should contact UIL.



SPORTSMANSHIP

THE TEXAS WAY!!

1. RESPECT FOR OTHERS

2. CONTROL OF SELF

3. SPIRIT OF COMPETITION



SPORTSMANSHIP THE TEXAS WAY!!

REMINDERS FOR COACHES:

- Provide Specific Instruction to Athletes
- Have a Bench Plan in the Event of a Game Altercation
- Ensure Athletes Understand Expectations
- IMPLEMENT AT ALL LEVELS (MS, 9th, JV & Varsity)



UIL SIDELINE/BENCH PROTOCOL GUIDANCE

responsible for the personal conduct and behavior of all team members and level. Coaches should communicate to athletes that it is how we respond to pressure, adversity, and adversity that will define us as a person or student-athlete. We all sink to the level of our training, so how are we training our athletes daily and in times of crisis? We need to have a plan, and it's important to practice, the plan will not be implemented, similar to an offense,

include responding to crisis situations in practice plans randomly on a day walkthrough may be the perfect time.

Understood that failure to respond appropriately and immediately to a situation could result in consequences.

Be clearly outlined for athletes so they fully understand the

IN THE EVENT THAT A FIGHT BREAKS OUT


Expected UIL Knowledge Needed

Where do I find all the information I need???


www.uiltexas.org




s.org

Latest UIL updates and information [Learn More »](#)

 The University of Texas at Austin

Home | About | Calendar | Contact | Sh

 **University Interscholastic League**

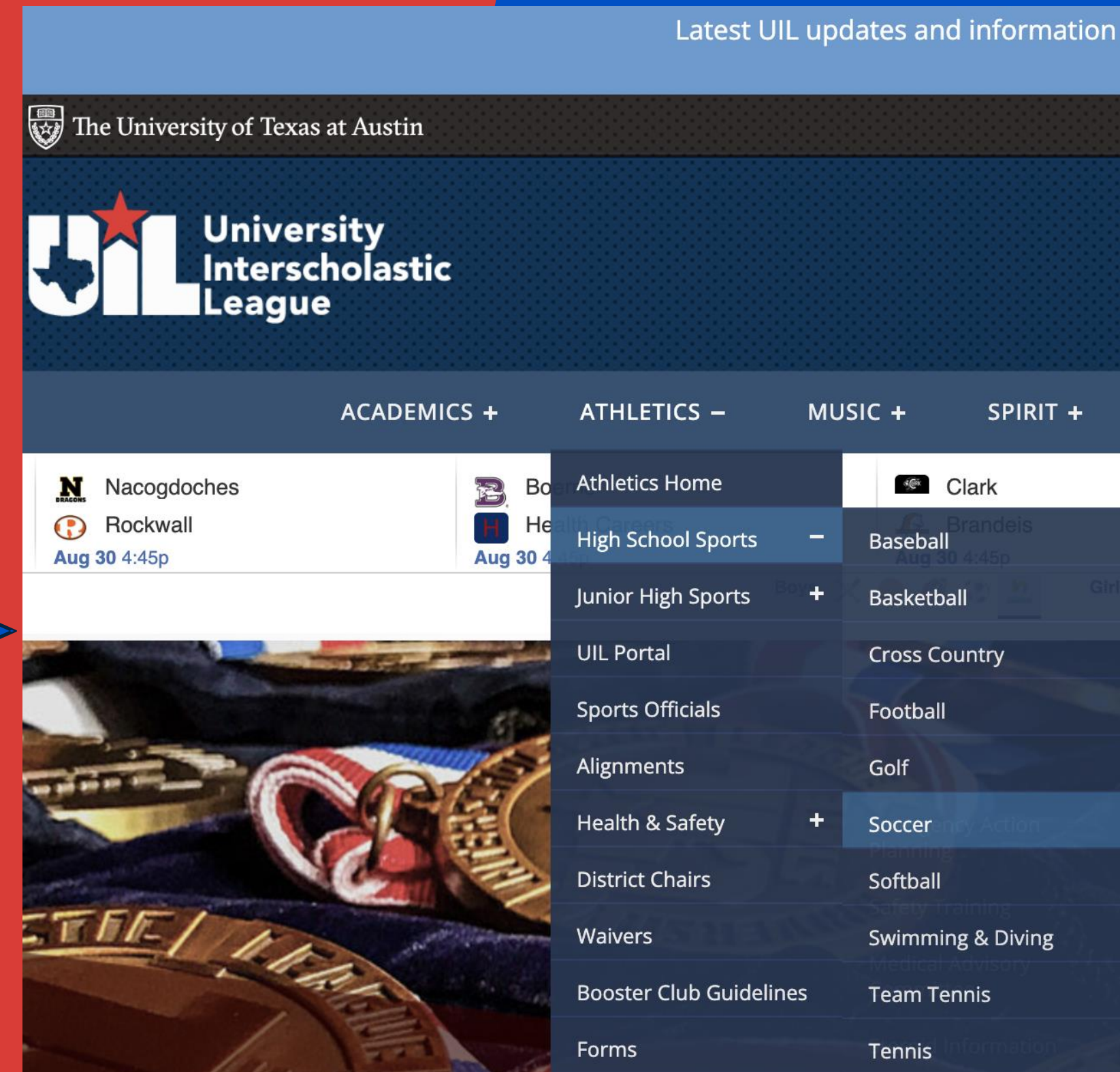
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Exploring the UIL Website

UILTEXAS.ORG

Increase Understanding of
Resources Available



Soccer

Soccer Overview

Rules & Guidelines

Manual

Alignments

Soccer Forms

Playoff Brackets

Post Season Packet

State Tournament

Officials

Sanctioning

FAQ

Soccer Contact Info

Assistant Athletic
Director:
Joseph Garmon

Email:
jgarmon@uiltexas.org

Department Phone:
512-471-5883

Department Fax:
512-471-6589

State Champions

View State Champions ►



Soccer Manual

2025-2026 Soccer Manual

The content of the online sport manuals below are now available in two printable PDFs.

- Download the printable 2025-2026 Soccer Manual (sport specific content)
- Download the printable 2025-2026 Team Sport Manual (general content applicable to all team sports)

Table of Contents

- [Soccer Calendar](#)
- [2025 Soccer Champions](#) 
- [Soccer Coaches' Checklist](#) 
- [Soccer Rules & Guidelines](#)
 - Soccer Plan (Constitution & Contest Rules)
 - 2025-2026 UIL Rule Changes & Amendments
 - UIL Resources for Game Administrators
 - Ineligible Player & Unattached Participation
 - Ejections
 - Charitable Cause Guidelines
- [Pre-Season Regulations](#)

QUICK LINKS

- [UIL Constitution & Contest Rules](#)
- [UIL Eligibility Standards](#)
- [TEA UIL Side-by-Side](#)
- [Booster Club Guide](#)

COACHES' REMINDERS

UIL SPORTS MANUALS

- UIL Sport Manuals contain UIL information specific to each sport
- The Soccer Manual can be found on the left side of the Soccer page on the UIL website.
- A pdf of the manual will be available to download on the website as well.

COACHES' REMINDERS

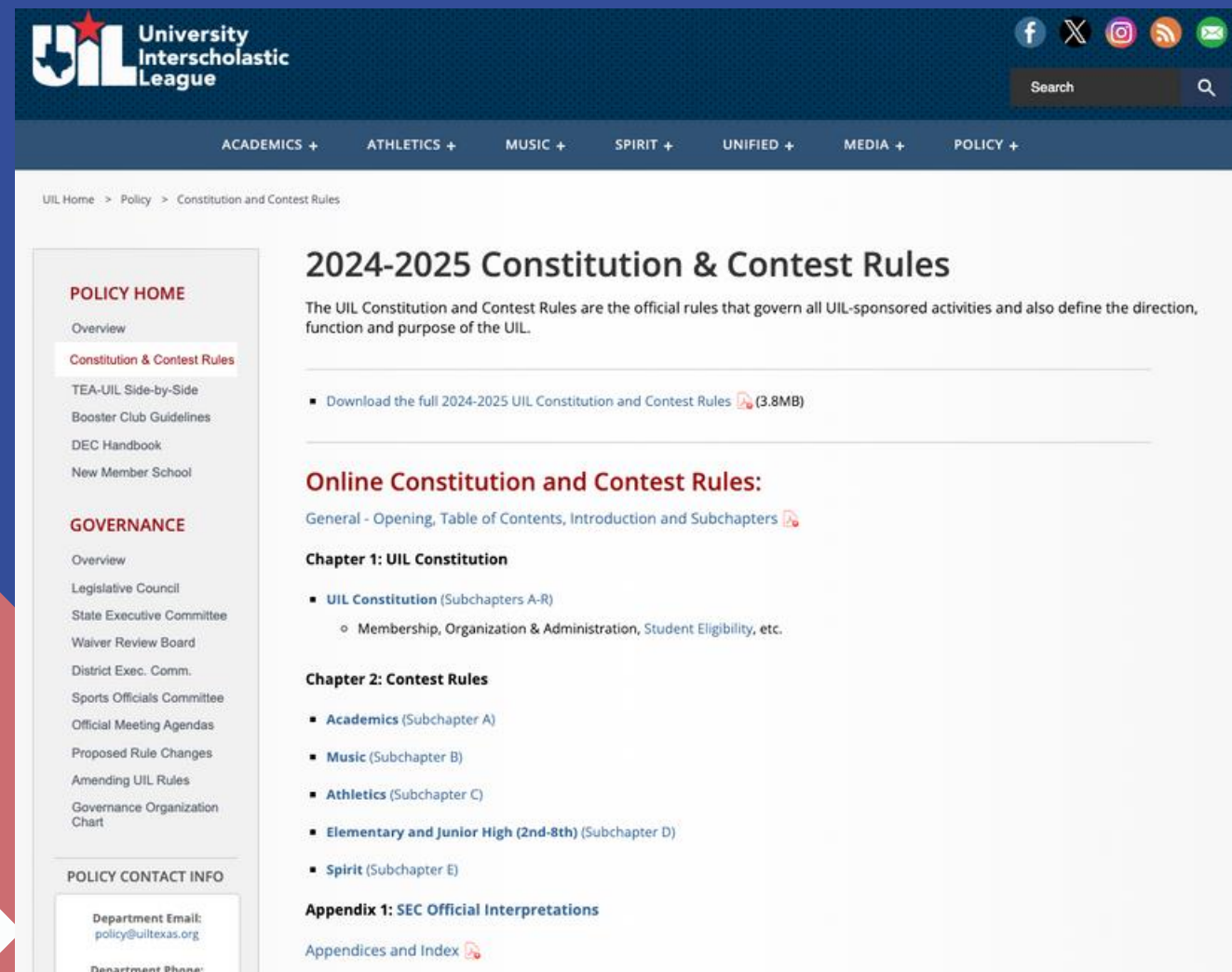
UIL CHECKLISTS

- Sport specific documents that can be found on each sports manual page. The Soccer Checklist is the 3rd bullet listed in the Soccer Manual.
- A helpful tool for coaches to use in preparation for their season and to help stay in compliance.
- **ALL REQUIRED TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

Coaches' Checklist **Soccer** **2025-26**

	REFERENCE
ST	
Portal	UIL Portal
ts (CCP & TEC)	Coaching Requirements
Preps	MaxPreps
de	Side-by-Side
	Soccer Manual
ired forms. Keep on file.	Athletic Forms
ired forms. Keep on file.	Athletic Forms

2025-2026 COACHES' REMINDERS



UIL RULES UIL Constitution & Contest Rules (C&CR)

UIL Side by Side Manual

VERY
IMPORTANT!!!





Athletic Calendar

Contact

NOVEMBER 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				November 1: Deadlines: OAP: to hold dir's planning mtgs. and 1st day to contact 2nd & 3rd judges for panels	Nov 1 - Congress Region: 1st Day. A+ Acad: 1st day for inv. meets. CX: Online Dist info form w/ Dist Dirs' name	1 Girls Basketball: First day for scrimmages. Marching Band: Preferred Area Contest date 3A & 5A
			Volleyball: Bi-district, all Conferences October 30 - November 1		Cross Country: State Meet, Oct 31 - Nov 1	
2	3 Marching Band: State Contest 2A, 4A & 6A. Volleyball: Area, all conferences.	4	5	6 Marching Band: Area contest deadline, 3A, & 5A.	7 Girls Basketball: 1st day for inter-school games.	8 Boys Basketball: 1st day for scrimmages. Football: District certification deadline, all conferences.
				Volleyball: Regional quarterfinals, Conference A. Volleyball: Regional semifinals, Conferences 2A-6A.		
9	10 Marching Band: State Contest 1A, 3A & 5A. Volleyball: Regional Semifinals, Conference A. Volleyball: Regional Finals, Conferences 2A-6A.	11	12	13 Football: Bi-district, all conferences.	14 Congress: Region Last Day Volleyball: Regional Finals; State Semifinals, Conference A.	15
	Wrestling: 1st day for meets & tournaments.			Boys Basketball: 1st day for inter-school games.	Volleyball: State Semifinals, Conferences 2A-6A.	
16	17 Congress: Region results due	18	19	20	21 A+ Academics: Participation reg. due. Deadline to submit spring district meet info & contest material orders. One-Act Play: Double representation due.	22
				Football: Regional, 1A, Area, 2A-6A. Volleyball: State Finals, All Conferences.		
23	24	25	26	27 Football: Quarterfinals, 1A, Regional, 2A-6A.	28	29
30						

ATHLETICS

ACADEMICS

MUSIC

POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Athletics

Department email: athletics@uiltexas.org
Department fax: 512-471-6589

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Title	Responsibilities	Contact Email
Ray Zepeda	Director of Athletics	Athletic Administration Reclassification & Realignment, Eligibility Catastrophic Injuries Officials	athletics@uiltexas.org
Virginia Flores	Assistant Athletic Director	Volleyball Spirit Soccer Track & Field	vflores@uiltexas.org
Grace McDowell	Assistant Athletic Director	Water Polo Swimming & Diving Basketball Softball	gmcowell@uiltexas.org
AJ Martinez	Assistant Athletic Director	Football Wrestling Golf Baseball	ajmartinez@uiltexas.org
Joseph Garmon	Assistant Athletic Director	Team Tennis Cross Country Basketball Tennis Track & Field	jgarmon@uiltexas.org

2025-26 SOCCER DATES

DEC 1: 1st Day of Practice

DEC 12: 1st Day for Scrimmages

DEC 29: 1st Day for Games

MARCH 17: District Certification

MARCH 19-21: Bi-District

MARCH 23-24: Area

MARCH 26-28: Regional Semifinals

MARCH 30-31: Regional Finals

APRIL 2-4: State Semifinals

APRIL 9-11: State Championships





NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION COACHES' REMINDERS

It is important for coaches to have a clear understanding of Section 1201, 1206 and 1209 of the C&CR regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments). Coaches are prohibited from:

- 1. Coaching students from their attendance zone in grades 7-12. Coaches may not coach seniors in club following the end of their senior season during the remainder of the school year.**
- 2. Using school or booster funds to pay for team camps.**
- 3. Pressuring athletes to play club soccer or in non-school leagues. This includes pushing athletes to participate on a specific club team.**

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

COACHES' REMINDERS

Section 1209 of the C&CR regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments) allows the following for coaches or a group of coaches :

- 1. Supervise the facility where a club team is practicing or a league is taking place.**
- 2. Assist with organization of a league or club team. (assign officials, secure facilities, develop schedules, assist with registration and help secure equipment)**
- 3. Assist with the selection of coaches and players for a club team or league.**
- 4. Distribute information about leagues and club teams.**



COACHES' REMINDERS

UIL CHARITABLE CAUSE GUIDELINES

SCHOOLS MAY HOST A CONTEST IN RECOGNITION OF A CHARITABLE CAUSE UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- The contest may be held during any one week of the designated sport season as approved by each school.
- NFHS rules allow non-school colors to be worn, UIL required mutual agreement (ex: pink uniforms).
- A commemorative ribbon of non-school color may be worn on the jersey or school-issued uniform.
- Officials may be allowed to use a colored whistle or modified uniform in accordance with UIL guidelines.



SOCCER RULE BOOK

*The soccer playing rules are **not** UIL rules.*

*UIL soccer will follow **NFHS** rules. it is important to review the **NFHS soccer Rules** prior to the season.*



NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

3-3-1,2,3,2C (NEW): REMOVES REDUNDANT LANGUAGE AND PERMITS SUBSTITUTIONS DURING A TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED GAME.

RATIONALE: ELIMINATES REDUNDANT LANGUAGE AND ALLOWS SUBSTITUTIONS DURING A TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED GAME. IN HOT WEATHER, STATE ASSOCIATIONS OFTEN AUTHORIZE STOPPAGES WITHIN A HALF FOR WATER BREAKS. UNDER THIS CHANGE, TEAMS WOULD NOW BE PERMITTED TO MAKE SUBSTITUTIONS DURING THESE STOPPAGES.

3-3-2B(2): CLARIFIES THAT AN INJURED PLAYER MUST LEAVE THE FIELD IF THE REFEREE BECKONS A COACH OR APPROPRIATE HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER.

RATIONALE: THE RULES CHANGE CLARIFIES THE CURRENT RULE THAT IF AN OFFICIAL BECKONS A COACH OR APPROPRIATE HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER FOR ANY INJURED PLAYER, INCLUDING THE GOALKEEPER, THAT PLAYER MUST LEAVE THE FIELD REGARDLESS OF THE REASON THE CLOCK IS STOPPED.



NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

4-1-2: CLARIFIES THAT A NUMBER IS REQUIRED ON THE FRONT OF THE JERSEY AND/OR THE SHORTS.

RATIONALE: THIS LANGUAGE SUPPORTS THE RULE PRIOR TO THE REORGANIZATION OF RULE 4 AND ADDS CLARIFICATION TO THE OVERALL INTERPRETATION TO CLARIFY THAT A NUMBER IS REQUIRED ON THE FRONT OF THE UNIFORM WHICH MAY BE ON THE JERSEY AND/OR THE SHORTS.

7-2-4 (NEW): PROHIBITS A COACH OR TEAM PERSONNEL OTHER THAN THE TEAM CAPTAIN FROM SPEAKING WITH A REFEREE DURING INTERVAL BETWEEN PERIODS

RATIONALE: THE TIME BETWEEN PERIODS OF PLAY IS DESIGNATED FOR REST FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, NOT FOR ENGAGING WITH OFFICIALS. THIS RULE CHANGE INTRODUCES SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AND PENALTIES FOR COACHES WHO CONFRONT OFFICIALS DURING THESE INTERVALS, AIMING TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DISPUTES AND MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL GAME ENVIRONMENT.



NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

12-4-4: A MISCONDUCT PENALTY MAY BE GIVEN TO THE HEAD COACH IF TEAM OR BENCH MISCONDUCT OCCURS.

RATIONALE: TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT SPORTING AND POSITIVE BENCH DECORUM, THE RULE CHANGE REINFORCES THE HEAD COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR TEAM AND BENCH PERSONNEL WITHIN THE TEAM AREA. IT PROVIDES OFFICIALS WITH ADDITIONAL TOOLS, ALLOWING THEM TO WARN, CAUTION, OR EJECT THE HEAD COACH IF ANY BENCH PERSONNEL ENGAGE IN MISCONDUCT.



NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

RULE 18: ELIMINATION OF RULE 18. INCORPORATING THE DEFINITIONS INTO THEIR CORRESPONDING RULES WHILE EXPANDING THE INDEX TO SERVE AS A QUICK REFERENCE TOOL TO STREAMLINE THE RULES, IMPROVE CLARITY, REMOVE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND ELIMINATE CONFLICTING DEFINITIONS.

RATIONALE: THIS CHANGE RELOCATES DEFINITIONS INTO THEIR CORRESPONDING RULES, STREAMLINING THE RULES BOOK BY REDUCING REDUNDANCIES AND CONTRADICTIONS. THE EXPANDED INDEX AT THE BACK OF THE BOOK CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A HELPFUL QUICK REFERENCE TOOL, WHILE DEFINITIONS WERE UPDATED AND ALIGNED IN CONTEXT WITH APPROPRIATE RULES.



NFHS SOCCER RULE CHANGES

2025-26 EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-3-2B(5), 3-3-3B(4), 3-3-3C(2), 3-3-3D(3), 3-3-7 4-1-1C, 4-1 NOTES, 5-1-2, 13-1-5

2025-26 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. EDUCATION BASED HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS
2. COURAGE, CHARACTER AND CONSISTENCY
3. TEAM AREAS AND BENCH DECORUM
4. PLAYER UNIFORM EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY



MERCY RULE REMINDER

AFTER 20-MINUTES OF PLAY (ELAPSED GAME TIME) IN THE 2ND HALF, IF ONE TEAM HAS A GOAL DIFFERENTIAL OF 8+ GOALS , THE GAME WOULD BE STOPPED AND DECLARED FINAL.

- **20-MINUTES ELAPSED TIME IN 2ND HALF REGARDLESS OF LENGTH OF HALVES.**



2025-2026 OFFICIAL SOCCER **Perfection Thermo**

Used at the State Tournament



SOCCER REMINDERS

practice regulations

IN-SEASON: School is In-Session

Eight Hour Rule

Practice outside the school day, from the beginning of the school week through the end of the school week (excluding holidays), is limited to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity

The in-school athletic period does not count towards the allotted 8 hours



SOCCER REMINDERS

practice regulations

***IN-SEASON: When School Is Not In Session
(HOLIDAY BREAKS)***

1 Practice – Cannot exceed 3 hours

2 Practices – Cannot exceed 5 hours

- **3 hours is max for a single practice**
- **More than 1 practice scheduled, must have a minimum of 2-hour rest break**

Cannot schedule and students may not participate in more than one practice on consecutive days.



TEAM SPORTS

practice regulations

OFF-SEASON: School is In-Session

Strength & Conditioning Instruction

Teams in the off-season are allowed one hour of strength & conditioning instruction outside of the school day.

- Athletes may only attend one, 1-hour session each day, Monday-Friday.
- No skill instruction or equipment is allowed during this hour of S&C instruction.

Skill Instruction is only allowed during the athletic period for off-season team sports.



SCRIMMAGES

- Soccer teams are limited to one scrimmage during the school week. Schools may also participate in an additional scrimmage at the end of the school week (Friday after school or Saturday).
- Teams are limited to scrimmaging against 3 other schools at the same site on the same day.
- If more than four teams are invited to a scrimmage, each team may only scrimmage three different teams.
- No scrimmages may be played after a team's first interschool game.



ALLOWABLE CONTESTS

- 0 Tournaments and 21 Games or
- 1 Tournament and 19 Games or
- 2 Tournaments and 17 Games or
- 3 Tournaments and 15 Games



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

The Soccer Tournament Regulations covers the days tournaments can be held, contests per day, etc. can be found in the Regular Season section of the Soccer Manual.

- UIL Constitution & Rules
- UIL Eligibility Standards
- TEA UIL Side-by-Side
- Booster Club Guide

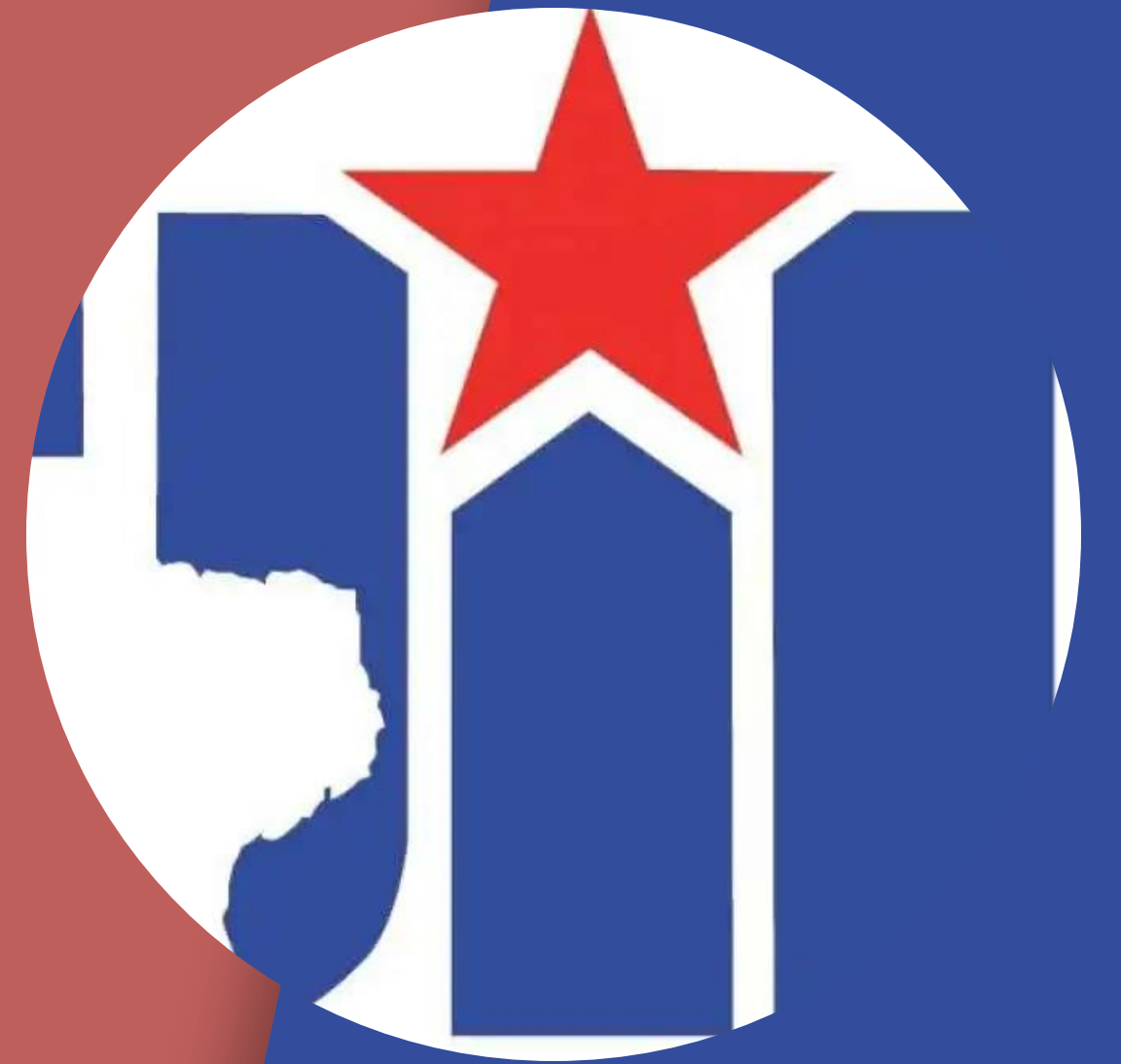
- Contest Scheduling
- Allowable Contests
- Soccer Tournament Regulations
- Game Regulations
- District Certification
- Miscellaneous Soccer Regulations

Tournaments may be played during a week in which there is another scheduled contest if there is no violation of Texas Education Agency/State Board of Education regulations.

- Number of Teams and Type of Play.** A tournament is defined as at least three teams assembled at one site for competition.
- Scheduling.** Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. (See each sport plan for exception to resolve ties for district representatives.) Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one day tournament must be scheduled on Saturday.
- Games.** Teams can play regulation games (two per day) in pool play or they can play shortened pool play games of 20 minute halves with sudden death for ties. If teams are playing 20-minute halves pool play games, all pool play games combined would count as one of the two allowable games for that day.
- Site.** A tournament must be held at the ISD of the host school, or at an adjoining ISD. If the tournament does not exceed eight teams, the host school may authorize additional sites for preliminary round games.
- Invitational Tournament Tie Games.** In an invitational tournament, the tournament director shall set the tie breaking procedure to be used. This procedure should be explained to the coaches and referees prior to the start of the tournament.

DOUBLE HEADER

- A player plays in two games at two levels on the same night (9th & JV, JV & Varsity)
- A double header counts as two games in the calendar week for that athlete.





DOUBLE HEADER

Example:

- Athlete plays a double header on Tuesday night, they cannot play again in that calendar week (M-Sa)
- If an athlete plays in a JV game on Tuesday, that player may not play a double header (JV & Varsity game) on Friday. Should an athlete play in 3 matches in a calendar week, the team would be required to forfeit the third game the athlete participated in.
- Exceptions: Thanksgiving week & December/January Holidays



A GOOD COACH
CAN CHANGE
A GAME,
A GREAT COACH
CAN CHANGE
A LIFE.



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