



SOFTBALL
CCP TRAINING

UIL SOFTBALL TEAM



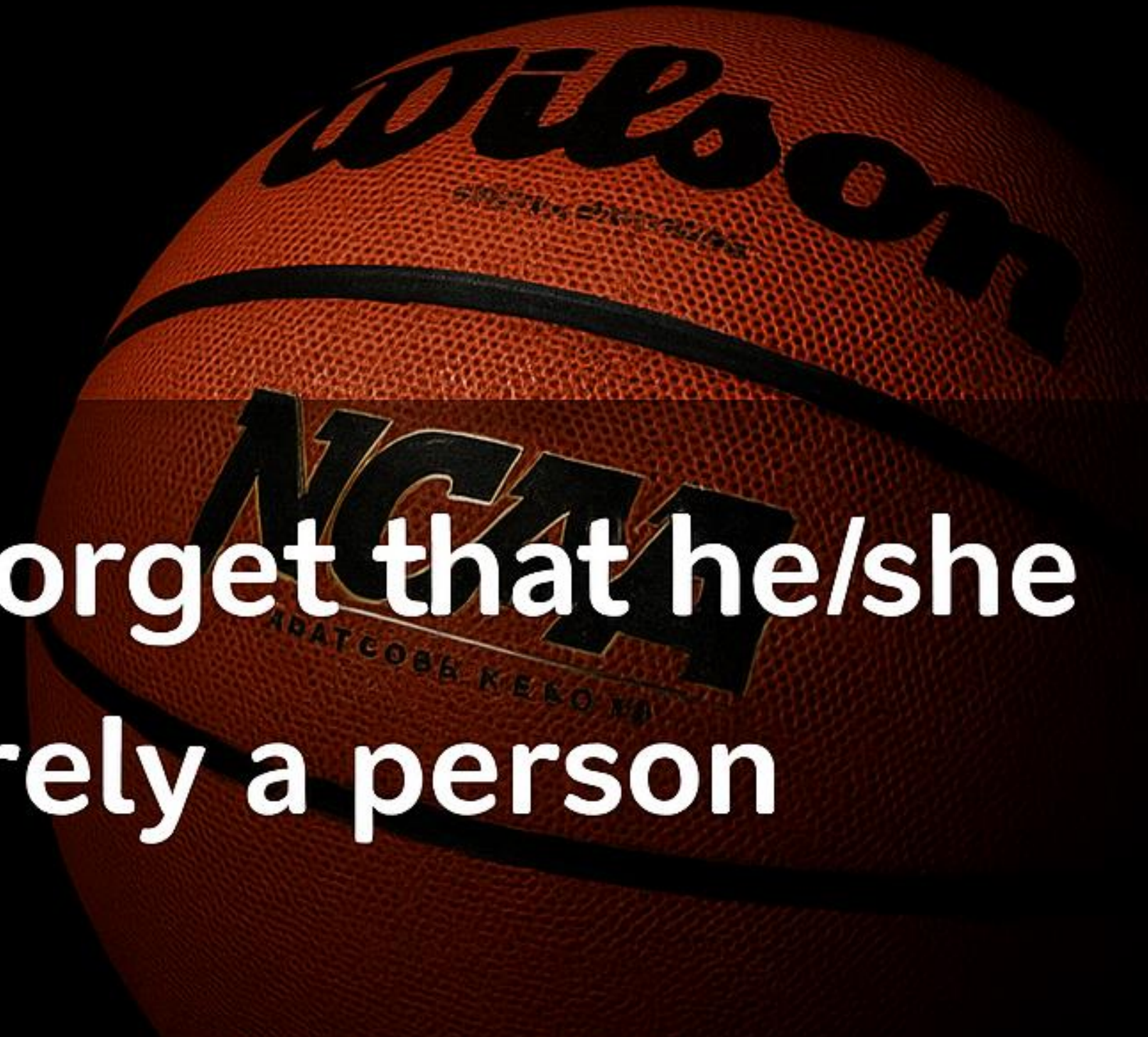
Grace McDowell
Assistant AD



Ray Zepeda
Athletic Director



Dillon Bankston
Officials Coordinator



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

– John Wooden

AGENDA

- What's New for 2025-2026
- 2025-2026 Areas of Focus
 - Softball 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.**



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025-2026

ELIGIBILITY

PAPF REQUIREMENT

(PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM)

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

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?

Provide the name of the school ____ and school year ____

REFERENCE 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)?
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 there 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?

REFERENCE 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

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.

ever enrolled or participated in a Home School program, Magnet program, Charter school, Open Enrollment program, 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.

Student live with ☐ one parent ☐ both parents ☐ guardian ☐ foster parent(s)?
If 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.

Parents of the student ☐ married ☐ never married ☐ married- living apart ☐ divorced
If 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.

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.

Did the student have 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.

Did the student enroll in less than an average of four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school? 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

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Private
City	State <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Charter
Date of withdrawal from previous school:	
Enrolled in the new school for one calendar year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Has the student 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?

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.

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?

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



EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS (EFFECTIVE EAP'S)

- All EAP's reviewed for all athletic facilities
- Regular rehearsal of EAP by staff and students
- Establish a process for a pregame medical timeout with admin, officials, coaches, & trainers

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**



2023-24

Coach Ejections: 17
Player Ejections: 23
Fan Ejections: 25

2024-25

Coach Ejections: 12
Player Ejections: 10
Fan Ejections: 17



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SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER EJECTIONS

- Ejected players miss the rest of the game plus all the following game.
- Player ejections *cannot* be overturned by a game official or chapter.
- If a coach has a question following a player ejection, they should contact UIL.



SPORTSMANSHIP THE TEXAS WAY!!

REMINDERS FOR COACHES:

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



UIL SOFTBALL DUGOUT PROTOCOL GUIDANCE

responsible for the personal conduct and behavior of all team members and important for coaches to be proactive by clearly communicating expectations to athletes, including dugout behavior. "Bench jockeying" or negative interactions with opponents are unacceptable and should not be tolerated. This behavior can lead to bigger issues.

Communicate to athletes that it is how we respond or deal with success, failure, and adversity that defines us as a person or student-athlete. During times of crisis, we all react differently, so how are we training our student-athletes to act daily and in crisis? We need a plan, and it's important to practice that plan. Without a plan, we are not prepared, similar to an offense, defense, etc.

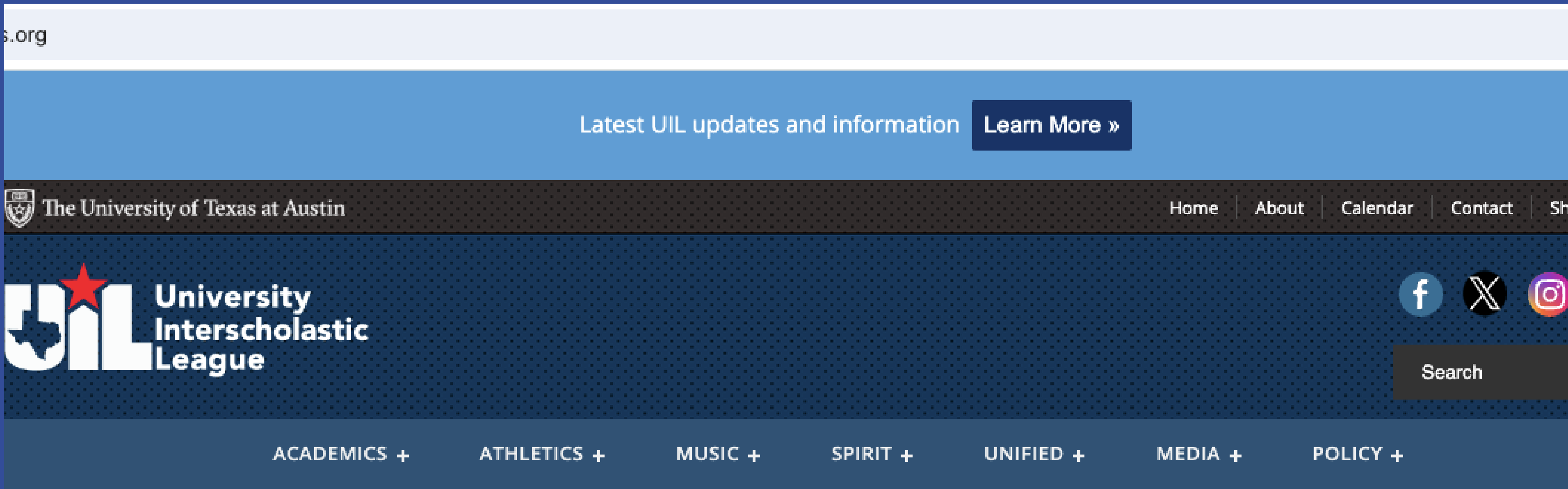
Practice responding to crisis situations in practice plans randomly on a daily basis.

Understand that failure to respond appropriately and immediately to a crisis situation will result in consequences.

Expected UIL Knowledge Needed

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

www.uiltexas.org




The screenshot shows the homepage of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) website. At the top, there is a light blue header with the text "Latest UIL updates and information" and a dark blue button labeled "Learn More »". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with the University of Texas at Austin logo and name on the left, and links for "Home", "About", "Calendar", "Contact", and "Sh" on the right. The main content area has a dark blue background with a white grid pattern. On the left, the UIL logo (a stylized 'U' and 'I' with a red star) is followed by the text "University Interscholastic League". On the right, there are social media icons for Facebook, X, and Instagram, and a dark grey search bar with the word "Search" inside. At the bottom, a dark blue footer contains a row of menu items: "ACADEMICS +", "ATHLETICS +", "MUSIC +", "SPIRIT +", "UNIFIED +", "MEDIA +", and "POLICY +".




s.org

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

The University of Texas at Austin

Home | About | Calendar | Contact | Sh

 **University Interscholastic League**

Search

ACADEMICS + ATHLETICS + MUSIC + SPIRIT + UNIFIED + MEDIA + POLICY +



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. Wrestling: 1st day for meets & tournaments.	11	12	13 Football: Bi-district, all conferences.	14 Congress: Region Last Day Volleyball: Regional Finals; State Semifinals, Conference A.	15 Boys Basketball: 1st day for inter-school games. Volleyball: State Semifinals, Conferences 2A-6A.
16	17 Congress: Region results due	18	19	20 A+ Academics: Participation reg. due. Deadline to submit spring district meet info & contest material orders. One-Act Play: Double representation due.	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

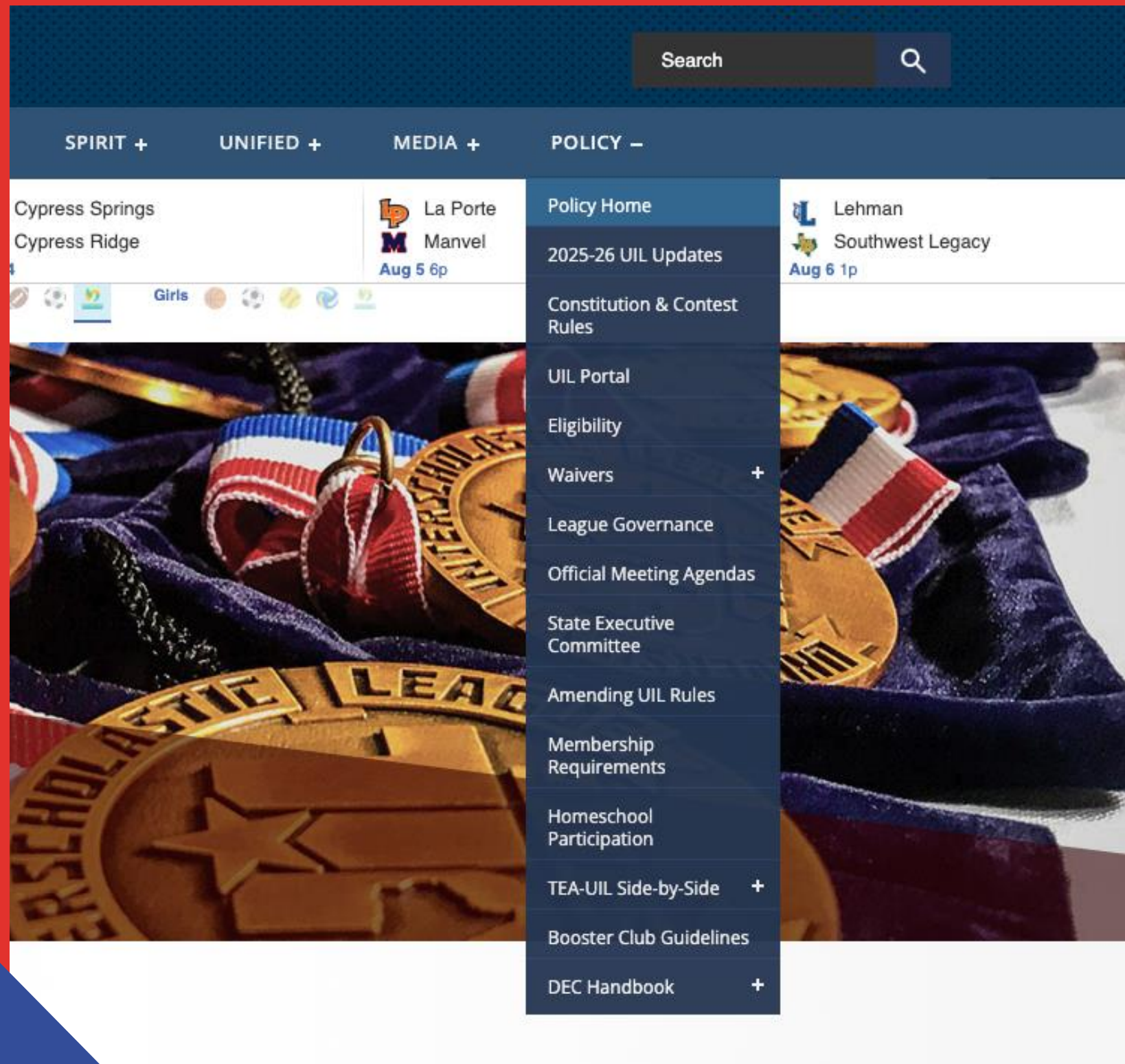
Department email: athletics@uiltexas.org
Department fax: 512-471-6589

CONTACT INFORMATION

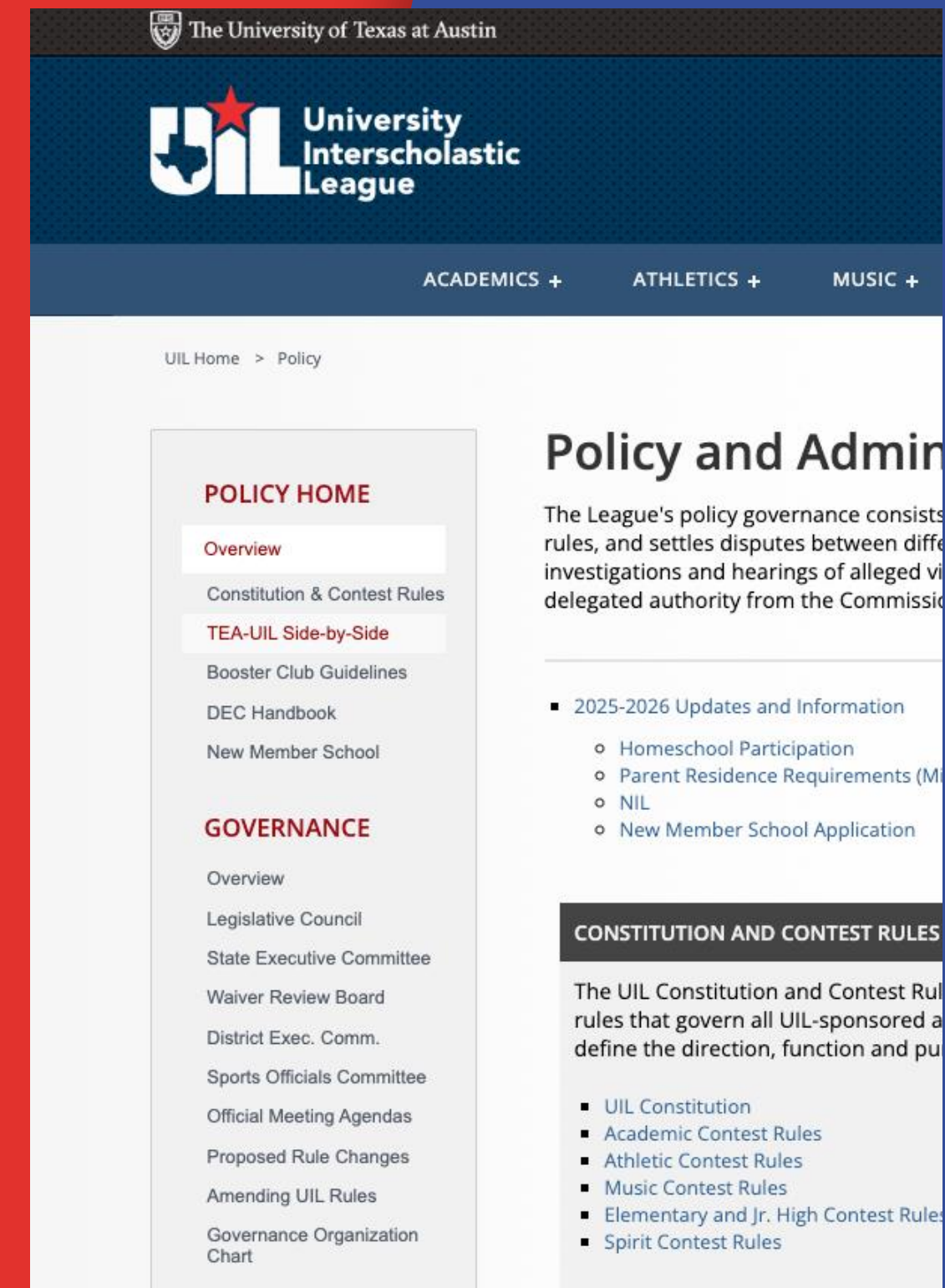
Name	Title	Responsibilities	Contact Email
Ray Zepeda	Director of Athletics	Athletic Administration Reclassification & Realignment, Eligibility Catastrophic Injuries Officials	athletics@uiltexas.org
Virginia Flores	Assistant Athletic Director	Volleyball Spirit Soccer Track & Field	vflores@uiltexas.org
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

Exploring the UIL Website

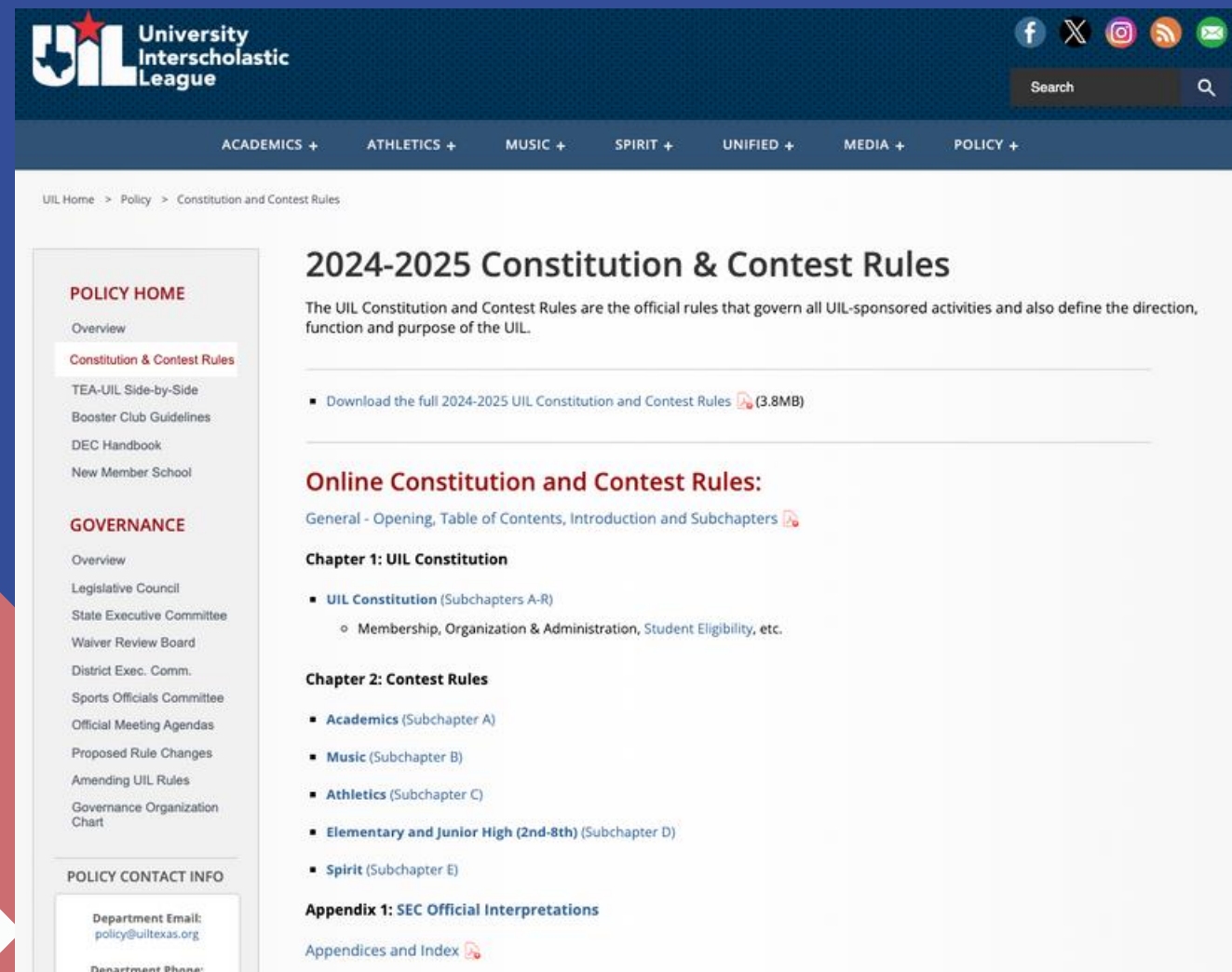
POLICY HOMEPAGE



C&CR AND SIDE BY SIDE



2025-2026 COACHES' REMINDERS



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

UIL Side by Side Manual

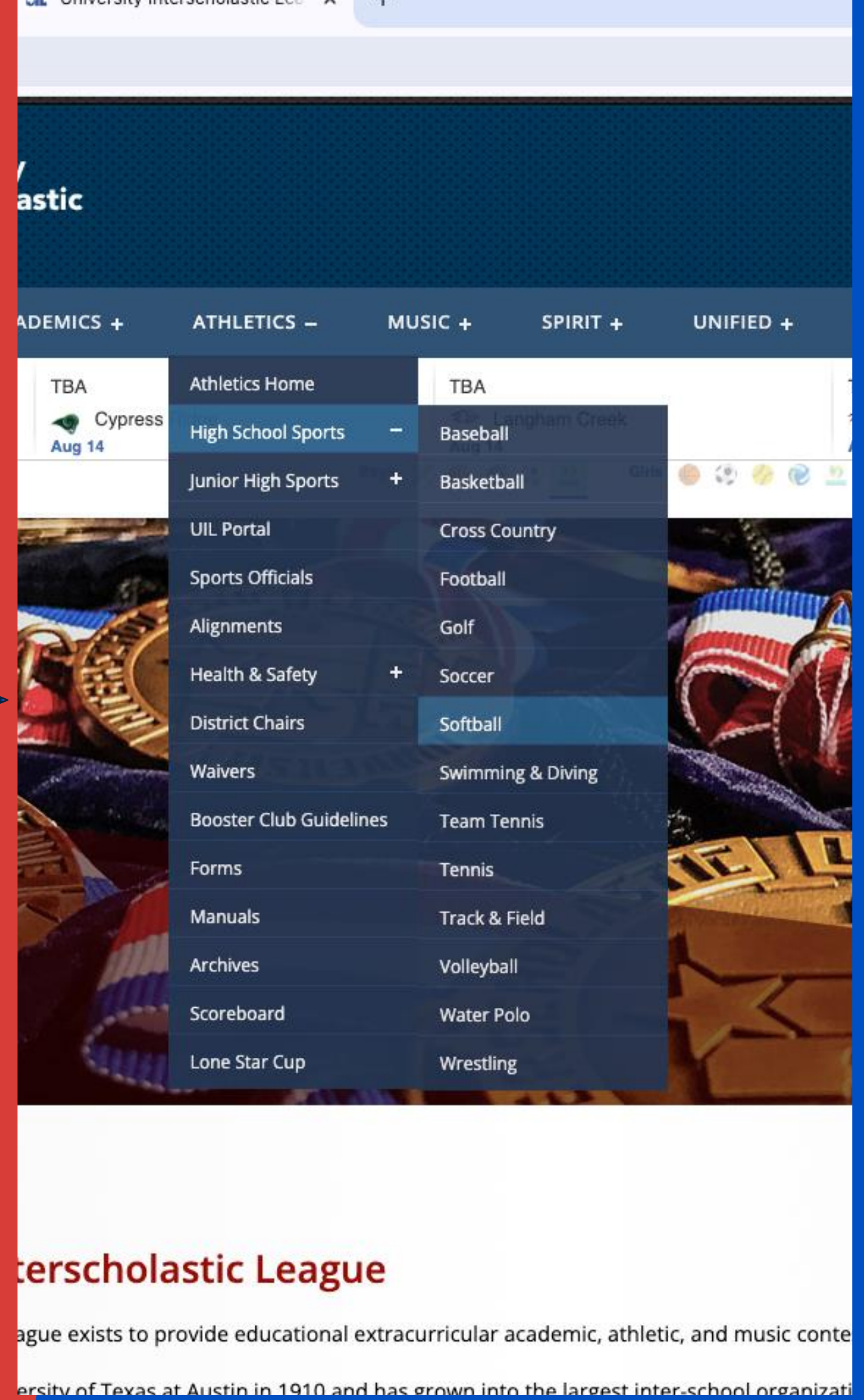
VERY
IMPORTANT!!!



Exploring the UIL Website

UILTEXAS.ORG

Increase Understanding
of Resources Available



SOFTBALL[Softball Overview](#)[Rules & Guidelines](#)[Manual](#)[Alignments](#)[Softball Forms](#)[Playoff Brackets](#)[Post Season Packet](#)[State Tournament](#)[Officials](#)[Sanctioning](#)[FAQ](#)**SOFTBALL CONTACT
INFO**

**Assistant Athletic
Director:**
Grace McDowell

Email:
gmcowell@uiltexas.org

Department Phone:
512-471-5883

Softball Manual

2025-2026 Softball Manual

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


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

Table of Contents

- [Softball Calendar](#)
- [2025 Softball State Champions](#) 
- [Softball Coaches Checklist](#) 
- [Softball Rules & Guidelines](#)
 - Softball Plan (Constitution)
 - 2025-2026 UIL Rule C

COACHES' REMINDERS

UIL SPORTS MANUALS

- UIL Sport Manuals contain UIL information specific to each sport
- Can be found on the left side of the Softball page on the UIL website.
- A pdf of the manual is available

COACHES' REMINDERS

UIL CHECKLISTS

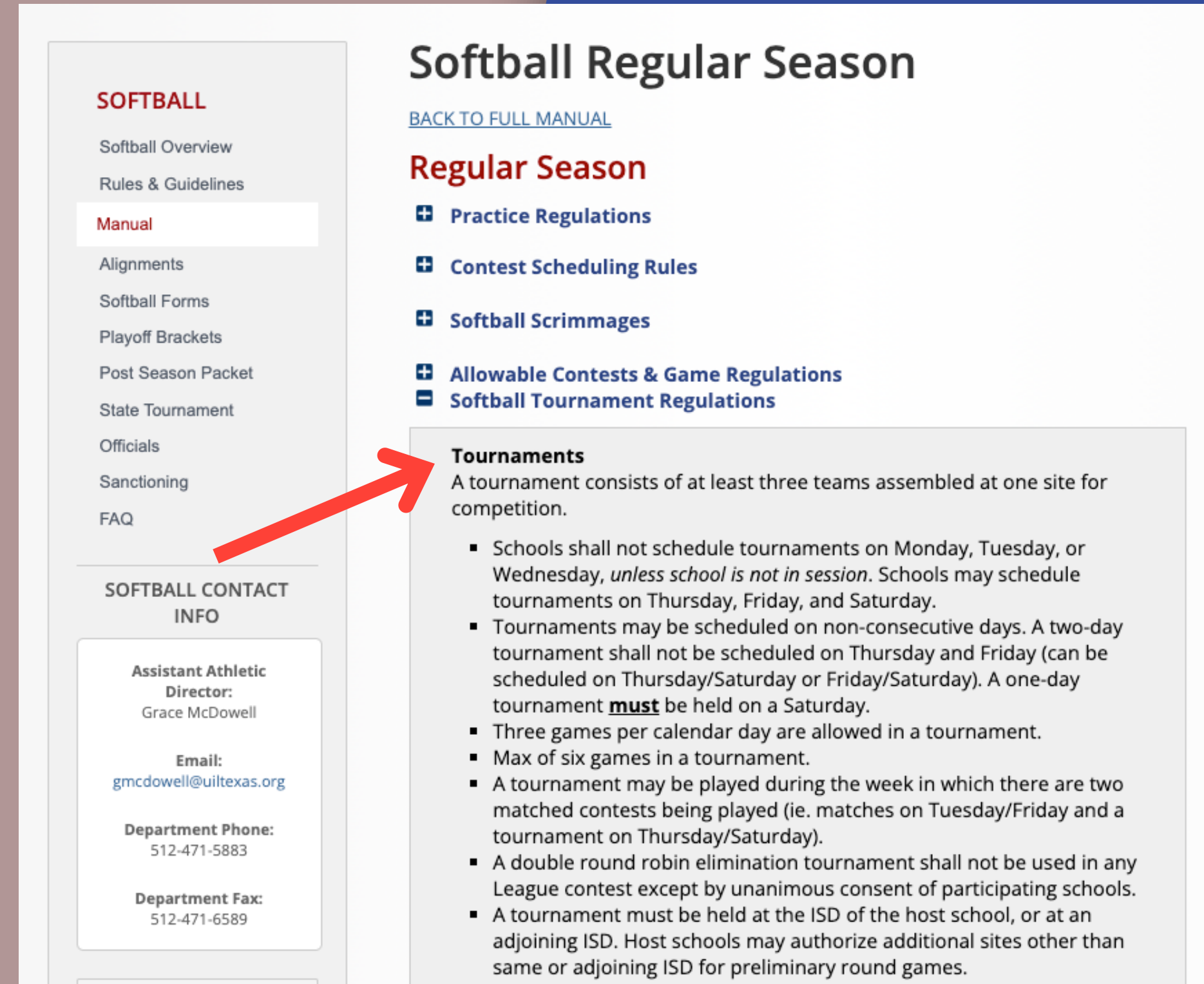
- Sport specific document that can be found on each sports manual page.
- A helpful tool for coaches to use in preparation for their season & to help stay in compliance.
- **ALL REQUIRED TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

UIL Coaches Checklist Softball 2024-25

CHECKLIST	REFERENCE	COMPLETION DATE
Profile in the UIL Portal	UIL Portal	Prior to 1 st Practice
Softball Manual	Softball Manual	Prior to 1 st Practice
Game in Max Preps	MaxPreps	Beginning of school year
Coaching requirements (CCP & TEC)	Coaching Requirements	Prior to 1 st Day of School
UIL Side-by-Side	Side-by-Side	Prior to 1 st Conference
Participation required forms. Keep on file.	Athletic Forms	Prior to 1 st Practice
Participation required forms. Keep on file.	Athletic Forms	Prior to 1 st Practice
Rules regarding eligibility for athletic contests	C&CR Sec. 400 & 403	Prior to 1 st Practice
Softball Plan	Softball Plan	Prior to 1 st Practice
Know UIL rule changes	UIL Rule Changes	Prior to 1 st Practice
Know NFHS rule change	NFHS	Prior to 1 st Practice
Complete PAPFs and file with UIL Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply/Complete any necessary Waivers and file with UIL.	PAPF Process Waiver Information	Prior to 1 st Practice
Submit Varsity Team Eligibility Form to district chair (UIL Portal)	UIL Portal	Prior to 1 st Conference
REGULAR SEASON		
First day of practice		January 10
First day for interschool scrimmages		January 25
First day for playing interschool games		February 10

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

- May be scheduled on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
- 3 games per day
- Max of 6 games in a tournament



SOFTBALL

- Softball Overview
- Rules & Guidelines
- Manual**
- Alignments
- Softball Forms
- Playoff Brackets
- Post Season Packet
- State Tournament
- Officials
- Sanctioning
- FAQ

SOFTBALL CONTACT INFO

Assistant Athletic Director:
Grace McDowell

Email:
gmcowell@uiltexas.org

Department Phone:
512-471-5883

Department Fax:
512-471-6589

Softball Regular Season

[BACK TO FULL MANUAL](#)

Regular Season

- + Practice Regulations
- + Contest Scheduling Rules
- + Softball Scrimmages
- + Allowable Contests & Game Regulations
- Softball Tournament Regulations

Tournaments

A tournament consists of 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 (can be scheduled on Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday). A one-day tournament **must** be held on a Saturday.
- Three games per calendar day are allowed in a tournament.
- Max of six games in a tournament.
- A tournament may be played during the week in which there are two matched contests being played (ie. matches on Tuesday/Friday and a tournament on Thursday/Saturday).
- A double round robin elimination tournament shall not be used in any League contest except by unanimous consent of participating schools.
- 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.

2026 SOFTBALL DATES

JAN 9: 1st Day of Practice

JAN 24: 1st Day for Scrimmages

FEB 9: 1st Day for Games

APRIL 21: District Certification

APRIL 25: Bi-District Deadline

MAY 2: Area Deadline

MAY 9: Regional Semifinal Deadline

MAY 16: Regional Final Deadline

MAY 23: State Semifinal Deadline

MAY 28-30: State Championships





NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION COACHES' REMINDERS

Know the UIL Rules regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments).

Coaches are prohibited from:

- 1. Coaching students from their attendance zone in grades 7-12.**
- 2. Using school or booster funds to pay for team camps or leagues.**
- 3. Pressuring athletes to play club softball or in non-school leagues. This includes pushing athletes to participate on a specific club team.**

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION **COACHES' REMINDERS**

WHAT DO THE RULES ALLOW COACHES TO DO?

- 1. Supervise the facility for a club team practice or a league.**
- 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 & players for a club team/league.**
- 4. Distribute information about leagues & club teams.**



SOFTBALL RULES

The SOFTBALL playing rules are not UIL rules. UIL SOFTBALL will follow NFHS rules.

It is important to obtain/download a copy of and review the NFHS SOFTBALL Rules prior to the season.



DIGITAL

BUILT BY



NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES

Rule 1-8-6

No player shall transmit or record audio or video from the playing surface. New language further clarifies the use of electronic devices and what is not permitted.

Rationale: This change clearly defines the types of electronic devices prohibited by the rule.



NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES

Rule 10-4-2

NFHS umpire slacks may either be charcoal gray or navy blue. The heather gray option was stricken from the rules book.

Rationale: Manufacturers have discontinued producing heather gray umpire pants.

Rule 8

Reformatted for clarity. Changes have separated longer articles, and organized exceptions, penalties, and effects into outline format for better comprehension.

Rationale: Added article references to PENALTIES and EFFECTS, and Section 4 was separated into two sections addressing runners entitled to advance with and without liability to be put out to delineate differences



NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES

2025-26 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

**1-6-6, 2-25-3, 3-2-3A & B, 3-2-5, 3-6-PENALTIES
(ARTS. 11 THROUGH 16), 4-3-1F & G, 4-3-2, 6-2-NOTE**

2025-26 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1. OBSTRUCTION**
- 2. MAINTAINING AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW**



SOFTBALL REMINDERS

practice regulations

***IN-SEASON:* When School is NOT in Session
(Spring Break)**

1 Practice – Cannot exceed 3 hours

2 Practices – Cannot exceed 5 hours

- **3 hours is max for a single practice**
- **2-hour rest break is required if 2 practices are scheduled**

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



SOFTBALL REMINDERS

practice regulations

IN-SEASON: School is In-Session

Eight Hour Rule

- Practice outside the school day during the school week (excluding holidays) is limited to a maximum of 8 hours per activity.
- The athletic period does not count towards the 8 hours.



TEAM SPORTS PRACTICE REGULATIONS

OFF-SEASON: School is In-Session

Strength & Conditioning Instruction

- Teams in off-season are allowed 1 hour of S&C instruction outside the school day.
- Athletes may only attend one, 1-hour session per day, Monday-Friday
- No skill instruction or equipment is allowed
- Skill Instruction is ONLY allowed during the athletic period for off-season team sports.



SCRIMMAGES

- **Saturday, January 24th – first day**
- **No more than 4 teams**
- **Cannot count as a game for any team**
- **Limit of 2 per calendar week**
- **Only 1 can be during school week**
- **No scrimmages after first game**
- **If more than 4 teams, each team may only scrimmage 3 other teams**



ALLOWABLE CONTESTS

- 3 Tournaments and 17 Games
- 2 Tournaments and 20 Games or
- 1 Tournament and 23 Games or
- 0 Tournaments and 26 Games

3 games may be substituted for a tournament





SOFTBALL CONTEST REGULATIONS

**CALENDAR & SCHOOL WEEK
VERY IMPORTANT TO
UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE!**

**Games Allowed per SCHOOL
Week:**

- A team or individual player may only play one game during the school week.

**Games Allowed per CALENDAR
Week:**

- **UNLIMITED**

A large circular logo on the left side of the slide. It features a white background with a large red five-pointed star in the center. The letters 'S' and 'I' are rendered in blue, with the 'S' on the left and the 'I' on the right, both partially overlapping the star. The entire logo is enclosed within a thin white circle, which is itself inside a larger blue circle. The background of the slide is dark blue with a light blue diagonal stripe running from the top right to the bottom left. There are also some red circular shapes at the top and bottom left corners.

SOFTBALL CONTEST REGULATIONS

Games Allowed per School Week:

- **EXCEPTIONS:** TOURNAMENTS, POST-SEASON, & VARSITY DISTRICT GAMES POSTPONED BY WEATHER.
- **IMPORTANT:** Varsity district games postponed by weather which are not played on the next available date may NOT be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

DOUBLE HEADER

- **Double Header – A player plays in 2 varsity games back-to-back or in a varsity & junior varsity game at the same site on the same night.**
- **Each game counts as 1 of the student's total games for the season.**
- **A double header can be played once during the school week & once after the end of the school week (games unlimited for the calendar week).**





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



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