C&CR

Constitution and Contest Rules

2026-2027

One Hundred and Seventeenth Edition

University Interscholastic League

The University of Texas at Austin

117th Edition of the

Constitution and Contest Rules

of the

University Interscholastic League

2026-2027

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Publish Date: July 25, 2026
See website for most current revisions.
WEB Address: www.uiltexas.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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The benefits of education and of useful knowledge, generally diffused through a community, are essential to the preservation of a free government.

SAM HOUSTON

Cultivated mind is the guardian genius of Democracy, and while guided and controlled by virtue, the noblest attribute of man. It is the only dictator that freemen acknowledge, and is the only security which freemen desire.

MIRABEAU B. LAMAR

School and community opinion should be so conditioned that every interschool contest dramatizes not only the reign of law but the reign of a higher law giving the Spirit of the rules precedence over the Letter, thus establishing a jurisdiction in which Conscience is the court of final appeal, empowered to confer the ultimate and most highly valued awards.

Educational Competition
The Story of the University Interscholastic League
by ROY BEDICHEK
UIL Director, 1921-1948

2026-2027 Official Calendar

The Official calendar for the 2026-2027 school year can be found on the UIL website at:
www.uiltexas.org/calendar

Message from the Chair of the Legislative Council

Dear Students, Coaches, Administrators and Parents,

It is a great honor to serve as the Chair of the University Interscholastic League of the Legislative Council. The UIL is truly one of the finest organizations in the great State of Texas and in our nation, and our students are fortunate to have many opportunities to develop their talents and skills and compete with others across our state.

The UIL Legislative Council is made up of 32 regionally elected school administrators who are responsible for establishing rules and policies that govern competitions and contests in the areas of fine arts, academics, and athletics. The UIL has a rich history and continues to provide opportunities that are often the highlight of our students' educational experiences.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Jamey Harrison and his team who strive to provide fair and equitable opportunities for our students to learn teamwork, leadership, and perseverance as well as good sportsmanship. Dr. Harrison's vision and experience along with his dedicated team members have kept the UIL strong, responsive, and ready to serve all students across our state.

I would also like to thank each of you for your efforts and commitment to the UIL in providing these experiences for our students to enrich their education. I wish all of our competitors an exciting and rewarding year as they engage in healthy competition and strive for success!

Sincerely,

Richard Kilgore
Superintendent
Bruceville-Eddy ISD

Statement of Purpose

The University Interscholastic League believes

that most students enjoy the pursuit of excellence and seek opportunities to test themselves against their own accomplishments and those of their peers,

that such opportunities are best provided through properly conducted and equitably administered competitive activities,

that the classroom is enriched by the flow of student energy into the more intensified arena of competition and back into the classroom.

Therefore, we reaffirm that students are the focus of our endeavor and deserve an opportunity to:

refine physical and mental aptitudes,
nurture self-realization and build self-confidence,
feel a sense of pride and dignity,
experience teamwork and develop a sense of fair play,
develop the ability to lead and the willingness to follow,
foster self-discipline and perseverance,
appreciate that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline,
learn to accept graciously the decisions of judges and officials,
affirm self-worth in times of disappointment as well as adulation,
cultivate lifetime skills,
complement their class work with practice and performance,
have fun,
experience the joy of achieving their potential in a wholesome environment and,
discover that ultimately the true meaning of winning is doing one's best.

Legislative Council Officers

Chair: Richard Kilgore
First Vice Chair: Walter Jackson
Second Vice Chair: Aaron Hood

Legislative Council Representatives

Conf-Reg	Term	Name and Address
6A-I	2029	Supt. Gayle Stinson, Birdsville ISD, 6125 E. Belknap St. Haltom City 76117
6A-II	2030	Supt. Marty Crawford, Tyler ISD, PO Box 2035, Tyler 75710
6A-III	2028	Supt John Moore, Galena Park ISD, PO Box 565, Galena Park, TX 77547
6A-IV	2027	Supt. Eric Wright, Hays CISD, 21003 IH 35, Kyle 78640
5A-I	2030	Supt. Corey Hickerson, Joshua ISD, 310 E 18th Street, Joshua, TX 76058
5A-II	2029	Supt. Wendy Eldredge, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, 1445 N Perry Rd, Carrollton 75006
5A-III	2030	Vacant
5A-IV	2028	Supt. Roland Hernandez, Corpus Christi ISD, PO Box 110, Corpus Christi 78403
4A-I	2028	Supt. Bobby Azam, Andrews ISD, 405 NW 3rd Street, Andrews 79714
4A-II	2029	Supt. Stan Surratt, Lindale ISD, P.O. Box 370, Lindale 75482
4A-III	2027	Supt. Sharon Shields, Waco La Vega ISD, 400 E Loop 340, Waco, TX 76705
4A-IV	2030	Supt. Greg Bonewald, Wimberley ISD, 951 FM 2325, Wimberley, TX 78676
3A-I	2030	Supt. Robert Gibson, Idalou ISD, PO Box 1338, Idalou 79329
3A-II	2027	Supt. Jason McCollough, Mount Vernon ISD, 501 Tx Hwy 37, Mount Vernon 75457
3A-III	2029	Supt. Tommy Hooker, Thrall ISD, 107 S. Bounds, Thrall, 76578
3A-IV	2028	Supt. Jo Ann Bludau, Hallettsville ISD, PO Box 368, Hallettsville 77964
2A-I	2029	Supt. Kurt Ashmore, Wellington ISD, 609 15th St., Wellington 79095
2A-II	2030	Supt. Todd Morrison, Honey Grove ISD, 1206 N. 17th Street, Honey Grove 75446
2A-III	2027	Supt. Richard Kilgore, Bruceville-Eddy ISD, 1 Eagle Dr., Eddy 76524
2A-IV	2028	Supt. Todd Pawelek, Falls City ISD, PO Box 399, Falls CIty, 78113
1A-I	2027	Supt. Wayne Henderson, Ackerly Sands CISD, PO Box 218, Ackerly 79713
1A-II	2030	Supt. Aaron Hood, Robert Lee ISD, 1323 W. Hamilton St., Robert Lee 76945
1A-III	2028	Supt. Casey Adams, Woodson ISD, 100 Cowboy Ln, Woodson 76491
1A-IV	2029	Supt. Jason Jones, Tilden McMullen County ISD, 901 River Street, Tilden, TX 78072
At Large	2027	Supt. Travis Fanning, Huntsville ISD, 441 FM 2821 East, Huntsville, TX 77320
At Large	2027	Supt. Susan Bohn, Aledo ISD, 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo 76008
At Large	2029	Supt. Ginger Carrabine, Bryan ISD, 801 S. Ennis St., Bryan, TX 77803
At Large	2027	Supt. LaTonya Goffney, Aldine ISD, 14910 Aldine Westfield Rd., Aldine, 77032
At Large	2029	Supt. Shawn Pratt, McKinney ISD, 1 Duvall St., McKinney 75069
At Large	2027	Supt. Walter Jackson, La Porte ISD, 1002 San Jacinto St., La Porte 77571
At Large	2029	Supt. Marc Smith, Ft. Bend ISD, 16431 Lexington Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
At Large	2027	Supt. Gonzalo Salazar, Los Fresnos CISD, 600 N. Mesquite St., Los Fresnos 78566

2026-2027 Waiver Review Board

Conference	Term	Name and ISD
1A	2030	Heath Blackmon, Superintendent of Loop ISD
2A	2028	Dr. Allen Reese, Superintendent, Mumford ISD
3A	2029	Jeff Byrd, Superintendent, Dalhart ISD
4A	2030	Lamond Dean, Superintedent of Tyler Chapel Hill ISD
5A	2027	Judd Marshall, Superintendent, Mount Pleasant ISD
6A	2027	Dr. Tory Hill, Superintendent, Channelview ISD
Appointed	2026	Jimmy Thomas, Lubbock (Chair)
Appointed	2026	Gilbert Leal, Athletic Director, Brownsville ISD
Appointed	2026	Dr. Gary Bates, Superintendent, Fort Sam Houston ISD
Appointed	2026	Dr. Lisa Langston, Athletic Director, Fort Worth ISD
Appointed	2026	Dr. Silvia Salinas, Dallas
Appointed	2026	Jeff Smith, Athletic Director, Prosper ISD

2026-2027 State Executive Committee

Mike Motheral, Lubbock, Chair

Stephanie Behrens, Assistant Director, Region 16 Service Center

Dr. Arturo Cavazos, Harlingen

James Colbert, Jr., Superintendent, Harris County Department of Education

Dr. Curtis Culwell, Frisco

Dr. Anita Hebert, Superintendent, Shallowater ISD

Frank Molinar, Superintendent, White Settlement ISD

Dr. Roosevelt Nivens, Superintendent, Rosenberg Lamar CISD

Melissa Gonzalez, Superintendent, Refugio ISD

Dr. Tiffany Spicer, Superintendent, Buna ISD

Dr. Glen Teal, Superintendent, Seminole ISD

Daryl Wade, Houston

How to Use the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules

To use the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules most efficiently and effectively, try the following methods:

(1) TRY THE TABLE OF CONTENTS–the table provides you with an overview of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.
(2) TRY THE INDEX–the index provides you with page number by subject matter.
(3) Rules on which Official Interpretations have been issued by the State Executive Committee are cross referenced to Appendix I, which contains the Official Interpretations.
(4) CALL THE UIL–Staff members are identified under UIL Administration, and in Appendix II.
(5) Rule changes for the 2026-2027 school year are listed in Appendix V.

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INTRODUCTION

The University Interscholastic League was created by The University of Texas at Austin to provide leadership and guidance to public school debate and athletic teachers.

In 1909, with the approval of the Board of Regents, Dr. S. E. Mezes, president of The University, organized and formed the Extension Bureau at The University to serve the state. He later created the Debating League of Texas High Schools as a part of the Extension Division of The University. Almost simultaneously, he appointed a history professor, Dr. Charles W. Ramsdell, to the University Athletic Council and asked him to investigate the possibility of organizing an annual high school track meet, to be held at The University. After talking with public school officials across the state, Professor Ramsdell organized such a meet and then formed the Interscholastic Athletic Association to assure the continuance and improvement of the meet and other similar athletic activities.

In 1913, the Debating League of Texas High Schools and the Interscholastic Athletic Association were merged to form the extension program known from 1913 to the present as the University Interscholastic League, which is still operated by The University of Texas at Austin.

The UIL is the largest organization of its kind in the world, covering a larger geographic area, serving more public schools, scheduling a greater variety of contests, and holding more contests and meets than any other similar organization in the United States.

Public school administrators and contest sponsors believe that competitions organized and administered by educators, without interference from outside interest groups, have provided a useful channel for the energies and talents of the state's finest public school students.

Special attention is called to the following matters:

(a) The rules published herein and citations to special bulletins, as well as notices in the "Official Notices" column of the ***Leaguer***, constitute official notice to all UIL members.

(b) It is the responsibility of each school district superintendent to submit application forms and see that payments for memberships are made prior to the prescribed deadline.

(c) When a school district joins the UIL, it agrees to accept and observe the terms of participation in the contests as set forth in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. When disputes arise, they shall be settled by the committees in the prescribed manner. This is a voluntary organization and all conditions surrounding participation are freely accepted. Both the letter and spirit of the rules are to be observed with genuine cooperation.

(d) All persons involved in organizing, administering or sponsoring a UIL contest should familiarize themselves with rules governing participation, schedule and disposition of fees, definitions, eligibility rules, organization of the various meets, methods of settling disputes, etc. A Professional Acknowledgment Form shall be signed by all of the school district's coaches and sponsors of UIL activities.

(e) Special rules should be studied by the directors of the respective events. Sponsors should be experts on the rules of the contests which they undertake, and if rules are not understood, the UIL office should be contacted for clarification.

(f) These rules will be distributed to schools by the opening of the school session in August.

(g) Official Interpretations of the State Executive Committee are in Appendix I. Those rules on which Official Interpretations have been issued are indicated within the rule.

The UIL program does not offer an activity for every student in the school. If a considerable group of students find participation in a contest educationally rewarding, then that program is justified from an administrative point of view. With the varied program offered by the UIL, a large percentage of public school students find at least one contest in which they can do well, thus enjoying the rewards of fair competition.

It is the mission of the University Interscholastic League to continue a focus on the educational aspects of contests and on the positive benefits to Texas public school students.

JAMEY HARRISON, Executive Director
University Interscholastic League

Administration

The UIL administration offices are at The University of Texas at Austin. The street address is 1701 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78722. The mailing address is 1701 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78722. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. daily except on weekends and on official UT-Austin holidays. The telephone number is 512-471-5883. For theatre only the telephone number is 512-471-9996.

The following personnel serve in the capacities indicated:

Executive Director: Dr. Jamey Harrison
Assistant to the Director: Glenda Muñoz
Director of Academics: Dr. David Stevens
Director of Athletics: Ray Zepeda
Director of Music: Dr. Brad Kent
Chief of Staff: Kim Carmichael
Director of Eligibility and Education: Dr. Mark Cousins
Director of Compliance: Darryl Beasley
Director of Compliance Services: Dr. Joel Nolte
Director of Policy: Dr. Kevin Jones
Assistant Director of Academics: Alyssa Boehringer
Assistant Director of Academics: Lisa Parker
Assistant Director of Academics: Jana Riggins
Assistant Director of Academics: Paula Rodriguez
Assistant Director of Academics: David Trussell
Assistant Director of Athletics: Grace McDowell
Assistant Director of Athletics: A.J. Martinez
Assistant Director of Athletics: Joseph Garmon
Assistant Director of Athletics: Virginia Flores
Assistant Director of Music: Gabriel Musella
Technology: Kevin Johnson
Waiver Officer: Nakita Guillory

Chapter 1: Constitution

Subchapter A. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1: NAME

The name of the organization shall be University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Subchapter B. OBJECTIVES

Section 2: OBJECTIVES OF THE UIL

The objectives of the UIL are:

(a) to enhance students' educational experience;

(b) to prepare them for citizenship by providing interschool competition among the public elementary and secondary schools of Texas; and

(c) to establish rules and procedures for sanctioning and conducting interscholastic competition, including rules providing penalties for rules violations by school district personnel, that are consistent with rules of the State Board of Education.

Subchapter C. DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 5: DEFINITIONS

In the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) ***Academy***: two-year school for academically gifted and talented; created by the state legislature, under the management and control of the board of regents of the Texas State University System. **Examples**: Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, Lamar University, Beaumont, and Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, University of North Texas, Denton.

(b) *Alternative School:* generally alternative schools are schools without defined attendance zones. Alternative schools include (but may not be limited to): discipline alternative education programs, juvenile justice alternative education programs, juvenile detention centers, county jails, drop-out prevention and drop-out recovery schools, credit recovery schools, schools of choice, ISD charters, high school equivalency (GED) programs, career and technical education campuses, early college campuses, T-STEM campuses, men's/women's leadership academies, multiple school district cooperative schools, virtual / hybrid campuses or other ISD schools that do not have defined attendance zones from which they draw their students

(c) ***Calendar week***: 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.

(d) ***Charter school***: an open enrollment school approved by the State Board of Education.

(e) ***Constitution***: the ***Constitution*** of the UIL.

(f) ***Contest:*** includes competition.

(g) ***Contest Rules***: the rules governing UIL contests and competitions adopted by the UIL.

(h) ***Director***: the Executive Director of the UIL.

(i) ***District***: a grouping of member schools within an established conference that is determined to facilitate reasonable competition among the schools in UIL contests for a two year period (designated as region in music competition).

(j) ***District Executive Committee***: the committee of superintendents or designated representatives of member schools within an assigned district.

(k) ***Divorced parents***: parents whose divorce has been declared final. Parents who are separated or who have filed for a divorce are not divorced.

(l) ***Elementary school***: a school that is a unit of a school district and offers instruction in kindergarten through the sixth grade, regardless of whether all of the grades are offered instruction in the same building.

(m) ***Enrollment***: begins the day of a student's registration and attendance in a full class period and ceases with the last day of attendance.

(n) ***Fan(s)***: devotees of a germane activity, e.g., spectators at a sporting event or a performance involving school students.

(o) ***High school***: a school that is a unit of a school district and offers instruction in the ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades, or any combination thereof, whether all of the grades are offered instruction in the same building. A school also fits this definition if it has:

(1) only one ninth grade, one tenth grade, one eleventh grade and one twelfth grade;

(2) with one principal in charge of all four grades;

(3) if all grades have the same school colors, the same school song and the same school paper; and

(4) school is on an established campus with permanent classrooms.

That school would be eligible for UIL membership as one four-year (grades nine through twelve) high school unit, even though all grades are not on the same campus or in the same building.

(p) ***Intersession***: that period of time during a non-traditional school year when school is not in session or when a particular group of students is not required to attend school.

(q) ***Junior high school***: a school that is a unit of a school district and offers instruction in the seventh and eighth grades, whether it also offers instruction in the sixth or ninth grade, and whether it occupies a building separate from an elementary or high school.

(r) ***League***: The University Interscholastic League.

(s) ***Legislative Council***: The Legislative Council of the UIL.

(t) ***Magnet program***: curriculum offered within a high school that also serves students in a regular high school setting.

(u) ***Magnet school***: a high school within a multiple high school district where all students participate in the magnet curriculum.

(v) ***Member school***: a public elementary or secondary school that is part of a member school district and for which the annual participation fee has been paid

(w) ***Non-enrolled (home schooled) student***: means a student who receives instruction from a non-public school as described in section 29.916(a)(1) and 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(x) ***Non-participating school***: a public secondary school that is part of a member school district that is classified as a member or non-member and has not elected to participate in the germane activity.

(y) ***Non-traditional school year***: any school year based on a system other than an approximate nine consecutive month instructional period with an approximate three month vacation during the summer months.

(z) ***Optional attendance area***: a policy created by school board in a multiple high school district that permits students within that ISD to select the high school they wish to attend. **Examples:** school board policy allows students the option to transfer to a school outside their attendance zone to enroll in a magnet program; court mandated majority to minority transfers.

(aa) ***Patron(s)***: person(s) who reside in the germane school district.

(bb) ***Postsecondary institution***: a public or private educational institution that offers education and training beyond the high school, whether it requires graduation from high school for admission to its program.

(cc) *Radio Broadcast:* any live or delayed audio only broadcast of a contest regardless of the means or medium of transmission.

(dd) ***Recruit***: to encourage a student in any way to change schools for the purpose of participating in UIL activities at any grade level. It could include offering a student or the student's parent cash, waiver of tuition, board or lodging, transportation, promise of better conditions at the participant school or on its team, a job or other valuable consideration to induce the student to enroll in a participant school.

(ee) ***Region***: a grouping of districts of member schools that is determined to facilitate reasonable competition among schools certified to represent their districts in UIL contests (designated as area in music competition).

(ff) ***School district***: an independent school district, a city or municipal school district, and common school district.

(gg) ***School week***: 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.

(hh) ***Sponsor***: any person who is principally responsible, or responsible by delegation, for directing or coaching any student in UIL contests.

(ii) ***State Board of Education***: reference to rules of the State Board of Education including rules of the Commissioner of Education.

(jj) ***State Executive Committee***: the State Executive Committee of the UIL.

(kk) ***Summer months or summer vacation***: the approximately three consecutive month period of time during the summer when schools using a traditional school year are closed.

(ll) ***Superintendent***: the superintendent of an independent school district and/or a superintendent's counterpart in a charter school or in those private schools eligible for UIL membership.

(mm) ***Telecast:*** any live or tape-delayed video footage of a contest in its entirety regardless of the means of transmission.

(nn) ***Traditional school year***: an approximate nine consecutive month instructional period with an approximate three month vacation during the summer months.

(oo) ***Transfer student***: a student who changes school without a corresponding change of residence by the student's parents into the new school attendance zone.

(pp) ***UIL contest***: interschool competition in any contest listed in Section 380.

(qq) ***Valuable consideration***: any tangible or intangible property or service that has any value, including anything that is wearable, usable or salable.

(rr) ***Varsity***: a contest entry level as provided for in academic, music and athletic plans at which the team, team member or individual student is designated by the school to represent it in UIL district, region, zone, area, state or non-conference contests.

(ss) ***Vocational high school***: a high school within a multiple high school district where all students participate in the vocational curriculum.

Section 6: COMPUTATION OF TIME TO ACT

(a) COUNTING AFTER AN EVENT. When action is required within a specified period of time after a specific act or occurrence, counting starts the day after the act or occurrence. Do not count Saturday, Sunday, or federal or state holidays.

(b) COUNTING BEFORE AN EVENT. When action is required within a specified period of time before a specific occurrence, counting ends the day before the act or occurrence. Count backwards beginning with the day prior to the event to find the date action should be taken. Do not count Saturday, Sunday, or federal or state holidays.

Subchapter D. MEMBERSHIP IN UIL

Section 10: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

A public school district or open enrollment charter school in Texas that is subject to accreditation by the Texas Education Agency, or a private school subject to accreditation by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission, may become a member of the UIL in accordance with the following:

(a) ALL HIGH SCHOOLS. A high school must fit the definition of "High School" in Section 5 in order to be eligible to participate in UIL competition.

(b) PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS. Unless its right to participate has been suspended or revoked by the UIL, an open enrollment charter school, and a public high school, junior high school or elementary school of a school district that is a member of the UIL and for which the district has paid the annual participation fee, is eligible to participate in UIL competition.

(c) PRIVATE SCHOOLS. Unless its right to participate has been suspended or revoked for violating rules or codes by another league similar to the UIL, a Texas non-public school may apply for UIL membership in the largest conference provided the school meets all the following conditions:

(1) school is accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission;

(2) school does not qualify for membership in any other organization similar to the UIL.

Section 11: ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

A school seeking membership in the UIL shall submit its application to the Executive Director. If the application (a) demonstrates that the school district or open enrollment charter school is eligible for membership, (b) states that the school board and superintendent comply and will comply with applicable state law, Texas Education Agency regulations and the terms of participation in UIL contests as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, (c) is signed by the superintendent, and (d) is accompanied by payment of the annual membership fee, the Executive Director shall enroll the school as a member of the UIL.

Section 12: MEMBERSHIP DUES

(a) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES. A member school shall pay annual membership dues in an amount determined by the Legislative Council.

Section 13: INITIAL AND CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

(a) NEW MEMBERSHIP. After enrollment as a new member but before membership can be effective, a school must provide certification from the school superintendent that the school superintendent, member secondary school principals, and all coaches, sponsors, and directors of UIL activities have completed the new school training required by the UIL Legislative Council. All school personnel required to complete the training must do so no later than August 15 of the first school year in which the school will be participating in UIL activities. Any member school superintendent or secondary school principal who is employed after August 15 must complete the training within 60 days of employment in that position. Any school employee assigned as a UIL coach, director, or sponsor after August 15 must complete the training prior to the first organized activity.

(b) CONTINUATION. A member school or school district may continue its membership by paying the annual membership fee before October 1 for the membership year of August 1 through July 31. If it fails to pay the annual fee before October 1, a school's or school district's membership may be suspended. Eligibility to participate in activities after this time is subject to decision of the State Executive Committee. If a member school or school district fails to pay its fee before January 1, the school's or school district's membership for the current school year may be terminated. If the school's membership is terminated, the school or school district may reapply for membership.

(c) SCHOOL PERSONNEL TRAINING. A member school's right to continue to participate in UIL contests is subject to certification by the school superin-

tendent that the superintendent, member secondary school principals, and all coaches, sponsors, and directors of UIL activities have completed the annual training required by the Legislative Council.

(d) LOSS OF ACCREDITATION. A school district that loses its accreditation by the Texas Education Agency, or a private school that loses accreditation by the Texas Private School Commission, ceases to be a member at the end of the membership year in which the loss occurs.

(e) DELINQUENT FEES. A school that participates in a UIL contest while its membership dues are delinquent may be suspended from participating in UIL contests in the current and following school year, unless the State Executive Committee finds on petition by the school or school district that there was a reasonable explanation for the failure to make timely payment.

Section 14: MANDATORY SUSPENSION

(a) A member school district and/or member school that files a lawsuit, which must be defended by the UIL, shall reimburse the UIL for all legal fees incurred to defend the suit upon a finding by the Court that the lawsuit was frivolous.

(b) The State Executive Committee shall suspend from participation in all UIL activities, for a period of one to three years, a member school district and/or member school which, after receiving written notice, fails to reimburse the UIL within 90 days for all legal expenses incurred in defending a frivolous lawsuit.

Subchapter E. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 20: COMPOSITION OF THE UIL

The UIL is composed of the Texas public schools and private schools that apply and are accepted for enrollment as members of the UIL.

Section 21: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

The superintendent of a member school district, or if there is no superintendent (or designee), the chief administrator of a member district or school (or designee):

(a) shall exercise direction and management of all UIL contests and scrimmages in which schools in the district compete, including appointing a game administrator for all home UIL varsity athletic team contests;

(b) shall enforce all UIL rules concerning eligibility and health and safety with respect to students in schools in the school district;

(c) shall be responsible for fully cooperating with persons who are appointed by the chair of the District Executive Committee, the chair of the State Executive Committee or the UIL Executive Director, to investigate allegations against the school, student representatives or school district personnel;

(d) shall promptly report to the District Executive Committee, or other appropriate UIL committee, any violation of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** by a student, a member school within the school district or other school district, school personnel or a sports official unless the violation has already been reported;

(e) shall provide the District Executive Committee with full disclosure when a student's grade, given by a teacher, is modified by an administrator in such a manner that affects UIL eligibility;

(f) may determine for which schools within the school district the membership fee is paid;

(g) shall submit to the school board all recommendations of employment of coaches, directors and sponsors;

(h) shall complete the Professional Acknowledgment Form for all of the school district's athletic coaches and sponsors of UIL academic, theatre and music activities (grades 9-12) at the beginning of their tenure in that position. These forms shall be kept on file in the superintendent's office;

(i) shall provide an annual orientation for all 9-12 grade UIL directors, sponsors, advisers and coaches regarding UIL rules, expectations regarding appropriate conduct during UIL contests, goals and purposes;

(j) shall approve all athletic schedules; and

(k) shall educate UIL student participants, coaches and other appropriate persons, including any school representative serving on a District or Regional Executive Committee, on UIL rules that could affect them, and monitor the school's compliance with UIL rules.

Section 22: UIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(a) APPOINTMENT. The President of The University of Texas at Austin appoints a person to serve at his or her pleasure as the Executive Director of the UIL. The Executive Director is an employee of The University of Texas at Austin.

(b) SUPERVISION. The Executive Director of the UIL is supervised by the Deputy to the President for Governmental Affairs and Initiatives of The University of Texas at Austin.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES. The Executive Director of the UIL has the responsibility:
(1) to serve as the chief administrative officer of the UIL;
(2) to employ, in accordance with all applicable employment policies of The University of Texas at Austin, all UIL staff and consultants;
(3) to issue annual plans for playoffs;
(4) to reschedule contests (Refer to Section 382);
(5) to seek support for the UIL by obtaining, subject to The University of Texas at Austin policy, beneficial sponsorships and other forms of support;
(6) to negotiate media and other contracts concerning rights and assets owned and/or controlled by UIL that are in accord with The University of Texas at Austin policy and give the best value to the UIL;
(7) to prepare the annual budget for the UIL and submit for approval within the regular process of The University of Texas at Austin;
(8) to appoint hearing officers and make various ad-hoc committee and other UIL appointments as necessary and consistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***; and
(9) to take such other, further, and reasonable actions that are necessary or desirable under and consistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***; and:
(A) the binding actions taken by the Legislative Council or the State Executive Committee or other UIL bodies authorized to take binding actions on behalf of the UIL;
(B) the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***;
(C) the rules of the State Board of Education;
(D) the policies of The University of Texas at Austin; and
(E) the law.

Section 23: UIL BINDING ACTIONS

(a) BINDING ACTIONS. The UIL shall be bound only by those of its actions that are reasonably undertaken by UIL officers, pursuant to the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, or a written resolution or motion passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the UIL body who are present and voting on a matter within its jurisdiction after a quorum of the body has first been established at an official UIL meeting. Actions taken pursuant to this section shall be referred to as binding actions.

Section 24: UIL OFFICERS

(a) OFFICERS. The persons filling the following named offices within the UIL shall be UIL officers who may be empowered on behalf of the UIL to take binding actions as provided for in the previous section:
(1) the chair and members of the Legislative Council, the State Executive Committee, a District Executive Committee, the Waiver Review Board, Sports Officials Committee and a Regional Executive Committee;
(2) the UIL Executive Director, the Deputy Director, UIL Directors, and other UIL employees with express written delegation of authority from the Executive Director;
(3) persons filling expressly commissioned positions of a limited character, including the UIL staff directors of the various UIL contests, UIL Hearing Officers and the UIL Waiver Officer; and
(4) UIL legal counsel (the General Counsel and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Texas System, or a designee, Vice President for Legal Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, or a designee and The Texas Attorney General, or a designee).

Section 25: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(a) COMPOSITION. The Legislative Council is the legislative body of the UIL and is composed of one member elected for a four-year term from each basketball region within each conference and eight members, two from each of the four UIL regions, appointed for four-year terms by the chair of the Legislative Council. The term of a member begins on June 1 following the election or appointment.
(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS. To be eligible for election or appointment to the Legislative Council, a person must be a superintendent or assistant superintendent of a member school district or school, or principal of a member school within a member school district or school.
(c) ELECTION.
(1) ***Nominations***. In odd years the Executive Director shall send or otherwise make available electronically or online nomination forms to the superintendent of each member school district before January 15. The superintendent may make one nomination for each

member high school in the school district by submitting a nomination form to the Executive Director before January 31.

(2) ***Top Two Nominees***. As of February 5, the Executive Director shall determine which two persons received the greatest number of nominations in each basketball region. Absent a tie, the two persons receiving the most nominations in each basketball region shall be placed on the ballot per part (3), below. Any ties between persons receiving the most nominations shall be broken by vote on the ballot.

(3) ***Ballot***. The Executive Director shall send to the superintendent of each member school district for each member high school in the district one ballot. Absent any ties, the two nominees shall be listed on the ballot. On behalf of the school district, the superintendent may cast one vote per ballot for a nominee on behalf of each member high school in the district. The ballot must be received by the UIL office before March 1 to be counted.

(4) ***Ballot Tally.*** On March 5 the chair of the State Executive Committee and the Executive Director, or their designees, shall tally the ballots and determine who is elected in each basketball region conducting an election. In cases of a tie, the Executive Director shall determine the outcome by lot.

(5) ***Results***. The Executive Director shall publish the results of the election and before March 15 inform the person elected. The person elected shall promptly inform the Executive Director concerning his or her willingness to serve.

(6) ***Validation***. To be valid a nomination and ballot must be signed by the superintendent of the member school district. The Executive Director shall take custody of the nomination forms and ballots and retain them for a period of time consistent with The University of Texas at Austin's retention policy but in any event for at least one year and, subject to state law, may not permit examination of them by any person, unless expressly authorized to do so by the State Executive Committee to determine an election contest.

(7) ***Even Year Elections***. In even numbered years this schedule shall be altered to begin the election process as soon as the realignment and reclassification process is final.

(d) VACANCY AND REPLACEMENT.

(1) ***Vacancy***. A member of the Legislative Council vacates the position if that member ceases to be a superintendent or principal, joins a member school district in another basketball region, resigns as a member, or otherwise becomes unable to serve.

(2) ***Replacement***.

(A) ***Elected Members***. If an elected member vacates a position, the Executive Director shall conduct an election to elect a person to serve the unexpired term. This election shall be conducted under conditions substantially equivalent to those for a regular election. If the resignation of an elected member occurs with less than two years remaining in the term, the chair of the Legislative Council may appoint an eligible superintendent, assistant superintendent or principal to serve the unexpired term of the member who vacated the position.

(B) ***Appointed Members***. If an appointed member vacates a position, the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint a replacement to serve the unexpired term of the member who vacated the position.

(C) ***Elected and Appointed Positions***. For both elected and appointed positions, no replacement will be sought when a vacancy occurs within six months of the end of the term.

(e) ANNUAL MEETING. The Legislative Council shall begin its annual meeting on the weekend of the third Sunday in October. Fifteen members constitute a quorum. **Exception:** The date of the Legislative Council meeting may be changed with the approval of the UIL Executive Director and the chair of the Legislative Council.

(f) ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The Legislative Council shall annually elect from its membership a chair, vice chair and second vice chair to serve until the end of the next annual meeting.

(g) SPECIAL MEETINGS. The chair of the Legislative Council may call a special meeting of the Council by giving notice to members of the Council and member school districts at least one month before the meeting. Seven members of the Council may call a special meeting of the Council by giving notice in writing to the Executive Director at least one month before the meeting and by stating the matters to be considered

at the meeting. Upon receiving a proper call for a special meeting from members of the Council, the Executive Director shall notify the members of the Council and member school districts. Subject to the Texas Open Meeting's Act (Tex. Gov't. Code Ch. 551), the chair may call an emergency meeting by giving two days' notice. The notice for an emergency meeting should state the time, date and place of the meeting and the subjects on the agenda.

(h) RESPONSIBILITIES: The Legislative Council, consistent with the policies of The University of Texas at Austin:
  (1) may propose amendments of the ***Constitution*** and may, if permitted under Section 331, amend the ***Constitution***;
  (2) may amend and adopt contest rules;
  (3) shall appoint ad hoc and advisory standing committees and may appoint committees;
  (4) shall fix annual membership dues, participation fees and filing fees; and
  (5) may take such other action that is reasonable, necessary or desirable and consistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, the rules of the State Board of Education and the law.

(i) STANDING COMMITTEES. The Legislative Council shall have standing committees in the following areas: Academic; Athletic; Finance; Policy; Medical Advisory; Music; and Music Technical Advisory. All Standing Committees are advisory only.
  (1) ***Academic, Athletic, and Music Advisory Committees***
    (A) Appointments, Composition, Quorum
      (i) Appointments. The chair of the Legislative Council appoints the members of the Academic, Athletic, and Music Advisory Committees each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The Committee shall be composed of Legislative Council Members.
      (ii) Business Meeting Quorum. A majority of the members of a committee constitutes a quorum for business meetings.
    (B) Responsibilities. The Academic, Athletic and Music Committees shall provide independent and impartial advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council regarding all rules, rule proposals and issues regarding the respective committees' activity area:
      (i) Academic Committee. The Academic Committee shall be responsible for advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council in regards to rules, rule proposals and issues involving academic competition, including:
        (aa) student eligibility for academic contests;
        (bb) academic contest rules;
        (cc) fees, costs and administration of academic contests; and
        (dd) any other rules, proposals or issues that apply to academic competitions.
      (ii) Athletic Committee. The Athletic Committee shall be responsible for advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council in regards to rules, rule proposals and issues involving athletic competition, including:
        (aa) student eligibility for athletic contests;
        (bb) athletic contest rules;
        (cc) fees, costs and administration of athletic contests; and
        (dd) any other rules, proposals or issues that apply to athletic competitions.
      (iii) Music Committee. The Music Committee shall be responsible for advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council in regards to rules, rule proposals and issues involving music competition, including:
        (aa) student eligibility for music contests;
        (bb) music contest rules;
        (cc) fees, costs and administration of music contests; and
        (dd) any other rules, proposals or issues that apply to music competitions.
        (ee) The Music Committee may propose any recommendations that it receives from the Music Technical Advisory Committee to the Legis-

lative Council.

(C) Procedural Rules. Upon recommendation of a committee chair, the Academic, Athletic, and Music Advisory Committees may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules.*

(D) Parliamentarian. The chair of the Academic, Athletic, and Music Advisory Committees may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

(2) ***Music Technical Advisory Committee***

(A) Appointments, Composition, Quorum

(i) Appointments. The State Director of Music shall appoint a committee to consult with the State Director of Music on recommendations and proposed rule changes pertaining to the technical and administrative aspects of music. Representation from each performance area shall be considered when making committee appointments. The committee shall be composed as follows:

(aa) six music teachers or supervisors who shall serve three-year staggered terms;

(bb) the president of the Texas Music Educators Association or a designee; and the

(cc) State Director of Music.

(ii) Business Meeting Quorum. A majority of the members of the Music Technical Advisory Committee constitute a quorum for business meetings.

(B) Responsibilities. The State Director of Music in consultation with the Music Technical Advisory Committee shall propose technical and administrative rules at the request of the Standing Committee on Music.

(C) Procedural Rules. Upon recommendation of the committee chair, the Music Technical Advisory Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules.*

(D) Parliamentarian. The chair of the Music Technical Advisory Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

(3) ***Finance Committee***

(A) Appointments, Composition, Quorum

(i) Appointments. The chair of the Legislative Council appoints the members of the Finance Committee each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The Committee shall be composed of active Legislative Council members.

(ii) Business Meeting Quorum. A majority of the members of the Finance Committee constitute a quorum for business meetings.

(B) Responsibilities. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council in regards to rules, rule proposals and issues regarding UIL finances, including:

(i) budget and funding rules and issues;

(ii) fees, dues and other charges to member schools;

(iii) other sources of income; and

(iv) any other rules, proposals or issues regarding UIL finances that will materially impact the UIL and its member schools.

(C) Procedural Rules. Upon recommendation of the committee chair, the Finance Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(D) Parliamentarian. The chair of the Finance Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meeting and public hearings.

(4) ***Policy Committee***

(A) Appointments, Composition, Quorum

(i) Appointments. The chair of the Legislative Council appoints the members of the Policy Committee each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The Committee shall be composed of active Legislative Council members.

(ii) Business Meeting Quorum. A majority of the members of the Policy Committee constitute a

quorum for business meetings.

(B) Responsibilities. The Policy Committee shall be responsible for advice and recommendations to the Legislative Council in regards to all non-financial rules, rule proposals and issues regarding policy, including:

(i) rules and issues that apply to all UIL events and contest areas;

(ii) general membership and admission to the UIL;

(iii) conference and district alignment;

(iv) rules promulgation and executive authority; and

(v) any other rule or issue regarding governance and overall policy of the UIL.

(C) Procedural Rules. Upon recommendation of the committee chair, the Policy Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(D) Parliamentarian. The chair of the Policy Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meeting and public hearings.

(5) ***Medical Advisory Committee***

(A) Appointments, Composition, Quorum

(i) Appointments. The chair of the Legislative Council appoints the members of the Medical Advisory Committee each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The Committee shall be composed as follows:

(aa) eight Texas licensed physicians, at least one of who shall be a board-certified neurologist or neurosurgeon and one a board-certified cardiologist;

(bb) three athletic trainers with preference for two trainers employed in the field of secondary high school sports and, of those two preferably one trainer who predominantly works with female athletes and one who works predominantly with male athletes, and a third trainer employed by a Texas college or university sports program; and

(cc) three non-voting members including one representative each from the Texas State Athletic Trainers Association, the Texas Girls Coaches Association and the Texas High School Coaches Association.

(dd) The committee shall elect a chair annually at the first meeting after June 30.

(ii) Business Meeting Quorum. Six members of the Medical Advisory Committee constitute a quorum for business meetings.

(B) Responsibilities. The Medical Advisory Committee shall provide independent and impartial advice and recommendations to the UIL regarding all rules or rule change proposals related to student safety or medical science, including but not limited to:

(i) pre-participation physical examinations for students;

(ii) practice and participation limitations for students;

(iii) education and training programs for students and school employees; and

(iv) protective equipment and other safety measures.

(C) Procedural Rules. Upon recommendation of the committee chair, the Medical Advisory Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.*

(D) Parliamentarian. The chair of the Medical Advisory Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

(j) AD HOC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES. Unless otherwise provided in the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*, the chair of the Legislative Council, in consultation with the Executive Director, may create ad hoc and advisory committees; appointing members and committee

chairs.

(k) COMMITTEE TERMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(1) ***Appointment Terms***. Unless otherwise provided in the *UIL **Constitution and Contest Rules***, the members shall serve on standing, advisory or ad hoc committees until the chair withdraws the appointment or until either the purpose or duration of the committee has been achieved or has expired, whichever comes first.

(2) ***Conduct of Committee Business***. The chair of a standing, advisory or ad hoc committee shall direct the work of the committee pursuant to the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and the special procedural rules of the Legislative Council.

(3) ***Responsibilities***. The responsibilities of the standing, advisory or ad hoc committees shall generally be as follows:

(A) to study information and issues relevant to the body within the subject matter area of the committee;

(B) to inform the body of its findings;

(C) to prepare and present written motions or written resolutions concerning the issues to the body; and

(D) to handle those issues assigned by the body from time to time.

(l) PROCEDURAL RULES. The Legislative Council may adopt procedural rules consistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, upon the recommendation of its chair to facilitate its public hearings and the legislative process.

(m) PARLIAMENTARIAN. The chair of the Legislative Council may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

Section 26: STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(a) APPOINTMENT; COMPOSITION; QUORUM.

(1) ***Appointments***. The Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency appoints the members of the State Executive Committee each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The committee shall be composed of eight current or former Texas public school administrators, with at least one from each UIL conference, and four at-large members. The committee shall elect a chair annually at the first meeting after June 30.

(2) ***Business Meeting Quorum***. Four members of the State Executive Committee constitute a quorum for business meetings.

(3) ***Quorum for Panels***. In cases involving sponsor violations, appeals, applications for Official Interpretations, cases involving misconduct at contests, or any other case the chair of the State Executive Committee deems appropriate, the State Executive Committee may sit in panels of three voting members and two of the three members constitute a quorum.

(4) ***Hearing Officer***. In any case including, but not limited to original determination of eligibility past the district level or the appeal of the automatic penalty for ejection, the chair of the State Executive Committee may transfer the case to a UIL Hearing Officer.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES. The State Executive Committee shall provide independent and impartial direction of the UIL by:

(1) interpreting the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***;

(2) enforcing the rules and regulations contained in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***;

(3) conducting any necessary recount of a referendum vote;

(4) determining disputes within its original jurisdiction; and

(5) hearing appeals within its appellate jurisdiction.

(c) JURISDICTION. The State Executive Committee shall decide:

(1) a protest or report of violation arising between schools belonging to different conferences or districts;

(2) a protest or report of violation involving individual contestants in a competition beyond the district level;

(3) a case involving mistreatment of an official;

(4) an appeal from a decision of a District Executive Committee that a school is disqualified;

(5) an appeal from a decision of a District Executive Committee involving alleged discrimination;

(6) an appeal from a decision of a District Executive Committee concerning a student's eligibility;

(7) an appeal from a decision of a District Executive Committee ordering a reprimand in the case of school district personnel violations;

(8) a case involving allegations of school district personnel violations that could result in an order of public reprimand or suspension;

(9) a request for permission to participate as outlined in section 33.081 e-2 through e-4 of the Texas Education Code.

(10) a case referred by a District Executive Com-

mittee due to a conflict of interest or as otherwise provided in these rules; and

(11) Concerns related to the number of previous athletic participation forms completed for new students enrolling in member schools; and

(12) upon proper request, considering and issuing opinions interpreting UIL rules.

This subchapter shall not be interpreted to limit the power of the State Executive Committee in making investigations and initiating proceedings against any member school when sufficient justification exists.

(d) AD HOC COMMITTEES. The chair of the State Executive Committee may appoint ad hoc committees and their chairs.

(1) ***Appointment Terms***. The members shall serve on ad hoc committees until the chair withdraws the appointment or until either the purpose or duration of the committee has been achieved or has expired, whichever comes first.

(2) ***Conduct of Committee Business***. The chair of an ad hoc committee shall direct the work of the committee pursuant to the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and the procedural rules of the State Executive Committee.

(3) ***Responsibilities***. The responsibilities of the standing or ad hoc committees shall generally be as follows:

(A) to study information and issues relevant to the body within the subject matter area of the committee;

(B) to inform the body of its findings;

(C) to prepare and present written motions or written resolutions concerning the issues to the body; and

(D) to handle those issues assigned by the body from time to time.

(e) PROCEDURAL RULES. The State Executive Committee may adopt rules of procedure, not inconsistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, upon the recommendation of the chair to facilitate the:

(1) executive and administrative processes during business meetings; and

(2) judicial processes during evidentiary hearings and open meetings.

(f) PARLIAMENTARIAN. The chair of the State Executive Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

(g) PRECEDENT MANUAL.

(1) The State Executive Committee shall adopt rules concerning the creation and maintenance of a precedent manual which shall contain decisions of the State Executive Committee that have sufficient precedential value to warrant publication. Opinions in the precedent manual will be composed of a synopsis of the facts of the case along with the panel's decision and a brief explanation of the basis for the decision. UIL staff may assist in the drafting and preparation of the opinions directed by the committee.

(2) Before being published in the precedent manual, a draft of the written opinion must be reviewed and approved by a majority of the members of the hearing panel that heard the case. The precedent manual shall serve to provide guidance to State Executive Committee hearing panels when considering similar cases.

(3) The State Executive Committee's precedent manual shall be published on the University Interscholastic League's website.

Section 27: PENALTIES THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN IMPOSE

Subject to the provisions of all subsections below, the following constitute the penalties that may be imposed by the State Executive Committee following a determination of a violation of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. School district personnel covered by this section include athletic trainers employed by the district and all UIL contest sponsors. (Refer to Sections 50, 51 and 52 for classification of violations).

(a) FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. The penalties that may be imposed by the State Executive Committee on a student representative of a member school for violation of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: public reprimand and individual suspension.

(1) ***Public Reprimand***. A public reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

(2) ***Individual Suspension***. If the State Executive Committee finds that a student has failed to comply with the rules it may suspend the student from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension may include a

probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension. In regard to a student who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a person serving as referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular activity, see section 33.081 e-1 of the Texas Education Code.

(b) STUDENT PENALTY GUIDELINES. Student violations of UIL rules generally fall into two categories, Category A and Category B. (Refer to Section 50). These guidelines are intended to provide a hearing panel of the State Executive Committee with general guidance only and are not intended as a substitute for a careful review of each case and, based upon the facts of each case, the exercise of appropriate discretion by the hearing panel when determining a penalty to impose on student. In addition to any particular sanction or penalty stated in a specific rule, students found to have violated UIL rules are subject to the imposition of penalties consistent with the following guidelines.

(1) ***Category A Violations***. Category A Violation for students are:

(A) violation of eligibility rules;

(B) falsifying records or reports or withholding information;

(C) failing to comply with rules prohibiting interactions with officials, judges or referees (verbal or physical abuse), or fighting with opponents;

(D) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extra curricular activities; or

(E) failing to comply with amateur rules.

(2) ***Minimum Penalty***. In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category A violation is a public reprimand. A public reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found.

(3) ***Enhanced Penalty Factors***.

(A) Repeat Offense - In cases where a Category A violation is found and the student has previously been found in violation of the same rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat violators of a Category A violation may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled. An enhanced penalty for such violators may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation - In cases where a Category A violation is found and the student has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL Rules or has committed a Category A violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that the prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions imposed and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category A violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage to the student violator or the violation cased physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years and may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. In regard to a student who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a person serving as referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular activity, see section 33.081 e-1 of the Texas Education Code.

(D) Other Factors - In cases where a Category A violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Execu-

tive Committee Hearing Panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period for up to three (3) years and may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years.

(4) ***Category B Violations***. Category B violation for students are:
   (A) failing to comply with rules and guidelines contained in contest plans and written instructions in manuals and handbooks provided for contests;
   (B) self-recruiting or recruiting others; or
   (C) failing to report known violations in a timely manner.

(5) ***Minimum Penalty***. In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category B violation is a public reprimand. A public reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found.

(6) ***Enhanced Penalty Factors***.
   (A) Repeat Offense - In cases where a Category B violation is found and the student has previously been found in violation of the same rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat violators of a Category B violation may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled.
   (B) Prior Conditions/Probation - In cases where a Category B violation is found and the student has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a Category B violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that the prior conditions be satisfied as well as any reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up the three (3) years.
   (C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category B violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage to the student in question or the violation cased physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up the three (3) years.
   (D) Other Factors - In cases where a Category B violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee Hearing Panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years.

(c) FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS. The penalties that may be imposed by the State Executive Committee on a member school for violations of the ***Constitution*** or violations by member school student representatives, patrons, personnel or fans of ethics or sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: reprimand; public reprimand; forfeiture of contest; disqualification from germane activity; and suspension.

(1) ***Reprimand***. A reprimand may be oral or in writing and shall not be published in the ***Leaguer***. A penalty stronger than reprimand to the school should be strongly considered in cases involving patron or fan misconduct.

(2) ***Public Reprimand***. A public reprimand shall be in writing, published in the ***Leaguer***, and state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

(3) ***Forfeiture of Contest***. The State Executive Committee may order contests to be forfeited prior to or after the competition for violations of rules by covered school district personnel and/or participants if an unfair advantage was gained. The State Executive Committee shall forfeit the contests(s) won by the individual or school, as a minimum penalty, if it finds that

an individual contestant was not eligible to participate in the contest. **Exception**: When a student who has participated in contests that count on UIL standing is found to be ineligible, and the school has properly verified eligibility based on the facts available, has exercised sufficient diligence in determining actual conditions and facts, and the District Executive Committee has previously ruled the student eligible, the State Executive Committee may find the student in question ineligible from the date of the hearing, and thus not require the member school to forfeit contests.

(4) ***Disqualification***.

(A) Disqualification from District Honors. Disqualification from district honors shall deny the awarding of district championship honors and deny participation in UIL contests beyond the district level for a period of up to three (3) years. Disqualification from district honors may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in an extension of the disqualification or a more stringent penalty.

(B) Mandatory Disqualification. The State Executive Committee shall disqualify a member school or member from all germane activities if the member school or school district has failed materially and knowingly to comply with the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, or if the member school or school district has knowingly and intentionally permitted an ineligible individual to represent it in a UIL contest, or if the member school or school district has competed against or participated in a tournament with a non-school team composed of one or more UIL member high school students with remaining eligibility in that sport, in violation of Section 1208. In addition, a more stringent penalty may be assessed.

(C) Disqualified Team Does Not Have to Be Replaced. The State Executive Committee has the option not to replace a team that is disqualified from the playoffs at or near the certification date for district representatives.

(5) ***Suspension.***

(A) Terms of Suspension. Suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(B) Effect of Decision. A suspended school may not play or scrimmage a UIL member school at the varsity or sub-varsity level in grades nine through twelve in the activity from which it was suspended. A contract for a germane competition by the suspended school with a member school district or one of its member schools shall be null and void.

(C) Mandatory Suspension for Failure to Reimburse Legal Fees. The State Executive Committee shall suspend from participation in all UIL activities a member school district and/or member school which, after receiving written notice, fails to reimburse the UIL within ninety days for all legal expenses incurred in defending a frivolous lawsuit.

(d) UIL MEMBER SCHOOL PENALTY GUIDELINES. Violations of UIL rules by UIL member schools, school student representatives, patrons, personnel or fans generally fall into two (2) categories, Category A and Category B. (Refer to Section 52). As set out in this section, the penalties that may be imposed on UIL member schools for such violations are reprimand, public reprimand, forfeiture of contest, disqualification from germane activity and suspension.

In determining penalties to be imposed on member schools, the State Executive Committee hearing panel shall give due consideration to the guidelines below. These guidelines are intended to provide a hearing panel of the State Executive Committee with general guidance only and are not intended as substitute for a careful review of each case and, based upon the facts of each case, the exercise of appropriate discretion by the hearing panel when determining a penalty to impose on a member school.

In addition to any particular sanction or penalty stated in a specific rule, UIL member schools, school student representatives, patrons, personnel or fans found to have violated UIL rules subject

the member school in question to the imposition of penalties consistent with the following guidelines:

(1) *Category A Violations.* Category A violations for member schools are violations of state law and rules of the State Board of Education in regards to:

(A) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding previous and current academic requirements;

(B) failing to comply with applicable rules of the state board of education regarding previous and current academic requirements;

(C) failing to comply with applicable rules of the state board of education regarding loss of school time requirements; or

(D) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extracurricular activities.

(2) ***Minimum Penalty.***

(A) In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Class A violation is a public reprimand. A public reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

(B) The State Executive Committee shall require forfeit of a contest(s) won by an individual or school, as a minimum penalty, if it finds that an individual contestant was not eligible to participate in the contest. However, when a student who has participated in contests that count on UIL standing is found to be ineligible, and the school has properly verified eligibility based on the facts available, has exercised sufficient diligence in determining actual conditions and facts, and the District Executive Committee has previously ruled the student eligible, the State Executive Committee may find the student in question ineligible from the date of the hearing, and thus not require the member school to forfeit contests.

(3) ***Enhanced Penalty Factors.***

(A) Repeat Offense – In cases where a Category A violation is found and the school in question has previously been found in violation of a Category A rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat Category A violators may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled. An enhanced penalty for such violators may also include a period of suspension or disqualification from district honors. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension and disqualification from district honors may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension or a more stringent penalty.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation – In cases where a Category A violation is found and the school in question has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a Category A violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions imposed and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years or disqualification from district honors. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension or disqualification from district honors may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable condi-

tions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category A violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage to the violator or the violation caused physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include forfeiture of a contest, disqualification, reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years and may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension or disqualification from district honors may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(D) Other Factors – In cases where a Category A violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee hearing panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include forfeiture of a contest, disqualification, reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period for up to three (3) years and may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(E) Mandatory Disqualification – The State Executive Committee shall disqualify a member school or member from all germane activities if the member school or school district has failed materially and knowingly to comply with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, or if the member school has knowingly and intentionally permitted an ineligible individual to represent it in a UIL contest, or if the member school or school district had competed against or participated in a tournament with a non-school team composed of one or more UIL member school students with remaining eligibility in that sport, a violation of Section 1208. In addition, a more stringent penalty may be assessed. The State Executive Committee has the option not to replace a team that is disqualified from the playoffs at or near the certification date for district representatives.

(4) ***Category B Violations***. Category B violations for participant or member schools are:

(A) Failing to comply with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, when not in conflict with State Board of Education rules or regulations.

(5) ***Minimum Penalty***. In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category B violation is a reprimand. A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found but shall not be published in the *Leaguer*. At the discretion of the hearing panel, the reprimand may be made public.

(6) ***Enhanced Penalty Factors.***

(A) Repeat Offense – In cases where a Category B violation is found and the school in question has previously been found in violation of a Category B rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat violators of a Category B violation may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation – In cases where a Category B violation is found and the school in question has failed to

comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a Category B violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that the prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category B violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage to the school in question or the violation caused physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(D) Other Factors – In cases where a Category B violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee hearing panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period for up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall deny participation in specified UIL activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension may include a probationary period of one (1) day to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.

(e) FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL. The penalties that may be imposed by the State Executive Committee on school district personnel found to have caused violations of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: reprimand, public reprimand or suspension from participation in UIL activities.

(1) ***Covered Personnel***. School district personnel covered by this section include athletic trainers employed by the district and all UIL contest sponsors.

(2) ***Reprimand***. Following a protest or report of violation the State Executive Committee may issue a reprimand to a covered school district employee if it finds the employee violated the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

(3) ***Public Reprimand***. The State Executive Committee may issue an order of public reprimand to a covered school district employee it finds to have caused violations of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of one to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a subsequent order of suspension.

(4) ***Suspension***. The State Executive Committee may issue an order of suspension to a covered school district employee suspending the employee from participating in any germane contest plan for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. Suspension shall include refraining from coaching at least one (1) contest. It may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(5) ***Penalty Criteria***. In determining penalties to be imposed under this section, the State Executive Committee shall give due consideration to the intentions of the employee at the time of the violation as well as at the time of the hearing; the severity of the violations; the benefits gained and the detriments incurred, both to the contestants involved and to the

UIL as a whole; the penalties imposed under similar circumstances; and the relative seriousness with which the UIL members consider the violations.

(6) ***Decision***. The State Executive Committee's decision to impose a penalty shall be purposeful, reasonable, based upon facts made evident at the hearing, and made after due deliberation; and, therefore, shall not be valid if beyond its jurisdiction, if arbitrary, if not based upon the evidence, or if capricious.

(7) ***Previous Suspension***. The State Executive Committee shall forfeit any contest won by an individual or school if it finds a school district employee previously suspended participated on behalf of the individual or school in the contest plan while prohibited from doing so under order of the State Executive Committee, or by Section 1208.

(8) ***Classification of Violations***. Violations in Category A and B and any deliberate violation of rules otherwise classified are more serious than those in the other categories.

(f) SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL PENALTY GUIDELINES. School district personnel violations of UIL rules generally fall into three categories, Category A, Category B and Category C. (Refer to Section 51). As set out in this section, the penalties that may be imposed on school district personnel are reprimand, public reprimand or suspension from UIL activities.

In determining penalties to be imposed on school district personnel, the State Executive Committee hearing panel shall give due consideration to the guidelines below and the penalty criteria set out for school district personnel in this section. These guidelines are intended to provide a hearing panel of the State Executive Committee with general guidance only and are not intended as a substitute for a careful review of each case and, based upon the facts of each case, the exercise of appropriate discretion by the hearing panel when determining a penalty to impose on school district personnel.

In addition to any particular sanction or penalty stated in a specific rule, school district personnel found to have violated UIL rules are subject to the imposition of penalties consistent with the following guidelines:

(1) *Category A Violations*. Category A violations for school district personnel are:

(A) violating eligibility rules;

(B) improper interaction with officials, judges, referees;

(C) ejection from contest or receipt of two 15-yard penalties in football during one contest;

(D) removing a team from a contest, as in protest;

(E) falsifying records or reports;

(F) failing to report known violations in a timely manner or withholding information;

(G) pressuring teachers to modify the grade or grades of UIL participants in such a manner as to affect eligibility;

(H) recruiting;

(I) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extracurricular activities; or

(J) failing to comply with the amateur rule, the awards rules, the gifts/awards to coaches rule, the rebate rule, or the coaches employment and source of pay rule.

(2) *Minimum Penalty*. In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category A violation is a public reprimand. A public reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found.

(3) *Enhanced Penalty Factors*.

(A) Repeat Offense – In cases where a Category A violation is found and the school district employee in question has previously been found in violation of a Category A rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat Category A violators may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled. An enhanced penalty for such violators may also include a period of suspension. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation – In cases where a Category A violation is found

and school employee in question has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a Category A violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions imposed and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category A violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage or the violation caused physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category A violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1)contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(D) Other Factors – In cases where a Category A violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee hearing panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period for up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(4) *Category B Violations*.

(A) Category B violations for school district personnel are:

(i) failing to comply with the Athletic Code, Athletic Code for Coaches, Music Code, Academic Code or One-Act Play Code;

(ii) breaking contracts;

(iii) coercing contestants; or

(iv) scouting (debate).

(5) *Minimum Penalty.* In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category B violation is a reprimand. A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found but shall not be published in the *Leaguer.* At the discretion of the hearing panel, the reprimand may be made public.

(6) *Enhanced Penalty Factors.*

(A) Repeat Offense – In cases where a Category B violation is found and the school district employee has previously been found in violation of a Category B rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat violators of a Category B violation may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation – In cases where a Category B violation is found and the school district employee has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a Category B violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that the prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category B violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage or the violation caused physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category B violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(D) Other Factors - In cases where a Category B violation is found and two or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee hearing panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period for up to three (3) years. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(7) *Category C Violations.*

(A) Category C violations for school district personnel are:

(i) failing to comply with rules and regulations in individual plans and/or UIL manuals; or

(ii) violation of reporting requirements concerning:

(aa) eligibility forms;

(bb) professional acknowledgment;

(cc) previous participation;

(dd) parent/ acknowledgment;

(ee) medical/physical examinations; or

(ff) weekly or season contest reports.

(8) *Minimum Penalty* In addition to any specifically required sanction or penalty for violation of a particular rule as set out in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** and absent any grounds for enhancement, the minimum penalty for a Category C violation is a reprimand. A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found but shall not be published in the *Leaguer*.

(9) *Enhanced Penalty Factors*

(A) Repeat Offense – In cases where a Category C violation is found and the school employee has previously been found in violation of Category C rule, the penalty may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for repeat violators of a Category C violation may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and may also include the imposition of reasonable conditions which must be fulfilled.

(B) Prior Conditions/Probation – In cases where a Category C violation is found and the school district employee has failed to comply with previously imposed conditions due to a prior violation of UIL rules or has committed a

Category C violation during a previously imposed probationary period, the penalty for a Category C violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include a requirement that the prior conditions be satisfied as well as any new reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probationary period of up to three (3) years.

(C) Intent/Harm - In cases where a Category C violation is found to be deliberate and to have provided a competitive advantage or the violation caused physical harm to a person or property, the penalty for a Category C violation may be enhanced. An enhanced penalty for such violators may include reasonable conditions and/or the imposition of a probation period of up to three (3) years.

In cases where there is physical harm to a person or property, the penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(D) Other Factors – In cases where a Category C violation is found and two (2) or more enhancement factors are present or there are other circumstances found that in the opinion of the State Executive Committee hearing panel warrant increased sanctions, the penalty may be enhanced. The penalty may also include a period of suspension from competition, including practices, in all germane activities for a period of one (1) day to three (3) years. If imposed, suspension shall include a prohibition against coaching for at least one (1) contest and may include suspension from other activities, such as attending the germane contest, scouting, practicing with the athlete(s), or any other reasonable condition the State Executive Committee chooses to impose.

(g) FOR UIL CONTEST DISTRICTS.

(1) If the State Executive Committee decides that a District Executive Committee or a music region executive committee interpreted and applied the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules*** knowing that the interpretation or application was material and erroneous, the State Executive Committee may disqualify the district or the music region in the germane activity.

(2) If the State Executive Committee decides that a District Executive Committee or a Music Region Executive Committee has interpreted and applied the constitution and/or contest rules in a manner that demonstrates a lack of full understanding of the rules, and/or the spirit of the rules, the State Executive Committee may appoint a chair to oversee committee meetings and determine when to refer matters to the State Executive Committee and/or appoint committee members to conduct committee business.

(3) The State Executive Committee has the option not to replace a competitive group that is disqualified from the playoff structure at or near the certification date for district representatives.

Section 28: DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) JURISDICTION. The District Executive Committee, or its equivalent committee, shall rule on protests and reports of violations concerning eligibility and other violations of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules*** that occur within its district. A person who represents a school involved in a protest or a report may not participate in the committee's decision. The District Executive Committee's decision is final and there is no appeal in cases occurring within its district when schools are publicly reprimanded.

(b) COMPOSITION. The District Executive Committee is composed of the superintendents of member schools competing in the assigned UIL playing district. The superintendent may designate administrators to represent member schools in a multi-high school district. The superintendent may designate an administrator to represent more than one member school and vote in turn for each school on matters brought before the committee. The superintendent may appoint an alternate to serve in the event the superintendent or the designated

representative cannot attend a meeting.

(c) DISTRICT ORGANIZATION.

(1) ***Organizational Meeting***. The district executive chair shall call a UIL business meeting to organize the district. Subsequent regular and special business meetings shall be called by the chair, or by the chair upon the request of a member of the committee.

(2) ***New District***. In each new district a temporary chair shall be appointed by the UIL Executive Director. This temporary chair shall serve until the District Executive Committee elects a chair.

(3) ***Temporary Chair***. Until a chair for the current school year's contest plan has been elected, the chair of the previous District Executive Committee or the person appointed by the UIL Executive Director shall serve as temporary chair and be authorized to call meetings of the member schools.

(4) ***Vice Chair***. The District Executive Committee shall elect a vice chair to serve when the chair is not in attendance or in the event the district chair represents a member school involved in a matter which would prevent the chair from casting a vote.

(5) ***Vacancies***. In the event a chair or vice chair has been elected by the committee and becomes for any reason unable to serve, the District Executive Committee shall elect another chair or vice chair. The vice chair shall serve in the capacity of acting chair until the committee elects a new chair.

(d) MEETINGS. In accordance with the provisions of the ***Constitution***, a District Executive Committee may hold meetings.

(e) CONDUCT OF BUSINESS. The chair of the District Executive Committee shall direct the work of the committee pursuant to the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

District Executive Committees shall comply with the following:

(1) ***Accounts***. District Executive Committees shall have a UIL member school that is part of the district act as a fiscal agent for the committee. The school acting as the fiscal agent shall hold funds for the committee's use and benefit and provide monthly and annual statements to the committee showing all financial activity.

(2) ***Administrative Assistance***. Should a District Executive Committee decide to have someone other than a member school district employee provide adminstrative assistance to the committee, the committee may contract for services with a qualified individual to serve in an administrative position using a UIL-approved form that sets forth the terms and conditions of the relationship between the individual, the District Executive Committee and the UIL. In no event shall any person who contracts to perform services with a District Executive Committee be an employee or treated as an employee of the District Executive Committee, the UIL or the University.

(3) ***Approval Authority***. Only a designated UIL member school employee who is employed at the school acting as a fiscal agent may have approval authority on a District Executive Committee account.

(4) ***Training***. All members of a District Executive Committee must take the online training provided by the UIL, including the Attorney General's open meeting training. Information on required courses will be posted on the UIL website.

(5) ***Management Of Funds.*** By June 30th of each even numbered year, an account holding District Executive Committee funds, shall, after all of the district's debts are paid, be equitably divided and distributed amongst the schools that have paid funds to the District Executive Committee during the preceding two-year period resulting in a zero-fund balance in the District Executive Committee account(s). After each biennial UIL reclassification and realignment process is complete and the makeup of a district has been determined, funds to finance a district's activities may be assessed to schools that make up a district in the regular course of the District Executive Committee's business meetings.

(6) ***Audit***. An audit of a District Executive Committee financial account and related documentation shall be conducted, at a minimum, every two (2) years by the UIL member school acting as the committee's fiscal agent. This audit may be conducted as part of the fiscal agent school's overall audit. The results of the audit shall be provided to the UIL as part of the financial reporting set forth in part (n), below.

(7) ***Record Keeping.*** Each District Executive Committee shall make accurate minutes of all meetings and retain all non-financial records for no less than three (3) years and all financial records for no less than five (5) years. Circumstances, such as legal action, may require records of the District Executive Committee

be retained longer than the minimum periods set forth above.

(8) ***Ethics***. All school representatives serving on a District Executive Committee and persons who otherwise perform work on the committee's behalf shall be subject to the Code of Ethics for UIL committees found in Section 33.

(f) HEARINGS. The process for District Executive Committee hearings shall be published in the District Executive Committee Handbook.

(g) VOTES. Each member school in the assigned district shall have one vote. All votes shall be taken in open session.

(h) VOTING ON BUSINESS ITEMS. In order to take binding actions on items of business, the committee must vote in accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of the ***Constitution***.

(i) VOTING ON QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

(1) ***Inquiry Concerning Involvement***. Prior to calling for a vote, the chair of the committee shall ask each member if he or she or the member school represented is involved in the question.

(2) ***Determination of Involvement***. Involvement in a question shall be determined on a factual, case-by-case, basis.

(3) ***Involved Not Entitled to Vote***. A member of the committee shall not be entitled to vote in a case in which he or she or the member school represented is involved. This includes the representative from the school:

(A) that is presenting a formal protest or presenting evidence and argument as an informal protest;

(B) that is making a report of violation;

(C) that is being charged with a violation;

(D) the student in question is leaving; or

(E) to which the student in question is changing.

(4) ***Schools Involved in the Case***. Schools that are involved in a case and not entitled to vote on the matter should only participate by providing witnesses and acting as a source of information during any hearing or deliberation on the case in question.

(5) ***Transferal of Case***. If the chair determines that fewer than three (3) members of the committee remain entitled to vote in the case, the chair may immediately transfer the record of the case to the State Executive Committee for disposition.

(j) RESPONSIBILITIES. In addition to those responsibilities found elsewhere in the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** for a District Executive Committee, it shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) ***Enforcement***. The District Executive Committee shall enforce all rules contained in the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. This includes assessing a penalty for every rule violation.

(2) ***Investigations***. The District Executive Committee shall investigate all allegations of violations of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** regarding a district's schools, school employees or students, including the eligibility of contestants.

(3) ***Assist Other Member Schools***. The District Executive Committee shall furnish, upon the request of member schools in the district, a list of eligible players submitted by each member school.

(4) ***Disputes; Eligibility Questions***. The District Executive Committee shall try to settle within the district all disputes and shall decide all questions of eligibility according to the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

(5) ***Determination of Tie Breaker Process***. The District Executive Committee shall determine in writing prior to a contest's season the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win-loss percentages.

(6) ***Other Required or Desirable Actions***. The District Executive Committee shall take such other action that is reasonable, necessary or desirable, and consistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, the rules of the State Board of Education and the law.

(7) A District Executive Committee does not have the authority to require a school to purchase equipment which is not required by rules stated in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

(k) PERMISSIBLE ZONES. The District Executive Committee, by majority vote, may subdivide for contest purposes into geographic zones. The zones of a district shall contain an equal number of teams, or as nearly equal as possible. For example: a 16-team district shall be divided 8-8; a 14-team district shall be divided 8-6 unless by majority vote the district wants a 7-7 division. The District Executive Committee may not subdivide into zones for contest purposes according to the size of the schools, previous success or win-loss records. Note: This rule does not apply to One-Act Play.

(l) SETTING ASIDE RULES PROHIBITED. The District Executive Committee does not have the

authority to vote a student eligible when that student does not meet the requirements of Subchapter M of the ***Constitution***.

(m) CONSEQUENCES OF UNAUTHORIZED COMMITTEE ACTION. The State Executive Committee shall have the authority to reject for post-district competition any member school or its representative contestant whose District Executive Committee is found to have failed to comply with any rule of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, or order of the Waiver Review Board or State Executive Committee.

(n) FINANCIAL REPORT. Each District Executive Committee or administrative equivalent (Region in Music) shall by June 30th of each year submit a financial report to the UIL office on a form approved by the Executive Director and the chair of the Legislative Council. The report shall contain information showing receipts and disbursements for each district contest or event that was held over the course of the school year along with any of the district's account balances and other pertinent financial information. The UIL staff shall review all submitted reports, conducting any analysis the Executive Director deems appropriate and report any relevant information or findings to the Legislative Council at its annual fall meeting.

Section 29: PENALTIES THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN IMPOSE

Subject to the provisions of all subsections below, the following constitute the penalties that may be imposed by the District Executive Committee following a determination of a violation of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. School district personnel covered by this section include athletic trainers employed by the district and all UIL contest sponsors. (Refer to Sections 50, 51 and 52 for Classification of Violations).

(a) FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. The penalties that may be imposed by a District Executive Committee on a student representative of a member school for violations of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices as provided for in Section 50 are: reprimand and individual suspension.

(1) ***Reprimand***. A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found, with one copy going to the school and one copy being attached to the minutes of the meeting. A reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

(2) ***Individual Suspension***. If a District Executive Committee finds that a student has failed to comply with the rules it may suspend the participant student from competition, including practice, in all germane activities for up to three (3) years. Suspension may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension. For students found to have changed schools for athletic purposes, [Refer to Section 443 (f) (3)]. In regard to a student who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a person serving as referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular activity, see section 33.081 e-1 of the Texas Education Code.

(b) FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS. The penalties that may be imposed by a District Executive Committee on a member school for UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* violations by member school student representatives, fans, patrons or personnel, of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: reprimand; public reprimand; forfeiture of contest; disqualification from germane activity; and suspension recommended.

(1) ***Reprimand***. A reprimand may be oral or in writing and shall not be published in the ***Leaguer***. A penalty stronger than reprimand to the school should be strongly considered in cases involving patron or fan misconduct.

(2) ***Public Reprimand***. A public reprimand shall be in writing, published in the ***Leaguer***, and state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

(3) ***Forfeiture of Contest.***

(A) Minimum Penalty for Ineligible Contestant. A District Executive Committee shall forfeit the contest won by the individual or school, as a minimum penalty, if it finds that an individual contestant was not eligible to participate in the contest.

(B) Mandatory Forfeiture for Participation of an Ineligible Student Under Court Order. If a student who is finally determined to be ineligible participates in a UIL contest under a temporary or other court order, the District Executive Committee shall forfeit the contest.

(C) Violations by Personnel or Participants. The District Executive Committee may order contests to be forfeited prior to or after the competition for violations of rules by covered school district personnel and/or participants if an unfair advantage was gained.

(4) ***Disqualification.***

(A) Disqualification from District Honors. Disqualification from district honors shall deny the awarding of district championship honors and deny participation in UIL contests beyond the district level for a period of up to three (3) years. This penalty may include a probationary period of up to three (3) years and any reasonable conditions, which if not fulfilled, may result in an extension of the disqualification or recommendation of suspension to the State Executive Committee. The penalty of disqualification may be appealed to the State Executive Committee.

(B) Mandatory Disqualification. The District Executive Committee shall disqualify a member school from all germane activities if the member school or school district has failed materially and knowingly to comply with the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules***, or if the member school or school district has knowingly and intentionally permitted an ineligible individual to represent it in a UIL contest, or if the member school or school district has competed against or participated in a tournament with a non-school team composed of one or more UIL member high school students with remaining eligibility in that sport, in violation of Section 1208. The penalty of disqualification may be appealed to the State Executive Committee.

(5) ***Suspension Recommended.***

(A) Competing Against a Suspended School. If a District Executive Committee finds that a member school has knowingly competed with a suspended school in a germane contest or scrimmage, it shall submit to the State Executive Committee its findings and recommend that the member school be suspended.

(B) Other Offenses. If in the opinion of the District Executive Committee the offense is of sufficient gravity to warrant suspension in the germane activity, the committee shall make such recommendation and transmit its findings to the State Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee shall determine whether or not the offending school shall be suspended.

(c) FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL. The only penalty that may be imposed by the District Executive Committee on school district personnel is reprimand. Following a protest or report of violation as provided for under Section 51, the committee may issue a reprimand to a covered school district employee if it finds that the employee violated the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. If a reprimand is appealed to the State Executive Committee, the District Executive Committee shall provide the State Executive Committee a complete record of the minutes of the meeting wherein the decision was made. If the committee decides that a public reprimand or suspension should be considered, the committee shall transfer the protest or report of violation to the State Executive Committee for disposition.

Section 30: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The Regional Executive Committee shall decide questions of qualification and entry and clerical disputes arising at a regional meet.

(b) The State Executive Committee shall decide questions of eligibility or violation of the Contest Ethics Code.

Section 31: WAIVER REVIEW BOARD; UIL HEARING OFFICER; WAIVER OFFICER

(a) WAIVER OFFICER. The Executive Director shall appoint a Waiver Officer along with deputies who may act on behalf of the Waiver Officer in his or her absence.

(b) HEARING OFFICER. The Executive Director of the UIL may appoint a Hearing Officer to rule on appeals.

(c) PURPOSE. The Waiver Review Board or a UIL Hearing Officer shall review the decision of the Waiver Officer when an appeal is filed.

(d) COMPOSITION. The Waiver Review Board consists of twelve persons, whose terms begin on June 1. After consulting the chair of the State Executive Committee, the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint six members to serve for one (1) year.

A member of the Legislative Council is not eligible to serve on the Waiver Review Board. Each of the six conferences shall elect a member of the board, who shall serve for four (4) years. The election shall be conducted in the manner specified in Section 25 for election of members of the Legislative Council. Conference rotation within basketball regions is as follows:

Conference	Region	Term Ends
3A	IV	2025
1A	II	2026
4A	I	2026
5A	II	2027
6A	III	2027
2A	IV	2028

(e) VACANCY. If an elected member of the Waiver Review Board ceases to be a superintendent or principal, joins a school that is not a member, joins a member school in another region, resigns as a member, or otherwise becomes unable to serve or if the member school is transferred to another region, the member vacates the office. When the member's position is vacated, the Executive Director shall conduct an election of an individual to complete the unexpired term if two (2) years or more remain, under Section 25. If less than two (2) years remain of the unexpired term, the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint a replacement from the same conference and region as the person who is vacating the position, to fill the unexpired term.

(f) REPLACEMENT. If an appointed member of the Waiver Review Board resigns or becomes unable to serve, the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.

(g) CHAIR OF THE WAIVER REVIEW BOARD. Each year the members of the Waiver Review Board shall elect a member of the board to serve as chair. The chair shall preside at meetings of the board or designate another member to preside, appoint committees of the board, and designate a person to keep records and may appoint panels of three members to review cases.

Section 32: UIL SPORTS OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

(a) APPOINTMENT; COMPOSITION; QUORUM.

(1) ***Appointments.*** The chair of the State Executive Committee appoints the members of the Sports Officials Committee each April for annual terms beginning June 1. The committee shall be composed of five member school administrators, with at least one from each UIL region, and four at-large members, each representing a sports officials chapter or association. The committee shall elect a chair annually at the first meeting after June 30.

(2) ***Business Meeting Quorum.*** Six members of the Sports Officials Committee constitutes a quorum for business meetings.

(3) ***Quorum For Panels.*** In cases involving violations, appeals, applications for official interpretations by a sports official, cases involving misconduct by a sports official, or any other case the chair of the Sports Officials Committee determines is within the committee's jurisdiction, the UIL Sports Officials Committee may sit in panels of three voting members and two of the three members constitute a quorum. A panel must include at least one member who is a member school administrator and one member who represents a sports officials chapter or association.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES. The Sports Officials Committee shall provide independent and impartial direction of the UIL by:

(1) at the request of the State Executive Committee, interpreting rules from the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** related to sports officials;

(2) enforcing the rules and regulations contained in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** that apply to sports officials;

(3) hearing appeals of sports officials found ineligible for UIL sports officials registration due to criminal background check findings; and

(4) otherwise acting within its jurisdiction.

(c) JURISDICTION. The Sports Officials Committee shall decide:

(1) a report of violation of rules from the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** related to sports officials by a sports official; and

(2) an appeal from a sports official related to the findings of a criminal background check.

(3) This subchapter shall not be interpreted to limit the power of the Sports Officials Committee in making investigations and initiating proceedings against any sports official who has officiated or otherwise worked any game or contest between UIL member schools at any level of competition, regardless of the sports officials registration status, when sufficient justification exists. However, in no event shall the committee have any jurisdiction in regards to any protests or otherwise determining the outcome of any games or contests.

(4) The committee shall adopt criteria for the UIL recognition of new sports officials associations or chapters and make a determination as to whether the association or chapter in question meets the adopted criteria. The committee shall publish and make publicly available the criteria chosen and adopt a fair and open process for the committee to employ when considering UIL recognition of an association or chapter.

(d) SPECIAL PROCEDURAL RULES. The UIL Sports Officials Committee may adopt special rules of procedure, not inconsistent with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, upon the recommendation of the chair to facilitate the:

(1) executive and administrative processes during business meetings; and

(2) judicial processes during evidentiary hearings and open meetings.

(e) PARLIAMENTARIAN. The chair of the Sports Officials Committee may appoint a parliamentarian during business meetings and public hearings.

Section 33: CODE OF ETHICS FOR UIL COMMITTEES

The UIL adopts the following Code of Ethics for all of its committees:

(a) OVERVIEW

(1) Pursuant to Section 572.051(c) of the Texas Government Code and University of Texas at Austin policy, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) promulgates the following Ethics Policy:

(2) This ethics policy prescribes standards of conduct for all persons who serve on any UIL committee or otherwise perform work on behalf of a UIL committee. This policy does not apply to UIL employees, who are covered by University of Texas at Austin policies.

(3) This ethics policy does not supersede any applicable federal or Texas law or administrative rule. All persons who serve on UIL committees or otherwise perform work on a UIL committee's behalf must familiarize themselves with this ethics policy.

(4) All persons who serve on UIL committees or otherwise perform work on behalf of a UIL committee must abide by all applicable federal and Texas laws, administrative rules, and the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, including this ethics policy.

(5) A UIL committee member or person performing services for a UIL committee who violates any provision of this ethics policy may be removed from a committee by the appropriate District Executive Committee (or equivalent) or the State Executive Committee and is subject to a range of sanctions set forth in Sections 27 and 29 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*. A person who serves on a UIL committee or otherwise performs work on a UIL committee's behalf and who violates any applicable federal or Texas law or rule may be subject to civil or criminal penalties in addition to any UIL-related sanction.

(b) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. All persons who serve on UIL committees or otherwise perform work on a UIL committee's behalf shall:

(1) Perform his or her official duties in a lawful, professional, and ethical manner befitting the state and UIL; and

(2) Report any conduct or activity that the person or committee member believes to be in violation of this ethics policy to the appropriate District Executive Committee or the UIL Executive Director (or his or her designee).

(c) All persons who serve on UIL committees or otherwise perform work on a UIL committee's behalf shall not:

(1) Accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence a person in the discharge of official duties, or that the person knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the person's official conduct;

(2) Intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised his or her official powers or performed his or her official duties in favor of another;

(3) Disclose confidential information, information that is excepted from public disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (Tex. Gov't Code Ann. Ch. 552), or information that has been ordered sealed by a court, that was acquired by reason of the person's official position, or accept employment, including self-employment, or engage in a business, charity, nonprofit organization, or professional activity that the employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the employee to disclose confidential information;

(4) Accept employment, including self-employment, or compensation or engage in a business, charity, non-profit organization, or professional activity that could reasonably be

expected to impair the employee's independence of judgement in the performance of the person's official business;

(5) Make personal investments, or have a personal or financial interest, that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the person's private interest and the public interest;

(6) Utilize UIL meetings, events or contests, property, facilities, or equipment for any purpose other than official UIL business, unless such use is reasonable and incidental and does not result in any direct cost to the state or UIL, interfere with the person's official duties, and interfere with UIL functions;

(7) Utilize his or her official position, or state issued items, such as a badge, indicating such position for financial gain, obtaining privileges, or avoiding consequences of illegal acts;

(8) Knowingly make misleading statements, either oral or written, or provide false information, in the course of official UIL business; or

(9) Engage in any political activity or utilize UIL resources for any political activity during the course of a UIL committee meeting or when otherwise conducting UIL-related business.

Subchapter F. CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS; PROTESTS

Section 50: CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENT VIOLATIONS

Any student representative of a member school, who by act or omission causes himself or herself, another contestant, or a member school to do or fail to do any one or more of those actions or omissions listed below shall be in violation of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. Violations by student representatives of member schools are classified below.

(a) Category A violations requiring severe penalty or violations of rules that carry a specific penalty are:
  (1) violations of eligibility rules;
  (2) falsifying records or reports or withholding information;
  (3) failing to comply with rules prohibiting interactions with officials, judges or referees (verbal or physical abuse), or fighting with opponents;
  (4) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extracurricular activities; or
  (5) failing to comply with amateur rules.

(b) Category B violations are:
  (1) failing to comply with rules and guidelines contained in contest plans and written instructions in manuals and handbooks provided for contests;
  (2) self-recruiting or recruiting others; or
  (3) failing to report known violations in a timely manner.

Section 51: CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL VIOLATIONS

Any covered school district personnel (all UIL contest sponsors), who by act or omission causes a student representative or a member school to do or fail to do any one or more of those actions or omissions listed below shall be in violation of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. Violations by school district personnel are classified below.

(a) Category A violations requiring more severe penalty are:
  (1) violating eligibility rules;
  (2) improper interaction with officials, judges, referees;
  (3) ejection from contest or receipt of two 15-yard penalties in football during one contest;
  (4) removing a team from a contest, as in protest;
  (5) falsifying records or reports;
  (6) failing to report known violations in a timely manner or withholding information;
  (7) pressuring teachers to modify the grade or grades of UIL participants in such a manner as to affect eligibility;
  (8) recruiting;
  (9) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extracurricular activities; or
  (10) failing to comply with the amateur rule, the awards rules, the gifts/awards to coaches rule, the rebate rule, or the coaches employment and source of pay rule.

(b) Category B violations are:
  (1) failing to comply with the Athletic Code, Athletic Code for Coaches, Music Code, Academic Code or One-Act Play Code;
  (2) breaking contracts;
  (3) coercing contestants; or
  (4) scouting (debate).

(c) Category C violations are:
  (1) failing to comply with rules and regulations in individual plans and/or UIL manuals; or
  (2) violation of reporting requirements concerning:
    (A) eligibility forms;
    (B) professional acknowledgment;
    (C) previous participation;

(D) parent/student acknowledgment;
(E) medical/physical examinations; or
(F) weekly or season contest reports.

Section 52: CLASSIFICATION OF UIL SCHOOL VIOLATIONS

Any member school district that by act or omission fails to do one or more of the actions or omissions listed below shall be in violation of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***. Violations by UIL member schools are listed below.

(a) CATEGORY A. Violations of state law and rules of the State Board of Education:
  (1) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding previous and current academic requirements;
  (2) failing to comply with applicable rules of the State Board of Education regarding previous and current academic requirements;
  (3) failing to comply with applicable rules of the State Board of Education regarding loss of school time requirements; or
  (4) failing to comply with applicable state laws regarding extracurricular activities.

(b) CATEGORY B. Violations of UIL rules: Failing to comply with the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, when not in conflict with State Board of Education rules or regulations.

Section 53: CONDUCT SUBJECT TO PROTEST

(a) PROTEST OF MEMBER SCHOOL. A member school may protest an act or omission that is a violation of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules***, but may not protest a contest judge's, referee's or other official's decision.

(b) PROTEST OF AN INDIVIDUAL. If an individual protests an act or omission that is a violation of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules***, the superintendent should try to resolve the protest within 15 days. If the individual is not satisfied with the disposition of the protest, the superintendent shall notify the individual that the individual may file the protest with the District Executive Committee. If still dissatisfied with the District Executive Committee's disposition of the case, and if further information is forthcoming, the Executive Director may refer the case to the State Executive Committee to determine if there is substance to re-hear the case.

Section 54: FILING A PROTEST

The superintendent or designated administrator must file the protest in writing with either the District Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee, whichever is appropriate. The protest must be filed within a reasonable time. The committee shall determine on a case-by-case basis what is a reasonable time, however, there is no time limit to protest eligibility or any other rule which imposes mandatory penalties. This rule does not apply to contest officials decisions.

Section 55: REPORT OF VIOLATION

A superintendent, principal, school administrator, teacher, coach or sponsor may report an alleged violation of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules*** by his or her school or school district. The report must be in writing and filed with the District Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee, whichever is appropriate, within a reasonable time. The committee shall determine on a case-by-case basis what is a reasonable period of time, however, there is no time limit to protest eligibility or any other rule which imposes mandatory penalties.

Section 56: INVESTIGATION OF PROTESTS OR ALLEGATIONS

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INVESTIGATION. The Executive Director, or designee, shall initially review protests or complaints that allege violations of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, UIL manuals, handbooks or other UIL rules or policies and, using his or her professional judgement and discretion, determine if a protest or complaint should be investigated and, upon completion of the Executive Director's investigation, if the complaint or protest should be referred to and considered by the State Executive Committee or other appropriate UIL committee.

(b) SUBMISSION OF RECORDS. In response to a request by the State Executive Committee, District Executive Committee or Executive Director, a member school district and its schools shall fully cooperate with the request and submit its records and any other information that is germane to the protest or complaint being investigated.

Subchapter G. COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND APPEALS

Section 100: GENERAL HEARINGS

(a) When it is necessary for a District Executive Committee, the Waiver Review Board, Sports Officials Committee or the State Executive Committee to make a determination with regard to the applicability of UIL rules to persons within the jurisdiction of the UIL, including eligibility cases or alleged violations of UIL rules, the applicable committee shall have the option of making a decision on the matter

based upon written submissions or convening an informal meeting or hearing to discuss the matter in an effort to achieve an equitable resolution. Cases involving school district personnel shall be heard by the State Executive Committee pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Executive Committee.

(b) If a decision is made to hold an informal meeting or hearing, the interested parties should be given written notice of the meeting and invited to attend. All decisions by committees shall be in writing, whether based upon a written submission or testimony at an informal meeting.

(c) While all parties appearing before a District Executive Committee, Sports Officials Committee, Waiver Review Board or State Executive Committee may be represented by legal counsel should they so desire, an attorney's role is limited to providing advice to their client(s) during the course of the hearing; requesting that the committee or hearing panel pose certain questions or lines of inquiry to another party or witnesses and to making opening and closing statements on behalf of their client(s). All questioning of parties or other witnesses shall be conducted by members of the committee or board holding the hearing. Neither counsel, nor any party or witness, is permitted to question or cross-examine a witness or to make objections while a witness is testifying.

Section 150: APPEALS

(a) APPEALS TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Decisions by a District Executive Committee to disqualify a school or to issue a reprimand to school district personnel, or decisions involving alleged discrimination under the provisions of Section 360 or cases involving student eligibility may be appealed to the State Executive Committee which shall have the discretion to either accept or decline the appeal. If an appeal is accepted by the State Executive Committee, it shall have the option to render a decision in the matter based upon either a written submission or an informal meeting wherein interested parties are invited to appear and present testimony and other evidence concerning the facts at issue.

(b) DE NOVO REVIEW. The State Executive Committee shall conduct a *de novo* review of all appeals under its jurisdiction.

(c) APPEALS OF DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT. (Refer to Sections 354-356).

(d) APPEALS OF DECISION OF WAIVER OFFICER. Decisions of the Waiver Officer may be appealed to the Waiver Review Board. Such an appeal may also be heard by a Hearing Officer. (Refer to Section 466).

(e) APPEALS OF POSITIVE ANABOLIC STEROID TEST RESULTS. Upon notification of the specimen B positive finding, the student-athlete and his/her parent or the member school the student-athlete represents have the opportunity for an appeal as outlined in the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program Protocol.

Subchapter H. RULES AND AMENDMENTS

Section 300: GENERAL PURPOSES

The ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** facilitates the self-governance of the UIL and is used so that the UIL can act in a characteristic and customary manner that is timely, orderly, reasonable, deliberate, fair and equitable.

Section 301: NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES

(a) PRIOR NOTICE. Subject to the provisions of this section, prior to the regular adoption of a rule, the UIL shall give at least 30 days' notice of its intended action.

(b) NOTICE IN EMERGENCY. The UIL may adopt rules under emergency circumstances after two hours' prior written notice filed with the Commissioner of Education.

(c) PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED RULE. Notice of the proposed rule shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education and posted on the UIL website. Failure to provide notice of a proposed rule shall not invalidate any action taken or rule adopted.

(d) CONTENTS OF NOTICE. The notice shall include:

(1) a brief explanation of the proposed rule, including the factual and policy justifications and/or implications;

(2) the text of the proposed rule, prepared in a manner to indicate the words to be added or deleted from the current text, if any; and

(3) an indication of the potential fiscal impact of the proposed rule to member schools as outlined in TEC 33.0831.

(e) DATE OF NOTICE. Each notice of a proposed rule shall become effective as of the date it is posted.

Section 302: PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RULES

(a) PUBLIC COMMENT. Prior to the adoption of any rule, the UIL shall afford all interested persons, including representatives of the State Board

of Education, a reasonable opportunity to submit data, comments or arguments, orally or in writing.

(b) NOTICE. Notice of the public hearing shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education and shall be published in the ***Leaguer*** or other UIL bulletin not later than the 20th day before the scheduled date of the hearing.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS. The UIL shall consider fully all written and oral comments concerning the proposed rule prior to taking binding action on it.

Section 303: RULE PROMULGATION PROCESS; OFFICIAL EDITION

(a) FILING, RULE SUBMISSION, PUBLICATION. The UIL shall submit all rules approved by the Legislative Council to the Commissioner of Education for approval. Once approved, the rule shall be published on the UIL website in the online version of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** as well as in the next available ***Leaguer*** or other UIL bulletin. The official edition of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** shall be the version published on the UIL website no later than August 10th of each year.

(b) CONTENTS OF PUBLICATION. The publication of the rule shall include:
  (1) a reasoned justification of the rule; and
  (2) an indication of any change between the text of the proposed rule as noticed previously and that adopted, with reasons for the change.

(c) RECORD OF RULE-MAKING PROCESS. The Executive Director of the UIL shall maintain an accurate and up-to-date edition of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** on the UIL website and a record of rules adopted. When errors of grammar, spelling or similar mistakes are noted in the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, the Executive Director may approve non-substantive edits to the ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

Section 304: OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF RULES

(a) APPLICATION TO STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Anyone may request the State Executive Committee to issue an Official Interpretation of a UIL rule.

(b) BINDING EFFECT OF OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION. The Official Interpretation of any of these rules by the State Executive Committee shall be the final, authoritative explanation of the rules so interpreted; no other interpretation by any person is binding on the UIL.

(c) RELIANCE ON OTHER INTERPRETATIONS. Anyone relying on an interpretation other than the State Executive Committee's, except as provided for under Section 305, below, regarding official UIL staff interpretations, risks the consequences, including the imposition of penalties.

(d) CONTENTS. The State Executive Committee in determining its Official Interpretations of the rules of the UIL shall state clearly and concisely:
  (1) the language of the interpretation; and
  (2) any consequent instructions to the Executive Director for subsequent execution or administration of actions on the Committee's behalf including the publication of brief summaries of the Official Interpretations in the ***Leaguer*** and in the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

Section 305: OFFICIAL STAFF INTERPRETATIONS

(a) AUTHORIZED INTERPRETATIONS. Those staff members of the UIL who are authorized by the Executive Director may issue written staff interpretations of general applicability that constitute binding actions of the UIL so long as the conditions set out below have been fulfilled in advance.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE. If but only if a person requests a staff interpretation in writing, and accompanies the request with an application for an Official Interpretation by the State Executive Committee, then the staff member may issue a written statement of general applicability that implements, interprets or prescribes UIL policy or procedure or practice requirements. This statement shall be referred to as a staff interpretation.

(c) EFFECT OF STAFF INTERPRETATION. The statement issued to the applicant may be relied upon until the State Executive Committee issues its order on the application.

(d) NO ORAL REQUESTS ACCEPTED. No oral requests for staff interpretation will be accepted.

(e) NO ORAL OR WRITTEN OPINIONS BINDING. No oral or written opinions inconsistent with this section will be considered staff interpretations and they will not be considered binding on the UIL. Persons relying upon such oral or written opinions do so at their own risk.

Section 306: RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

(a) GENERAL CONSTRUCTION. Generally, the rules of the UIL shall be broadly construed to give reasonable effect to the intentions, purposes and objectives of the UIL. However, rules involving

eligibility, rules involving violations and rules involving penalties shall be strictly construed.

(b) MANDATORY, DIRECTORY, PERMISSIVE, FACTUAL. Rules are mandatory if the word "shall" is written, directive if the word "should" is written and permissive if the word "may" is written. Factual or expected events of the past, present or future times are written either in the present tense or in tenses of the verb "to be".

(c) UIL ***CONSTITUTION*** PREVAILS OVER CONTEST RULES. Where any term or section of the *Contest Rules* is found to be inconsistent with the ***Constitution***, the ***Constitution*** shall prevail and apply and the remaining terms and sections of the *Contest Rules* shall continue in effect.

(d) STATE LAW PREVAILS OVER UIL ***CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES***. Where any term or section of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** is found to be inconsistent with the laws of the State of Texas, the laws shall prevail and the remaining terms and sections of the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** shall continue in effect.

(e) EFFECT OF TITLES. The titles appearing throughout the ***Constitution and Contest Rules*** are for descriptive purposes only.

Section 330: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ***CONSTITUTION***

(a) UIL PROPOSALS. The State Executive Committee, a committee of the Legislative Council or a member of the Legislative Council may propose an amendment of the ***Constitution***.

(b) INTERESTED PARTIES. Any individual or organization may suggest a revision of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules*** by submitting the proposal in writing to the chair of the Legislative Council with an explanation of the proposal.

(c) REFERRAL. The chair of the Legislative Council shall refer suggestions for revision of the ***Constitution*** and/or ***Contest Rules*** to an appropriate standing or special committee.

Section 331: AMENDING THE ***CONSTITUTION***

(a) ELIGIBILITY AND MAJOR CHANGES. If the proposed amendment involves change in an eligibility rule or if the Legislative Council determines that an amendment involves a major change in UIL policy and it approves the proposed amendment by majority vote, it shall submit the proposed amendment to the member school districts for approval. However, it shall not submit the same item on a referendum ballot more than once in any given three-year period unless the Council, by majority vote, deems it to be an emergency.

(b) SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTES. A member school district is entitled to cast one vote for each of its member high schools. The Executive Director shall send the appropriate number of ballots to the superintendent of each member school district. To be counted a ballot must be received by the Executive Director by the reasonable date specified by the Legislative Council and must be signed by the superintendent. An affirmative vote by a majority of the ballots cast is required to amend the ***Constitution***. The Executive Director shall take custody of the ballots and retain them. (According to Section 26 the State Executive Committee is responsible for conducting any necessary recount of a referendum vote.)

(c) OTHER CHANGES. If it determines that the change does not involve a major change in UIL policy, the Legislative Council may by majority vote, amend the ***Constitution*** without submitting the amendment to the member school districts.

(d) POLICIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. Neither the member school districts nor the Legislative Council may amend the ***Constitution*** if the proposed amendment is inconsistent with policies of The University of Texas at Austin.

Subchapter I. CONFERENCES AND DISTRICTS

Section 350: ESTABLISHING CONFERENCES

Before May 1 of each even numbered year, the UIL shall establish conferences for League contests and assign each member school wishing to compete in UIL activities to an appropriate district in accordance with reclassification and realignment policies as approved by the Legislative Council. These conferences and districts shall be maintained for the next two school years. The Executive Director shall promptly notify each member school of its conference and the district to which it has been assigned and of the identity of the other schools in the district and notify each member school district of the assignments of its member schools.

When rule changes that impact reclassification and realignment are passed by the council in October of odd numbered years, and not approved by the commissioner of education at TEA (as required by section 33.083 (b) of the Texas Education Code) by November 15, the UIL executive director has the authority to conduct the alignment process under the most current version of the reclassification and realignment policies as approved by the legislative council and the commissioner.

Section 351: CONFERENCE BASED ON ENROLLMENT

(a) ENROLLMENT. Schools that allow homeschool

participation must notify their DEC and UIL each year by a date set on the UIL calendar. Notification is due by August 1st, in order for those students to be eligible for varsity athletic participation. For schools that decide to allow such participation after the August 1 date, those students would be eligible for academics, music and subvarsity athletic activities only for that school year. Member schools shall be assigned to a conference on the basis of enrollment on a date from the previous October. Schools will include all resident students including those in alternative settings. The formulas used to determine enrollment shall be:

(1) Schools with four high school grades (9-12) and three-year high schools (grades 10-12) which will receive incoming tenth graders from specific, identifiable feeder schools: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 = Enrollment

(2) Schools with only grades 10, 11, 12 when it cannot easily be determined which schools the ninth graders will attend as tenth graders: Grades 10, 11, 12 x 1.33 = Enrollment

(3) Schools choosing to participate in 1A football may submit enrollment figures by any one of the following combinations of grades: grades 9, 10, 11 and 12; grades 8, 9, 10 and 11; grades 7, 8, 9 and 10; or grades 9 and 10 doubled.

If no prior enrollment figures are available for the specified date, assignment of a participant school just admitted to competition shall be on the basis of the projected enrollment. A non disciplinary 'alternative' school such as a magnet or ISD charter school within the same independent school district shall be assigned to a conference as outlined in the latest approved version of the UIL Conference and District Assignment Policies and Procedures. Schools that have established attendance zones do not fit the definition of a non disciplinary 'alternative' school even if they operate a non disciplinary 'alternative' school program with optional attendance zones.

(b) CONFERENCES. Member high schools shall be divided into conferences for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years according to the following enrollments:

Conference 6A ..... 2275 and above
Conference 5A 1315-2274
Conference 4A 545-1314
Conference 3A 254-544
Conference 2A 105-253
Conference 1A ..... 104.9 and below

For the 2025-26 school year, there are approximately the following number of basketball schools in each conference:

Conference 6A 247
Conference 5A 253
Conference 4A 216
Conference 3A 229
Conference 2A 226
Conference 1A 215

Section 352: NON-HONORS FOOTBALL

A school which has been elevated one conference to avoid extreme travel situations may be assigned on a non-honors basis to a football district.

Section 353: FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY A NEW SCHOOL

A member school just admitted to competition in the UIL shall be assigned to a conference for football competition only at the beginning of an even-numbered year. (Refer to Official Interpretation 01-09-18, Appendix I).

Section 354: FIRST APPEAL: DISTRICT REASSIGNMENT BY AGREEMENT

Subject to Section 355 (b) below for release of the football, basketball and volleyball alignments, if within one month after the district assignments have been released for other activities, a school that is not satisfied with its assignment and obtains a majority vote through written approval by the superintendents of the schools in the district to which it was assigned and of the schools in the district to which it wants to be assigned, and the contiguous relationship of all of the schools involved is not disturbed by the proposed reassignment, the school is entitled to be reassigned as it proposed. A school may appeal to be assigned to a district within a higher conference than that to which its membership qualifies it, and if the appeal is granted, it will be assigned to the higher conference for all UIL activities. **Exception:** Music. A school shall not appeal to be assigned to a district within a lower conference than that to which it is assigned. The school shall promptly inform the Executive Director of the proposed reassignment, furnishing the supporting statements. If the Executive Director finds that the school is entitled to be reassigned, the Executive Director shall reassign the school as it proposed and shall notify all the other schools and school districts concerned of the district reassignment.

Section 355: DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE

(a) APPEAL COMMITTEE. The chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint from the Legislative Council the members of the District Assignment Appeal Committee and designate a chair.

(b) REQUEST. Within 10 days after the conference and district assignments have been released, a school whose first appeal was denied by the sending and/or receiving district may request a review of the district assignment by filing its request and a supporting statement with the District Assignment Appeal Committee and informing in writing the superintendent and principals of the schools in the district to which it was assigned and in the district to which it wishes to be assigned.

(c) RULES. The Committee shall adopt and publish rules of procedure to be followed in the reviews.

(d) REVIEW. Upon receipt of a timely request for review, the Committee shall set the date for the review and inform the applicant school and the schools in the affected districts of the time and place of the review. Parties may provide oral testimony.

(e) MEMBER INVOLVED. If a member of the Committee is involved in the appeal, that member shall abstain from deliberations and voting, and the chair of the Legislative Council shall appoint a member of the Council to sit in that member's place.

(f) GROUND FOR CONFERENCE REVIEW. The only ground for review of conference assignment is an error in the enrollment basis. It is not considered an error in enrollment when a school wants to revoke its decision to be elevated one conference after the deadline for making this decision has passed. Schools shall not appeal to be assigned to a smaller conference based on evidence that they submitted figures that were too high, unless original documents verifying the error(s) are presented to the UIL staff prior to the release of the cutoff figures. A charter school that is physically located within the boundaries of an independent school district with three or more high schools, and is placed in a conference higher than the one for which its enrollment qualifies it, may appeal its conference assignment according to the UIL reclassification and realignment policies.

(g) DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE. The Committee shall make a decision in writing within two days after the review. The Executive Director shall promptly inform the applicant school and the schools in the affected districts of the decision.

Section 356: FINAL DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS AND CONTRACTING GAMES

(a) When all reviews and appeals of conference decisions and assignments to districts have been made, the conferences and assignments to districts shall be final.

(b) Until the conferences and assignments to districts are final, contracts for contests by schools are not valid.

(c) A school may be disqualified for district honors for up to two (2) years in that sport for contracting games with other Texas schools prior to the finalization of the reclassification and realignment by all UIL appeal committees. Athletic schedules will not be considered official until approved by the superintendent of the member school district.

Subchapter J. NON-DISCRIMINATION IN UIL CONTESTS

Section 360: NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Failure to comply with the provisions of this subchapter constitutes an act or omission that is a violation of the ***Constitution***. Except as provided for below, no student otherwise eligible under Subchapter M of the ***Constitution*** shall be denied, because of disability, race, color, gender, religion or national origin, the equal opportunity to try out for and, if selected, participate in the Academic, Music, and Athletic Plan contests offered by the member school districts.

(a) Member schools may not permit boys to try out for, or participate under the Jr. High School or High School Athletic Plans designated for girl's teams.

(b) Member schools that offer Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field and/or Wrestling individual athletic plans may not permit mixed plans for boys and girls in those activities.

(c) Member schools offering mixed or coed Team Tennis in which the game rules designate a certain number of team participants from each gender, may not permit boys to qualify for girls' positions on the mixed teams nor permit girls to qualify for boys' positions on the mixed teams.

(d) Girls may try out for, and if selected, participate on the corresponding boys' team if the member school does not offer a corresponding girls' plan for basketball, and/or soccer. Otherwise, a member school that offers any of these plans may not permit boys to participate on the girls' teams, nor girls to participate on boys' teams in these activities. UIL considers the following to be corresponding sport athletic plans: boys and girls basketball; boys and girls soccer.

(e) Girls may try out for and, if selected, participate in the Junior High School or the High School Football Plan.

(f) Girls may try out for and, if selected, participate in the Junior High School or High School Baseball Plan, however, girls shall not participate in both

baseball and girls' softball.

(g) Boys may not wrestle against girls, and vice versa. This prohibition is only applicable when the contest is held in Texas or in any other state that sponsors wrestling programs for both boys and girls.

(h) Gender shall be determined based on a student's birth certificate as outlined in Section 33.0834 of the Texas Education Code. In cases where a student's birth certificate is unavailable, other similar government documents used for the purpose of identification may be substituted.

(Sections 361-379 and Subchapter K reserved for expansion.)

Subchapter L. CONTESTS

Section 380: UIL CONTESTS AND PILOT PROGRAMS

The UIL shall conduct:

(a) ANNUAL CONTESTS, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) Accounting
(2) Art
(3) Band, Concert Performance
(4) Band, Sight-Reading Evaluation
(5) Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition
(6) Baseball
(7) Basketball, Boys
(8) Basketball, Girls
(9) Calculator Applications
(10) Chess Puzzle
(11) Choir, Concert Performance
(12) Choir, Sight-Reading Evaluation
(13) Computer Science
(14) Congress
(15) Copy Editing
(16) Creative Writing
(17) Cross Country, Boys
(18) Cross Country, Girls
(19) Current Issues and Events
(20) Debate, Cross-Examination
(21) Debate, Lincoln-Douglas
(22) Dictionary Skills
(23) Editorial Writing
(24) Extemporaneous Informative Speaking
(25) Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking
(26) Feature Writing
(27) Film
(28) Football
(29) Football, Six-Man
(30) Golf, Boys
(31) Golf, Girls
(32) Headline Writing
(33) Impromptu Speaking
(34) Instrumental Chamber Music
(35) Listening
(36) Literary Criticism
(37) Maps, Graphs and Charts
(38) Marching Band
(39) Mariachi Festival
(40) Mathematics
(41) Modern Oratory
(42) Music, Medium Ensemble Performance
(43) Music Memory (A+)
(44) Music, Solo-Small Ensemble Performance
(45) Music Theory
(46) News Writing
(47) Number Sense
(48) One-Act Play
(49) Oral Reading
(50) Orchestra, Concert Performance
(51) Orchestra, Sight-Reading Evaluation
(52) Poetry Interpretation
(53) Prose Interpretation
(54) Ready Writing
(55) Robotics
(56) Science
(57) Social Studies
(58) Soccer, Boys
(59) Soccer, Girls
(60) Softball, Girls
(61) Spelling
(62) Spelling and Vocabulary
(63) Spirit
(64) Storytelling
(65) Swimming, Boys
(66) Swimming, Girls
(67) Team Tennis
(68) Tennis Singles and Doubles, Boys
(69) Tennis Singles and Doubles, Girls
(70) Tennis, Mixed Doubles
(71) Theatrical Design Contest
(72) Track and Field, Boys
(73) Track and Field, Girls
(74) Volleyball, Girls
(75) Water Polo, Boys
(76) Water Polo, Girls
(77) Wrestling, Boys
(78) Wrestling, Girls

(b) PILOT PROGRAM CONTESTS AS PROVIDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The UIL administration is authorized to design, organize, and implement contests and contest rules among member schools on a pilot program basis upon the recommendation of the Executive Director of the UIL and the approval of the Legislative Council. A pilot program shall exist for the time period speci-

fied by the Legislative Council.

Section 381: OFFICIAL CALENDAR PUBLISHED

Before June 1 the Executive Director shall announce the official calendar for UIL contests for the coming year.

Section 382: RESCHEDULING CONTESTS

If it appears not to be feasible to hold a contest at the scheduled place or time because of weather, facilities or other cause, the Executive Director shall determine where, when, or if the contest will be held.

Section 383: NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS.

(a) *Non-Traditional School Year*. Refer to Section 5 for definitions of traditional school year, summer vacation, non-traditional school year and intersession.

(b) *Rules Applicable During School and Intersessions*.

(1) All rules found in the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* that apply to school district personnel, students, individuals, teams and/or schools during the traditional school year also apply to the non-traditional school year during the time school is in session and during intersessions.

(2) During intersessions schools shall schedule no more than one contest or performance per activity per student per school week.

(3) During intersessions schools shall limit practice for UIL music activities to a maximum of eight hours per school week per activity, in addition to a maximum of sixty minutes per day, (or 300 minutes per week on a block schedule), Monday through the end of the school day on Friday.

(c) *Rules Applicable Specifically During Summer Vacation Months*. Activities that are allowed only during summer vacation are not allowed during intersessions unless the intersession falls within the summer months.

Subchapter M. ELIGIBILITY

Section 400: STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL UIL CONTESTS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

(a) is not a high school graduate (Refer to Section 405);

(b) is a full-time, day student in the member high school the student represents; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code. (Refer to Section 406, academic exception, Official Interpretations 08-09-10, 99-04-20, 10-03-12 and 00-09-13, Appendix I);

(c) has been in regular attendance at the member school since the sixth class day of the present school year or has been in enrolled and in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition (student becomes eligible on the fifteenth day) (Refer to Section 407 and Official Interpretation 95-11-09, Appendix I);

(d) is in compliance with rules of the State Board of Education; (Refer to Section 404 and state law regarding credit requirements and grades (the school shall verify a student's grades on the basis of the official grade report and independently of involvement by the student);

(e) has the required number of credits for eligibility during the first six weeks of school (Refer to Section 411);

(f) is enrolled in a four-year program of high school courses (Refer to Section 408);

(g) initially enrolled in the ninth grade not more than four years ago nor in the tenth grade not more than three years ago (Refer to Section 408 and Official Interpretation 07-04-18, Appendix I);

(h) was not recruited (Refer to Section 5 and Section 409);

(i) is not in violation of the Awards Rules (Refer to Section 480); and

(j) meets the specific eligibility requirements for UIL academic competition in Section 401, for music competition in Section 402, and/or for athletic competition in Section 403.

Section 401: ELIGIBILITY - ACADEMICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity academic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

(a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and

(b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL academic contest.

(c) Charter Schools. For non-enrolled (home schooled) students, if the public independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside decides not to allow non-enrolled (home schooled) students to participate, the non-enrolled (home schooled) student could petition for participation at a charter school located within the boundaries of the independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside, if allowed by that charter school administration.

Section 402: ELIGIBILITY - MUSIC

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an indi-

vidual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity music contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

(a) meets all the requirements of Section 400; and

(b) did not change schools for the purpose of participating in a UIL music contest.

(c) Charter Schools. For non-enrolled (home schooled) students, if the public independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside decides not to allow non-enrolled (home schooled) students to participate, the non-enrolled (home schooled) student could petition for participation at a charter school located within the boundaries of the independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside, if allowed by that charter school administration.

Section 403: ELIGIBILITY - ATHLETICS

Subject to the other sections of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity athletic contest as a representative of a member school if that individual:

(a) meets all the requirements of Section 400;

(b) is less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest, or has been granted eligibility based on a disability which delayed his or her education by at least one year (Refer to Section 446);

(c) did not change schools for athletic purposes (Refer to Sections 5 and 443);

(d) is an amateur (Refer to Section 441);

(e) was eligible according to Section 400 (c) (fifteen calendar day rule) and Section 403 (f) (residence rule) at the member school the student wishes to represent prior to the deadline for district certification (non-compliance results in ineligibility only in post-district competition in that sport); and

(f) is a resident of the member school district (Refer to Section 442), and a resident of the attendance zone in which the member school being attended is situated,

(1) or has been continuously enrolled in and regularly attending the school for at least the previous calendar year if his or her parents do not reside within the school district's attendance zone; Refer to (5) (B) below for **exception**. Note: A student who has changed schools for athletic purposes may be declared ineligible for more than one calendar year. Refer to Section 443 (f) (3). For students placed on a waiting list for admittance to an open enrollment charter school that is a member school, the earlier of the first day of enrollment or the first day of school for the school year following the date of application begins the time frame for compliance with the exception noted in this section.

(2) or the student is attending a school outside the attendance zone where the parents reside because the school board or other appropriate authority changed district or attendance zone lines.

(3) or is a transfer student from a public 8-grade ISD not containing a high school, who transferred at the first opportunity:

(A) to select a high school with geographical boundaries contiguous to his or her K-8 school;

(B) to a high school for which the K-8 school attended receives state transportation funds; or

(C) to the high school located nearest the student's residence.

(4) ***Intra-District Transfers***. A student who has an option to attend more than one high school within a school district, rather than being assigned to a school according to attendance zones, is eligible at the school first selected if he/she transfers at the first opportunity. If a student subsequently transfers to another school, the student is not eligible for varsity athletic competition until he/she has been in and regularly attended that school for at least the previous calendar year.

Refer to Official Interpretations 01-09-18 and 10-03-12, Appendix I

(6) ***Charter Schools:***

(A) Students whose parents live within the boundaries of an independent school district where a charter high school is located and opt to attend the charter high school at their first opportunity to select a high school and are otherwise in compliance with varsity eligibility requirements, are eligible. If a student subsequently transfers to another school within the boundaries of the independent school district, the student is not eligible for varsity athletic competition until he/she has been in and regularly attended that school for at least the previous calendar year.

(B) Students whose parents live within the independent school district where the charter school is located, who do not select the charter high school at their first opportunity, are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly

attending the charter high school for at least the previous calendar year.

(C) Students whose parents reside outside the boundaries of the independent school district where the charter school is located are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter school for at least the previous calendar year.

(D) Charter Schools. For non-enrolled (home schooled) students, if the public independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside decides not to allow non-enrolled (home schooled) students to participate, the non-enrolled (home schooled) student could petition for participation at a charter school located within the boundaries of the independent school district where the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student reside, if allowed by that charter school administration.

(7) A student who has established varsity eligibility under this section at a member school but who subsequently changed schools to another member school zone and is found to have changed schools for an impermissible reason, remains eligible at the school where eligibility was first established without the need of a waiver. A student must reenroll in the school where eligibility was previously established within thirty (30) days of being found ineligible at the school the student moved to for this provision to apply. The Executive Director or his or her designee may inquire into such cases and may make a determination regarding a student's qualification for this exception to the parent residence rule.

(8) This section and the rules cited herein shall be interpreted and applied to the extent reasonably possible so that, absent a specific sanction barring athletic participation, a student who meets basic varsity athletics eligibility requirements should have UIL varsity athletics eligibility at a UIL member school. This is a general rule of construction that may be impacted by the facts of a given case.

Section 404: STATE LAW

(a) INTERPRETATION OF STATE LAW. The Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency delegated hearing authority over matters pertaining to the enforcement of applicable state law to the UIL. UIL staff opinions should be requested on all state laws relating to UIL eligibility, and rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education or the Texas Education Agency regarding the following as they apply to UIL eligibility:

(1) grades;
(2) credit requirements;
(3) number of contests per school week;
(4) limit on practice and performance per school week; and
(5) limit on school year absences for extracurricular activities.

(b) SOURCES OF INFORMATION. In addition to calling or writing UIL staff, the UIL publishes a manual available to member schools entitled ***TEA-UIL Side By Side*** that contains interpretations and answers to frequently asked questions. It is available on request, and is on the UIL website.

(c) VENUE. In accordance with Texas Education Code 67.26, any lawsuit filed against the UIL shall be filed in Travis County.

Section 405: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

(a) COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL. A person is considered a high school graduate if that person received a diploma or other certificate signifying successful completion of high school from a high school or other institution of equal or higher rank, participated as a graduate in the graduation exercises of a high school, or complied with the requirements for graduation during a four-year program, whether or not the student participated in the graduation exercises. However, a student who has accumulated enough credits to satisfy graduation requirements prior to the end of four years, but remains in school as a full time student, is not considered a high school graduate under this rule.

(b) GED TESTING PROGRAM. A student who receives an equivalency credential based on the General Education Development Testing Program is not considered a high school graduate, if that student remains in or returns to high school, and has not otherwise met the requirements for high school graduation.

(c) This section shall not disqualify a contestant who is eligible in all other respects at the time of spring graduation. This exception refers only to contestants whose UIL competition extends into the summer from the end of the school year.

Section 406: FULL-TIME DAY STUDENT

A person is considered a full-time day student if that

person:

(a) is enrolled and attends classes in a member school for which the current year's membership fee has been paid, or is enrolled in the ninth grade or tenth grade on a campus separate from the high school, and who will, by school district policy and not by choice, attend a specific high school (Refer to Official Interpretation 05-09-01, Appendix I);

(b) is enrolled in the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; and

(c) is in compliance with written transfer and admission policies of the local school district.

(d) Subject to local school district discretion, students attending non-disciplinary 'alternative' schools such as virtual, hybrid, magnet or ISD charter schools within the same independent school district, or in a different independent school district, that do not offer UIL participation opportunities, may be in compliance with this section and eligible to participate in the division (Academics, Athletics, Music) of UIL activities not offered at the non-disciplinary 'alternative' school. A student's eligibility under these circumstances would be at the school the student would attend based on the residence of the parents of the student and/or the school the student would attend by school district policy (school of residence) if they were not enrolled in the non-disciplinary 'alternative' school. (Refer to Official Interpretation: Exception: 18-08-14 Section 406(d) immediately following 10-03-12 Section 400 (b) 403 and 406.

(e) A student participating in UIL activities at a member school under (d) above or official State Executive Committee Interpretation 10-03-12 or 00-09-13 could do so by completing and filing Previous Athletic Participation Form with the applicable school, District Executive Committee and the UIL office prior to said participation.

(f) Is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(g) Is enrolled in enough virtual / hybrid classes as outlined in section 30 B of the Texas Education Code (as added by SB 569) and / or in person classes to be a full-time student. Virtual / hybrid courses would count toward determining the full-time student status of a participant at the students' school of residence only. Each virtual / hybrid course taken through the district, or from an entity as defined in section 30 B of the Texas Education Code (as added by SB 569), would count equivalent to the amount of time spent each day at school for a student taking that course or a similar course as part of their regular school day. Virtual / hybrid classes would not count toward the full-time status of a student at any school other than the students' school of residence. It is important to remember that school districts may voluntarily impose stricter standards than those cited in this document.

Section 407: REGULAR ATTENDANCE

(a) A student is in regular attendance even though he or she is absent for 10 class days or less after enrolling in school because of illness or other unavoidable cause, if the parent or guardian submits a written statement certifying this as the reason for the absence and the principal approves the absence.

(b) Except for an otherwise eligible student who is a dependent of a parent or guardian who is active duty military, a student who does not enroll in and attend school within the first six class days is ineligible to participate until the 15th day after enrollment and attendance. In each case where applicable, the superintendent or their designee shall certify to the appropriate District Executive Committee that, based on reasonable evidence, the active duty military exception noted above applies.

(c) Students who are in an alternative program under Texas Education Code, Section 37.006 may resume UIL participation on the first day they return to regular classes, with local school district approval.

(d) A non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation, who is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code would not be subject to this rule.

Section 408: FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

(a) A student may participate in UIL contests during a program of high school courses over a period of four consecutive years after the student first enrolls in the ninth grade. A student is considered to be enrolled in the ninth grade the day of that student's registration as a ninth grader and attendance in a full class period (including an athletic period or practice) at the ninth grade level.

(b) Students who never entered the ninth grade but were placed into the tenth grade have three consecutive years from their first entry into tenth grade to complete their high school eligibility.

(c) Over-age eighth grade students who participate on the high school varsity athletic team have four con-

secutive years, including grade eight, to complete their high school athletic eligibility. Refer to Section 1478 (b).

Section 409: RECRUITING

Recruiting is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited, but it is also a violation by the school and/or the school district personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit at all grade levels.

Section 410: BURDEN OF PROOF

(a) ELIGIBILITY. If a student's eligibility to compete in a UIL contest is questioned, the student has the burden in any proceeding to establish by the preponderance of the evidence that he or she is eligible.

(b) ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS. If a District Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee determines that a complaint or report of a violation has enough validity or substance to hold a hearing, the burden by the preponderance of the evidence to disprove the allegations at issue rests with the member school, member school district or covered school district personnel charged with the violation.

Section 411: CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY DURING FIRST SIX WEEKS

The standards below determine academic eligibility for the first six weeks of the school year. Students in non-compliance may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL.

(a) GRADES NINE AND BELOW. Students must have been promoted from the previous grade. (Refer to Official Interpretation 01-09-18 Appendix I).

(b) SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. Five accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements.

(c) THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. Ten accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least five credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.

(d) FOURTH YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. Fifteen accumulated credits that count toward state graduation requirements or student must have earned at least five credits within the last twelve months that count toward state graduation requirements.

(e) NON-ENROLLED (HOME SCHOOLED) STUDENTS. A non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation for the first six weeks must demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California Achievement Test, or comprehensive test of basic skills prior to the first day of school. A non-enrolled student demonstrates the required academic proficiency by achieving a composite, core or survey score that is within the average or higher than average range of scores, as established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of this bisection, a school district shall accept assessment results administered or reported by a third party.

Section 412: ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY

Students with disabilities as defined by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and/or Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act, who are currently being served under either or those acts, may apply to the UIL staff for accommodations to applicable contest rules or playing rules. Contact the UIL office or visit the UIL website for details and an application.

Section 441: AMATEUR ATHLETIC STATUS

The amateur rule starts the first class day of a student's ninth grade year, and is in continuous effect during the school year and summer months until all athletic competitions are completed in the 12th grade. The student at all times (whether in school or outside school) shall abide by the letter and intent of amateurism, as set forth in this section. Schools are charged with the responsibility of informing students of all applicable subsections of this rule and enforcing this rule. Administrators and coaches must ensure that athletes receive only services specifically permitted by written rule. Any breach of the rule undermines the educational goals of interscholastic athletics.

(a) NOT AN AMATEUR. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months:

(1) except as provided otherwise in this section, received money or other valuable consideration for participating in a UIL sponsored school sport;

(2) received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan or service related to a UIL sport or contest; or

(3) accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "participating" means taking part or playing any role in the covered sport or otherwise being involved in any practice, game or contest of the covered sport, as a coach, player, manager, assistant, or any other involvement besides that of a spectator. A game or activity involving chance not sponsored by the UIL but that may also involve a student using some athletic skill or ability does not constitute "participating" under this section. Such a game or activity would be a "half-court shot" contest as part of a marketing program or throwing balls at a target for a prize. "Teaching" and 'coaching" are synonymous terms.

(5) For the purposes of this section a "UIL sponsored school sport" is any sport that is sponsored by the UIL as either a regular approved UIL activity or pilot program and that is made available through the school the student attends. For example, baseball is a UIL sponsored sport and is covered by this rule, regardless of the level of competition involved or organization that is administering the game in which the sport is played.

(b) EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed local prevailing rates for teaching or coaching activities.

(2) Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed local prevailing rates for officiating athletic contests.

(3) Prospective collegiate student-athletes may sign a scholarship agreement which contains the conditions of a scholarship with a post-secondary institution. Prospective collegiate student-athletes may also sign other financial agreements, including Name, Image or Likeness agreements, with a postsecondary institution, in accordance with state law.

(4) For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, the member school, school district or a student's parent(s) may provide medical examination and services, athletic insurance, transportation and other travel expenses incurred in competing away from home, or supplies and services during and in connection with a game or practice period. Jerseys or game shirts may be worn on game day as well as during practice or competition, with school district approval.

(5) Participant schools and member school districts may permit student athletes to attend contests by permit admission through a pass gate.

(6) A student-athlete in grades 9-12 may accept funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or other national governing body.

(7) Student athletes may accept small "goodie bags" consisting of cookies, candy and symbolic gifts from their classmates, if allowed by local school policy.

(8) Student athletes may accept travel expenses and attend free banquets in connection with an awards ceremony to accept a national and/or state-wide award, after completing their eligibility in that sport.

(9) *Meals.* The local school district determines when, how and from whom student athletes can receive meals and snacks.

(10) This rule is sport-specific. For example if a student violates the rule in one sport that student would be ineligible for that sport only.

(c) STATUS REGAINED. If a student did not realize that accepting the valuable consideration was a violation of the amateur rule and returns the valuable consideration within 30 days after being informed of the violation, that student may regain athletic eligibility as of the date the valuable consideration is returned. If a student fails to return it within 30 days, that student remains ineligible for one year from when he or she accepted it. During the period of time a student is in possession of valuable consideration, he or she is ineligible for varsity athletic competition in the sport in which the violation occurred. Any games or contests in which the student participated during that time would be forfeited as the minimum penalty.

(d) TEAM VIOLATION. If the team violates this section, the penalty shall be assessed against the team and not against each individual.

Section 442: RESIDENCE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ATTENDANCE ZONE

This section applies to the first calendar year of attendance in grades 9-12 and to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code. Parent(s) in the context of this rule means parents or adoptive parents who adopted the student prior to the student's first entry in the ninth grade.

(a) PRESUMPTION OF RESIDENCE OF STUDENT,

PARENT(S), SPOUSE. The residence of a single, divorced or widowed student is presumed to be that of the parents of the student. The residence of a married student is presumed to be that of his or her spouse.

(b) GUARDIAN OF PERSON. If a student's parents are alive but a guardian of his or her person was appointed by appropriate authority and recorded in the county clerk's office more than one year ago, the residence of the student is presumed to be that of the guardian if the student has continuously resided with the guardian for a calendar year or more. If no legal guardianship has been taken out, three years' residence with and support of a contestant establishes guardianship within the meaning of this rule.

(c) GUARDIAN. If a student's parents are dead and a guardian of his or her person has been appointed by appropriate authority, the residence of the student is presumed to be that of the guardian.

(d) RELATIVE; SUPPORTER. If a student's parents are dead and a guardianship of his or her person has not been appointed, the residence of the student is presumed to be that of the grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult brother or sister or other person with whom the student is living and by whom the student is supported.

(e) CUSTODIAL. The residence of a student assigned by appropriate authority to a foster home (or in kinship placement, as provided for in Chapter 264; Subchapter K, Tex. Family Code, in lieu of foster care) or a home licensed by the state as a childcare boarding facility, or placed in a home by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Juvenile Justice Department or an equivalent state agency, is presumed to be at the home or facility to which the student has been placed. If a student's parent(s) move the student to a foster home in another school district, the student is not eligible, but may apply for a waiver. The residence of a student placed in a home or residential facility that is affiliated with a special purpose school district as outlined in Section 11.351 of the Texas Education Code is presumed to be at the special school district-affiliated home or residential facility where the student is placed. A student in managing conservatorship as noted in this section, who is determined to meet varsity eligibility requirements and is subsequently relocated by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Juvenile Justice Department or an equivalent state agency, to a placement outside the current school's attendance zone, would not lose varsity eligibility under this section as long as they remain enrolled in the school.

(f) DIVORCED PARENTS. The residence of a student whose parents are divorced is presumed to be that of either parent.

(g) SEPARATED PARENTS.

(1) If a student's parents separate (and are not divorced), and if one parent remains in the attendance zone where the student has been attending school, the student's residence is presumed to be that of the parent who did not move.

(2) If a student transfers to a new school with a separated (but not divorced) parent, the student is ineligible for one calendar year, but may apply for a waiver.

(3) Parents who have been separated for at least the previous three consecutive years would be considered as 'divorced' for purposes of this rule.

(h) MILITARY PARENT(S); PEACE OFFICER PARENT(S); EDUCATOR PARENT(S).

(1) A student whose parent is active military and receives a permanent change of station to a military base with a special purpose school district, or whose parent has been released into retirement by the Department of Defense for a reason other than a dishonorable discharge and the student enrolls in the special purpose school district on a military base at the student's first opportunity, is considered in compliance with this rule.

(2) A student whose parent is a 'servicemember' as defined in section 25.0344 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), and transfers to a new school as outlined in TEC 25.0344 at first opportunity, and is otherwise in compliance with eligibility rules, is considered in compliance with this rule.

(3) Does the student and the parent or guardian A student whose parent is a 'peace officer' as referenced in section 25.0344 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) (definition in section 1701.001, occupations code), and transfers to a new school as outlined in TEC 25.0344 at first opportunity, and is otherwise in compliance with eligibility rules, is considered in compliance with this rule.

(4) A student whose parent is hired for a full-time position requiring a certificate from the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) at a member independent school district (ISD) or member charter school organization and transfers to a new school in the ISD or the charter school in which the parent is employed, at first opportunity, and is otherwise in compliance with eligibility rules, is

considered in compliance with this rule, with local school district approval.

(i) CRITERIA OF RESIDENCE. The intent of this section is to ensure that unless circumstances fit one of the exceptions above, any relocation of residence is a complete and permanent move for the family. The residence shall be the domicile which is a fixed, permanent and principal home for legal purposes. The residence is not bona fide under UIL rules unless it complies with all of the following criteria.

(1) Does the student's parent, guardian or other person whose residence determines the student's residence own a house or condominium or rent a house, apartment or other living quarters in the school district and attendance zone? ***Parents or guardians must provide documentation to verify the purchase, lease or rental of a home located in the new attendance zone. A lease agreement or rental agreement should be for a reasonable duration.***

(2) Does the student and the parent or guardian have their furniture and personal effects in the district and attendance zone? ***There should be no personal effects or furniture belonging to the family in the previous residence.***

(3) Does the student and the parent or guardian receive their mail (other than office mail) in the district and attendance zone? ***The family should have submitted a change of mailing address to the Post Office.***

(4) Are the parents or guardians registered to vote in the district and attendance zone? ***If either of the parents or guardians was registered to vote at the previous address, they should have applied for a new voter registration card at the new address.***

(5) Do the parents or guardians regularly live in the district and attendance zone and intend to live there indefinitely? ***The new residence should accommodate the entire family. The former house should be on the market at a reasonable market price or sold, or the lease or rental agreement terminated. All utilities and telephone service should be disconnected or no longer in the family's name. All licensed drivers in the household should have complied with DPS regulations for changing their address.***

(6) Are the parents or guardians required to live in the district and attendance zone for the first calendar year? ***If the parents or guardians of a contestant move from the district or school zone before the student has been in attendance for one year, the student loses athletic eligibility in the school district from which the parents or guardians move, and remains ineligible there for varsity athletics until a year is up.***

Section 443: CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

(a) NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE. The new student eligibility questionnaire (page 1 of the PAPF) is required for any new student in grades 9-12. The new student eligibility questionnaire and sections I and II of the PAPF (page 2) shall be completed and submitted prior to the student participating in any contest at the high school level, including varsity and sub varsity / junior varsity athletics.

(b) PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM (PAPF). An individual is presumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if he or she participated with his or her former school in any UIL athletic contest or practice in grades eight through twelve during any previous school year until:

(1) the student's parents change their residence to the new school or attendance zone; (Refer to Section 442 (g) for a student who changes residence with a separated parent);

(2) a representative of the new school completes and signs the New School Certification portion of the PAPF.;

(3) a representative of the previous school signs a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited and is not changing schools for athletic purposes;

(4) the District Executive Committee approves the completed PAPF.

NOTE: The District Executive Committee is not bound to determining only the status of students who participated at another school the previous or current year, as it relates to changing schools for athletic purposes.

(c) NO PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM REQUIRED. The Previous Athletic Participation Forms (page 2 of PAPF) are not required to be signed by a previous school if the student did not practice or participate with his or her former school in grades eight through twelve or if the student was required to change schools because the school district or attendance zone lines were changed by the school board or other appropriate authority.

(d) DETERMINATION BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The District Executive Committee is to determine whether or not a student changed schools for athletic purposes, when considering each student who changed schools and has completed the eighth grade, whether or not the student has represented a school in grades nine through

twelve.

(e) COMMON INDICATORS. District Executive Committees should look closely to determine if a student is changing schools for any athletic purpose. Some common indicators committees should include in their considerations include, but are not limited to: checking to see if a student was recruited; ascertaining whether a student was in good standing in the previous school, either academically or in a sports program; determining if a student was unhappy with a coach in the previous school; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where members of the non-school team attend; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where the non-school team coach or a relative of the non-school team coach, is the school coach; and determining if a student received individual or team instruction from a school coach and is transferring to the school of that coach.

(f) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(1) If the District Executive Committee where the student attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes and meets all the criteria listed in Section 442, it shall declare the student eligible if he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.

(2) If the District Executive Committee where the student now attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes, it may declare that student eligible even though the school district from which he or she moved refused to sign the PAPF. (Extreme caution should be used in granting eligibility under this condition.)

(3) If the District Executive Committee where the student now lives finds at any time that the change was made for athletic purposes, it shall declare that student ineligible to participate in athletic contests for one year. This may include a student who did not compete at the previous school. If the committee decides that the period of ineligibility should be longer than one year, the committee shall transfer the case to the State Executive Committee. Subject to Section 403 (f) and 463 (2)(A), a student who has established varsity eligibility under this section at a member school but who subsequently enrolls in another member school and is found to have changed schools for athletic purposes remains eligible at the school, where eligibility was first established.

(4) When officials from both the sending and receiving schools agree that a student changed schools for athletic purposes, the State Executive Committee will not hear or grant an appeal.

(g) INELIGIBLE. A student who changes schools for athletic purposes is not eligible to compete in varsity UIL athletic contest(s) at the school to which he or she moves for at least one calendar year, even if both parents move to the new school district attendance zone. Refer to (a) and (b) above.

(1) **Exception:**

(A) One time only, intra-district transfer students are eligible for one varsity athletic activity that was not offered at their previous school. The student must wait one calendar year before gaining eligibility for any other varsity athletic contest. If a student who has been granted participation under this section returns to the school in the attendance zone where the parents reside, a Previous Athletic Participation Form shall be furnished to the District Executive Committee, who will rule on the student's eligibility at that school.

(h) LENGTH OF INELIGIBILITY. The District Executive Committee for the district into which the student moves shall determine when or if a student who moves for athletic purposes becomes eligible. Refer to (g) and (f)(3) above.

(i) MINIMUM PENALTY. If a new student eligibility questionnaire or previous athletic participation form was not filed prior to competition and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under subchapter M of the constitution, the district executive committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. The committee may assess the minimum penalty of reprimand. Repeated violations of this section could subject the school in question to the range of penalties, in sections 29 (DEC) and 27 (SEC), including enhanced penalty factors.

NOTE: (f) and (h) above speak to the applicability of the Previous Athletic Participation Form as it relates to students who have or have not represented another school in grades nine through twelve in either varsity or sub varsity competition. Section 403 (c) prohibits students from changing schools for athletic purposes.

Section 446: AGE

(a) PROOF OF AGE. Age shall be determined based on a student's birth certificate. In cases where a student's birth certificate is unavailable, other similar government documents used for the purpose of identification may be substituted.

(b) NINETEEN ON SEPTEMBER 1.

(1) ***Eligibility.*** A student who is nineteen on September 1 preceding the contest, and who initially enrolled in the ninth grade no more than four calendar years ago, and who prior to the end of his or her second year in high school was in special education, under the auspices of an ARD committee or identified as a 504 student by a 504 committee, is eligible to participate in a UIL varsity athletic contest as a representative of a member school if:

(A) the student has or had a disability which delayed his or her education for a year or more;

(B) the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD committee or is currently identified as a 504 student by a 504 committee, and

(C) the student has not already participated one extra year under this exception.

(2) ***Requirements***. The requirements below are to be met by the superintendent. A student may apply for a waiver as outlined in Section 463 only if the superintendent does not submit proper verification.

(A) The following must be submitted to the superintendent of the school district for eligibility determination:

(i) Special education students must provide documentation of a special education status and documentation that a disability delayed their education by at least one year.

(ii) Students with a history of a disability must provide documentation from a 504 committee proving the existence and length of time of the disability that caused the delay of at least one year in their education.

(B) The superintendent must certify that the student has met eligibility requirements on a form prepared by the UIL office, and submit the completed form to the chair of the District Executive Committee. If a student is unable to obtain the required certification from the superintendent, the student may appeal the matter to the UIL Waiver Officer for disposition. (Refer to Section 463).

(3) ***District Executive Committee.***

(A) The chair of the District Executive Committee will accept only completed certification forms. The following will be returned to the superintendent by the chair of the committee with eligibility denied:

(i) forms that do not certify that the student meets the requirements for eligibility;

(ii) forms that indicate that the student is not in compliance with the four-year rule and a waiver for that rule has not been granted, or

(iii) forms that contain any missing information or missing signatures.

(B) The District Executive Committee will verify completed certification forms and declare the student eligible for varsity competition.

(C) The student remains ineligible for varsity athletics unless and until all eligibility is verified by the District Executive Committee.

Subchapter N. WAIVER OF ELIGIBILITY RULES

Section 463: APPLICATION FOR WAIVER

(a) WHO MAY APPLY.

(1) When a student does not comply with Sections 400 (g) and 408 because that student has not met the requirements for graduation four years after first entering into the ninth grade and has missed an entire season's participation in a specific activity due to inadvertent circumstances other than an athletic injury, that student may apply for a waiver of the apparent non-compliance and a declaration of eligibility in those activities that were missed. A student may apply for a waiver of the four-year rule only once. The fact that a member school does not offer a specific activity is not grounds for claiming the student was unable to participate in that activity.

(2) ***Parent Residence Rule.***

(A) If a District Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee finds that a

student does not comply with Sections 403(f) and 442 (residence rules), that student may apply for a waiver of the apparent non-compliance and a declaration of eligibility. **As An Exception:** A student who is found by a District Executive Committee, or upon appeal, the State Executive Committee, to have changed schools for athletic purposes or other impermissible reasons may return within thirty (30) days after being ruled ineligible to the school the student left without need of a parent residence waiver as long as all other eligibility rules are satisfied. In cases where there is a dispute regarding the student's qualification for this exception, the Executive Director or his or her designee may make a determination as to whether the student qualifies.

(B) A waiver of the residence rule shall be null and void in regards to the school the student has moved to when either the District Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee determines that the student changed schools for athletic purposes.

(C) If a student who has been granted a waiver returns to the school in the attendance zone where the parents reside, a Previous Athletic Participation Form shall be furnished to the District Executive Committee, who will rule on the student's eligibility at that school.

(3) Students who change schools from one independent school district to another independent school district to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Program may apply for a waiver of Sections 403 (f) and 442 (residence rules) to be eligible for varsity athletics the first year of attendance.

(4) ***Age Rule, Sections 403 (b) and 446.*** If a student is nineteen or older and has met all the criteria in Section 446 prior to the end of his or her second year in high school, but the superintendent does not submit proper verification to the District Executive Committee and the UIL, that student may apply for a waiver if:

(A) the student has or had a disability which delayed his or her education for a year or more;

(B) the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD committee or is currently identified as a 504 student by a 504 committee; and

(C) the student has not already participated an extra year under this exception.

NOTE: This waiver procedure is only for students who are unable to obtain the required certification from the superintendent as outlined in Section 446.

(5) *Retroactive Waiver Procedure* (Refer to Section 469).

(b) PROCEDURE. The application must be in writing on the UIL Application for Waiver form and signed by the student and, if the student is under 18 years of age, by a parent or guardian. The applicant shall submit a copy of all documentation to the superintendent. The superintendent shall send a copy of the application to the chair of the District Executive Committee. The chair shall notify members of the district that the application has been filed.

Section 464: SUBMISSION TO WAIVER OFFICER

(a) The applicant for a waiver shall submit with the application statements of the facts and circumstances that excuse the apparent non-compliance with the rules.

(b) An applicant for a waiver of the age-rule, Sections 403 (b) and 446, must also submit the following:

(1) an applicant who is a special education student must provide documentation of special education status and documentation that a disability delayed his or her education by at least one year;

(2) an applicant who is a student with a history of a disability must provide documentation from a 504 committee proving the existence and length of time of the disability that caused the delay of at least one year in his or her education; and

(3) applicants must submit documentation and/or a statement of the facts and circumstances indicating that the applicant was unable to obtain the required certification from the superintendent.

Section 465: DECISION BY WAIVER OFFICER

(a) DECISION. Within 14 days after the Waiver Officer determines that the application is complete, the Waiver Officer shall upon the basis of the application and written statements decide whether the waiver should be granted and the applicant declared eligible.

(b) BASIS FOR DECISION.

(1) ***Residence Rule, Sections 403 (f) and 442.***

(A) ***International Baccalaureate Program***. The waiver of the residence requirements of a student who changes schools to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Program may be granted unless the District Executive Committee has determined the student changed schools for athletic purposes.

(B) ***Other Waivers of Parent Residence Rule***. If the Waiver Officer finds that the circumstances that caused the student to be ineligible were caused by involuntary and/or unavoidable action such that the Waiver Officer could not reasonably expect the student to comply with the rules, the Waiver Officer shall grant the waiver.

(2) ***Four Year Rule, Sections 400 (g) and 408***. If the Waiver Officer finds that the circumstances that caused the student to be ineligible were caused by involuntary and/or unavoidable action such that the Waiver Officer could not reasonably expect the student or the parents to comply with the rule, and if those same circumstances caused the student to miss an entire season's participation in an activity, the Waiver Officer shall grant the waiver.

(3) ***Age Rule, Sections 403 (b) and 446***.

(A) If the Waiver Officer finds that the student meets the requirements set forth in Section 463, the Waiver Officer shall grant the waiver.

(B) The decision of the Waiver Officer shall be final.

(4) The waiver is granted for specific athletic activities. If students wish to participate in an athletic activity other than the specific one(s) for which they were originally granted a waiver, such requests shall be presented by the school to the District Executive Committee which shall grant or deny the request. Notifying the Waiver Officer for each subsequent sport is not required.

(5) Ignorance of the rules is not a basis for granting a waiver.

(c) NOTIFICATION. The Waiver Officer shall promptly send a copy of the decision to the applicant, superintendent, principal and the chair of the District Executive Committee.

(d) EFFECT OF DECISION. If the Waiver Officer decides that the applicant is eligible, the student may participate in a UIL contest until the Waiver Review Board issues a change in eligibility status by overturning the waiver.

Section 466: REVIEW OF WAIVER OFFICER'S DECISION

(a) Except in appeals under the age rule, Section 465 (b)(4),the applicant, the parent or guardian of the applicant, or any superintendent may request a review of the decision of the Waiver Officer. The request for review must be in writing and be accompanied by payment of a $200.00 filing fee. If the applicant or the applicant's parents request the review, and the applicant is indigent or a dependent of an active military personnel, the filing fee may be waived.

(b) RULES OF BOARD. The Waiver Review Board shall adopt and publish the rules of procedure to be followed by it in reviews. In accordance with Section 150, the Waiver Review Board or a UIL Hearing Officer may hold an informal hearing with witness testimony and other evidence, or decide the appeal based on the written record.

(c) REVIEW SCHEDULE. Unless the request for review is received less than seven days before its next meeting, the Waiver Review Board shall schedule the review of the case at its next meeting except for appeals that have been transferred to a UIL Hearing Officer. The Board may meet monthly from August through March and may meet at such other times as the Chair of the Board may designate. The seven-day limit may be waived if the Waiver Review Board is scheduled to meet to review other cases.

(d) REVIEW. The entire Waiver Review Board, a panel of three members, or a UIL Hearing Officer may review the case. If a member of the Board is involved in the case being reviewed, that member shall abstain from deliberations and voting, and the Chair of the Board may appoint a person to sit in that member's place.

(e) REVIEW PROCEDURE. The review shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Waiver Review Board and may consist of an informal meeting where witnesses are allowed to testify or may be decided on the written record. The application for waiver, the written material submitted to the Waiver Officer by the applicant, superintendent, principal and District Executive Committee, and the decision of the Waiver Officer constitute the written record made before the Waiver Officer.

(f) ARGUMENT. In cases where an informal hearing is conducted, the Waiver Officer, applicant, superintendent, principal and District Executive Committee may submit written documentation or make oral argument. The Board or a UIL Hearing

Officer may limit the time for oral argument.

(g) PRECEDENT MANUAL. The Waiver Review Board shall adopt rules concerning the creation and maintenance of a precedent manual which shall contain decisions of the Waiver Review Board that have sufficient precedential value to warrant publication. Opinions in the precedent manual will be composed of a synopsis of the facts of the case along with the panel's decision and a brief explanation of the basis for the decision. UIL staff may assist in the drafting and preparation of the opinion as directed by the board.

(1) Before being published in the precedent manual, a draft of the written opinion must be reviewed and approved by a majority of the members of the hearing panel that heard the case.

(2) The precedent manual shall serve to provide guidance to Waiver Review Board Panel's when considering similar cases.

(3) The Waiver Review Board's Precedent Manual shall be published on the University Interscholastic League's website.

Section 468: REVIEW DECISION PROCESS

(a) BASIS FOR DECISION.

(1) ***Residence Rule, Sections 403 (f) and 442.***

(A) International Baccalaureate Program. The waiver of the residence requirements of a student who changes schools from one independent school district to another independent school district to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Program may be granted unless the District Executive Committee has determined the student changed schools for athletic purposes.

(B) Other Waivers of Parent Residence Rule. If the Board or Hearing Officer finds that the circumstances that caused the student to be ineligible were caused by involuntary and/or unavoidable action such that the student could not reasonably be expected to comply with the rules, the waiver shall be granted.

(2) ***Four-Year Rule, Sections 400 (g) and 408.*** If the Board or Hearing Officer finds that the circumstances that caused the student to be ineligible were caused by involuntary and/or unavoidable action such that the student could not reasonably be expected to comply with the rule, and if those same circumstances caused the student to miss an entire season's participation in an activity, the waiver shall be granted.

(3) The waiver may be specific to an activity.

(4) Ignorance of the rules is not a basis for granting a waiver.

(b) ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION. The Board or Hearing Officer shall announce a decision in writing within 15 days after the review.

(c) REHEARING; EFFECT OF DECISION. The eligibility status of the applicant as determined by the Board or Hearing Officer is effective on the date the decision is announced. The Board may grant a rehearing on cases that are waived by the Board provided new credible evidence is presented by the District Executive Committee, and it may grant a rehearing on cases that are denied by the Board provided new credible evidence is presented by the applicant or the school the applicant is attending.

(d) NOTIFICATION. A copy of the decision shall be sent to the applicant, the superintendent or principal and the chair of the District Executive Committee and each member in the district.

Section 469: RETROACTIVE WAIVER

(a) WHO MAY APPLY. If a District Executive Committee has determined that a student who is otherwise ineligible according to Section 400 (g) or 403 (f) has participated in a varsity contest, and the District Executive Committee and the superintendent of the school the student attends jointly request a retroactive waiver, the Waiver Officer shall review the facts of that case.

(b) APPLICATION PROCEDURE. The application must be in writing on the UIL Application for Waiver form, and signed by the superintendent, the chair of the District Executive Committee, the student and a parent or guardian if the student is under 18.

(c) REVIEW PROCEDURE. The information shall be presented to the Waiver Officer who shall decide whether the waiver should be granted and the applicant declared eligible.

(d) EFFECT OF DECISION. In granting a waiver, the Waiver Officer may determine that the student's eligibility is retroactive to any date during the current school year, so long as the student has been continually eligible under all rules other than the rule being waived since that date. If the Waiver Officer denies the waiver, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Waiver Review Board. The appeal must be accompanied by a $700 payment to be applied to the filing fee. The filing fee is the actual

expense incurred in convening the waiver review board. The balance of the fee shall be billed to the school or parent after expenses are calculated.

(e) EXCEPTION TO ABOVE PROCEDURE. The UIL Waiver Officer can rule on a retroactive waiver, after the season in question is complete, without consent from a District Executive Committee when the request comes from a parent and has no bearing on the district race. The application fee is $700.

Section 470: SUBMITTING FALSE INFORMATION

If the Waiver Officer, the UIL hearing officer or the Waiver Review Board finds that information was submitted on behalf of an applicant that the applicant knew was false, the Waiver Officer, hearing officer or the Waiver Review Board shall declare the applicant ineligible for one year and the contests in which the applicant competed on behalf of the school he or she now attends forfeited.

Subchapter O. AWARDS

Section 480: LIMITATION OF AWARDS

(a) LIMIT.

(1) ***Awards Schools May Give***. A member school or member school district may give one major award not to exceed $70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a member school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed $20 each. Schools may give a student the $20 minor award for an activity during the same school year the $70 major award is given for that activity. A school may contribute to major awards in honor of winning a UIL State Championship event.

(2) ***Awards Students May Receive.*** A student may not accept from any source other than the school attended or the school district, any award in money, product or service for competing in an interschool contest except as follows.

(A) A certificate, medal, trophy, ring, or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on UIL standing, if it is given:

(i) by the school, or school district in accordance to the limitations in Section 480 (a)(1);

(ii) the District Executive Committee or the entity that organized the competition (i.e., the regional director or zone director;

(iii) the UIL or one of the professional, education organizations sanctioned by the UIL; or

(iv) an outside source approved by the school or school district.

(B) A medal, trophy, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on UIL standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL, such as bowling, motorcycle racing or rodeo do not come under this rule).

(C) Unlimited awards for participating in an invitational academic or fine arts contest which does not count on UIL standing, whether or not it is an activity which the UIL sponsors.

(D) Educational trips sponsored by the school.

(E) Scholarships for college or university enrollment if awarded at or after graduation from high school.

(3) ***Awards Students May Receive for Intraschool Competition***. A student may accept unlimited awards for participating in intraschool competition.

(b) LEAGUE STANDING DEFINED. For purposes of this rule, "counts on UIL standing" means any contest that causes an individual or team to advance toward a UIL district, bi-district, area, zone, regional or state championship.

(c) AMATEUR STATUS. Refer to Section 441 for rules governing amateur athletic status.

(d) INDIRECT AWARD. An award given to a second party to be held for later delivery to the student is considered received by the student when the award is given to the second party. This conduct is a violation by the member school or school district.

Section 481: GIFTS OR AWARDS TO SPONSOR OR COACH

Individuals who coach, direct or sponsor UIL activities in grades 9-12 may be suspended if:

(a) they accept more than $500 in money, product or service from any source, over and above the stipend paid by the school district, in recognition

of or appreciation for coaching, directing or sponsorship of UIL activities. (Refer to Section 1202). The $500 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift;

(b) they accept money, product or service for entering their student(s) in a contest or other activity;

(c) this section includes, but is not limited to, money, gifts, use of automobiles, insurance, club privileges and any funds tendered by booster clubs for other services; and

(d) it is a violation if coaches and/or their attorney(s) accept money or other valuable consideration for payment of legal expenses incurred to file suit or take other legal action against a school, school district or the UIL.

(e) EXCEPTIONS:

(1) ***Scholarships***. A sponsor or coach may accept from any source in any amount a postsecondary institution scholarship.

(2) ***Retirement***. Upon retirement from the profession, sponsors or coaches may accept money or other valuable consideration in any amount from any source.

(3) ***Annual UIL Award for Excellence***. A sponsor or coach may accept the Annual UIL Award for Excellence sanctioned by the UIL.

Subchapter P. RECORDS

Section 800: OPEN RECORDS

The Executive Director shall collect, assemble and maintain all records of official UIL business and, except as otherwise provided by law, all such information in connection with its transaction of official business is, subject to legal exceptions, public information under the provisions of the Texas Open Records Act and is available for public inspection and disclosure during normal business hours.

Section 801: REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO RECORDS

(a) REQUESTS. Any Open Records Request seeking access to UIL records should be directed to the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Custodian of Records at The University of Texas at Austin as follows:

- A request for public information from the university can be made through The University of Texas Public Information Portal: https://utexas.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(rsgbf51keweada35rmcsqqnu))/supporthome.aspx.
- If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Bob Davis, Open Records Coordinator, Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs: publicinformationrequest@austin.utexas.edu | (512)-471-8300.

(b) PRODUCTION COSTS. Any expense incurred in the reproduction, preparation or retrieval of records shall be paid by the person requesting the record. Charges are set by the General Services Commission.

Section 802: CONTEST RECORDS

Each school year, the Executive Director shall collect, assemble, maintain and publish the previous year's list of the winners of the UIL state contests.

Subchapter Q. PUBLICATIONS

Section 825: UIL *CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES*

The Executive Director shall publish the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, and all amendments thereto. The document will be available as an online version and printable PDF on the UIL website.

Section 826: THE *LEAGUER*

(a) PUBLICATION. The Executive Director shall publish a newspaper, the ***Leaguer***. The *Leaguer* is available online at www.uiltexas.org. Each member school is responsible for checking the website for updates.

(b) OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS. The Executive Director shall publish in the ***Leaguer*** the State Executive Committee's Official Interpretations of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

(c) STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORDERS. The Executive Director shall publish in the ***Leaguer*** any other written order of the State Executive Committee when the order requests such publication.

(d) WAIVER REVIEW BOARD ABSTRACTS. The Executive Director shall publish in the ***Leaguer*** abstracts of written orders of the Waiver Review Board when the orders request such publication.

(e) DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ABSTRACTS. The Executive Director may publish in the ***Leaguer*** abstracts of written orders of District Executive Committees in cases when the orders request such publication.

(f) OTHER MATTERS: DISCLAIMER. The Executive Director may publish any other writing submitted for publication, but only with appropriate and prominently displayed disclaimers that the writing does not constitute, under the provisions of the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***, an Official Interpretation or an official staff interpretation.

(g) MEMBER SCHOOLS, DISTRICTS PENALTIES.

The Executive Director shall publish at least annually in the ***Leaguer*** the list of member schools, member school districts and contest districts currently being penalized.

(h) SCHOOL PERSONNEL PENALTIES. The Executive Director shall publish at least annually in the ***Leaguer*** the list of school district personnel who are currently being publicly penalized.

Section 827: FORMS

The Executive Director shall publish and make available to UIL member schools all forms required under the UIL ***Constitution and Contest Rules***.

Section 828: OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Executive Director may publish other documents that are necessary or desirable for the activities of the UIL and consistent with the policies of The University of Texas at Austin.

Section 829: PUBLICATION CHARGES

Except as otherwise provided above, the Executive Director shall establish and charge reasonable prices for all UIL publications.

Subchapter R. FINANCES

Section 866: ANNUAL REPORT; BUDGET; AUDIT

(a) UNIVERSITY POLICY. This section involves policies of The University of Texas at Austin.

(b) PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. The UIL is a part of The University of Texas at Austin.

(c) SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL REPORT, BUDGET. The UIL Executive Director annually prepares a report on the financial and programmatic conditions and activities of the UIL and a budget for the next year and submits them to the Vice President of The University of Texas at Austin.

(d) UNIVERSITY APPROVAL OF BUDGET REQUIRED. The UIL budget shall be approved by The University of Texas at Austin.

(e) AUDIT. All of the financial affairs of the UIL are audited in accordance with the policies of The University of Texas at Austin.

(f) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES. All expenditures of UIL funds shall be authorized consistent with the rules, regulations and practices of The University of Texas at Austin.

Section 867: SOURCES OF INCOME

The UIL's sources of income are as follows:

(a) membership dues; Refer to https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/membership/dues

(b) entry fees; Refer to https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/fees

(c) open records productions;

(d) publication sales;

(e) filing fees for review of waiver appeals and retroactive waivers;

(f) net revenue for state level cross-country, track and field, swimming and diving, tennis, team-tennis, wrestling, one-act play and marching band contests;

(g) an annually determined percentage of revenue for state level baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball;

(h) an annually determined percentage of football post-district play-off gate receipts;

(i) proceeds from radio and television broadcasting and telecasting contracts;

(j) revenue from sponsorships and licensing the use of trademarks and logos;

(k) grants; and

(l) any other revenue generated by UIL in compliance with State Law and University policy.

Section 868: BROADCASTS OF UIL EVENTS:

(a) CONTRACT SCOPE AND PROCESS. The UIL retains all broadcast rights to all UIL post-regular season events and activities. The UIL Executive Director may, subject to applicable University of Texas at Austin procedures, recommend a contract(s) for broadcast rights for all UIL post-regular season events and activities. The UIL Executive Director may, subject to necessary approval by The University of Texas at Austin, enter into a contract on behalf of UIL for broadcast rights for all UIL post-regular season events and activities.

(b) RIGHTS GRANTED. The broadcast rights granted in a contract under this section may include, in whole or in part, every medium and/or visual content presently existing or that may be developed in the future. The rights granted may also provide for live and/or delayed broadcasts as well as ancillary programing, such as highlights shows.

A delayed broadcast, for purposes of this rule, is a broadcast of a UIL activity or event that begins at least one hour after the conclusion of the activity or event.

A radio broadcast, for purposes of this rule, is any live or delayed audio only broadcast of a UIL activity or event regardless of the means or medium of transmission.

A telecast, for purposes of this rule, is any live or delayed television or other broadcast of the visual content, images or pictures of a UIL activity or event regardless of the means or medium of transmission.

A webcast, for purposes of this rule, is any telecast streamed over the internet.

(c) LIVE FOOTBALL TELECAST LIMITED. In accordance with UIL broadcast guidelines, UIL member schools may permit the live webcast of a regular season football game on a Friday night. Other live telecasts of a regular season football game on a Friday night, including over-the-air television broadcasts, shall not be permitted.

PILOT PROGRAM: UIL is allowed an exception to Section 868 (c) to authorize the broadcast of a live Friday game or games on one Friday night during a single football season.

(d) BROADCASTS NOT COVERED BY UIL CONTRACT. In cases where broadcast rights, either in whole or part, for a UIL post-season activity or event are not granted to a third party in a contract under this section or when under the terms of such a contract the broadcast rights of a particular UIL post-regular season event or activity will not be exercised, the broadcast rights are retained by UIL. Any contract entered into by participating schools under this subsection must be approved by the UIL and be consistent with and subject to a contract under this section concerning broadcast rights for UIL post-regular season activities and events.

Chapter 2: Contest Rules

Subchapter A. ACADEMIC CONTESTS

Section 900: INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CONTESTS

(a) PURPOSE. The purposes of The University Interscholastic League Academic contests are to motivate students through comprehensive competitions, challenge students to think critically and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of essential knowledge and skills.

(b) HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CONTESTS.

(1) Accounting
(2) Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition
(3) Calculator Applications
(4) Computer Science
(5) Congress
(6) Current Issues and Events
(7) Young Filmmakers Festival
(8) Literary Criticism
(9) Mathematics
(10) Number Sense
(11) Ready Writing
(12) Science
(13) Social Studies
(14) Spelling and Vocabulary
(15) Cross-Examination Team Debate
(16) Lincoln-Douglas Debate
(17) Extemporaneous Informative Speaking
(18) Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking
(19) Poetry Interpretation
(20) Prose Interpretation
(21) Editorial Writing
(22) Feature Writing
(23) Headline Writing
(24) News Writing
(25) Copy Editing
(26) One-Act Play
(27) Theatrical Design
(28) Robotics

Section 901: ACADEMIC CONTEST ETHICS CODE.

(a) The Academic Contest Ethics Code shall carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of this code shall be subject to penalty.

(1) Participate in contests in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules – both in letter and in spirit.
(2) Sponsor and advise individuals and teams without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery that attempts to skirt the rules or any other unfair tactic that detracts from sound educational principles.
(3) Accept decisions of officials and judges without protest and extend protection and courtesy to officials.
(4) Regard opponents as guests or hosts while placing personal and/or team integrity above victory at any cost. Maintain grace and poise in victory or defeat. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens competitors has no place in interscholastic activities.
(5) Provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to local school administrators or to the appropriate judicial bodies upon request.
(6) Understand and appreciate the educational values of competition and abstain from modifying or soliciting another teacher to modify grades for eligibility purposes, knowing that such behavior defeats the character-building purposes of extracurricular competition.
(7) Abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.
(8) At all times, ensure that competition is relative to a more important overall educational effort, using competition as a tool in the preparation of students for citizenship and successful adulthood.
(9) Ensure that UIL Academic district, regional and state meets receive precedence over non-qualifying contests or meets.
(10) School districts shall notify the academic regional or state meet director no later than the end of the second school day following academic district or regional competition if a student or a team knows that it will not compete at the next higher academic meet.

(b) SALARY/STIPEND. Any salary or stipend arrangement which makes it to the financial interest of a coach, director or sponsor to win a UIL contest will be in violation of the Academic Ethics Code, and the member school district, member school and the school district personnel shall be subject to the range of penalties outlined in Sections 27 and 29.

Section 902: GENERAL REGULATIONS

(a) GENERAL REGULATIONS. General regulations apply to all academic contests beginning at the district meet or qualifying competition and progressing to the regional and/or state meets. Contest procedures and rules may be found in the official contest handbooks for each event.

(b) ELIGIBILITY. The academic contests identified in Section 900 are open to students in grades 9-12 eligible under Subchapter M. See *One-Act Play Handbook* and *Robotics Handbook* for exceptions.

(c) ANSWER KEY ERRORS. In the case of an error on the answer key of an objectively scored contest, the contest director (or designee) should notify the UIL office of the nature of the error and/or contact the respective state contest director to seek clarification. Mistakes in the answer key should be corrected, and papers should be judged on correctness rather than on an incorrect answer given in the key.

(d) VERIFICATION PERIOD. Academic events shall have a verification period conducted according to the contest handbook for each event. The purpose of the verification period is to check for errors in scoring, tabulation and data entry, not to challenge a test or answer key. A student and/or coach not present for the verification period forfeits the opportunity to verify results.

(e) OFFICIAL RESULTS. At the end of the verification period, results shall be announced as official. Official results are final and cannot be changed.

(f) SUBMITTING RESULTS. All academic contest results shall be submitted and certified as final in the UIL Academic Meet Online Entry System or other official procedures outlined in that event's handbook. Contestants whose results are not submitted as required shall not advance to the next higher meet.

(g) RETURNING CONTEST MATERIALS. Testing materials may be returned no sooner than the end of the contest on the last day of the respective week of competitions, following the verification period and announcement of official results, or a date announced by the UIL office.

(h) QUALIFYING FOR ADVANCEMENT.

(1) ***Individual Qualification***. Winners in each conference or division qualify to the next highest meet as specified for the contests listed below. Consult the contest handbooks for Theatrical Design, Film, Congress, Robotics and Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competitions regarding qualification. If an individual qualifier cannot compete at the next higher meet, the alternate shall be notified and allowed to compete.

(A) Two Cross-Examination Debate teams (qualify from district to state).
(B) Three Lincoln-Douglas Debate
(C) Three Extemporaneous Informative Speaking
(D) Three Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking
(E) Three Poetry Interpretation
(F) Three Prose Interpretation
(G) Three Editorial Writing
(H) Three Feature Writing
(I) Three Headline Writing
(J) Three News Writing
(K) Three Copy Editing
(L) Three One-Act Plays (two plays qualify from region to state)
(M) Three Accounting
(N) One Accounting Team*
(O) Three Calculator Applications
(P) One Calculator Applications Team*
(Q) Three Computer Science
(R) One Computer Science Team*
(S) Three Current Issues and Events
(T) One Current Issues and Events Team*
(U) Three Literary Criticism
(V) One Literary Criticism Team*
(W) Three Mathematics
(X) One Mathematics Team*
(Y) Three Number Sense
(Z) One Number Sense Team*
(AA) Three Ready Writing
(BB) Science: three overall winners and the top scorer in each of the three subject areas
(CC) One Science Team*
(DD) Three Social Studies
(EE) One Social Studies Team*
(FF) Three Spelling and Vocabulary
(GG) One Spelling and Vocabulary Team*

*The highest-scoring second place team from each region may advance to the academic regional meet as a wild card. The highest-scoring second place team from each conference may advance to the Academic State Meet as a wild card.

(2) ***Individual Ties.*** Ties shall be broken through sixth place for individuals in contests with tiebreaker procedures. Tiebreaking procedures may be found in the contest handbook for each event. After applying tiebreakers, if there is a tie for first place, there is no second place.

If there is a tie for second place, there is no third. If there is a tie for third place, there is no fourth place and both third place winners advance to the next higher meet.

(3) ***Team Competition.*** In events with an advancing team component, other than Cross-Examination Debate, One-Act Play, Robotics and Theatrical Design, the first place team and a wild card team in each event will advance to the next level of competition. Team members are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless of whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual. If the first place team cannot compete at the next higher meet, the alternate team shall be notified and allowed to compete.

(A) Number Of Team Members. The four highest-ranking members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition. Tiebreaker procedures must be followed for all members on advancing teams and potential wild card teams to determine the top four members advancing as a team per the rules in each event's handbook. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. A first place or wild card academic team may advance only as many members as participated in the qualifying meet.

(B) Substituting Team Members. Only one substitution may be made for team members unable to compete at the next highest level of competition in all team events except One-Act Play. A substitute shall present the contest director a signed Substitute Eligibility Form or a letter certifying eligibility, signed by a school official.

(C) Wild Card Team. Each region's or conference's highest-scoring second place team in team competition events may advance to the next higher meet. Failure to meet the deadline or to submit correct scores disqualifies the advancing teams as wild card representatives.

(D) Team Ties. A tie occuring between two or more teams shall be broken through third place in all events with a team component. If two or more teams tie for first, second or third place, or the wild card berth, the highest overall net or objective score of the fourth ranking member of the team will be used to break the tie according to the event's handbook. Should two or more contestants who are the fourth ranking member of the team have the same objective score after all tiebreaking proceedures have been followed, then a tie will be declared, and all involved in the tie shall advance. A team that does not contain a fourth member forfeits the right to participate in the tiebreaker. Refer to Section 928(d)(2) for team tiebreakers in Computer Science. Refer to the contest handbook for each event for any other exceptions.

(i) NO ADVANCEMENT, SUBSTITUTION OR POINTS IF DISQUALIFIED. A contestant who is disqualified for violation of a contest rule shall not advance in that contest as an individual or a member of the team to the next higher meet. A team shall not substitute a replacement for the disqualified contestant. A disqualified contestant does not earn points.

(j) CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONTEST MATERIALS. Coaches, contest directors and contestants are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of contest materials. Transfer of information relative to the tests shall be considered a violation of the Academic Ethics Code and subject to penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29. Contestants who remove their test entry from the contest area prior to judging will be automatically disqualified.

(k) POINTS.

(1) ***Points Awarded.*** At the district, regional, and state meets, points shall be awarded to schools according to the schedule below. The academic championship shall be awarded to the high school that accumulates the highest number of points in events at that meet. The state academic championships will be awarded based on points from all academic state contests.

(2) ***Division Of Points For Ties.*** The schools of contestants tied for first place in an academic contest shall add first and second place points and divide equally. The school of the contestant ranking next shall receive third place points. Points for ties for the remaining places shall be decided in the same manner, except that contestants tied for the last place that receives points shall divide equally the points assigned to that place.

(3) ***Schedule Of Points.*** Points shall be awarded on

the following basis:

ACADEMIC CONTEST POINTS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
SPEECH						
Cross-Ex Debate	20	16	12	10	8	6
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	15	12	10	8	6	4
Informative Speaking	15	12	10	8	6	4
Persuasive Speaking	15	12	10	8	6	4
Poetry Interpretation	15	12	10	8	6	4
Prose Interpretation	15	12	10	8	6	4
Congress*	15	12	10	8	6	4
Top Presiding Officer*	10					
Speech Sweepstakes Points	10	5				

Note: Speech Team Points. in the combined speech events at each meet, 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points. Five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points. Recognition but no points are awarded to the school that finishes with the third highest number of points No Cross-Examination Debate points are awarded at regional meets. Congress points are awarded at the state meet only.

JOURNALISM						
Copy Editing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Editorial Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Feature Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Headline Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
News Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Journalism Sweepstakes Points	10	5				

Note: Journalism Team Points. In the five journalism contests at each meet 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points. Five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points. Recognition but no points are awarded to the school that finishes with the third highest number of points.

THEATRE						
One-Act Play						
Ranked Plays from:						
District	20	20	20	15	0	0
Region	20	20	15	0	0	0
State	20	16	12	10	8	6
Individual Awards	10	8	6	0	0	0

Note: One-Act Play Points. The three unranked plays advancing from district (two from region) each receive 20 points. The alternate play receives 15 points. At State One-Act Play, points are awarded through sixth place. Points for individual acting awards are: each best performer receives 10 points; each all-star cast receives eight points; and each honorable mention all-star cast receives six points. An individual acting award assigned to a chorus or other group of players counts as only one individual award and shall be allocated the appropriate points. One-Act Play points shall not be awarded for zone, bi-district or area contests.

Theatrical Design*						
Individual	15	12	10	8	6	4
Group	20	16	12	10	8	6
Film*	20	16	12	10	8	6
Theatre Sweepstakes Points*	10	5				

Note: Theatre Team Points. In the combined theatre events only at the state meet, 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points. Five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points. Recognition but no points are awarded to the school that finishes with the third highest number of points. Theatrical Design and Film points are awarded at the state meet only.

OTHER ACADEMIC CONTESTS						
Accounting	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Accounting	10	5	0	0	0	0
Barbara Jordan Essay	10	8	6	4	2	1
Calculator Applications	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Calculator Applications	10	5	0	0	0	0
Computer Science	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Computer Science	20	16	12	0	0	0
Current Issues & Events	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Current Issues & Events	10	5	0	0	0	
Literary Criticism	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Literary Criticism	10	5	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Mathematics	10	5	0	0	0	0
Number Sense	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Number Sense	10	5	0	0	0	0
Ready Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Robotics*	20	16	12	10		
Science						
Overall	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Science	10	5	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Biology	3	0	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Chemistry	3	0	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Physics	3	0	0	0	0	0
Social Studies	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Social Studies	10	5	0	0	0	0
Spelling & Vocabulary	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Spelling & Vocabulary	10	5	0	0	0	0

Note: * Indicates points awarded at the state meet only.

(4) ***Elementary/Middle/Junior High Points***. Refer to Section 1408 for elementary/middle/junior high point system. Points won by an elementary, middle or junior high school shall not be counted toward the district sweepstakes in a high school meet and vice versa.

(l) SUNDAY PARTICIPATION. UIL member schools shall not sponsor students in a UIL contest or an academic contest similar to one offered by the UIL on Sunday. Exceptions:

(1) UIL competitions may be held on Sunday, due to unavoidable circumstances that cause hardship to participating schools, provided they are approved by the UIL office.

(2) School district personnel may instruct high school students and accompany them to school-sanctioned academic competitions held on Sunday that do not count on UIL standing under the provisions listed below.

(A) A student shall not represent a UIL member school in more than four such competitions on Sunday during the school year. **Example:** if a student competes in a tournament scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the tournament counts as one of the four allowable Sunday competitions regardless of whether the student competes on Sunday.

(B) The participation of the student, academic coach, sponsor or director shall have prior approval of the superintendent or designated administrator. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed, accompanied, or transported by a school employee or persons on behalf of school per-

sonnel.

(C) Participation is limited to contests that are sponsored by colleges or universities. **Exception**: Robotics

(D) Students are not prohibited from participating in non-school-sponsored competitions and activities. Parents may take their children to meets provided the school does not pay entry fees or other related expenses and the coaches do not attend the competition. The fact that a tournament entry contains information as to which high school a student attends or information about the high school itself (address, coach, telephone, FAX, etc.) does not in and of itself constitute a violation.

(E) The following constitute sponsorship:

(i) The school pays entry fees for contestants or uses activity funds to pay for any or all student expenses.

(ii) Student uses school fundraiser dollars to pay for fees, transportation and/or housing expenses.

(iii) Student is accompanied by school personnel.

(iv) Student is accompanied, directed or transported by a person or persons on behalf of school personnel.

(v) Student wears or uses school equipment.

(F) School district personnel includes any person hired or appointed by the school or its employees who is involved in preparing or assisting the contestant for a contest that is part of the UIL academic program.

(G) This rule applies only to contests that are part of the UIL Academic Meet Plan. It is not a violation for school district personnel to assist a student in preparation for or participation in a contest that is not part of the UIL Academic Meet Plan.

(H) Students found to be in violation of the Sunday Participation Rule may be penalized for the current academic year in "germane" academic contests. For example, a student found in violation of the Sunday Participation Rule in Lincoln-Douglas Debate would be penalized in debate only (Lincoln-Douglas and Cross-Examination), not in all speech events, nor in any other UIL academic events.

(I) The District Executive Committee shall rule on protests and reports of violations concerning the Sunday Participation Rule. Refer to Section 28 (a).

(m) NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS. (Refer to Section 383).

(n) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL website.

Section 903: DISTRICT MEET

(a) ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS. Only schools that are members of the UIL as prescribed in Subchapter D shall be eligible for the district meet.

(b) MEETS. High school competition shall extend to a state championship in the contests and events listed in Section 902.

(c) DISTRICT STRUCTURE, HIGH SCHOOL. Academic district assignments shall correspond to those listed in the academic alignments on the UIL website. Junior high, middle and elementary school districts may have separate district organization from high school districts. See Subchapter D.

(d) DUTIES OF THE ACADEMIC DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(1) ***General Responsibilities.*** Refer to Section 28 for general responsibilities.

(2) ***District Representatives.*** The UIL office shall name an organizing chair for each academic district committee to call a meeting of all schools in the district to select a chair and the district academic meet director. The UIL office shall be notified of the selections no later than October 1.

(3) ***List of Other Duties.*** Select the site and dates for the meets in accordance with the Official Calendar by November 1. Complete arrangements for conducting the district meet. Arrange the contest and event schedule. Arrange for financing the meet. Solicit entries from each school. See that only those schools on the official list furnished by the UIL office are permitted to enter. Cooperate with the schools in organizing and promoting a district. Adjudicate disputes arising within the district subject to Subchapters E and F,

and work toward making the contests worthwhile.

(4) ***Planning Schedule.*** The Academic District Executive Committee shall schedule all academic competitions during designated dates on the official UIL calendar. One-Act Play shall be completed prior to the certification deadline posted annually on the UIL website. The committee is urged to follow the recommended Academic Conflict Pattern on the UIL website.

(5) ***Expenses In Academic Activities***. The Academic District Executive Committee has authority to finance its expenses.

(e) DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT ACADEMIC MEET DIRECTOR.

(1) ***List of Duties.*** It shall be the duty of the district Cross-Examination Debate director to set up the meet by December 1 and the academic meet director to set up the district academic meet by February 1 in the Academic Meet Online Entry System; secure appropriate facilities; select or arrange for the selection of judges and directors of the contests with the approval of the District Executive Committee and in accordance with individual contest plans; requisition and distribute to contest directors all contest materials furnished by the UIL office; have immediate responsibility for conducting the meet in an orderly manner; certify results online by 5 p.m. of the day following the academic meet; and serve on the Regional Executive Committee. For responsibilities relating to Cross-Examination Team Debate, Refer to Section 1001.

(2) The district academic meet director is expected to notify all member schools regarding the scheduled dates of the meet, but each school has the final responsibility for ascertaining the dates and schedule.

(f) ENTERING DISTRICT ACADEMIC EVENTS.

(1) ***Entries of Contestants.*** See each contest plan for the number of students a school may enter and specific entry requirements. The designated administrator of a school shall be responsible for submitting via the UIL Academic Meet Online Entry System entries of contestants in the academic meet no later than 10 calendar days before the day of the meet. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site.

(2) ***Substitutions.***

(A) Students Whose Names Do Not Appear on Academic, Cross-Examination Debate or One-Act Play Online Entry Forms. Eligible students may serve as substitutes for an original entry by providing the contest director with a Substitute Eligibility Form found on the UIL website or a letter signed by the designated administrator certifying the student's eligibility. The substitution form or letter shall be presented to the contest director before the student competes. The contest director shall update the online entry rosters prior to entering results..

(B) Students Whose Names Appear on Academic or One-Act Play Online Entry Forms. Students who have been certified as eligible but who are to be substituted into another event shall provide the contest director with written notification signed by the event sponsor or a representative from the contestant's school. Eligibility is already certified; therefore, written notification is for the convenience of the contest director who may not have a copy of the academic or one-act play forms.

(C) Refer to Section 1001 for Further Restrictions in Cross-Examination Debate.

(3) *Late Entries.* Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline require authorization of the district academic meet director. Allowances for late entries shall be consistent for every school within that district. Late entries include the following:

(A) Late Online Entry. Submitting an online district meet entry form after the deadline constitutes a late entry.

(B) Late Entry of an Event. Entry of an event not entered by the school prior to the deadline constitutes a late entry.

(C) Late Entry of an Individual. Entry of an individual to fill a place left vacant on the district meet online entry form after the deadline constitutes a late entry.

If the approval for a late entry is granted, the coach or contestant shall provide the contest director, prior to the beginning of the contest, a letter signed by the superintendent or designated administrator certifying both the eligibility of the student and the fact that the District Executive Committee or the district academic meet

director has approved the late entry. At the conclusion of the meet, the contest director shall submit the letter to the district academic meet director to be filed with the school's original online entry form.

(g) CONTEST MATERIALS. The district academic meet director shall requisition contest materials necessary for conducting meets from the UIL office by setting up the meet in the Academic Meet Online Entry System and should be completed by December 1 for Cross-Examination Debate and February 1 for academics.

Section 904: REGIONAL MEET

(a) ORGANIZATION. Names of the regional sites and directors are posted on the UIL website. The regional director is expected to exert every effort to notify all member schools in the region of the dates and schedule of the regional meet; however, the designated administrator of each school having qualified representatives is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the dates of the meet and scheduled times for each contest or event.

(b) ENTRIES, ALTERNATES AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

(1) ***Entries***. The district academic meet director's online results constitute a school's official entry in the regional meet for contests advancing from the district meet. Individual school entry is unnecessary. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site.

(2) ***Forms and Fees***. Each regional site may have its own fee structure and instructions for paying fees.

(3) ***Alternates***. If a qualified contestant placing first, second or third is unable to participate in the regional meet, the qualifier's designated administrator shall notify the district academic meet director in writing. The district academic meet director shall contact the regional director as well as the next lower place finisher, who shall become qualified to represent the district. Once an alternate has been designated as a contestant, the original qualifier is not eligible to be reinstated unless the alternate cannot compete. Alternates who are not taking the place of an absent qualifier shall not be allowed to participate in the competition.

(4) ***Substituting Team Members***. If a qualified team member is unable to participate, refer to Section 902 (h)(3).

(c) QUALIFICATION. District winners in each contest qualify to the regional meet from each conference according to Section 902. Team members, except journalism and speech, are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual.

(d) REGIONAL ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIP. The school in each region with the highest total points for all regional level academic events shall be named the regional academic champion and awarded a trophy. Points shall be awarded according to Section 902. No school shall be eligible for the regional academic championship that does not place in more than one event.

(e) DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR.

(1) *Composition of Regional Executive Committee*. Each regional site shall be under the charge of a Regional Executive Committee with a regional director named by the UIL office. The Regional Executive Committee shall consist of a regional director as chair, directors of the regional academic meet and One-Act Play appointed by the regional director and the academic meet district director from each district in the region.

(2) *Committee Quorum*. The foregoing shall constitute the voting members of the Regional Executive Committee. Five members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum cannot be assembled, members may be contacted by telephone.

(3) *List of Duties*.

(A) Regional Committee. A Regional Executive Committee is subject to Section 28 (e)(j) and (n), as applicable, and Section 30. The Regional Executive Committee shall hold regional contests in the events listed in Section 902; schedule contests within dates specified on the official UIL calendar in compliance with Subchapter L; follow the Academic Conflict Pattern provided on the UIL website; and arrange the meet schedules in the interest of the schools and participants, using as little school time and necessitating as little expense and travel as possible.

(B) Regional Director. The duties of the Regional Director shall parallel those of the District Academic Meet Director found in Section 902 (d) and (e),

as applicable. The Regional Director shall have charge of arrangements for the contests and appoint other contest directors as necessary. The Regional Director shall identify Academic Meet District Directors from the Regional Executive Committee and participating school representatives who will work with the site contest directors in all aspects of the meet from the planning stages through certification of results.

Section 905: STATE MEET

(a) ORGANIZATION.

(1) ***State Meet***. The Academic State Meet is held annually. A tentative schedule of contests and events and information is posted on the UIL website.

(2) ***School Responsibility***. The designated administrator of each school having qualified representatives is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the dates of the meet and scheduled times for each contest or event.

(b) ENTRIES, ALTERNATES AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

(1) ***Entries***. The regional meet director's online results constitute a school's official entry in the state meet for contests advancing from the regional meet. Individual school entry is unnecessary. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site. All other state academic events shall follow the process found in the contest plan.

(2) ***Alternates***. If a qualified contestant placing first, second or third is unable to participate in the state meet, the qualifier's designated administrator shall notify the state director in writing. The UIL office will contact the next lower place finisher, who shall become qualified to represent the region. Once an alternate has been designated as a contestant, the original qualifier is not eligible to be reinstated unless the alternate cannot compete. Alternates who are not taking the place of an absent qualifier shall not participate in the competition.

(3) ***Substituting Team Members***. If a qualified team member is unable to participate, refer to Section 902 (h)(3).

(c) QUALIFICATION. Regional winners in each contest qualify to the state meet from each conference according to Section 902. Team members, except journalism and speech, are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless of whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual. State events without a regional competition will follow the process found in the contest handbook.

(d) STATE ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIP. The school in each conference with the highest total points for all academic events listed in Section 900 with a state competition shall be named the state academic champion for that conference and awarded a trophy. Points shall be awarded according to Section 902. No school shall be eligible for the state academic championship that does not place in more than one event.

Section 906: INVITATIONAL MEETS

(a) INVITATIONAL MEETS. Invitational meets are those meets hosted by schools to which other schools are invited, irrespective of UIL district and conference assignment, to participate in a practice setting for academic contest activities.

(1) ***Host School Responsibilities***. The host school has complete authority over entry procedures, rules and administration of contests and activities for the invitational meet. Host schools are urged to include on the meet invitation and entry forms the origin of contest materials to be used (for example, UIL Set A, UIL Set B, or original materials). Host schools should order Invitational Meet materials through the UIL website by the required deadline.

(2) ***Contest Administration***. To provide maximum benefit for students, invitational contests should be administered as closely as possible to UIL contests, but the final determination of how contests will actually be run rests with the host school.

(b) IDENTICAL CONTEST MATERIALS. Participating and host schools should be aware that invitational contest materials provided by the UIL office will be used for a designated time period rather than for just one day. If students attend more than one invitational meet during any of the designated time periods, they will be tested on identical materials, unless host schools secure or create original materials. Academic coaches are urged to limit student participation to only one competition using the same set of UIL materials.

(c) INVITATIONAL MEET MATERIALS. Only those schools hosting meets may purchase UIL invitational materials.

Section 920: HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Accounting Contest prepares students in principles and practices of accounting for sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations.

(2) ***Format***. The contest may include bookkeeping terminology, the worksheet with adjustments, income statement, balance sheet, trial balance, account classification, journalizing, posting, bank reconciliation, payroll and other items related to the basic accounting cycle.

(3) ***Calculators.*** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition.*** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition.*** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. No ties are to be broken.

(2) *Team Competition*. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 924: HIGH SCHOOL CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose.*** The Calculator Applications Contest trains students in efficient problem solving strategies involving calculations in the areas of engineering, science and mathematics.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest includes calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, powers, exponentiation, logarithms, trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, iterative solutions for transcendental equations, differential and integral calculus, elementary statistics and matrix algebra. In addition to straightforward calculation problems, the contest shall include geometric and stated problems similar to those found in recently adopted high school algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus and calculus textbooks, previous contests, and UIL materials related to the contest.

(3) *Calculators.* Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.

(4) ***Late Arrivals.*** Qualified contestants not present when the tests are distributed will be disqualified.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. In the event of a tie, the higher place shall be given to the contestant gaining the most points on stated and geometric problems. If the same number of points are gained on stated and geometric problems, then a tie exists.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 928: HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER SCIENCE CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Computer Science Contest challenges students to study a broad range of areas in computer science, to gain an understanding of the significance of computation as well as the details of programming, to be alert to new technology and information in computer science, to gain an understanding of the basic principles as well as knowledge of the history and philosophy of computer science and to foster a sense of enthusiasm about computer science.

(2) ***Format***.

(A) ***Test Questions***. The written exam for individual and team contestants and a programming session for teams will focus on computer science programming knowledge and skills rather than on mathematical engineering or other

subject applications.

(B) ***Materials.*** For the programming sessions, teams shall bring their own media for submitting solutions to judges when applicable. Teams shall be prepared to bring a computer to use for competition, including all necessary hardware, cables and software. Each team may use only one computer during the contest. A printer may be used but is not required. Refer to the *Computer Science Handbook* and UIL website for additional guidelines.

(C) ***Calculators***. Calculators are not permitted. During the programming portion of the contest, a computer's included calculation functions may be used.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition, which shall include a written exam and a team programming session. All team members shall take the written exam. For teams with four members, the team's coach shall decide which three members will participate in programming. Schools that do not participate in the programming session shall not qualify for team placement, points or advancement, unless only one school entered enough contestants for team competition. If only one team is entered, conducting the programming session is encouraged but not required.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES

(1) ***Individual Competition***. In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

(2) ***Team Competition***. If two or more teams tie for first, second or third place, the scores in the programming session will be considered first. If a tie still exists, the scores on the written exam will be considered, followed by a total written exam score tiebreaker if necessary. For four-member teams, the total written exam score tiebreaker means adding in the fourth score. For three-member teams no additional score is added. The team with the highest total written exam score wins the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, it will not be broken.

Section 932: HIGH SCHOOL CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Current Issues and Events Contest focuses on basic knowledge of current state, national and world events/issues through the study of national and international online news sites and/or hard copy, daily newspapers, specialized periodicals, weekly news magazines, journals of political or social nature, and other periodicals that report, summarize or explain world events.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of important domestic and international issues, events and personalities.

(3) ***Essay.*** Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. A judge or judges will evaluate the essays of the eight contestants with the highest scores in the objective portion of the test. If a tie occurs for the eighth slot, then essays of all contestants tied for eighth will be judged. The score will be added to the point total from the objective portion of the test, resulting in an overall score.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition

according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If a tie exists after the grading of the essays, then those essays involved in the tie will be judged one against the other(s) to break the tie. When a tie occurs, those contestants who are tied shall be awarded a place before any other places are awarded.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 940: HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY CRITICISM CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Literary Criticism Contest challenges students to acquire a thorough knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and encourages development of abilities through critically thinking about literary texts.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and ability in literary criticism. Students are tested over material on the reading list announced annually on the UIL website and shall also analyze literary passages from works not on the reading list.

(3) ***Essay.*** Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. The essay will be evaluated only for contestants with tied objective portion scores in order to break the ties for students ranking through sixth place. Although the essay section is required of all contestants, no points will be awarded.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If two or more contestants are tied, three judges who are not coaches of the tied contestants will rank the essays and give the higher rank to the contestant with the better essay based on judging criteria in the contest handbook.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 942: HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Mathematics Contest is intended to encourage interest in math, to develop talent in problem solving skills and to inspire students to excel in all areas of mathematics.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of objective questions designed to test knowledge and understanding in the areas of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus, AP Calculus (BC), AP Statistics, and director's choice topics.

(3) ***Calculators.*** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 944: HIGH SCHOOL NUMBER SENSE CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Number Sense Contest emphasizes the mental processes used to achieve mathematical calculations with no help from calculators, computers, or pen and paper, and to develop the use of specific techniques and strategies to make mathematical judgments and develop useful strategies for handling numbers and operations.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of questions testing mental calculations of concepts from basic mathematics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analysis, number theory and calculus. Types of problems and concepts can be found on the Problem Sequencing Chart for the UIL High School Number Sense Test.

(3) ***Late Arrivals.*** Qualified contestants not present when the tests are distributed will be disqualified.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as four individuals in the district meet, or a maximum of six individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(D) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. No ties are to be broken.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 948: HIGH SCHOOL READY WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Ready Writing Contest builds students' skills and helps refine writing abilities through writing expository compositions, which explain, prove or explore a topic in a balanced way, allowing the argument and the evidence given to be the deciding factor in the paper.

(2) ***Format***. This contest gives contestants a choice between two prompts, each an excerpt from literature, publications (past and present), or speeches from which to write an expository composition.

(3) ***Use of Computers***. If contestants choose to use their own laptop/computers, they shall bring a portable printer, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check, thesaurus and dictionary functions may be used if available on the computers. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in hand writing or compose on another computer (if available). When printing the contest on an electronic printer, the print command shall be started by the time contest time expires. Once time has expired, participants and coaches shall not disconnect or connect computer equipment or enter new commands in an effort to print the entry. District or regional host sites may provide computers for contestants but are not expected to make those provisions. Computers will not be provided at state, but contestants by use their own laptops and portable printers.

(4) ***Writing By Hand***. Contestants who are handwriting their compositions shall use their own standard 8 1/2 x 11-inch ruled white notebook paper or typing paper or the paper provided by the host school. Contestants shall write or print the composition in ink and on only one side of the paper.

(5) ***Thesaurus and Dictionary***. Contestants may use a printed thesaurus and dictionary or may use spell check, dictionary and thesaurus functions of a laptop during the contest. No other resource materials may be used during the contest.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as three individuals in the district meet.

(2) ***Team Competition.*** There is no team competition in this event.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES. There can be no ties in this contest. Judges shall rank papers in order of their excellence through sixth place.

Section 952: HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Science Contest challenges students in the basic fundamental principles of science, promotes learning in biology, chemistry, and physics, fosters a sense of enthusiasm about advanced topics and courses in the sciences and prepares students for the rigor of college level courses.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of objective questions designed to test comprehension of fundamental principles in biology, chemistry and physics. Papers may be turned in 30 minutes after the start of the contest.

(3) ***Calculators.*** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A team shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. The four highest scoring members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902. Contestants with the top score in each area (biology, chemistry, physics) qualify for the next higher competition and are eligible to compete equally with the overall winners. One alternate is named for each top scorer position. See ties below.

(d) TIES

(1) ***Individual Competition***. In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by the number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

(2) ***Top Scorers***. In the event of a tie for the top score in biology, chemistry or physics, the formula for percent accuracy within the subject area shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by the number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

(3) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 956: HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The Social Studies Contest challenges students to read widely and deeply in the areas of social studies in order to: expand and apply their understanding of the nature of geography and the physical setting of the earth to physical and cultural environments; expand and apply their understanding of the governmental systems; and expand and apply their understanding of historical trends, movements and eras, the impact and significant of time and place, cause and effect, and change over time.

(2) ***Format***. The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of history, geography, civics and economics. Students are tested over material based on a theme announced annually on the UIL website.

(3) *Essay.* Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. A judge or judges will evaluate the essays of the eight contestants with the highest scores in the objective portion of the test. If a tie occurs for the eighth slot, then essays of all contestants tied for eighth will be judged. The score will be added to the point total from the objective portion of the test, resulting in an overall score.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher meet.

(c) QUALIFICATION: Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If a tie exists after the grading of the essays, then those essays involved in the tie will be judged one against

the other(s) to break the tie.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 960: HIGH SCHOOL SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest promotes vocabulary development and precise and effective use of words.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest consists of objective questions of proofreading and vocabulary and words that are written from dictation.

(3) ***Word Sources.*** At least 80 percent of the test will come from *UIL Word Power*. Outside words may include: words of common usage (e.g., gosling, hemorrhage); words and proper names currently in the news; and words which by their formation or origins build vocabulary and promote the study of English. These include words with affixes, roots and suffixes that appear in words on the printed list by being different parts of speech, and other words of interest for the general lessons, which teach about language.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

(2) ***Team Competition***. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

(1) ***Individual Competition***. If a tie exists for first through sixth place, the score on Part III of the test shall be used to break the tie and determine the winner. If a tie still exists, then it will not be broken.

(2) ***Team Competition***. Refer to Section 902 (h)(3)(D).

Section 965: BARBARA JORDAN HISTORICAL ESSAY COMPETITION

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition is to provide students an opportunity to explore the contributions of an individual, organization or movement that has made significant and positive contributions to Texas history or culture. Students should look first to their local communities for possible essay topics.

(2) ***Format***. Research paper format required. Guidelines and minimum standards will be posted on the UIL website. Essays should display original research; use of primary sources and interviews strongly encouraged.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Any student in grades 9-12 who attends a UIL member high school is eligible to enter.

(2) ***Deadline***. Entries will be submitted electronically on or before the deadline published on the UIL website.

(3) ***Evaluation***. All entries that meet basic requirements will be included in essay judging. Judges will evaluate each entry and provide comments that will be returned to contestants.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Judges will nominate essays to be considered as state finalists. A selection committee will determine state finalists from among the nominees. All state finalists will be presented state awards and become eligible to apply for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships.

Section 970: ROBOTICS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. Robotics incorporates numerous STEM components that develop beneficial knowledge and skills for students, including mechanical and software engineering, computer programming and mathematics. Participation in robotics fosters creativity and innovation, while teaching students to work collaboratively and to think critically and analytically.

(2) ***Format***. The contest structure shall be as specified in the current *UIL Robotics Handbook*.

(b) ENTRIES. Each member school shall be allowed to enter contestants as specified in the current ***UIL Robotics Handbook***.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Criteria for advancement shall be as specified in the current ***UIL Robotics Handbook***. Advancing contestants shall qualify to participate in the UIL Robotics State Championships.

Section 1000: SPEECH

(a) EVENTS AND ENTRIES. The UIL speech program shall consist of events divided into three basic skill categories: debate, oral interpretation and extemporaneous speaking. Students are permitted to enter two events in speech, and Cross-Examination Team Debate (see [b] Scheduling). The eligibility section requirements of each contest shall be met and no more than one event shall be selected from each of the following categories:

(1) ***Debate***.
- (A) Cross-Examination Team Debate
- (B) Lincoln-Douglas

(2) ***Interpretation***.
- (A) Prose Interpretation
- (B) Poetry Interpretation

(3) ***Extemporaneous Speaking***.
- (A) Informative Speaking
- (B) Persuasive Speaking

(4) ***Prohibited Double Entries***.

If You Enter:	You May Not Enter These Contests:
Team Debate	Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	Team Debate, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation
Prose Interpretation	Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Poetry Interpretation
Poetry Interpretation	Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Prose Interpretation
Informative Speaking	Persuasive Speaking
Persuasive Speaking	Informative Speaking

Note. There is no restriction on entering Congress in addition to other speech or academic events.

(b) SCHEDULING. In addition to restrictions of individual contest plans, it is imperative that students and academic coaches become familiar with the Academic Conflict Pattern when selecting contests for competition. This pattern is provided on the UIL website. Students who want to double enter may request that they be allowed to speak first or second in a section but may not request to be placed in the bottom one-half of the section. If the double entry is not prohibited above, contest directors may allow the double entry if the necessary accommodations do not inconvenience other contestants. Contest directors are to use their best judgment in the matter. There shall be no protest of their decisions.

(c) RECORDING. Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) speech contests. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

Section 1001: CROSS-EXAMINATION TEAM DEBATE

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to train the student to analyze a problem, conduct thorough and relevant research, and utilize principles of argumentation and advocacy in orally presenting the most effective case for or against a given proposition.

(2) ***Format***. Round robin or multiple preliminary rounds leading to an elimination bracket. Each round includes approximately 90 minutes of oral arguments in a structured format debating a policy resolution provided on the UIL website. Each two-member team shall argue the affirmative side of the resolution as well as the negative side of the resolution.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. The debates shall be conducted in one division in each conference. In all conferences a school may enter in its district meet four, two-member teams.

(2) ***Eligibility***. Students who graduate during the year are eligible for UIL post-district competition if they have qualified for that competition on or before the date they graduate. Team debaters shall not enter Lincoln-Douglas debate.

(3) ***Substitutions***.
- (A) A debate team shall consist of two members. If a team member is substituted at the State Meet, the remaining debater shall be a member of the original team that qualified at the district meet to advance to the State Meet.
- (B) ***Limit on Substitutions***. After a given tournament has begun, no substitutions will be allowed. The contest director is empowered to disqualify a team for substituting after a tournament has begun.

(4) ***Failure to Compete at District***. Disqualification from the Cross-Examination Debate Contest for the current academic year may result if an academic coach fails to notify the district contest director, in a timely manner prior to the meet, that a team will not compete and such violations may be grounds for suspension from team debate for the following year.

(5) ***Alternates***. In the event that neither member of the original qualifying team can compete, then the alternate team shall be notified and permitted to advance. Alternates in districts with fewer than 8 teams competing or in

districts with only one school competing are subject to the certification requirements. An academic coach who fails to notify the state contest director that a team will not compete is in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code and the school shall be disqualified from team debate for the current academic competition and such violations may be grounds for suspension from team debate for the following year.

(c) THE RESOLUTION. The resolution for debate during the current school year shall be posted on the UIL website.

(d) SCOUTING.

(1) ***Debates Shall Be Public***. Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates in UIL district and state competition shall be open to the public, with the exception of debate teams competing in that tournament. Competing debaters shall not observe rounds of district or state competition in which they are not debating.

(2) ***Notes***. With the exception of the final debate in district and state competition, only the judge and the four student participants shall take notes. For example, anyone may take notes in the debates that determine first and second place, and third and fourth place. Refer to Section 1000 (c) regarding taping and filming.

(3) ***Sharing of Notes***. During a tournament, participants or judges may not give or accept notes taken during that tournament. For example, a judge or a debater participating in the district contest is neither allowed to give nor accept notes regarding any rounds in that tournament from anyone else during that tournament.

(4) ***Penalty for Debaters***. Violation by debaters of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of the debate team from the current competition. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision in questions concerning scouting. Such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from team debate for the following year.

(5) ***Penalty for Coaches***. Violation by coaches of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of their teams from the current competition. Coaches who violate scouting rules will also be subject to the full range of penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29, and such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from team debate for the following year.

(e) COACHING FOR DEBATE.

(1) ***Coaching Before the Meet***. Aside from the bulletins furnished by the UIL office and other reading matter, the assistance furnished to contestants in preparing debates should not exceed the following:

(A) aid in outlining the arguments;

(B) citing sources of information; and

(C) suggestions as to delivery.

(2) ***Coaching During a Debate***. In all contests, the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress. ***Viva voce*** or other prompting either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is prohibited. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammates while they do not have the floor.

(3) ***Penalty for Prompting***. If prompting occurs during a round, the team in violation of the prompting rule shall be assigned a loss in the round in which the prompting took place. Time signals are not considered prompting.

(f) QUESTIONS.

(1) Questions shall be directed to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced. The decision of the meet officials in these matters is final. No arguments with the judges will be permitted.

(2) Excessive abuse by either contestants or their coaches shall be reason for disqualification of that school and its contestants for the current competition and may be grounds for suspension for the following year.

Section 1002: LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

(a) THE CONTEST. Lincoln-Douglas debate provides excellent training for development of skills in argumentation, persuasion, research and audience analysis.

(1) ***Purpose.*** Lincoln-Douglas debate is an oral one-on-one argumentation in which debaters attempt to convince the judge of the acceptability of their side of a proposition with a communicative style of delivery. One debater shall argue the affirmative side of the resolution, and one debater shall argue the negative side of the resolution in a given round.

(2) ***Format.*** Round robin or multiple preliminary rounds leading to an elimination bracket.

Each round is approximately 40 minutes. One debater shall argue the affirmative side of the value resolution, and one debater shall argue the negative side of the value resolution in a given round. Each debater will argue both sides of the resolution within the tournament format.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. The debates shall be conducted in one division in each conference. In all conferences, a school may enter four individuals in its district meet.

(2) ***Eligibility***. The student may not enter more than two speech events; and when entered in Lincoln-Douglas, the second speech event may not be Cross-Examination team debate, prose or poetry. Refer to Section 1000.

(3) ***Substitutions***. During the district meet, substitutions shall not be allowed after a given tournament has begun. Substitutions shall not be allowed after the district meet.

(4) ***Failure to Compete at District***. Disqualification from the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Contest for the current academic year may result if an academic coach fails to notify the district contest director, in a timely manner prior to the meet, that a debater will not compete and such may be grounds for suspension from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.

(5) ***Alternates***. When a debater who qualified for the next higher meet cannot participate in the next higher meet, the alternate should be notified. A coach or designee who fails to notify the regional and/or state contest directors that a student will not compete is in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code and the school shall be disqualified from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the current academic competition, and such violations may be grounds for suspension from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.

(c) THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE RESOLUTION. Two topics for debate, one for fall and one for spring, provided by the UIL office, shall be posted during the course of the school year on the UIL website.

(d) SCOUTING.

(1) ***Debates Shall Be Public***. Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates in UIL district, regional and state competition shall be open to the public, with the exception of debaters competing in that tournament. Competing debaters shall not observe rounds of district, region, or state competition in which they are not debating.

(2) ***Notes***. With the exception of the final debate in district, regional and state competition, only the judge and the two student participants shall take notes. For example, anyone may take notes in the debates that determine first and second place, and third and fourth place. Refer to Section 1000 (c) regarding taping and filming.

(3) ***Sharing of Notes***. During a tournament, participants or judges may not give or accept notes taken during that tournament. For example, a judge or a debater participating in the district contest is neither allowed to give nor accept notes regarding any rounds in that tournament from anyone else during that tournament.

(4) ***Penalty for Debaters***. Violation by debaters of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of the debater from the current competition. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision in questions concerning scouting. Such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.

(5) ***Penalty for Coaches***. Violation by coaches of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of their debaters from the current competition. Coaches who violate scouting rules will also be subject to the full range of penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29, and such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.

(e) QUESTIONS.

(1) Questions shall be directed to the contest director before the official decision of the judges is announced. The decision of the meet officials in these matters is final. No arguments with the judges will be permitted.

(2) Excessive abuse by either the contestant or the coach shall be reason for disqualification of that school and its contestant for the current competition and may be grounds for suspension for the following year.

Section 1003: INDIVIDUAL SPEECH CONTESTS

(a) PURPOSE. The purpose of each of the individual speech contests is to stimulate the student's ability to communicate ideas and information to an audience. In the extemporaneous informative speaking and extemporaneous persuasive speaking contests, these ideas are essentially those of the speaker, derived from the speaker's background of research on current events. In poetry interpretation and prose interpretation, the student is challenged to ascertain and communicate the ideas of an author through a literary selection, based on the student's understanding and research.

(b) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

(1) ***Sections***. A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a single contest, preliminary and final rounds shall be held. Preliminary round sections shall be divided as equally as possible. The following chart shall be used to determine the number of sections and finalists in each section:

No. Entries	Preliminaries	Participants Advancing to Final Round
1- 8	None*	Final Round
9-16	2 Sections	1st, 2nd, 3rd from each section
15-24	3 Sections	1st, 2nd from each section
20-32	4 Sections	1st, 2nd from each section
32-39	8 Sections	1st from each section

* If desired, a preliminary round may be held.

Contestants should be entered on the district online entry form according to strength. Contest directors should section by distributing first, second and third place district entries as equally as possible, avoiding when possible, placing contestants from the same school in the same section. At the regional level, first, second and third place district winners should be distributed as equally as possible throughout the sections.

Section 1004: EXTEMPORANEOUS INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to stimulate an active interest in current affairs at the state, national and international levels, and to teach the student to present extemporaneously in a clear and impartial manner the facts about a subject as they appear in the best available sources of information. This contest is an exercise in clear thinking and informing the public on the issues and concerns of the American people. The objective is to present information orally in an interesting way, and an attempt should not be made to change the listener's mind beyond presenting the information.

(2) ***Format***. Contestants draw five topics, select one and have thirty minutes to prepare an informative speech on the topic. Topics shall be based on current news events and include topics from state, national and international levels. They will be chosen from the general areas of political, social, economic, educational and cultural interests. The speaker is obligated to elicit an informative response. The limit for the oral speech is seven minutes maximum.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each member school in all conferences may enter four students in the contest.

(2) ***Eligibility***. Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Contestants shall not compete in district in more than one extemporaneous event in the same year. See Subchapter M and Section 1000, Eligibility Rules.

(c) RESOURCE. The contest rules and procedures are discussed in detail in the UIL ***Informative and Persuasive Speaking Handbook*** and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing this publication in advance of the contest.

(d) LENGTH OF SPEECHES. Informative speeches shall not be longer than seven minutes. There shall be no minimum time. The speaker may complete only the sentence that is in progress without disqualification, after the allotted time has expired. The responsibility of keeping within the seven-minute time limit rests with the contestant.

(e) RESTRICTION ON NOTES. A speaker is allowed to use one notecard, but not required to do so. If used, the notecard shall be no larger than 3x5" when delivering the speech. No limit is placed on the quantity of information on that one card. Use of more than one notecard shall result in disqualification. All source citations orally delivered in the speech should be legitimate.

(f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE PREP ROOM. The use of laptop and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the preparation room.

(g) QUESTIONS. Questions shall be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is rendered. The decisions of the meet officials in

these matters are final.

Section 1005: EXTEMPORANEOUS PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to stimulate an active interest in current affairs at the state, national and international levels and to train students to analyze a current issue, determine a point of view, and then organize and deliver extemporaneously a speech that seeks to persuade listeners to agree with that viewpoint. The objective is to reinforce the views of listeners who already believe as the speaker does, but even more so, to bring those of neutral or opposing views around to the speaker's beliefs or proposed course of action.

(2) ***Format***. Contestants draw five topics, select one and have thirty minutes to prepare a persuasive speech on the topic. Topics shall be based on current news events and include topics from state, national and international levels. They will be chosen from the general areas of political, social, economic, educational and cultural interests. The speaker is obligated to elicit a persuasive response. The limit for the oral speech is seven minutes maximum.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each member school in all conferences may enter four students in the contest.

(2) ***Eligibility***. Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Contestants shall not compete in district in more than one extemporaneous speaking event in the same year. See Subchapter M and Section 1000, Speech Eligibility Rules.

(c) RESOURCE. The contest rules and procedures are discussed in detail in the UIL ***Informative and Persuasive Speaking Handbook*** and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) LENGTH OF SPEECHES. Persuasive speeches shall not be longer than seven minutes. There shall be no minimum time. The speaker may complete only the sentence in progress without disqualification, after the allotted time has expired. The responsibility of keeping within the seven-minute time limit rests with the contestant.

(e) RESTRICTION ON NOTES. A speaker is allowed to use one notecard, but not required to do so. If used, the notecard shall be no larger than 3x5" when delivering the speech. No limit is placed on the quantity of information on that one card. Use of more than one notecard shall result in disqualification. All source citations orally delivered in the speech should be legitimate.

(f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE PREP ROOM. The use of laptop and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the preparation room.

(g) QUESTIONS. Questions shall be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is rendered. The decisions of the meet officials in these matters are final.

Section 1006: POETRY INTERPRETATION

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand, experience and share poetry through the art of oral interpretation.

(A) Oral interpretation, or the study of literature through its performance, can be defined as a demonstration of analysis, performance and communication skills offered publicly on behalf of literature.

(B) Oral interpretation focuses on literature in performance through expressive oral reading. The goals of this contest are to encourage the contestant's exploration of a variety of literary selections, and to enhance the performer's and audience's appreciation of literature through the performer's interpretation of the work.

(2) ***Format***. Contestants shall prepare selections from both Categories A and B. The literary categories are designed to encourage students to explore the wide variety of feeling and form available in poetry. In any one contest round, the contestants shall be bound by the one selected category. Contestants who fail to read material from within the selected category shall be disqualified. Oral reading of the selection(s), including the introduction and transitions, shall not exceed seven minutes.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each member school in all conferences may enter four students in the contest.

(2) ***Eligibility***. Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Poetry contestants shall not compete at district in prose interpretation or in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Refer to Section 1000 for specific speech eligibility requirements.

(c) RESOURCES. The categories are discussed and defined in detail in the *UIL **Prose and Poetry Handbook*** and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) STANDARDS. In selecting material to be read in the contest, the coach and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit that the same student has not performed in a previous year. Students shall not use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet and strongly are discouraged from repeating the same selection at district or regional contests that they performed in a previous year. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Academic coaches should revise in keeping with copyright laws or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by an author is appropriate for contest material.

(e) INTRODUCTIONS. An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or transitions during the performance shall include the name of the writer(s) and the selection(s) to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

(f) MANUSCRIPTS OR COPIES. The contestant should perform the selections reading from manuscripts or copies of the selections that are in a binder. Students shall not read from books or magazines or perform without a manuscript or copy of the selection.

(g) TIME LIMIT. The time limit for each performance including introduction and any transitional material may not exceed seven minutes. There is no grace period. The responsibility for keeping within the restricted time limit rests with the contestant. The penalty for exceeding seven minutes is disqualification from the round by the contest director, with the exception of the final round of State Meet when the contestant shall receive last in the round.

Section 1007: PROSE INTERPRETATION

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand, experience and share prose works through the art of oral interpretation.

(A) Oral interpretation, or the study of literature through its performance, can be defined as a combination of analysis, performance and communication skills offered publicly on behalf of literature.

(B) Oral interpretation focuses on literature in performance through expressive oral reading. The goals of this contest are to encourage the contestant's exploration of a variety of literary selections and to enhance the performer's and audience's appreciation of literature through the performer's interpretation of the work.

(2) ***Format***. Contestants shall prepare selections from both Categories A and B. The literary categories are designed to encourage students to explore the wide variety of points of view and feeling available in prose. In any one contest round, the contestants shall be bound by the one selected category. Contestants who fail to read material from within the selected category shall be disqualified. Oral reading of the selection(s), including the introduction and transitions, shall not exceed seven minutes.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each member school in all conferences may enter four students in the contest.

(2) ***Eligibility***. Prose contestants shall not compete at district in poetry interpretation or in Lincoln-Douglas debate. See Speech Plan, Section 1000, for specific speech eligibility rules.

(c) RESOURCES. The categories are discussed and defined in detail in the *UIL **Prose and Poetry Handbook*** and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) STANDARDS. In selecting material to be read in the contest, the coach and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit that the same student has not performed in a previous year. Students shall not use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet and are strongly discouraged from

repeating the same selection at district or regional contests that they performed in a previous year. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Academic coaches should revise in keeping with copyright laws or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by an author is appropriate for contest material.

(e) INTRODUCTIONS. An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or transitions during the performance shall include the name of the writer(s) and the selection(s) to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

(f) MANUSCRIPTS OR COPIES. The contestant should perform the selections reading from manuscripts or copies of the selections that are in a binder. Students shall not read from books or magazines or perform without a manuscript or copy of the selection.

(g) TIME LIMIT. The time limit for each performance including introduction and any transitional material may not exceed seven minutes. There is no grace period. The responsibility for keeping within the restricted time limit rests with the contestant. The penalty for exceeding seven minutes is disqualification from the round by the contest director, with the exception of the final round of State Meet when the contestant shall receive last in the round.

Section 1008: CONGRESS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.

(2) *Format.* Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific procedural rules.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an intent to participate form on the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter five competitors in the congressional region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least ten calendar days prior to the congressional region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total contestants per conference are competing in a congressional region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.

(2) *Eligibility.* Speech plan, Section 1000 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the congress competition does not impact a student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate, Number Sense, Journalism).

(3) ***Entries Submitted After the 10-day Deadline***, require majority consent of the regional congress committee.

(c) RESOURCES. The contest is discussed and defined in detail in the UIL Congress Handbook and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) STRUCTURE. Congress will be organized into regions according to the twenty Educational Service Centers (ESC) designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other within their school's region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each conference competing in the congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the state congressional competition.

(e) CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP. A directorship of five for each congressional region contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A congressional region clerk appointed by the UIL office will chair the directorship. The congressional region clerk shall be the final authority until the congressional region competition is completed.

(f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER. The

use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

(g) CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC. Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.

(h) RECORDING. Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or state congress sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

Section 1021: JOURNALISM PROGRAM AND CONTESTS

(a) PURPOSE. The purpose of the UIL journalism program is not so much to train students to become professional journalists but rather to stress writing and higher order thinking skills.

(b) PRACTICAL TRAINING. Few participants in UIL journalism contests pursue careers in journalism. More are trained toward critical evaluation of media, and this training eventually spawns a continuous pressure upon these institutions to better serve our nation.

(c) PROGRAM. The journalism program consists of the voluntary member state scholastic publications association (ILPC) and the UIL's journalism contests. Schools need not join the journalism association in order to be eligible for UIL contests.

(d) INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE PRESS CONFERENCE (ILPC). For information regarding the ILPC, see Appendix III.

Section 1023: HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONTESTS

(a) ENTRIES. Each member high school may enter as many as three persons in each of the five journalism contests for its conference at the district level. A student may compete in all five contests.

(b) ADMINISTRATION AND JUDGING OF JOURNALISM CONTESTS. The director of the district and regional meets shall appoint a journalism contest director to conduct and supervise the journalism contests. It is the duty of the contest director to administer the contests in strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the UIL office. Instances of variances from the guidelines should be reported to the UIL Director of Journalism immediately. The contest director shall be responsible for preventing any communication between contestants or any reference on the part of contestants to notes, books or printed material other than a printed or electronic thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook. The contest director or designee shall be timekeeper for the contest and should give periodic warnings of the time limit, even if the contest is held in a room where a clock is clearly visible to the contestants. When the contest time elapses, the contest director or designee shall collect all papers.

(1) ***Contest Roster***. The contest director should assign a contest number to each contestant.

(2) ***Identification***. The assigned numbers will be the only identification on the contest papers. Judges shall not have access to the master list of number assignments on the Contest Roster until all judging has been completed. Failure to write the identification number on an entry may result in disqualification. The penalty for writing a student's name or name of school on entry is disqualification.

(3) ***Judges***. Judges for each journalism contest shall be secured by the journalism contest director before the contest is administered, subject to approval by the meet director. It is recommended that the judging panel have three members and that at least one member be a current or former journalism teacher. At the regional and state level, at least one member of the judging panel shall be a former or current high school journalism teacher. A host site can request a waiver through the UIL office if it is unable to secure a current or former high school journalism teacher for the judging panel. The panel may be asked to judge more than one of the journalism contests. Journalism coaches accompanying their contestants to regional meets may serve on judging committees, provided no coach is assigned to judge entries from the same event in which his or her contestant is competing. It is best to select judges who have no vested interest in the contest and whose integrity is above reproach. It is appropriate and recommended to pay judges a stipend for each contest judged.

(4) ***Judging Criteria***. Judges should have on hand a list of contest judging criteria, which will be provided to the meet director with the contest packets.

(5) ***Ranking the Papers***. Judges shall read and critique all papers and rank the top six places.

There can be no ties in these contests.

(6) ***Contest Materials***. Contestants may use an electronic or printed thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook during the News, Feature and Editorial contests. Contestants may use a printed thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook in the Headline and Copy Editing contests. No other materials shall be used.

(7) ***Use of Computers***. Contestants may choose to use their own laptop computers in the News, Feature and Editorial contests. No electronic device shall be permitted during the Headline or Copy Editing contests. If contestants choose to use their own computers, they shall bring a portable printer, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check, thesaurus and Associated Press Stylebook functions may be used if available on the computers. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in handwriting or compose on another computer (if available). When printing the contest on an electronic printer, the print command shall be started by the time contest time expires. Once time has expired, participants and coaches shall not disconnect or connect computer equipment or enter new commands in an effort to print the entry. District or regional host sites may provide computers for contestants but are not expected to make those provisions. Computers will not be provided at state, but contestants may use their own laptops and portable printers.

(c) STATE MEET. The first place entries in conference A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A will be subjected to a second judging. The contestant with the top entry will receive a championship plaque, commonly referred to as "Tops in Texas."

Section 1024: FEATURE WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. Feature writing teaches student to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly, and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on the same writing skills as other UIL Journalism Contests, as well as the ability to write descriptively.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an article.

Section 1025: NEWS WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. News writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on mechanical and stylistic precision, lead writing, use of direct and indirect quotes and news judgment.

(2) ***Format***. The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an article.

Section 1026: EDITORIAL WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. Editorial writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on mechanical and stylistic precision, the ability to think deeply and argue or defend a point of view persuasively.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an editorial.

Section 1027: HEADLINE WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. Headline writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on the ability to discern key facts and to write with flair and style in order to tell and sell a story.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants will read six short articles and write prescribed headlines for each.

Section 1028: COPY EDITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose***. Copy editing teaches student the vital skills of proofreading and editing to create accurate, clear and succinct writing. Emphasis is placed on the ability to find and correct grammatical, spelling, punctuation, AP style and factual errors.

(2) ***Format.*** The contest consists of objective questions, proofreading sentences and editing a news brief.

Section 1033: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Purpose*. The purposes of the One-Act Play contest are to foster appreciation of good theatre, satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools, learn to lose or win graciously, promote interest in theatre during adult life and increase the number of schools which have adopted theatre arts as an academic subject in school curricula.

(2) *Contest Format.* Each school performs a short play. The plays are adjudicated and advancing schools are announced and individual awards given. Schools receive an evaluation form and an oral critique.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) ***Representation***. Each member high school of the UIL is entitled to enter a play company in the district contest of its appropriate conference.

(2) ***Participation***. Participation shall be defined as a performance of an approved script with a running time of not less than eighteen minutes. A school that fails to participate in the One-Act Play contest after enrolling shall be subject to the full range of penalties, including suspension from the One-Act Play Contest for the following year.

(3) ***Faculty Director***.

(A) Directors in the high school One-Act Play Contest shall be full-time employees of the school districts the plays represent. Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board for the whole scholastic or calendar year and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law.

(B) Exceptions. A retired teacher or administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may be hired and paid for directing the one-act play or serve as an assistant director. Student teachers, while they are assigned to a member school district to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer, pro bono, to assist in directing their contest play and may serve as one of the directors allowed. A full-time substitute who has directed one-act play during the school year may be permitted to continue through the state One-Act Play Contest.

(C) Aid in Directing. Directors shall not accept nor solicit aid in the directing of the contest play, including the coaching of the performers, staging, choreography or in designing props, makeup, costumes, scenery, lighting or sound. Violations of this rule may result in the play being deemed ineligible for competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.

(1) ***Contest Manager***. The one-act play contest manager, appointed by the district director, should not be the director of a play entered in the same contest.

(A) Responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the one-act play contest manager to organize and conduct the contest in accordance with UIL rules and the "guide for contest managers," in the current ***Handbook for One-Act Play***.

(B) Violations. The contest manager is required to declare ineligible a play that violates any of the following: uses an ineligible student, exceeds the number allowed in the performing company, uses additional unit set, or violates Sections 1033 (c)(4), (c)(6) or (c)(7). Violations of any other rules shall be reported to the appropriate executive committee.

(2) ***Enrollment***. Schools shall enroll, register their title and enter contestants by following the procedures found in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play.* The deadlines can be found in the current official calendar.

(3) ***Play Selection.*** All plays on the approved lists of long or short plays may be used in UIL contests.

(A) Plays Not on the Approved List and Scenic Additions. All requests for permission to produce plays not on the approved lists, together with any requests to use scenic elements not permissible under contest rules, shall follow the procedures outlined in the current ***Handbook for One-Act Play***.

(B) Standards. Directors shall eliminate or reject profane references to a deity and obscene language, actions or scenes from the approved production, including plays on the UIL approved list. The administration of the producing school shall assure that the director complies with

these requirements and that the play does not offend the moral standards of the community. When a script and the staged production are examined and approved by the administration of the producing school, the production is eligible for presentation at any contest site. The Standards Compliance Form serves to certify that the play and production have been carefully examined and approved for presentation. The UIL's Play Appraisal Committee may eliminate language, actions or scenes as a condition for approval of plays not on the approved lists.

(4) ***Time Limits***. No play shall exceed 40 minutes performance time. No play shall use more than seven minutes to set and seven minutes to strike. No more than 60 seconds shall elapse between the set time and the beginning of performance.

(5) ***Scenery***. Scenic items may be used as specified in the current ***Handbook for One-Act Play***.

(6) ***Firearms or Explosives.*** No starter pistol, real gun, rifle, pellet gun, air gun or pistol shall be used in any way, regardless of whether or not the firing pin is removed. Toy, wooden or model firearms may be used. Discharge of a firearm, cap pistol, starter pistol or any type of explosive or the use of combustible materials in connection with a contest play shall not be permitted.

(7) ***The Director During the Contest Performance***. Directors shall not be permitted in the light booth, backstage or offstage areas during the contest performance of their play, but directors are permitted in these areas during the set and strike periods. Directors shall not make contact or communicate with crew and cast members working in said areas during performance.

(8) ***Awards.*** Three unranked advancing plays and an alternate shall be selected at zone, district, bi-district and area levels. Two unranked advancing plays and an alternate shall be selected at the regional level.

(A) Plays at state shall be ranked through sixth place. A+ contests shall be ranked through third place.

(B) Individual awards shall include the two best performers, all-star cast and honorable mention all-star cast. An honorable mention all-star cast, not to exceed the size of the all-star cast, may be selected at the discretion of the judge or judges.

(C) Medals and points given to individual students for competition in the One-Act Play Contest stay with the students even if the school is disqualified. However, if the disqualification of the school is the result of an ineligible student, the student shall return awards and points for that student is deducted.

(9) ***Judges.***

(A) Selection of Judges. Only judges selected from the current UIL's list of accredited critic judges, unless the UIL approves an exception for valid reasons, shall adjudicate all One-Act Play Contests.

(B) Judges and critiques. Judging shall be by an odd number of judges or by a single critic judge. A critique of each play shall be presented orally to all entries and interested audience members before or after the contest manager has announced results of the contest. At the area, regional and state levels, critiques will be presented as determined by the UIL state theatre director.

(C) Responsibility For Selection Of Judges. Judges for zone, district and bi-district contests shall be approved by the District Executive Committee(s). Judges for the area, regional and state contest shall be selected and assigned by the State Theatre Director. A judge should not be selected that would result in any entry being evaluated by the same judge twice in the same year.

(D) Decision Of The Critic Judge Or Judges. The decision of the critic judge or judges is final.

Section 1034: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST ETHICS CODE

One mission of the UIL One-Act Play Contest is to promote a spirit of cooperation among all involved directors, students, administrators, parents and audience members to promote growth in the realm of educational theatre. The One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code shall carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of this code shall be subject to penalty.

(a) ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST CODE. Section 901, the Academic Meet Code requires participants to:

(1) Participate in the OAP contest with the spirit

of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules both in letter and intent.

(2) Direct and sponsor companies and individuals without resorting to tactics which attempt to skirt the rules or distract from sound educational principles.

(3) Accept decisions of the adjudicator(s) and contest manager(s) graciously without questioning their honesty or integrity unless concrete evidence of impropriety can be brought forward. Extend courtesy to contest officials and site crews from the company members, school officials and audience. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens competitors, based on gender or ethnic origin, has no place in interscholastic activities.

(4) Receive the adjudicator's point of view with an open mind. Negative reaction during the critique shall be deemed inappropriate.

(5) Provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to the local school administration, then to the proper District Executive Committee. To withhold information is considered dishonorable and contrary to good sportsmanship. Schools guilty of violating this section are subject to penalty.

(b) CODE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST DIRECTORS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS. The Code for one-act play directors and school officials includes the principles described above and the purposes listed in Section 1033 (a-c) and the "Guide For One-Act Play Contest Directors" in the ***Handbook for One-Act Play***. The Code requires:

(1) Awareness, understanding and observance of all rules governing the competition for which the director is responsible.

(2) Treatment of company members based on sound educational precepts and the general welfare and health of the student.

(3) Professional courtesy to other directors, contest manager(s), adjudicator(s) and participants.

(A) Directors shall communicate the aims and rules of the One-Act Play Contest to all company members in the early stages of the rehearsal process.

(B) Directors shall model professional behavior during the planning, the production rehearsal and throughout the duration of the contest.

(C) Directors shall be responsible for making company members, school officials, parents and patrons aware of the objective criteria described in the ***Handbook for One-Act Play*** and the subjectivity involved in the process of adjudication; i.e. evaluating, selecting and critiquing any work of art, including a one-act play.

(D) Directors and company members shall model professional decorum during all phases of the contest. For example, directors and company members, as representatives of their schools and communities, shall refrain from disruptive behavior, slanderous or overt actions of disrespect, or any other displays of negative behavior.

(4) Adherence to the One-Act Play Contest calendar and pre-contest planning procedures.

(5) Avoidance of any practice that would endanger the welfare or safety of any company member, including actual contact strikes to the performer. Only choreographed stage combat, creating the illusion of physical contact shall be used in the contest.

(6) Emphasis on the academic progress of all participants through a check of their academic standing.

(7) Protests and reports of violations forwarded to the appropriate District Executive Committee at the zone and district levels and the State Executive Committee at the area, regional and state levels.

(c) PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. Directors are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity for professional growth through affiliations with professional associations and publications.

Section 1035: THEATRICAL DESIGN CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose.*** The purposes of the Theatrical Design Contest are to foster appreciation of good theatrical design, to increase the number of schools which have adapted technical theatre as an academic subject in school curricula, to learn to lose or win graciously, accepting with good sportsmanship the decision and critique with a view to improve future projects and to satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools.

(2) ***Contest Format.*** Each school submits designs to the UIL office as directed in the current ***Theatrical Design Guide***. The designs are adjudicated and rated and advancing schools are announced. Schools receive a critique. Qualifiers

at state are ranked first through sixth.

(b) ENTRIES

(1) *Representation.* Each member school shall be allowed to enter two individual entries in each of the design areas and one group entry as defined in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*.

(2) *Deadlines.* Entry deadlines can be found in the current Official Calendar and the current ***Theatrical Design Guide***. See the UIL website for official changes.

(3) *Faculty Sponsors.*

(A) Sponsors in the Theatrical Design Contest shall be full-time employees of the school districts of the schools that the entries represent.

(B) Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board of the school that the designs represent for the whole scholastic or calendar year and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law.

(C) A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may be hired and paid for sponsoring the Theatrical Design Contest. Student teachers, during the semester they are assigned to a member school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to assist for that school. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting.

(D) Sponsors may only provide guidance to the group or individuals. They shall not produce any of the materials contained in the submission.

(E) Sponsors shall not accept nor solicit aid in the preparation of the entries or in coaching the students. This provision is not intended to prevent sponsors from taking their students to the several theatre conferences and workshops conducted by the UIL and by numerous high schools, colleges and universities.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.

(1) ***Selection of Title***. The title used for the Theatrical Design Contest may be the same as that used by the UIL Literary Criticism Contest, unless it is deemed inappropriate for the aims and purpose of this contest and another title, genre or playwright shall be announced. All designs submitted shall be for that title, genre or playwright.

(2) *Prompt*. A "directorial prompt" shall be provided each year. In it, students will be given certain conceptual parameters from which they will develop a design concept. The prompt can be found on the UIL website and in the current ***Theatrical Design Guide***.

(3) ***Submission.*** Schools shall submit all items required for groups and individuals by following the requirements as published in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*.

(4) ***Evaluation.*** Each entry shall be submitted to the UIL and evaluated by qualified theatre and marketing professionals.

(5) ***Advancement.*** Those entries designated as Exemplary shall advance to the state contest. State entries will be ranked through sixth place. A plaque and individual medals shall be presented to the top six groups. Medals shall be presented to the first through sixth place individual winners.

Section 1036: FILM

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) ***Purpose.*** The purpose of the Young Filmmakers Festival is to provide students with the opportunity to explore the art of cinematic storytelling.

(2) *Contest Format.* The films shall focus on storytelling using the techniques and tools found in the cinematic arts.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) *Representation.* Each member school shall be allowed to submit three entries in each category as defined in the current *Young Filmmakers Guide.*

(2) *Deadlines.* Entry deadlines can be found in the current Official Calendar and the current Young Filmmakers Guide. See the UIL website for official changes.

(3) *Faculty Sponsors*

(A) Sponsors in the UIL Young Filmmakers Festival shall be full-time employees of the school districts the entries represent.

(B) Adult involvement in the project is limited to on-screen talent and/or behind the scenes in a faculty advisor capacity.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.

(1) *Eligible Material.* Only those films produced

during the current school year or spring and summer months immediately preceding the competition will be considered for submission into the festival.

(A) Submitted films must be original works and are required to have clearances for music or other copyrighted material used in the project. Films containing copyrighted material used without permission will not be eligible for screening.

(B) The administration of the producing school shall assure that the production does not offend the moral standards of the community. When the final edited product is examined and approved by the administration of the producing school, the production is eligible for presentation at any contest site. A "community standards and copyright compliance form" included in the entry form serves to certify that the production has been carefully examined and approved for presentation.

(2) *Entry Procedures.* The entry procedures, deadlines and categories shall be posted on the UIL website.

(3) *Evaluation.* Films submitted to the festival shall be previewed and scored by adjudicators. The top entries in each category will be screened and awarded at the state festival.

Subchapter B. MUSIC

Section 1100: INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC CONTESTS AND EVENTS

(a) PURPOSES. The purposes of the University Interscholastic League music contests and events are to provide statewide music competitions and evaluations that foster high performance standards, nurture aesthetic development and assess the mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Music.

(b) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Refer to Section 25.

Section 1101: POLICY AND ETHICS; OBSERVANCE OF THE CODE

The policies and code of ethics as outlined in the following sections shall be observed by all music participants.

(a) SCHOOL OFFICIALS:
- (1) provide support for students and directors for implementing music contests and events;
- (2) create a climate of professional concern to assure that music contests and events are carried on with sound educational qualities as the uppermost priority; and
- (3) strive to assure that directors are aware of and observe the letter and intent of all UIL rules and regulations.

(b) CONTEST OFFICIALS:
- (1) administer music contests and events with a spirit of courtesy and cooperation among all participants; and
- (2) see that music contests and events are conducted with discipline and decorum, maintaining both the spirit and the intent of the rules and regulations.

(c) ADJUDICATORS: Adjudicators shall observe the policy and ethics code of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

(d) DIRECTORS:
- (1) know and uphold all rules for the UIL music program as stated in the *Constitution and Contest Rules*;
- (2) foster a spirit of artistic involvement and aesthetic achievement for all students participating in music contests and events;
- (3) instill, by word and example, the respect for all regulations and the graceful acceptance of adjudication;
- (4) recognize the importance of the total educational process and remain sensitive to each student's needs in terms of academic pursuits, personal life and extracurricular activities;
- (5) maintain a reasonable and proper balance of pre-school and out-of-school rehearsal schedules;
- (6) abstain from any practice that solicits teachers to modify a participant student's grade for eligibility purposes; and
- (7) abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.

(e) STUDENTS:
- (1) know and respect the rules and regulations pertaining to participation in any UIL music competition or event;
- (2) maintain a sense of the educational purpose of participating in music contests and events, keeping uppermost in mind the two-fold benefit of self-gratification in an artistic activity as well as the representation of one's school community; and
- (3) remember that conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens other participants, in any way, has no place in interscholastic activities.

Section 1102: GENERAL REGULATIONS

(a) SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY. Schools shall participate in UIL music competition and events based on assignment to conferences in even numbered years. Refer to Section 1102(h).
- (1) *New Schools*. New UIL-member schools and/or UIL-member schools not having competed during the preceding year and intending to enter music contests may become eligible by notifying their Region Executive Secretary in writing prior to September 1.
- (2) *New Middle Schools and Junior High Schools.* New middle schools and junior high schools (whose corresponding high schools are members of the UIL) not having competed during the preceding year and intending to enter music contests and events may become eligible by notifying their Region Executive Secretary in writing prior to October 1.
- (3) *Schools that 'Opt Up".* Schools that 'opt up' a conference (participate in a higher conference than their enrollment qualifies) for reclassification and realignment purposes have the option to participate in music competitions and events in the conference in which their actual enrollment would place them.

(b) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY. Eligibility regulations as outlined in ***Constitution*** Subchapter M and ***Con-***

test Rules Subchapter D shall apply to UIL music competitions and events. The superintendent or a designee shall certify the eligibility of participants at the time of their entry into the event. Refer to Section 1103(b).

(1) *Limited Competition*. No student may perform with more than one ensemble in each organization event code. Refer to Section 1110. **Exception:** An instrumental student may participate with more than one ensemble in each organization event code, provided the student is performing on a different instrument in each ensemble. Refer to the UIL website for acceptable definitions of different instruments.

(2) *Grade Limits*. No student in grades 6 and below may participate in UIL music competitions or events. **Exception:** Sixth grade students are eligible to participate in UIL concert and sight-reading evaluation under the following provisions.

(A) *Orchestra*. The student shall be enrolled in the corresponding music class of the ensemble that is participating in concert and sight-reading or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(B) *Band and Choir*. The student shall be enrolled in the corresponding music class of the ensemble that is participating in concert and sight-reading and the band or choir shall be comprised of a majority of 7th grade students or above or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(3) *Member of Organization*. For the purpose of a UIL music competition or evaluation, a student need not be enrolled in the corresponding music course, provided that all other student eligibility requirements are met. **Exception:** Section 1102(b)(2)(A&B).

(4) *Forfeiture*. In the event an ineligible student participates in any music competition or event, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the ratings and awards.

(c) REGION ORGANIZATION. Texas shall be divided into regions for music competition and events. Organizations and individuals shall participate in regions to which they are assigned. A region may be zoned according to conferences for music purposes, provided there is a minimum of five schools of that conference in each zone. **Exception:** At the option of the Region Executive Committees regions may combine to host a UIL music contest or event.

(d) SCHOOL TRANSFER RULE. Schools will be approved for transfer from one music region to another only under the following conditions:

(1) *Transfers*. Transfers will be considered by the State Director of Music in even-numbered years when schools are being reassigned to conferences. Deadline for submissions is August 1.

(2) *Review Process*. The superintendent of the school desiring the transfer shall, in the request, provide rationale proving travel hardship. Transfers will be denied, if in the opinion of the State Director of Music, such transfers create an imbalance of competition. Transfers denied may be appealed to the State Executive Committee.

(e) REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The State Director of Music shall appoint in each region an executive committee comprised of seven school administrators from school districts in the assigned region, with no more than one representative from a school district. In the event the region consists of less than seven school districts the committee shall be comprised of one representative from each school district. Those administrators eligible for appointment to the Region Executive Committee are superintendents, associate or assistant superintendents, high school principals, music administrators, and other administrators designated by the superintendent. It is recommended that there be no more than two music administrators on the committee. The committee member may appoint an alternate to serve in the event the member is unable to attend a meeting. These members shall serve three-year overlapping terms. Each committee shall elect its own chair who shall serve a one-year term. The chair may be re-elected.

(f) DUTIES AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF THE REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(1) The Region Executive Committee shall be responsible for the region music competition and events as outlined in Subchapter B: Music.

(2) *Accounts.* A music Region Executive Committee may either have a UIL member school that is part of the region act as a fiscal agent for the committee or may deposit its funds with a federally insured bank. The

school acting as the fiscal agent or the bank chosen by the committee shall hold funds for the committee's use and benefit and provide monthly and annual statements showing all financial activity.

(3) *Executive Secretaries.* A Region Executive Committee may only contract for services with a qualified individual to serve as an Executive Secretary using a UIL-approved memorandum of understanding that sets forth the terms and conditions of the relationship between the individual, the Region Executive Committee and the UIL. An incumbent Executive Secretary must be re-appointed on an annual basis by the Region Executive Committee he or she serves. In no event shall any person who contracts to perform services for a Region Executive Committee be considered an employee or treated as an employee of the Region Executive Committee, the UIL or The University of Texas.

(4) *Signature Authority.* Any bank or other financial account shall require dual signatures on checks over an amount to be determined by the Legislative Council. In the case of dual signatures one signature must be a designated UIL member school employee who serves as a representative of his or her school on a music Region Executive Committee. The second signature may be either a designated UIL member school employee who serves as a representative of his or her school on a music Region Executive Committee or the Region Executive Secretary. Checks in an amount that are under the dual signature threshold amount only require a single signature from a designated member of the committee and/or, if affirmatively authorized by the committee, the Executive Secretary.

(5) *Training.* All members of a music Region Executive Committee must take the online training provided by the UIL, including the attorney general's open meeting training. Information on required courses will be posted on the UIL website.

(6) *Management of Funds.* By June 30th each even numbered year, the committee's account shall be settled as follows:

A committee may not retain more than 50% of the prior two years average annual operating budget expenditures in an account holding Region Executive Committee funds. However, in no event may the retained amount exceed a cap amount determined in even numbered years by the Legislative Council. After all of the region's debts have been paid, any remaining funds greater than the allowed retention amount shall be equitably divided and distributed amongst the schools that have paid funds to the Region Executive Committee during the preceding two-year period. By June 30th prior to the start of a new UIL music alignment and after all of the region's debts have been paid, any school that will not remain in a region and that paid funds to the Region Executive Committee during the alignment period shall receive an equitable refund from the region's remaining funds. After a UIL music realignment process is complete and the makeup of a region has been determined, funds to finance a region's activities may be assessed to schools that make up a region in the regular course of the Region Executive Committee's business meetings.

(7) *Audit.* An audit of a Region Executive Committee financial account and related documentation shall be conducted annually, by the UIL member school acting as the committee's fiscal agent or, if the committee's funds are in a bank account, by an independent auditor hired by the committee. The results of the audit shall be provided to the UIL as part of the financial reporting set forth in part (10), below.

(8) *Record Keeping.* Each Region Executive Committee shall make accurate minutes of all meetings and retain all non-financial records for no less than three (3) years and all financial records for no less than five (5) years. Circumstances, such as legal action, may require records of the Region Executive Committee be retained longer than the minimum periods set forth above. Each Region Executive Committee shall meet at least three times a year and present the committee's check registry and current bank statements at each meeting.

(9) *Ethics.* All school representatives serving on a music Region Executive Committee and persons who otherwise perform work on the committee's behalf shall be subject to the code of ethics for UIL committees found in Section 33, UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(10) *Financial Report.* Each Region Executive Committee shall by July 31st of each year submit a financial report to the UIL office on

a form approved by the Executive Director and the chair of the Legislative Council. The report shall contain information showing receipts and disbursements for each region contest or event that was held over the course of the school year along with any account balances and other pertinent financial information. The UIL staff shall review all submitted reports, conducting any analysis the Executive Director deems appropriate and report any relevant information or findings to the Legislative Council at its annual fall meeting.

(g) DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND/OR EVENT CHAIR. It shall be the duty of the Region Executive Secretary and/or event chair to make all arrangements for region music competitions and events as directed by the Region Executive Committee and in compliance with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*. The Region Executive Committee cannot hire or treat any person, such as an Executive Secretary or event chair, as an employee and may only hire persons to perform tasks for the committee as independent contractors.

(h) CONFERENCES. Assignment to conferences as outlined in this section is mandatory and a school shall participate in the conference to which it is assigned.

(1) *Conferences*. The UIL will assign participating schools to a conference based on school enrollment.

(2) *Middle Schools*. Middle schools will participate under the provisions listed in Section 1400 and are assigned to conferences according to the following:

(A) *Conference C Middle School*. Enrollment of 0-249 in grades 7 and 8.

(B) *Conference 2C Middle School*. Enrollment of 250-649 in grades 7 and 8.

(C) *Conference 3C Middle School*. Enrollment of 650 or more in grades 7 and 8.

(3) *Junior High Schools*. Junior high schools will participate under the provisions listed in Section 1400 and are assigned to conferences according to the following:

(A) *Conference B Junior High School*. Enrollment of 0-249 in grades 7, 8 and 9.

(B) *Conference 2B Junior High School*. Enrollment of 250-649 in grades 7, 8 and 9.

(C) *Conference 3B Junior High School*. Enrollment of 650 or more in grades 7, 8 and 9.

(4) *Ninth-Grade-Only High Schools*. Ninth-grade only high schools are not permitted to participate in UIL junior high school or middle school music competition and events.

(5) *Corrections To Middle School and Junior High School Conference Assignments.* Corrections to middle school and junior high school conference assignments will be accepted up to 30 days prior to the first day of the first region music contest or event of the school year for that conference. Corrections should be submitted in writing to the Region Executive Secretary by the school principal (or designee).

(i) VARSITY, NON-VARSITY, SUB NON-VARSITY, COMPOSITE, AND COMBINED GROUPS. When entering concert and sight-reading evaluation and marching band contest a school's band, choir, and orchestra program shall each designate at least one group as varsity (first group) unless granted an exception under Section 1102 (i)(3). Varsity groups may be entered in each of the following event codes: 100 (Concert Band), 921 (Full Orchestra), 926 (String Orchestra), 931 (Mixed Choir), 933 (Tenor-Bass Choir), 935 (Treble Choir), and 941 (Marching Band), provided any of the applicable conditions in Section 1102 (i)(1 and 2) are met. Other organization entry possibilities and conditions are listed in Section 1102 (i)(4, 5, 6, and 7).

(1) *5A/6A Choirs*. 5A/6A choir programs shall enter a varsity mixed choir (event code 931). **Exception:** At the option of the choir director and local school administration and with the approval of the UIL State Director of Music, new 5A/6A choir programs or 5A/6A choir programs committed to the process of establishing a viable choir program may enter a treble choir as the varsity group representing that school. This option shall remain in effect until the varsity treble choir earns a Division I rating in concert performance. Pending request from local school administration and with the approval of the UIL State Director of Music the requirement to return to entry of a varsity mixed choir may be waived until such time that local school administration requests varsity status for the mixed choir.

(2) *Middle School, Junior High School, and Conference A-2A-3A-4A Choirs*. Middle schools, junior high schools and conference A-2A-3A-4A high schools shall designate either a mixed choir or treble choir as the varsity group representing that school. If a treble choir is designated as the varsity group, other choirs from that school may be entered as non-varsity provided there

is no duplication of personnel within the same event code.

(3) *Varsity Waiver.* At the option of the music director and local school administration and with the approval of the UIL State Director of Music, music organizations representing new music programs or music organizations committed to the process of establishing a viable music program may enter as non-varsity in the conference to which they are assigned until such time that the organization earns a Division I rating in concert performance. Pending request from local school administration and with the approval of the UIL State Director of Music the requirement to return to varsity status may be waived until such time that local school administration requests varsity status.

(4) *Non-varsity Groups (Second Groups and Below).* Non-varsity (second groups and below) bands, orchestras and choirs may participate in UIL music organization events under the following provisions*:*

(A) A varsity group (first group) of the same kind has been entered.

(B) String orchestras may be entered as non-varsity (second group) provided that a varsity full orchestra or varsity string orchestra from that school is also entered. In the event that a varsity full orchestra and a non-varsity string orchestra are entered, no duplication of personnel is permitted.

(C) In the event a full orchestra, varsity string orchestra and non-varsity string orchestra are entered, string students shall participate in either the varsity string orchestra or the non-varsity string orchestra.

(D) Treble or tenor bass choirs may be entered as non-varsity provided that a varsity mixed choir from the school is entered and members of the varsity mixed choir do not participate in any non-varsity choir. **Exception:** Middle School, Junior High, and 1A-2A-3A-4A choirs designating a treble choir as the varsity group or 5A-6A choirs on a treble as varsity waiver.

(E) Members of a non-varsity mixed choir may participate in either a varsity or non-varsity treble or tenor bass choir.

(F) Performing organizations in 9th grade and/or 10th grade high schools may enter as non-varsity.

(G) Non-varsity (second groups) shall be scheduled as a separate conference.

(5) *Sub Non-Varsity Groups (Third Groups and Below).* Schools with one non-varsity group in an event code shall designate that group as non-varsity (second group). At the option of the music teacher and local school officials, other groups in an event code with a non-varsity (second group) entered may then be entered as sub non-varsity. Sub non-varsity groups shall be scheduled as a separate conference.

(6) *Composite Group*. When a high school adds students from grades 7 and/or 8 to students in grades 9-12 to form a participating high school unit, the resulting group is known as a composite group. Composite bands and choirs are permitted in conferences 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A. Composite orchestras are permitted in all conferences.

(7) *Combined Groups*. Combined groups may exist under one of the following conditions.

(A) When students from a middle school, junior high school, or high school are added to students from another middle school, junior high school, or high school to form a participating unit, the resulting group is known as a combined group. High school combined groups may not advance past region competition.

(B) Students on ninth grade campuses who receive their music instruction as part of the total high school program may be combined with students in grades 10-12 for the purpose of a UIL music organization event.

(j) SUNDAY PARTICIPATION. No UIL-member school shall sponsor individuals or organizations in a UIL contest on a Sunday. **Exception:** Under extenuating circumstances such as weather delays, site conflicts or excessive loss of school time, a UIL music contest or event may be scheduled on Sunday with the approval of the UIL Office.

(k) NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS. (Refer to Section 383).

(l) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.

Section 1103: ENTRY PROCEDURE

(a) PROCEDURE. All entries, including deadline policies, shall be prepared and submitted in compliance with the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* and procedures established by the Region Executive Committee.

(b) ORGANIZATION ROSTER FORM NO. 1. A copy of the Organization Roster Form No. 1 certified by the school district administration listing in alphabetical order all students eligible at the time of the event shall be on file with the Region Executive Secretary (or designee) prior to the commencement of each organization's performance.

(c) ENTRY FEE: Each organization entering a music region event is required to pay an entry fee as established by the Region Executive Committee. In addition, each organization in concert and sight-reading and marching band shall pay a state fee as determined by the Legislative Council. State fees will be forwarded to the UIL Office by the Region Executive Committee.

Section 1104: COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

(a) COMPLIANCE: Compliance with current copyright law is required of all participants in UIL music events. Violations are subject to the penalties outlined in Sections 27 and 29.

(b) REPRODUCED COPIES OF MUSIC. Reproduced copies of published, copyrighted music scores will be accepted for UIL music events provided the following conditions are met:

(1) the reproduction of scores is an emergency and is made without purpose to avoid purchase of music;

(2) the reproduction shows the notice of copyright;

(3) proof is provided that a purchase order for the procurement of copyrighted scores has been initiated or a statement by the copyright holder granting permission to use photocopied scores is submitted to the Executive Secretary or event chair prior to the performance;

(4) certification that reproduced scores will be destroyed immediately following use; and

(5) individuals or schools whose groups perform copyrighted and/ or music requiring royalty are responsible for conforming to all rules and regulations pertaining to the performance of copyrighted music.

Section 1105: REGION MARCHING BAND CONTEST

(a) MARCHING BAND CONTEST (Event Code 941). Marching band contests will be held in each region. Schools that enter the region marching band contest are bound by all rules and regulations in Subchapter B: Music.

(b) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Refer to Section 1103.

(c) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file a UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form (on the UIL website) signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.

(d) DIRECTOR'S COMPLIANCE STATEMENT. Each entry in the UIL region marching band contest shall be accompanied by the following statement signed by the director and school principal:

(1) "The members of this marching band or any of its components did not begin preparation of the visual curriculum for this UIL contest presentation prior to August 1. In addition, no more than 15 hours of supervised instructional time was devoted to visual fundamentals between the end of the previous school term and August 1." **Exception:** Auxiliary camps, leadership training and preparation for special summer events such as civic parades, professional football game appearances and other non-competitive performances are not considered a violation of this limitation.

(2) A signed parent/student UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form has been filed with the school principal or designee for each participant in the competing organization.

(3) The director(s) of this organization recognize(s) the importance of the total educational process and have remained sensitive to each student's needs in terms of academic pursuits, family life and extracurricular activities; and

(4) The director(s) of this organization have/has maintained a reasonable and proper balance of pre-school and out-of-school rehearsal schedules.

(e) MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS DURING SEASON. Effective the fourth Monday in August a marching band and its auxiliary components are limited to a maximum of eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week. **Exceptions:** For schools that begin instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August the limit of eight hours of rehearsal outside of the academic school day per calendar week shall begin on the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. Schools under this exception shall be limited to eight hours of rehearsal outside of

the academic day per school week until the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. For any calendar week consisting of less than five school days a marching band may rehearse one additional hour beyond eight hours for each non school day, provided the school week limitation of eight hours is not exceeded.

(f) MARCHING BAND PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. Upon entering the first and third years of high school and upon any 7th or 8th grade student participating in marching band, a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners or a Doctor of Chiropractic is required. Standardized pre-participation physical examination forms, available from the UIL office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, are required.

(g) MARCHING BAND MEDICAL HISTORY FORM. Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.

(h) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS.

(1) *Performance Time*. Each competing band shall occupy the football field for not less than five nor more than eight minutes. Any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be penalized one rating.

(2) *Movement to Field Position*. The contest chair will determine the ready position each band will assume prior to entering the field of competition. The position shall provide efficient and prompt access to the football field without interfering with other bands as they perform. This location will be clearly described in the marching contest packet.

(3) *Official Time*. The official time for each band will be kept according to the following:

(A) The contest chair will designate an official timekeeper.

(B) In order to allow ample time for the judges to complete their critiques, bands will be scheduled with five minutes between performances and a maximum of fifteen minutes per band.

(C) Bands may use the five minutes prior to their performance in any way they deem appropriate in order to assume their starting position and prepare for the beginning of their show. Activities may include warm-up and/or cadence.

(D) Each band will be announced with 45 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock. The beginning of their announcement will indicate that the performance time will begin in 45 seconds.

(E) The actual timing and adjudication for the show will begin at the end of the five minutes.

(F) At the conclusion of each band's performance the post script will be read while the band will have two minutes to exit the field and clear the marching surface of all equipment, instruments and props. The use of either instrumental or verbal cadence is optional. A band that fails to be clear of the field (outside the sidelines or endlines) or continues to use instrumental or verbal cadence at the end of the two minutes will be disqualified.

(G) A band leaving equipment or instruments on the sideline in such a manner that these items impede the movement of the next band into its starting position will be subject to penalty in accordance with Subchapter E.

(4) *Electronic Equipment*. Electronic equipment may be used under the following provisions:

(A) All electronically produced music including narration and sound effects shall be performed live and in real time by eligible students.

(B) Pre-recorded music, instrumental or vocal, or narration may not be used.

(5) *Amplification*: Amplification of instruments or voice may be used with the following restrictions:

(A) All equipment must be operated by eligible students. Exception: A non-student may intervene solely for the purpose of addressing an equipment failure and must submit a written justification for doing so to the contest chair after the performance.

(B) All cables must be safely placed on the field and/or sidelines. Students may not cross over on-field cables, covered or not, during a performance.

(C) A power generator or DC power source may be placed on the field, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf and all

cords are contained safely within close proximity to the equipment that is being supplied with power.

(D) Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo and/or small ensemble features of up to ten performers at one time.

(6) *Violations.* Violations will be subject to penalties in accordance with Section 27 and Section 29.

(7) *Local Ground Rules.* Failure to comply with local ground rules and regulations outlined by and/or approved by the Region Executive Committee may be cause for disqualification or other penalties as listed in Subchapter E. Such rules should be sent to all participating schools at least 14 days prior to the contest.

(i) ADJUDICATION. Refer to Section 1112.

(j) REGION CERTIFICATION TO AREA.

(1) *Certification for Advancement.* Any 2A/3A/4A/5A/6A varsity band that has followed the procedures established by the Regional Executive Committee to indicate to the Region Executive Secretary the intent to advance to area and that receives a Division I rating at the region contest shall be certified for advancement to the area contest.

(2) *Notification to Area.* The Region Executive Secretary shall notify the area contest chair of the region representatives within 24 hours of the last day of the region contest. A contest held on a weekend may be certified the following Monday.

(k) REGION CERTIFICATION TO STATE.

(1) *Zoning.* Any music region with four or more conference 1A bands may not zone the 1A region contest.

(2) *Certification for Advancement.* Bands shall be certified to advance to the state contest under the following provisions:

(A) Should three or fewer 1A varsity bands in a region receive a division 1 rating, any conference 1A varsity band that has followed the procedures established by the Region Executive Committee to indicate to the Region Executive Secretary the intent to advance to state and that receives a Division 1 rating at the region contest shall be certified for advancement to the state contest.

(B) Should four or more 1A varsity bands in a region receive a division 1 rating, all 1A varsity bands in the region receiving a division 1 rating shall be ranked using the procedures outlined on the UIL website and the three 1A varsity bands receiving the highest ranking shall be certified for advancement to the state contest. In Addition, one band for each two bands receiving a division 1 rating ranked below third place shall be certified for advancement to the state contest.

(C) Any band declaring the military track that has followed the procedures established by the region executive committee to indicate to the region executive secretary the intent to advance to state and that receives a division 1 rating at the region contest shall be certified for advancement to the state military contest.

(l) BALLOONS PROHIBITED. The use of balloons by participants or spectators at the region marching band contest is prohibited.

Section 1106: AREA MARCHING BAND CONTEST

(a) CONTEST SCHEDULE. The area marching band contest will be held for Conferences 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, and 2A.

(b) AREAS. Regions will be assigned to areas by the UIL.

(c) AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Each music area shall have an executive committee comprised of two representatives from each Region Executive Committee that has schools in the conference assigned to that area. In the event there are more than four regions that have schools in the conference assigned to an area, the committee shall be comprised of one representative from each region executive committee that has schools in the conference assigned to that area. The committee member may appoint an alternate to serve in the event the member is unable to attend a meeting.

(d) DUTIES OF THE AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The area contest chair in consultation with the Area Executive Committee shall be responsible for the area marching band competition as outlined in this section and shall make all arrangements as defined by the UIL State Director of Music.

(e) CONTEST RULES. All rules governing the region marching band contest, except herein noted, shall apply to the area marching band contest.

(f) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Entry procedures and

related fees shall be established by the area contest chair in consultation with the Area Executive Committee.

(g) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS. Performance regulations as listed under Section 1105 shall apply to the area marching band contest with the following exception: any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be disqualified.

(h) PRELIMINARY ROUND AND FINAL ROUND.

(1) *9 Or Fewer Bands.* If there are 9 or fewer bands, the preliminary round will stand as the final round. The top 50% of the competing bands will be recognized as finalists and will receive a finalist award, while the remaining bands will receive a participant award. There will be a drum major retreat held at the end of the competition to announce the results. The names of those bands advancing to the state marching band contest will be announced.

(2) *10 to 19 Bands.* If there are 10 to 19 bands, the top 7 bands will advance from the preliminary round to the final round. In addition, any band below seventh place that receives a ranking of three or higher from at least two of the music judges and one of the visual judges will also advance to the final round. There will be a drum major retreat at the end of preliminary round to announce the results. Bands not advancing to the final round will receive a participant award. At the end of the final round there will be a drum major retreat where each band will receive a finalist award and the names of those bands advancing to the state marching band contest will be announced. Under extenuating circumstances such as severe weather or limited participation, the contest officials in consultation with the State Director of Music may declare the preliminary round to be the final contest.

(3) *20 to 29 Bands*. If there are 20 to 29 bands, the top 10 bands will advance from the preliminary round to the final round. In addition, any band below tenth place that receives a ranking of three or higher from at least two of the music judges and one of the visual judges will also advance to the final round. There will be a drum major retreat at the end of the preliminary round to announce the results. Bands not advancing to final round will receive a participant award. At the end of the final round there will be a drum major retreat where each band will receive a finalist award and the names of those bands advancing to the state marching band contest will be announced. Under extenuating circumstances such as severe weather or limited participation, the contest officials in consultation with the State Director of Music may declare the preliminary round to be the final contest.

(4) *30 Or More Bands.* If there are 30 or more bands, the top 12 bands will advance from the preliminary round to the final round. In addition, any band below twelfth place that receives a ranking of three or higher from at least two of the music judges and one of the visual judges will also advance to the final round. There will be a drum major retreat at the end of the preliminary round to announce the results. Bands not advancing to the final round will receive a participant award. At the end of the final round there will be a drum major retreat where each band will receive a finalist award and the names of those bands advancing to the state marching band contest will be announced. Under extenuating circumstances such as severe weather or limited participation, the contest officials in consultation with the state director of music may declare the preliminary round to be the final contest.

(i) ADJUDICATION. The State Director of Music in consultation with the Area Executive Committee shall assign five judges to each area marching band contest. The judging panel will consist of three music judges and two visual judges.

(j) RANKING. The final ranking in each round will be determined by adding the rankings of all five judges for each band.

(k) AREA CERTIFICATION TO STATE.

(1) *2A/3A/4A Certification.* In conferences 2A,/3A/4A the music area shall certify the three bands receiving the highest ranking in each conference to the state marching band contest. Should twenty or more bands qualify for the advancement in a single conference for the area contest, one band for each five bands that qualified for advancement to the contest shall be certified for advancement to the state contest.

(2) *5A/6A Certification*. In conferences 5A/6A the music area shall certify the two bands receiving the highest ranking in each conference to the state marching band contest. Should fifteen or more bands qualify for advancement in a single conference for the area contest,

one band for each five bands that qualified for advancement to the contest shall be certified for advancement to the state contest.

(3) *Zoning Area Contests*.

(A) By action of the Area Executive Committee and by approval of the State Director of Music, the area marching band contest may be zoned to reduce travel for participating schools.

(B) Zoned area contests should have a minimum of five bands at each contest site. One band for each five bands competing in the contest shall be certified for advancement to the state contest, superseding the use of the certification formulas in Section 1106(k)(1&2).

(4) *Additional Bands.* In contests advancing two bands, any band that receives a ranking of two or higher from two music judges and one marching judge shall also advance to the state contest. In addition, in contests advancing three or more bands, any band that receives a ranking of three or higher from two music judges and one marching judge shall also advance to state.

(5) *Alternates*. The area may name two alternates from each conference in the event that the bands certified cannot compete at the state contest.

(6) *Notification to State*. Areas shall notify the UIL Office of the area representatives and alternates within 24 hours of the last day of the contest. A contest held on a weekend may be certified the following Monday.

(7) *Intent to Participate*. Bands certified to the state marching band contest shall inform the UIL Office of their intent to participate within 24 hours of being certified (or the Monday following a weekend contest) by completing the online entry process.

(l) BALLOONS PROHIBITED. The use of balloons by participants or spectators at the area marching band contest is prohibited.

Section 1107: STATE MARCHING BAND CONTEST

(a) CONTEST SCHEDULE. The state contest will be held annually in two tracks: open class and military class. Certified bands will compete in the track declared when registering for the region contest.

(b) AREA CERTIFICATION TO STATE.

(1) *Required Certification*. Each band participating in the state marching band contest shall be certified by the Area Executive Committee.

(2) *Rejection*. The UIL Office may reject any band that has not complied with the rules and regulations governing region and area participation.

(c) CONTEST RULES. All rules governing the region and area marching band contests, except herein noted, shall apply to the State Marching Band Contest.

(d) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Entry procedures and related fees shall be established by the UIL. Bands certified to the State Marching Band Contest shall inform the UIL of their intent to participate within 24 hours of receiving certification (or the Monday following a weekend contest) by completing the online entry process.

(e) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS. Performance regulations as listed under section 1105 shall apply to the state marching band contest with the following exceptions: Any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be disqualified. The state military marching band contest will adhere to all performance regulations as defined in the state military marching band contest manual..

(f) PRELIMINARY ROUND AND FINAL ROUND. Judging will be in two rounds: preliminary and final. Under extenuating circumstances such as severe weather or limited participation, the contest officials in consultation with the State Director of Music may declare the preliminary round to be the final contest.

(g) ADJUDICATION. For conferences A, 2A and 3A open class contest and all conferences at the military class contest the UIL office shall assign five judges, consisting of three music judges and two visual judges. For conferences 4A, 5A and 6A the UIL office shall assign seven judges, consisting of four music judges, two visual judges, and one content/design judge.

(h) RANKING. The final ranking in each round will be determined by adding the rankings of all five judges for each band.

(i) AWARDS. Awards for the state marching band contest shall conform to those designated by the Policy Committee of the UIL Legislative Council.

(j) BALLOONS PROHIBITED. The use of balloons by participants or spectators at the state marching band contest is prohibited.

Section 1108: SOLO AND SMALL ENSEMBLE CONTEST

(a) APPROVED SOLO AND ENSEMBLE EVENTS.

Approved solo and ensemble events (event code number in parentheses) are listed in the table of contents of the *Prescribed Music List* (on the UIL website).

(b) TWIRLING EVENTS. Twirling events (event code number in parentheses) are as follows:

(1) Twirling Solo (700)

(2) Twirling Ensemble (773). Twirling ensembles may consist of a minimum three members and a maximum of ten members.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.

(1) *Eligibility*. All participants in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest must meet the eligibility requirements as listed under Section 1102 and be certified to represent his or her school in UIL competition by the school's principal (or designee).

(2) *Grade Limits*. Solos and small ensembles in region contests shall be open to students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12.

(3) *Seventh and Eighth Grade Students*. In composite organizations 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, A, 3B, 2B and B), a seventh or eighth grade student may perform in small ensemble events provided that the majority of the ensemble members are in grades 9-12.

(4) *Maximum Number of Members*. No small ensemble may have more than 10 members with the following exceptions.

(A) Madrigals may have a maximum of 16 members.

(B) Ensembles shall conform to the parts and voicings specified in the printed score.

(5) *Perform For Ratings*. All solos and small ensembles shall perform for ratings.

(d) LIMITATION.

(1) *Maximum Number of Solo and Ensemble Events*. No student may exceed the maximum number of solo and ensemble entries listed below.

(2) *Maximum Instrumental Events*. Each student may enter a maximum of two instrumental events which may be either:

(A) Two solos provided they are performed on different instruments and different music is performed, or two percussion solos, provided they are performed on two different instruments, or

(B) Two small ensembles, provided they are different event codes or different instrumentation under the same event code and different music is performed, or

(C) A small ensemble and a solo.

(D) Percussion members may participate in two percussion ensembles, provided instrumentation is different and different music is performed.

(E) Saxophone players may participate in two saxophone quartets, provided different music is performed.

(F) A wind or percussion player may also enter a string solo and/or a string small ensemble (or vice versa) in addition to the events listed above.

(3) *Vocal Events*. In addition to the instrumental events listed above, each student may enter two vocal events which may consist of:

(A) A vocal solo and a vocal small ensemble, or

(B) Two vocal small ensembles provided they are different voicings, different music is performed and the majority of ensemble members are different.

(4) *Twirling and Piano Events*. In addition to the instrumental and vocal entries listed above, each student may enter a piano solo and a maximum of two twirling events that may be:

(A) A twirling solo and a twirling ensemble, or

(B) Two twirling ensembles provided they are different events (for example, a quartet and a quintet; or a quartet and a sextet) and the majority of the members are different.

(5) *Medium Ensemble Events*. In addition, students may enter medium ensemble events as stated in Section 1109.

(e) CLASSIFICATION. Solo-small ensemble competition shall have three classifications: Class 1, Class 2, Class 3.

(1) *Class 1.* (most difficult). May be entered by any student.

(2) *Class 2.* (medium difficult). May be entered by any student who has not previously earned a Division I rating in Class 1 competition.

(3) *Class 3.* (least difficult). May be entered by any student who has not previously earned a Division I rating in Class 1 or 2 competition.

(4) *Twirling*. Twirling solo-small ensemble competition is limited to Class 1 and Class 3 competition only.

(f) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Refer to Section 1103.

(g) ADDITIONAL ENTRIES AFTER DEADLINE. Entries inadvertently omitted may be submitted after the deadline under the following provisions:

(1) An initial entry shall be on file by the deadline.
(2) Pending approval by the Region Executive Secretary additional entries may be submitted up until a date to be determined by the Region Executive Committee.
(3) The Region Executive Committee may refuse entry if it disrupts the contest schedule.
(4) A late fee as determined by the Region Executive Committee shall be assessed.

(h) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS.
(1) *Required Selections*. The required selections to be performed by all classes of soloists and ensembles will be published in the *Prescribed Music List* (on the UIL website). Soloists or ensembles that do not perform selections appearing on the prescribed lists will be disqualified. If only one movement of a multi-movement selection is performed, that movement shall be designated on the entry form.
(2) *Changes to Music Selection*. Music selections listed on the entry form become program requirements for the solo and/or ensemble performance unless the contest chair is officially notified of selection changes no later than seven days prior to the first day of the contest.
(3) *Emergency Substitution*. In emergency situations, the director may substitute another eligible student for an ensemble member after the entry has been submitted, provided the substitute has not already entered the maximum number of events listed above. All substitutions shall be certified by the contest chair prior to the performance.
(4) *Scores*. The judge shall be provided with a copyright compliant score with measures numbered. Judges are prohibited from adjudicating a performance if a copyright compliant score is not provided. **Exception:** A judge may adjudicate an ensemble without a copyright compliant score under both of the following provisions:
(A) A statement from a music retailer or music publisher that no published score exists or is out of print is provided to the judge.
(B) A set of copyright compliant parts is supplied in lieu of the score.
(5) *Memorization*. Ensembles are not required to be performed from memory. A judge may not adjudicate a solo unless the performer conforms to the following memory requirements:
(A) *Vocal Solos*. All vocal solos shall be performed from memory.
(B) *Instrumental Solos*. All instrumental solos, regardless of class, may be performed with music. **Exception:** Students wishing to be certified to TSSEC must perform a Class 1 solo from memory at the region contest or perform a Class 1 solo specified as being exempt from the memory requirement as listed in the ***Prescribed Music List*** (on the UIL website).
(6) *Repetition*.
(A) A soloist may not repeat a selection (or movement) performed by him or her in a previous UIL contest.
(B) An ensemble may not perform a selection that has been played as a UIL contest selection by a similar ensemble from the same school in the previous year, unless at least half the members of the group did not participate in the ensemble the previous year.
(7) *Accompaniment*. All solos and ensembles must be accompanied by piano, recorded accompaniment, electronic accompaniment, or other musically appropriate instrument(s). **Exception:** Solos and ensembles designated as such in the score may be unaccompanied.
(8) *Instrumental Cadenza Required.* Instrumental soloists are expected to perform a cadenza if it is called for in the score. A copy of the cadenza to be performed must be presented to the judge.
(9) *Conducted Ensembles*. Small ensembles may not be conducted. **Exception:** Madrigals, instrumental ensembles of 11 or more, and all percussion ensembles may be conducted.

Section 1109: MEDIUM ENSEMBLE CONTEST

(a) WIND AND PERCUSSION EVENTS. Wind and percussion medium ensembles shall consist of a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 24 performers with no more than 2 players per part and shall perform in the following categories (event code in parentheses):
(1) Brass Ensemble (380);
(2) Woodwind Ensemble (282);
(3) Percussion Ensemble (581);
(4) Wind-Percussion Ensemble (881);
(5) Jazz Ensemble (981); and
(6) Experimental Ensemble (890).

(b) STRING EVENTS. String medium ensembles shall consist of a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 24 performers with no more than 4 players per part and shall perform in the following categories (event

code in parentheses):
(1) String Ensemble (480);
(2) String Ensemble with Winds and Percussion (481); and
(3) Experimental Ensemble (490)

(c) VOCAL EVENTS. Vocal medium ensembles shall consist of a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 24 vocalists with no more than 8 to a part and shall perform in the following categories (event code in parentheses):
(1) Mixed Vocal Ensemble (180);
(2) Treble Medium Ensemble (181);
(3) Tenor-Bass Medium Ensemble (182);
(4) Pop/Swing Ensemble (980); and
(5) Experimental Ensemble (880)

(d) ELIGIBILITY.
(1) *Grades*. Medium ensembles in region contests shall be open to students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12.
(2) *Eligibility*. All participants in the UIL Medium Ensemble competition shall meet the eligibility requirements as listed under Section 1102 and be certified to represent his or her school in UIL competition by the school's principal (or designee).
(3) *Seventh and Eighth Grade Students*. In composite organizations (5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, A), a seventh or eighth grade student may perform in the medium ensemble contest provided that the majority of the ensemble members are in grades 9-12.
(4) *Limitation*. A student may enter two medium ensemble events provided they are different events as listed in Section 1109 (a), (b), (c) and (d), in addition to the limitations stated in Section 1108 (d).

(e) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Refer to Section 1103.

(f) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS.
(1) *Open Class*. Medium ensembles shall perform in open class.
(2) *Music Selection*.
(A) A medium ensemble may select music from any source provided that no selection is (was) performed by the band, orchestra or choirs in a UIL organization event during the current school year.
(B) Medium ensembles are encouraged to perform more than one selection as long as the time limitation of 15 minutes is not exceeded.
(C) Repertoire should be comparable to Class 1 ensemble repertoire.
(D) A medium ensemble may not perform a selection that was performed by a similar medium ensemble from the same school in the previous year, unless at least half the members of the group did not participate in the medium ensemble the previous year.
(E) A medium ensemble may not perform a selection that is also being performed by any or all of the ensemble members as a small ensemble.
(3) *Conducting*. Any medium ensemble may be conducted.
(4) *Performance Time.* Performance time for a medium ensemble shall be limited to not more than 15 minutes, including performance, entering and clearing the performance area.
(5) *Score*. The judge shall be provided with a copyright compliant full score with measures numbered. Judges are prohibited from adjudicating a performance if a copyright compliant full score is not provided.
(6) *Judges*. It is recommended that all medium ensemble judges be selected from the Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA) active list or provisional list of judges.

Section 1110: CONCERT ORGANIZATION EVALUATION

(a) EVENTS. Evaluation will be provided in each region for the following organization events (event code):
(1) Concert Band (100);
(2) Full Orchestra (921);
(3) String Orchestra (926);
(4) Mixed Choir (931);
(5) Tenor-Bass Choir (933); and
(6) Treble Choir (935)

(b) SCHEDULING.
(1) *Conferences*. Organizations shall be scheduled according to conference assignments. Non-varsity and sub non-varsity shall each be scheduled as separate conferences.
(2) *Junior High/Middle School.* In junior high/middle schools, at the option of the Region Executive Committee, it is recommended that evaluations be scheduled so that junior high/middle schools that feed A, 2A, 3A, and 4A high schools perform prior to organizations that feed 5A and 6A high schools.
(3) *Zoning Junior High/Middle School Events.* Junior high/middle school events may be zoned with no restrictions as to the number of organiza-

tions in each conference.

(c) ENTRY PROCEDURES. Refer to Section 1103.

(d) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS.

(1) *Perform for Ratings*. Each organization shall perform for ratings.

(2) *Adjudication Criteria.* Each organization shall be evaluated in accordance with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA) adjudication rubric.

(3) *Required Music*. A committee of seven in each division (band, choir, orchestra) is appointed by the State Director of Music to three-year overlapping terms to select music that is placed on the *Prescribed Music List* (on the UIL website).

(A) Only entries conforming to the PML performance requirements will be certified.

(B) Those selections so listed on the entry form become program requirements for performance unless the event chair is notified, in writing, of changes of selections no later than seven days prior to the first day of the event.

(C) An organization failing to comply with performance requirements as submitted shall be penalized in accordance with Sections 27 and 29.

(4) *Performers*. The director of a band, orchestra or choir may not perform with the organization. The accompanist of an orchestra must be a member of a performing organization. The accompanist of a choir may not sing with the performing organization unless the accompanist is eligible under Subchapter M of the *Constitution*.

(5) *Repetition*. The following will govern the repetition of a composition for performance purposes, excluding 7th and/or 8th grade participation, in a composite group. Refer to Section 1102 (i)(6). Varsity and non-varsity groups are considered separate organizations.

(A) An organization in a one or two-year school (excluding 6th grade) may repeat a selection in the second year after the most recent performance.

(B) An organization in a three-year school (excluding 6th grade) may repeat a selection in the third year after the most recent performance.

(C) An organization in a four-year school (excluding 6th grade) may repeat a selection in the fourth year after the most recent performance.

(6) *Multiple Performance of String Orchestra Selection Prohibited.* A full orchestra and string orchestra from the same school shall not perform the same string orchestra selection on both programs.

(7) *Performing Time*.

(A) Bands and orchestras shall be limited to not more than 45 minutes, including performance, entering and clearing the stage.

(B) Choirs shall be limited to not more than 20 minutes, including performance, entering and clearing the stage.

(C) With the approval of the Region Executive Committee, individual regions may impose more restrictive performance time limits.

(8) *Scores*. Each judge shall be provided with a copyright compliant full score with measures numbered. Judges are prohibited from adjudicating a performance if a copyright compliant full score is not provided.

(9) *Instrumentation*. While judges shall be instructed to critique instrumentation only insofar as it affects the performance, schools are encouraged to conform as closely as possible with accepted standards of instrumentation.

(10) *Electronics*.

(A) The use of electronic sound, to reinforce or to substitute for acoustical instruments that are a traditional part of the band or orchestra instrumentation, is prohibited.

(B) Electronics may be used for other instruments specified in the score under the following provisions:

(i) The substitute shall be performed live as a part of the performance.

(ii) It shall be the responsibility of the performing group director to provide all equipment.

(C) The use of electronics may be considered by each judge in determining the overall rating for the performance.

Section 1111: SIGHT-READING EVALUATION

(a) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS.

(1) *Requirement*. Each organization that performs in concert evaluation is required to perform in the sight-reading evaluation for ratings.

(2) *Members*. All members of the organization

who participated in the concert evaluation are required to participate in the sight reading evaluation for that organization.

(3) *Music*. A committee of five in each division (band, choir, orchestra) is appointed by the State Director of Music to three-year overlapping terms to select and/or edit sight-reading music that conforms to the criteria as stated on the UIL website.

(4) *Adjudication Criteria*. Each organization shall be evaluated in accordance with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association adjudication rubric.

(5) *Non-varsity (Second Groups)*. All music for non-varsity (second groups) will be the same or meet the same criteria as the selection for corresponding organizations two conferences lower than their varsity organization. Non-varsity groups shall be scheduled as a separate conference.

(6) *Sub Non-varsity (Third Groups and Below)*. Schools with more than one non-varsity group shall designate at least one of those groups as non-varsity (second group). At the option of the music director and local school officials, other groups of the same kind (band, choir, orchestra) may then be entered as sub non-varsity. All music for sub non-varsity (third groups and below) will be the same or meet the same criteria as the selection for corresponding organizations two conferences lower than their varsity organization. Sub non-varsity groups shall be scheduled as a separate conference.

(7) *Use of Recording Devices*. The use of recording devices in the sight-reading room is prohibited.

(b) AFFIRMATION OF CONFERENCE. Prior to the evaluation the following question will be asked of the director of each organization. "This organization will be reading (*title of selection*) which has been chosen for conference (*varsity or non-varsity groups*). Is this the correct conference for your organization?"

(c) PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MUSIC.

(1) *Question*. A judge is required to ask the director of each organization the following question: "Has this organization or any of its student members heard, read, rehearsed or performed this selection (indicating the music) at any time prior to this evaluation?" If the answer is "yes" the director will have two options:

(A) The director may have his/her band, choir or orchestra read an alternate selection of equal difficulty which shall be available from the contest chair; or

(B) The director may excuse the student(s) who has/have prior knowledge of the music and proceed with the rest of the group in the preparation and performance of the designated selection.

(2) *Penalty*. A false response to the question concerning prior knowledge of the music shall result in the organization and/or its director being penalized in accordance with Subchapter E. The minimum penalty shall be disqualification of that organization from the music reading evaluation.

(d) PROCEDURES FOR ORCHESTRA SIGHTREADING EVALUATION.

(1) *Score Study*. Prior to the instruction period the director will be given a period of three minutes to study the sight-reading music full score.

(2) *Instruction Period*. The director will be given the following time limits to study the score and instruct the organization:

(A) Conference 6A-5A Varsity: 10 minutes;

(B) Conference 3C-3B-4A Varsity and 6A non-varsity (second groups): eight minutes; and

(C) All other conferences seven minutes.

(D) Sub-non varsity orchestras may extend the explanation period for their conference by one minute.

(3) *Use of Instruction Period*. Only one director may instruct and direct an organization at the evaluation. The director may instruct the group as he or she sees fit, including singing phrases or demonstrating rhythmic figures, but the director may not perform the music on any instrument. The director may not allow students to tap rhythms or perform any part of the music in any manner.

(4) *Marking Music*. Neither the director nor the students may mark on the music unless instructed to do so by a judge.

(5) *Warm-up and Tuning*. Immediately following the instruction period and prior to the performance, if the conductor chooses to do a warm-up the sight-reading music will be turned face down. Each performing group may then play or sing a brief warm-up consisting of one of the following:

(A) long tones;

(B) a whole note scale; or

(C) eight measures of a warm-up chorale.

In addition, string players may check tuning. No further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director, including the use of verbal counting to initiate the reading.

(6) *Performance*. The organization shall then perform the music. In the event the director elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.

(7) *Disqualification*. An orchestra whose director makes an obvious contribution to the performance by either singing with or speaking to the students while they are performing shall be disqualified. An obvious and deliberate attempt by a director to be disqualified may result in the assignment of a rating by the adjudication panel. A judge's decision of what is obvious and deliberate is final.

(e) PROCEDURES FOR BAND SIGHT- READING EVALUATION.

(1) *Score Study*. Prior to the instruction period the director will be given a period of three minutes to study the sight-reading music full score.

(2) *Instruction Period*. The director will be given the following time limits to study the score and instruct the organization:

(A) Conference 6A-5A Varsity:
7:00 General Explanation
3:00 Summary Explanation

(B) Conference 3C-3B-4A Varsity and 6A non-varsity:
5:00 General Explanation
3:00 Summary Explanation

(C) All other conferences:
4:00 General Explanation
3:00 Summary Explanation

(D) Sub-non varsity bands and Conference C non-varsity bands may extend the summary explanation period for their conference by one minute.

(3) *Use of Instruction Period.* Only one director may instruct and direct an organization at the evaluation. The director may use the instruction period in the following manner.

(A) *General Explanation*. The director may structure this initial segment of time (7 minutes/5 minutes/4 minutes) as he or she wishes by incorporating any combination of silent study and/or director's explanation. During this time period the director may point out specific performance problems, demonstrate how ritardandos, fermatas, etc. will be conducted, call attention to accidentals, identify unique characteristics of the music (i.e., who has the melody, important passages for certain sections, the presence of repeats, etc.) and answer student questions. At the director's discretion, students may finger passages at any time during the general explanation period. Note: The director and students may not count, sing or audibly reproduce the music in any other manner.

(B) *Verbal Notification*. At the conclusion of the general explanation period timing will stop and the chair of the sight-reading panel or a designee will read aloud the following statement: "Your general explanation period is over. You may now begin your summary explanation." Time will then begin for the three minute summary explanation.

(C) *Summary Explanation*. During the summary explaination the director may instruct the group as he or she sees fit, including singing phrases, demonstrating rhythmic figures or reviewing ritardandos and fermatas with singing and/or counting. However, the director may not perform the music on any instrument or allow students to tap rhythms or perform any part of the music in any manner.

(4) *Marking Music*. Neither the director nor the students may mark on the music unless instructed to do so by a judge.

(5) *Warm-up and Tuning.* Immediately following the instruction period and prior to the performance, if the conductor chooses to do a warm-up the sight-reading music will be turned face down. Each performing group may then play or sing a brief warm-up consisting of one of the following:

(A) long tones;
(B) a whole note scale; or
(C) eight measures of a warm-up chorale.

No further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director, including the use of verbal counting to initiate the reading.

(6) *Performance*. The organization shall then perform the music. In the event the director

elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.

(7) *Disqualification*. A band whose director makes an obvious contribution to the performance by either singing with or speaking to the students while they are performing shall be disqualified. An obvious and deliberate attempt by a director to be disqualified may result in the assignment of a rating by the adjudication panel. A judge's decision of what is obvious and deliberate is final.

(f) PROCEDURES FOR CHOIR SIGHT-READING EVALUATION.

(1) *Time*. The director of a choir will be given six minutes to study the score and instruct the organization. **Exception:** Sub-non varsity choirs may extend the study and instruction period by one minute.

(2) *Use of Instruction Period*. Only one director may instruct and direct an organization at the evaluation. At any time during the instruction period the tonic chord may be played once, in broken chord style, and may not be reproduced by the students. The director may instruct the group by tapping out rhythms and talking about any passage of music but may not hum, sing any part, or allow it to be played on the piano. Students may chant rhythms and/or text and tap or clap the rhythms; however, they may not reproduce the music tonally. Students may ask questions and make comments, according to the director's wishes.

(3) *Marking Music*. Neither the director nor the students may mark on the sight-reading music unless instructed to do so by a judge.

(4) *First Reading*. At the completion of the instruction period the choir will be given the tonic chord, in broken chord style. At that time, the students may reproduce the tonic chord, utilizing their preferred method of sight-reading (numbers, syllables, etc.). The accompanist will then give the starting pitches, which each section may sing, again utilizing their preferred method. The director may sing the starting pitch with each section. After the choir has sung its starting pitches no further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director, including the use of verbal counting to initiate the reading. The music will then be sung without piano accompaniment and using the group's preferred method of sight-reading. The director may choose to read the piece in the printed key or any other key suitable for the group. In the event the director elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.

(5) *Second Instruction Period*. Following the first reading, the director will have two minutes for instruction. The procedures described in (2) will apply.

(6) *Second Reading*. The procedures in (4) will apply. The selection will then be sung a cappella. All groups may continue to use their preferred method of sight-reading or may sing the words printed in the score. The director's decision to use text or not will have no bearing on the final rating. Both readings will be judged.

(7) *Disqualification*. A choir whose director makes an obvious contribution to the performance by either singing with or speaking to the students or making other audible contributions while they are performing shall be disqualified. An obvious and deliberate attempt by a director to be disqualified may result in the assignment of a rating by the adjudication panel. A judge's decision of what is obvious and deliberate is final.

(8) *SAB Music Selection*. Choirs performing a majority of SATB music in their concert performance will be required to sight-read SATB music designated for that conference. However, choirs in all conferences may sight-read SAB music provided that their program includes a majority of SAB music.

(9) *SA and TB Music Selection*. Choirs performing a majority of SA or TB music in their concert performance may elect to sight -read SA or TB music selected for that conference.

Section 1112: ADJUDICATION

(a) SELECTION OF JUDGES. The membership roster of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA) will be the recommended list of approved judges. The music Region Executive Committee will select three judges from this list subject to the following guidelines.

(1) *List of Judges*. In all organization event contests and evaluations (concert, sight-reading, and marching), one judge shall be selected from the recommended list of approved judges, a second

judge shall be selected from the recommended or provisional list of approved judges and a third judge may be selected from the recommended or provisional list of approved judges or from other sources approved by the State Director of Music.

(2) *Sight-reading Judges Panel Chair*. In all sight-reading events, a judge selected from the Recommended List of Approved Judges shall be designated chair of the adjudication panel.

(3) *Orchestra Judge*. At least one judge with orchestra teaching experience shall be employed in regions having one or more orchestra entries.

(4) *Residence*. A high school choir, band or orchestra, judge shall reside outside the region or area in which he or she is being employed to judge. **Exception:** A judge who is otherwise qualified according to section 1112 may judge in the region or area where they reside if they have no involvement with public school music programs in the region of residence and there is no other real or perceived conflict of interest. Zoned junior high contests as well as high school solo and ensemble contest judges may be selected from other zones within the same region.

(5) *Current Involvement*. A judge should be currently teaching, conducting or performing in or retired from the field in which he or she is employed to judge.

(6) *Education*. A judge shall have a college or conservatory background in music.

(7) *Limitation*.

(A) A judge may not evaluate an organization event in music if that judge has served as a clinician-conductor for any school organization in that region or area and conference during the current school year. The rule does not apply to clinicians for All-Region, All-Area and All-State organizations.

(B) In marching competition, the following limitations apply:

(i) A director may not judge region marching competition in any region assigned to the same area in which he or she competes. This limitation applies only in years that the state competition is held in that judge's conference.

(ii) A judge at the area level marching competition may not evaluate other bands in the same conference as that judge's band, if that judge's band has been selected to advance to the next level of competition. This limitation also applies to other music personnel such as music supervisors who reside within the school district of the advancing band.

(8) *Prior Employment*. A judge may not accept a judging invitation from a region, area or zone in which that judge formerly taught, unless two years have elapsed since the time of last employment in that region, area or zone.

(9) *Return Engagement*. A judge may not be invited for a return engagement to adjudicate an organization event (band, orchestra, or choir) in the same conference unless two years have elapsed since he or she last judged that specific event.

(10) *Conflict of Interest*. A region may not employ a judge, nor a judge accept an adjudication assignment if there is a known conflict of interest.

(11) *Honorarium*. The honorarium for each judge will be as follows:

(A) for organization events, $300.00 per day, plus $60.00 for each hour over a scheduled eight-hour day; and

(B) for solo and ensemble events, $250.00 per day plus $50.00 for each hour over a scheduled eight-hour day.

(C) Travel and per diem shall be paid on a schedule as prescribed by the Region Executive Committee.

(b) ADJUDICATION STANDARDS. Each judge shall assign one of the following ratings in accordance with established Texas Music Adjudicators Association adjudication rubrics: Division I (Superior), Division II (Excellent), Division III (Average), Division IV (Below Average), Division V (Poor). The performance of the soloist, ensemble, or organization shall be the only factor considered when determining ratings.

(1) *Final Rating*. If judges' ratings do not agree, the following chart will determine the rating to be awarded:

Charts for Computing Ratings- Three Judges-Five Ratings

Rating I	Rating II	Rating III	Rating IV	Rating V
1-1-1	1-2-2	1-3-3	1-4-4	1-5-5
1-1-2	1-2-3	1-3-4	1-4-5	2-5-5
1-1-3	1-2-4	1-3-5	2-4-4	3-5-5
1-1-4	1-2-5	2-3-3	2-4-5	4-5-5

1-1-5	2-2-2	2-3-4	3-4-4	5-5-5
	2-2-3	2-3-5	3-4-5	
	2-2-4	3-3-3	4-4-4	
	2-2-5	3-3-4	4-4-5	
		3-3-5		

Judges shall not add plus (+) or minus (-) to division ratings.

(2) *Irregularities*. The judge shall call to the attention of the contest chair/event chair and the Region Executive Secretary any irregularities of performance or procedure on the part of the participant(s). The Region Executive Secretary in consultation with the Region Executive Committee shall determine what penalties in Section 29 may be assessed.

(3) *Discourteous Conduct*. Judges shall report any act of discourtesy by a participant or music director to the contest chair/event chair, who shall then forward the report to the Region Executive Secretary for consideration of appropriate action.

(4) *Judge Conferences*. Judges shall be instructed not to confer before ratings are placed on comment sheets.

Section 1113: TEXAS STATE SOLO-ENSEMBLE CONTEST

(a) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS. Unless otherwise specified performance regulations listed in Section 1108 shall apply to the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest.

(b) ELIGIBILITY. Each solo and ensemble receiving a Division I rating on a Class 1 selection at a UIL region solo or small ensemble contest during the current school year is eligible to participate in TSSEC provided that all solos (both instrumental and vocal) were certified as being performed by memory at the region contest. **Exception:** A Class 1 solo specified as being exempt from the memory requirement as listed in the *Prescribed Music List* (on the UIL website).

(c) MUSIC REQUIREMENTS. Music performed at the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest may be different from the selection performed at the region contest, provided the selection performed is chosen from the Class 1 *Prescribed Music List* (on the UIL website) for the same event.

(d) MEMORY REQUIREMENT. All solos (instrumental and vocal) shall be performed by memory. **Exception:** Music may be used for Class 1 solos specified as being exempt from the memory requirement in the Prescribed Music List (on the UIL website).

(e) RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT. Participants in the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest will be responsible for providing all instruments and equipment (including music stands).

(f) MUSIC THEORY CONTEST. The Music Theory Contest is open to any student in grades 9 through 12, provided the student has been certified by the school principal (or designee) and the music director.

(g) ENTRY PROCEDURES.

(1) *Entry*. All entries shall be submitted electronically by UIL member schools using the links available on the UIL website.

(2) *Deadline*. Entries for TSSEC shall be submitted by the deadline set forth on the UIL calendar.

(3) *Entry Fees*. Entry fees are non-refundable.

(4) *Late Entries*. Entries submitted after the deadline set forth on the UIL calendar will be placed on a waiting list in the order they are received and will be scheduled only if performance times are available. A late entry fee will apply.

(5) *Additional Entries After Deadline.* Entries inadvertently omitted may be submitted after the deadline under the following provisions:

(A) An initial entry shall be on file by the deadline.

(B) Pending approval by the State Director of Music additional entries may be submitted up until a date to be determined by the UIL Office.

(h) SCHEDULING.

(1) *Same Day*. All entries from a school will be scheduled to perform on the same day.

(2) *Scheduling Request*. Request for performance times on a specific day may be submitted. Requests for a specific part of the day cannot be made. After an entry is submitted, changes cannot be made in the day selected for entries unless performance times are available.

(3) *Contest Schedule*. Contest schedules will be available on the UIL website on or about May 1. Each director will be responsible for notifying students of their scheduled day, time and location.

(i) AWARDS.

(1) *Solo and Ensemble*. Division I Solo - Gold medal; Division II Solo - Silver medal; Division I Ensemble - Bronze medal.

(2) *Outstanding Performer.* The Outstanding Performer Award represents the attainment

by an individual of superior musicianship as demonstrated in the exacting competition of the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest. These awards will be mailed after the contest.

Section 1114: STATE WIND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

(a) ELIGIBILITY. Any school's varsity band may enter the state wind ensemble festival provided an overall Division I rating was received at the current year's region concert evaluation.

(b) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

(1) *Letter of Intent.* A letter of intent to perform at the event may be submitted at any time during the school term following the procedures on the UIL website. All entries will be filed according to the date received.

(2) *Entry Procedures.* Entries will be certified by the UIL Office upon notice that the ensemble received a Division 1 rating at the region concert evaluation. Notification should be sent to the UIL Office within 72 hours following that event.

(3) Ensembles will then be assigned performance times based on the date that the "intent to enter" the festival was received. A maximum of 18 ensembles will be scheduled.

(c) MUSIC REQUIREMENTS. Each group will perform a minimum of two or a maximum of three selections chosen from any source suitable for wind ensemble. A copyright compliant full score of each selection with measures numbered shall be provided for each of the three evaluators.

(d) EVALUATION AND CLINIC. Each band will receive an evaluation from a panel of three nationally recognized music educators. Immediately following their performance each ensemble will receive a clinic from one of these evaluators.

(e) AWARDS. In recognition of their musical achievement each band will receive a participant award at the conclusion of their performance.

(f) RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT. Individual performers and/or sections from each ensemble may be honored for exemplary musical achievement.

(g) PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE. Each participating school shall attend the performance of at least two other ensembles at the festival.

Section 1115: MARIACHI

(a) CONTEST SCHEDULE. Region and state Mariachi events will be held annually, following all rules and procedures as defined in the Mariachi Manual.

Section 1116: STATE CHAMBER MUSIC CONTEST

(a) CONTEST SCHEDULE. The state chamber music contest will be held annually, following all rules and procedures as defined in the state chamber music contest manual.

(Sections 1117-1199, reserved for expansion.)

Subchapter C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PLAN

NOTE: Rules that list the sport or sports to which they apply shall apply only to the sport(s) listed.

Section 1200: PURPOSES OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The purposes of the athletic program for the member schools are:

(a) to assist, advise and aid the member schools in organizing and conducting interschool athletics;
(b) to devise and prepare eligibility rules that will equalize and stimulate wholesome competition between schools of similar size, and reinforce the curriculum;
(c) to regulate competition so that students, schools and communities can secure the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contests;
(d) to reinforce the concept to all member schools that athletics is an integral part of the educational program;
(e) to preserve the game for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the contestant to the game;
(f) to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
(g) to promote among the players, schools and communities a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules;
(h) to forward the concept of accepting decisions of sports officials without protest and treating officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition; and
(i) to provide rules and regulations designed to promote and ensure the health and safety of all participants.

Section 1201: ATHLETIC CODES

The Athletic Code and the Athletic Code for Coaches carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of these codes will be subject to penalty.

(a) THE ATHLETIC CODE. The general Athletic Code means to:
  (1) Play the game in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules, both in letter and intent.
  (2) Coach and sponsor the teams and individuals without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules, or any unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles.
  (3) Accept decisions of sports and school officials without protest and without questioning their honesty or integrity, and extend protection and courtesy to sports officials from participants, school personnel and spectators remembering that officials are guests.
  (4) Regard opponents as guests, putting clean play and good sportsmanship above victory at any cost. Win without boasting and lose without bitterness. Victory is important, but the most important thing in sports is striving to excel and the positive feelings it fosters between those who play fair and have no excuse when they lose. The development of positive human relations should be stressed in all competition.
  (5) Remember that conduct that berates, intimidates, or threatens competitors has no place in interscholastic activities.
  (6) Provide information or evidence as soon as possible regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to the local administration, then to the proper District Executive Committee. To withhold information is considered dishonorable and contrary to good sportsmanship. Schools guilty of violating this section may be subject to penalty as described in Sections 27 and 29, including disqualification from district honors in the germane activity. Covered school district personnel guilty of violating this section may be subject to the range of penalties as described in Sections 27 and 29.
  (7) Not recruit or entice any student to attend and participate at your school. Any inquiries from students outside your school district or from another high school in a multiple-high school district should be directed to the school superintendent or high school principal.

(b) THE ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES. The code for athletic sponsors includes the principles described in Subsection (a) and the purposes listed in Section 1200. Further, the coach's code includes:
  (1) Being aware of, understanding and following all rules governing the competition for which the coach is responsible.
  (2) Informing one's immediate supervisor in writing the next school day after a contest if ejected from that contest for unsportsmanlike actions, or, in football, if given two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during one con-

test, knowing that such conduct requires automatic penalty.

(3) Treating athletes based on what is best for the education, general welfare and health of the student.

(4) Professional loyalty to other coaches.

(5) Not removing a team from a contest as a protest.

(6) Adhering to in season and out of season practice regulations.

(7) Adhering to policies which do not force athletes to specialize or restrict them from participation in other sports.

(8) Allowing students to participate in one school sport without requiring, as a prerequisite, participation in another school sport.

(9) Abstaining from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student's participation in a camp, clinic, league or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product.

Coaches shall not charge a fee for private instruction to student-athletes during the school year. The restriction on charging fees for private instruction applies only to those students who are:

(A) in grades 9-12;

(B) from the coach's attendance zone; and

(C) participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible.

(10) Abstaining from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.

(11) Avoiding any coaching practice which would endanger the welfare or safety of any player.

(12) Emphasizing the academic progress of all participants by a regular, documented check of their academic standing, both in season and out of season.

(13) Scheduling games and practices to avoid unnecessary loss of study or class time.

(14) Utilizing the best and most current teaching, coaching and training methods through affiliation with professional associations and publications.

(15) Abstaining from any practice that solicits teachers to modify a participant student's grade for eligibility purposes.

(16) Avoiding any actions that encourage, condone or tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs by any student-athlete.

(17) Emphasizing a chemical awareness program that informs and educates students of the damaging effects of anabolic steroids and other illegal drugs.

(18) Disclosing to opposing schools any known conflict of interest with an assigned sports official prior to a contest.

Section 1202: EMPLOYMENT OF COACHES

(a) HIGH SCHOOL COACHES.

(1) *Full-Time Employees*. A school is not eligible for UIL competition in an athletic activity unless the head coach and assistant high school coaches are full-time employees of the school board of the school which the team represents.

(2) *Full-Time Defined*. Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board of the school which the athletic team represents for the whole scholastic or calendar year, and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law. Refer to Official Interpretation 05-08-03, Appendix I.

(3) *Exceptions*. A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may serve as an assistant coach in all athletics and as a head coach for golf, tennis, team tennis, cross-country, track and field, swimming and wrestling. (This rule shall not affect the status of a coach on a leave of absence attending college.) Also, student teachers, while they are assigned to a member school district to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting athletic coaches. A full-time substitute who has coached during the school year may be permitted to continue coaching until the UIL competitive year has ended. Example: state baseball playoffs.

(A) For the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, a pilot program allowing student coaches enrolled in a UIL approved, university based coaching program, may volunteer to serve as an assistant coach in all athletics. Schools shall not pay these student coaches for assisting athletic coaches. Criteria for those eligible for this exception is to be provided by the UIL.

(b) SOURCE OF PAY. Schools shall not pay coaches

out of gate receipts, or draw the contracts with coaches in such a way as to make it to the financial advantage of a coach to win games. Schools shall not pay to coaches, and coaches shall not accept, funds gathered by a high school booster club or other sources within the school district. Refer to Official Interpretation 09-03-04, Appendix I.

(c) SCHOOL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE. Responsibility for the proper administration, contracts, arrangements, control and scheduling of athletic contests in all school systems shall be under the supervision of the superintendent or a designated administrator.

(d) SALARY: NO BONUS. A coach's salary shall be fixed at the beginning of the year, and shall include no provisions for bonus. It shall be a violation for a contract to be based upon a percentage of the gate receipts.

(e) REGULAR DISBURSEMENT. The salary of a coach shall be paid from funds under the complete control of the school board and disbursed to the coach in the regular way in which the other salaries are disbursed. A district may comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act by paying a non-exempt employee overtime, provided the rate of pay is set prior to the school year and remains at that same rate throughout the school year.

(f) NO FINANCIAL INTEREST IN GAME. Any contract which makes it to the financial interest of a coach to win a game will be in violation of the spirit of the rule.

(g) GIFTS. If a coach accepts money, products or services in recognition of his/her coaching, other than the items stipulated within his/her employment contract, those items come under Section 481, gift awards rule.

(h) PREVIOUS SUSPENSION. The State Executive Committee shall forfeit any contest won by an individual or school if it finds a school district employee previously suspended under Section 27 participated on behalf of the individual or school in the contest plan while prohibited from doing so under order of the State Executive Committee.

(i) COACH OR ADULT SUPERVISOR. No student shall 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 non-school employee 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.

(j) PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM. All personnel coaching in grades 7-12 shall sign a Professional Acknowledgment Form prior to the beginning of their tenure at a member school. These forms shall be on file in the superintendent's office.

(k) UIL COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

(1) All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program prescribed by the UIL prior to their sport season or prior to the first day of school if their sport is not in season. A coach who is hired less than one week prior to the start of the sport season or after the first day of school (whichever is earlier) must complete the CCP within thirty (30) days of being hired.

(2) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program will be kept on file by the school.

(l) COACHES EDUCATION: All first-year coaches and any coach who is not a full-time employee of the school district **Exception**: Coaches who qualify for the exception under Section 1202 (a) (3) must complete a UIL approved fundamentals of coaching course prior to their participation as a coach for any UIL member school.

Section 1203: DUTIES OF ATHLETIC DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) DISTRICT ORGANIZATION. Refer to Section 28 for general responsibilities.

(b) PRINCIPLES. The District Executive Committee shall uphold the principle that high school athletics, when properly controlled, are worthwhile and educational.

(c) RECRUITING. The District Executive Committee shall investigate efforts on the part of any school official or local fan to recruit players. Recruiting is a violation and may subject the school at fault to disqualification. Disqualification may be made by the committee after the school has been given an opportunity to be heard. A school in violation shall remain disqualified for the period of time specified.

(d) SCHEDULING. The District Executive Committee shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the deadline specified in the official calendar. Unless unanimously agreed otherwise, all schools assigned to that district, other than a school(s) subject to penalty from the State Executive Committee under section 27 (c) (5), shall be included in the district schedule. Non-district games shall not count on a team's district win/loss percentage.

(e) CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES. The District Executive Committee shall certify in writing, eligible district representatives in all athletic activities. The committee shall certify eligible representatives without any conditions attached to this certification. In case of dispute, certification to the UIL office shall be in the form of a written notice naming the eligible schools and shall be signed by the majority of the District Executive Committee members present.

(f) DISTRICT DISQUALIFICATION. All teams in a UIL district shall be disqualified in the playoffs if the District Executive Committee knowingly certifies a team which has used an ineligible player in any district game unless appropriate action has been taken. Disqualification shall be by the State Executive Committee only upon presentation of sufficient evidence.

(g) ZONES. Districts which subdivide into zones for team sports shall determine in writing prior to the season the procedure by which they will determine district representatives.

(h) TIES. The District Executive Committee shall determine in writing prior to the season the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in win/loss percentages. If the District Executive Committee has not provided a procedure prior to the season, the following tie-breaker procedures shall apply:

(1) *For Team Sports Playing A Single Round-Robin Format.*

(A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the highest available seed. The other team will be the lower available seed.

(B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage.
Step 1: If one of the teams defeated the other two, that team is the highest available seed. The other teams flip to determine the other available seeds.
Step 2: If none of the three defeated the other two, flip (odd coin is the highest available seed, the other two flip again to determine the other available seeds).

(C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage.
Step 1: If one of the teams has defeated the other three, that team is the highest available seed. The other three teams then flip (odd coin wins the highest available seed; second flip determines the other available seeds).
Step 2: If none of the four has defeated the other three, the four teams have a blind draw for the available seeds.

(D) For football, if the tie involves teams that will advance into different playoff brackets (i.e., Division I, Division II), the teams shall be separated by division prior to implementing tie-breaking procedures.

(2) *For Team Sports Playing A Double Round-Robin Format.*

(A) Two Teams Tied In Percentage. If one team defeated the other team both times in head to head district competition, that team will be the highest available seed. If the two teams split their head to head district games, the two teams shall play one game or match (if rules permit).

(B) Three Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. A draws bye; B plays C and C wins; C plays A. If A wins, A is the highest available seed, C is the next available seed and B is the lowest available seed. If C wins, C is the highest available seed, A plays B to determine the other available seeds.

(C) Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament. Draw for spots. A plays C; B plays D. Winners of the first games play for the highest available seed; losers of the first games play for the other available seeds.

(D) More Than Four Teams Tied In Percentage. Teams play a district tournament.

(3) Tournaments consisting of more than one day shall be on consecutive days at one site. The District Executive Committee may authorize preliminary round games to be played at additional sites, either within the independent school district where the championship game is to be held or at sites located in an independent school district which adjoins the championship site.

(4) Any situation not covered in the above tie-breaker criteria shall be determined by lot. Unless the District Executive Committee specifies otherwise prior to the season, tie games shall count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.

(i) EXPENSES OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN ALL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. The

District Executive Committee has authority to finance its expenses. It is recommended that the district activity assessment for a sport for a school shall not exceed one-half of its regular UIL membership fee.

(1) *Delinquent Assessments*. The failure of a school to pay its assessment promptly after having been notified is a violation.

(2) *Disqualification*. If a school refuses or fails to pay its assessment, it may be disqualified from participation the current and following year until the amount is paid.

(3) *Statement*. At the close of the season, the District Executive Committee shall furnish each participating school in the district a financial statement showing all receipts and disbursements for the season. Refer to Section 28 (n).

(j) EDUCATION REQUIREMENT. Annually each UIL District Executive Committee member, as assigned for basketball alignment, shall complete training designed by the UIL on the policies and procedures outlined in the *District Executive Committee Handbook*.

Section 1204: SPORTS OFFICIALS

(a) AGREEMENT. All officials must be deemed satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance by both parties. However, beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.

(b) SPORTS OFFICIALS FOR UIL CONTESTS. UIL member schools shall only use UIL registered sports officials for varsity contests, including playoffs, with the following exceptions:

(1) The use of officials who are not currently registered with the UIL for a varsity contest may only occur if the involved member schools obtain prior written approval from the UIL Director of Athletics, or his or her designee.

(2) Member schools may select and use non-UIL registered sports officials for contests in the following sports: cross-country, golf, team tennis, tennis and track and field.

(3) Unless mutually decided otherwise, UIL member schools shall use UIL registered officials for non-varsity contests.

(c) REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF SPORTS OFFICIALS. In order to officiate a UIL varsity contest a sports official must:

(1) be registered with the UIL in the sports being officiated, and annually provide the UIL with directory information and, as required by law, submit to a criminal background check;

(2) be a member in good standing of, and assigned to the contest in a sport for which the official is registered by the local chapter or association of sports officials registered with and recognized by the UIL for that purpose;

(3) complete either an initial or a continuing education program regarding UIL rules as prescribed and made available by UIL. Refer to (p)(1) below; and

(4) agree to abide by UIL rules, including fee schedules and travel reimbursement guidelines for payment by UIL member schools to a sports official.

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF REGISTRATION; FEES. UIL shall, consistent with this section, determine and post on its website the process through which an official may annually register with UIL. UIL may charge and collect a fee from sports officials who initiate UIL's registration process in an amount that has been reasonably determined by UIL to be necessary to cover the cost of administering registration and/or the continuing education program as set forth in subsection (p), below. This amount shall be determined annually by UIL and shall be posted on UIL's website and otherwise made available at other places as UIL determines appropriate.

(e) NEUTRAL OFFICIALS. In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral sports officials.

(f) HOST RESPONSIBILITY. The responsibility to obtain satisfactory sports officials is upon the host school. The host school shall ensure the visiting school has access or received the names of officials assigned.

(g) NOTIFICATION. When names of officials are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory within 24 hours. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement. Officials shall be deemed to be acceptable if the chapter is not notified within four days prior to the contest.

(h) FAILURE TO SHOW; CHAPTER RULES.

(1) 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 game 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 they have been negligent in contracting and securing officials.

(2) A sports official's failure to show after being assigned a contest in a manner consistent with the rules and/or policies of a recognized local chapter or association of sports officials constitutes a violation of UIL rules. Schools shall contact the UIL office and identify the officials who did not show for a contest.

(3) A recognized local chapter or association of sports officials shall provide UIL with a copy of their most current governing documents, such as its constitutions, rules and by-laws. Such governing documents shall include, but are not limited to, rules and/or procedures governing assignment of contests and disciplinary procedures applicable to sports officials who fail to honor a chapter assignment or otherwise violate UIL rules.

(i) SCRATCHES.

(1) All scratches must be completed using the UIL online scratch form.

(2) After a school has accepted an official, as outlined in (g) above, in order to scratch the official prior to a contest, the scratch must be submitted with written approval by the superintendent, principal or athletic director. If the head coach is also the athletic director, then the written approval must come from the principal, superintendent, or the superintendent's designee. The scratch notification must state one of the following reasons:

(A) Conflict of interest (must clearly state conflict).

(B) Lack of proper rules knowledge (documented examples including video preferred).

(C) Lack of proper judgement (documented examples including video preferred).

(D) Failure to exemplify professional behavior or attitude (documented examples including video preferred).

Note: Officials shall not be scratched the day of the game, except by mutual consent of both schools. A copy of the letter must be submitted to the other school and the officiating chapter.

(3) 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 and shall also pay the additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.

(4) UIL strongly discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees. Similarly, officiating chapters are strongly discouraged from indiscriminately refusing their services to a member school or school district.

(5) Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.

(6) If a chapter makes assignments based on crews, scratching one official may result in the entire crew being scratched.

(7) Middle schools and tournaments: scratches are only allowed in middle school games and middle school tournaments if approved in writing by the district director of athletics.

(j) CANCELLATIONS.

(1) Weather related cancellations:

(A) If the chapter/assigned officials are not notified of a weather-related cancellation within 2 hours of the scheduled game, the officials will be paid mileage.

(B) If the official arrives at the game site prior to the game being cancelled, the official will be paid the game fee and mileage.

(C) If there are multiple games scheduled and the officials are dismissed prior to or during the first contest, the officials shall be paid the game fee plus mileage for the first contest that was scheduled.

(D) If there are multiple games scheduled and the officials are held at the game site up until the scheduled start of the second or subsequent games, the officials should be paid the game fee for all games for which the officials were present at the scheduled start.

(2) Non-weather-related cancellations:

(A) If the game/match is cancelled within 24 hours from the scheduled start for non-weather-related reasons, the officials shall be paid a game fee unless it is determined that an emergency arose beyond the control of the school dis-

trict.

(B) If there are multiple games scheduled, the officials shall be paid the game fee for the first contest that was scheduled.

(C) If the assigned officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.

(3) When officials do not show, or when the previously agreed upon officials do not show and the game must be rescheduled, the chapter shall be responsible for the rescheduled game fee and travel, unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials.

(k) PENALTY. 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.

(l) FEE VIOLATIONS. The fee listed shall be paid to officials working varsity and sub-varsity contests. If a member school exceeds or pays less than the fee schedule for a contest, the District Executive Committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the fee violation. If the school in question proves an emergency caused the fee violation, the District Executive Committee does not have to assess a penalty.

(m) FEE APPROVAL/PAYMENT. Fees are to be paid by the host school or by the game management as approved by the school. Fees should be paid promptly. Schools that do not pay within 30 days of the contest are subject to the range of penalties listed in Section 29. For contests played prior to or during a school holiday or break, the 30 day period would start the first day school is back in session.

(n) FLAT FEE SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT.

(1) The flat fee schedule and mileage reimbursement, as approved by the Legislative Council, shall be posted on the UIL website.

(o) OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES.

(1) *Lodging*. By agreement of the officials and schools, schools may pay lodging.

(2) *Ground Transportation*. If prior agreement exists, schools may pay taxi fare, etc., for officials.

(p) LIMITATION. No other item shall be included in payment of officials.

(q) OFFICIALS RULES COMPLIANCE PROGRAMP(OCP).

(1) *Officials Required To Complete Online Rules Compliance Program*. All officials in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling shall annually complete an online Rules Compliance Program approved by UIL. The Officials Rules Compliance Program (OCP) is a condition of registration as prescribed by this section.

(2) *Registration List*. UIL shall maintain, verify, and make available to member schools a list of all sports officials registered with UIL.

(r) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION.

(1) UIL may revoke or suspend UIL registration of a sports official determined by UIL to have violated the provisions of *UIL Constitution and Contest* rules governing sports officials or other UIL policy applicable to sports officials. Except in cases arising from criminal background checks, before UIL may take action to revoke or suspend a sports official's registration, UIL shall:

(A) notify and consult with the local chapter or association of sports officials of which the sports official is a member;

(B) allow the local chapter or association 15 days after the date notice is received from the UIL to take action to adjudicate the alleged violation; and

(C) if after the 15th day following the date notice is received from UIL the local chapter or association has failed to take action against the sports official or takes action UIL finds to be insufficient, UIL may refer the matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee to consider action against the sports official through a process adopted by the committee. The process adopted shall include provisions for providing notice to the sports official in question of the allegations made and any relevant evidence as well as an opportunity for the sports official, either in writing or in person, to present his or her case to the committee.

(D) UIL shall advise both the sports official and the local chapter or association of sports officials in writing of any decisions and any actions taken against the sports official by the UIL Sports Officials Committee, along with any supporting evidence relied upon in reaching a decision. UIL shall maintain copies of the decisions of the UIL Sports Officials Committee for purposes of

establishing precedent and guidance to local chapters or associations in regard to actions and sanctions.

(2) ***Revocation or Suspension of Registration***

(A) Criminal Background Checks. Criminal background checks as described below, a sports official may be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working at a UIL game or event based on the information revealed by a criminal background check or for failure to report convictions as required under this section. A sports official who is disqualified under this process may, after one year, resubmit to the UIL registration, Official Rules Compliance Program and criminal background check process. For purposes of criminal background checks, the term "Sports Official" is defined under Section 33.085 (2), Texas Education Code.

(B) Initial Processing; Errors In Results. As part of the annual registration of sports officials, the UIL shall itself, or through an appropriate third party, conduct a criminal background check on every team sports official who engages in the registration process under this section and provide, or cause an appropriate third party to provide, the results of the criminal background check to the recognized sports officials' association of which the sports official is a member. All criminal background checks must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with UT Austin and UT System rules and regulations. The Executive Director may enter into agreements with recognized sports officials associations and other appropriate third parties to implement this section.

(i) In cases where the criminal background check reveals information that, if true, would require, based on the criteria below, the further review of the sports official, the Sports Officials Association of which the sports official is a member, shall give the sports official notice of the information revealed by the background check and provide the sports official a reasonable opportunity to correct any factual errors in the criminal background check results, such as mistaken identity or dates.

(ii) Information contained in government records or documents will be presumed to be factually correct absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. The mere assertion that the information revealed by the background check is in error or mistaken is, by itself, insufficient to rebut this presumption.

(iii) A sports official who claims a factual error in the information produced by the criminal background check bears the burden of proof to show the error by clear and convincing evidence. The factual error raised by a sports official must be material to the determination of the sports officials' disqualification from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events.

(iv) All UIL recognized sports officials' chapters and associations shall adopt a fair and reasonable process for receiving, considering and deciding a challenge or complaint by a member sports official who has registered with the UIL that the information produced by the criminal background check of the sports official contains one or more material factual errors or mistakes.

(v) Consideration of a claim by a sports official that the criminal background check produced factually incorrect or mistaken results does not require a hearing and may be done by written submission. However, each sports officials' association shall provide written notice to its membership of the process by which such claims will be received, considered and decided.

(vi) When, after receiving notice from the sports officials' chap-

ter or association regarding the criminal background check results and pending review, a sports official does not respond in writing within five days after receipt of the notice with a claim or challenge to the factual accuracy of the background check's results, it is presumed that the results of the background check are factually correct.

(C) Review Criteria and Process.

(i) ***Review Criteria.*** A sports official shall be subject to review when the results of a criminal background check show that:

(aa) The sports official has been convicted or placed on deferred adjudication for an offense that would require the individual to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, which includes but is not limited to, such offenses as continuous sexual abuse of a young child, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault; or an offense under the laws of another state or federal law that is equivalent to an offense requiring registration.

In such cases, the sports official shall be reviewed by the sports officials chapter or association of which the official is a member and shall be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events unless a compelling justification to waive this standard is articulated in writing by the sports officials' chapter or association. The written request for an exception to this standard must be approved by the UIL Sports Officials Committee and in accordance with the rules and policies of The University of Texas at Austin, including UTS 124, ***Criminal Background Checks.*** ***http://policies.utexas.edu/policies/criminal-background-checks***

(bb) The sports official has been convicted of a felony involving theft, bodily injury or threats of bodily injury, weapons and destruction of property during the prior seven-year period.

(cc) The sports official has been convicted of drug or alcohol-related felony offenses in the prior seven-year period. In such cases, the sports official shall be reviewed by the sports officials' chapter or association in which the sports official is a member and may be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working at UIL games or events.

(ii) *Process*. Upon resolution of any issues or complaints concerning the factual accuracy of the results of the criminal background check, if the review criteria is met, the sports officials' chapter or association in which the official in question is a member shall review the information produced by the background check, along with any other relevant information, and make a determination as to whether the official should be disqualified from officiating

or otherwise working UIL games or events. The sports officials chapter or association shall make this determination in a manner that is consistent with its established disciplinary process or policy regarding criminal background history and shall provide a clear process in its by-laws or other governance documents; making sure to provide notice of the process to all its members. Any sports official, whose background check reveals information that causes that official to be subject to review and possible disqualification, must be given any notice required by law and at a minimum given the results of the background check along with any other relevant evidence and be provided an opportunity to respond to the decision maker(s), either in person or in writing, in a timely fashion prior to a decision being made. All such reviews must be done on a case-by-case basis.

Except in cases involving review for convictions or deferred adjudication that would require registration as a sex offender under chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and similar offenses as set out above, a sports official who is the subject of review bears the burden of showing that the official does not pose an unreasonable risk of harm to the health, safety or welfare of any participants, spectators or other persons involved with or attending a UIL game or event or to any property or equipment that would be reasonably associated with the game or event. A determination that a sports official is disqualified from officiating or otherwise working a UIL game or event must be based on the available, credible, evidence, including but not limited to, the results of a criminal background check.

(D) Self-Reporting Requirement. A sports official who is registered with the UIL must promptly report to the sports officials chapter or association in which the official is a member any conviction that would make the official subject to review under this section. Any such conviction will cause the sports official to be reviewed as set forth in this section. Failure to promptly report such convictions may cause the sports official to be subject to discipline as set forth in this section.

Refer to Official Interpretations 17-09-11, Appendix I

(E) Appeal To The UIL. Any sports official who has been determined by a sports officials chapter or association to be disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events based on the information revealed by the criminal background check may appeal to the UIL Sports Officials Committee. The committee's decision on an appeal is final and is not subject to further UIL review.

The committee shall adopt an appeals process for receiving, considering and deciding appeals made by sports officials who have been disqualified from officiating or otherwise working UIL games or events. The appeals process adopted by the committee must include provisions that give the appealing sports official reasonable notice of the date and time of any hearings or other relevant deadlines as well as provisions for providing copies of any evidence relied on or submitted to a sports officials chapter or association as part of its review process.

(F) Memberships In Sports Officials Chapter Or Association. Any language in this section notwithstanding, sports officials chapters and associations control their terms of membership. All decisions regarding membership in a sports officials chapter or association are to be determined by the chapter or association.

(s) CONDUCT AND REPORT OF ALL MAJOR

INCIDENTS. Officials shall report all ejections of coaches, players, or fans, or severe verbal and physical abuse, and any major disruptions that occur during a game. Officials shall:

(1) hold themselves to the highest standard of conduct before, during, and after any contest and shall not instigate any verbal or physical confrontation;

(2) attempt to inform the game administrator immediately following the contest of any major incident, and continue to make reasonable attempts to contact the administrator until successful; and

(3) submit a written report from each official involved to the UIL office within 48 hours of the incident for football contests and within 24 hours for all other sport contests.

(t) LIAISON TO CHAPTERS. It is recommended that officials' chapters secure a liaison school coach, athletic director or administrator to serve as a non-voting member of the board of directors of each chapter.

(u) NO PROTESTS. A protest based on a game or contest official's decision will not be considered.

(v) DISPUTES RELATED TO ASSIGNMENT, SCRATCHES, AND/OR PAY OF SPORTS OFFICIALS. In situations where there is a dispute regarding the assignment, scratching, and/or pay of a sports official, a recognized chapter or association, and time is of the essence in resolving the dispute, as determined by the UIL Executive Director (or designee), the Executive Director, after consulting with the chair of the UIL Sports Officials Committee, may take any reasonable, necessary action not in contravention of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* to address the situation in the short term and refer any such matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee for any final resolution that may be necessary.

In situations where time is not of the essence but the situation involving the assignment, scratching, and/or pay of a sports official, a recognized chapter or association is not addressed in the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*, the Executive Director may refer the matter to the UIL Sports Officials Committee for resolution through the committee's hearing process.

Section 1205: ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

(a) INDIVIDUAL REPORT FORMS. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage or game.

(1) *Pre-participation Physical Examination*. Upon entering the first and third years of high school, a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners or a Doctor of Chiropractic is required. Standardized Pre-Participation Physical Examination Forms, available from the UIL office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, are required.

(2) *Medical History Form*. Each year prior to any practice or participation, a UIL medical history form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required. A medical history form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.

(3) *Parent or Guardian Permit*. Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian.

(4) *Rules Acknowledgment Form*. Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.

(5) *Parent/Student Illegal Steroid Use Form*. The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, shall annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.

(6) *Concussion Acknowledgement Form*. According to Section 38.155 of the Texas Education Code, "a student may not participate in an interscholastic athletic activity for a school year until both the student and the student 's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have signed a form for that school year that acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion ….." * This section also applies to students participating in the cheerleading program at the school.

(7) *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form*. Each year prior to any practice or participation in athletics, a UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required.

(8) *Completion of Forms:* Completion of forms

as outlined in 1, 2 and 7 above satisfies the requirements contained in Section 33.096 of the Texas Education Code (TEC).

(A) The UIL Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) has reviewed and updated the required forms listed to ensure compliance with TEC 33.096.

(B) If there is a reason why a school cannot comply with the above requirements, that school's administration should submit a request for exemption from TEC 33.096 to the UIL Executive Director or their designee.

(C) An electrocardiogram (ECG) is not required. Should a parent/guardian choose the option of an ECG for his or her child, the parent/guardian is responsible for having the ECG administered and read in compliance with the law. A school district may provide an opportunity for this through an ECG program and may fund the program. A school is not required to provide such a program.

(b) VARSITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(1) *Subchapter M*. Only students satisfying all the requirements in Subchapter M of the *Constitution* are eligible for varsity competition.

(2) *Non-District Games*. In non-district interschool games or contests, only eligible students may participate. Each school shall complete a varsity eligibility list for each sport.

(3) *Eligibility Forms*. Schools shall submit comprehensive eligibility forms for football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, soccer and water polo. For all other athletic activities general alphabetical listing of eligible athletes is required. One copy shall be sent to the District Executive Committee Chair and one copy shall be filed in the school's office.

(4) *Certification*. Completed eligibility forms are to be signed by the superintendent or a designated administrator and the coach. These forms are to be submitted before a contestant is allowed to participate in a varsity contest.

(5) *Suspension*. Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.

(c) PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM. See section 443.

(d) MINIMUM PENALTY. If an eligibility form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the *Constitution*, the District Executive Committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of reprimand to the school.

(e) SUB-VARSITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. An individual is eligible to participate in UIL contests if that individual is a full-time student of the member school the student represents, has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(1) A student who has been found to have changed schools for athletic purposes and is eligible only for sub varsity athletics at a school is not eligible to participate in a contest against a varsity team from another school. Any exception to this rule would need to receive approval from the UIL director of athletics, or their designee.

Section 1206: SCHOOL PRACTICE AND GAME RESTRICTIONS

(a) NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS. (Refer to Section 383).

(b) SUNDAY PROHIBITION. A UIL member school shall not participate in any athletic contest or conduct any practice or teach any plays, formations or skills on Sunday.

(1) *Violation*. Any showing of films to or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instruction or reviewing of plays, formations or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation.

(2) *Coaches Sunday Meetings*. This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from seeing films or planning an instructional program, provided no athletes are involved in this meeting.

(3) *Exceptions*.

(A) Golf. If the regional and/or state golf tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, the one 18-hole practice round allowed at the regional and/or state tournament site may be played on the Sunday afternoon preceding the meet

(no earlier than 12:00 noon) if permitted by the regional or state meet director.

(B) Tennis. If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to a tennis court for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state meet director.

(C) Cross-country. If the regional and/or state cross-country meets are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to the course site for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state director.

(c) REGIONAL AND STATE COMPETITION AND PRACTICES ON SUNDAY. The UIL Executive Director, or designee, may grant exceptions to Section 1206 (b) on a case-by-case basis for team sports competitions and practices related to regional or state events when conditions exist that warrant such an exception. Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with prior approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with prior permission from the UIL Executive Director.

(d) SCHOOL OFF-SEASON WORKOUTS, IN-SCHOOL DAY PERIOD.

(1) Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, skills, strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school year within the school day provided such activities do not exceed one regular classroom period, not to exceed 60 minutes when classes meet every day (300 minutes per week for block schedules). This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(2) The 7th, 8th or zero period for athletics is considered part of the school day, provided all students enrolled in the class are receiving state or local credit toward graduation and are not enrolled in any other physical education class. The 7th, 8th or zero period may not be longer than other class periods. This period may not exceed one 60-minute period.

(3) Schools may use non-traditional systems for length of classes provided:

(A) the classes meet within the regular school day;

(B) classes are alternated throughout the semester and meet on Monday-Wednesday-Friday one week and Tuesday-Thursday the next week; and

(C) the schedule is mandated at the beginning of the semester and is not changed to allow for more time during an abbreviated school week.

(4) This period includes dressing, the actual off-season conditioning, redressing in street clothes, etc. Passing and punting machines, chalk talks and films are permitted. Full team drills are permitted in team sport practices.

(e) ATHLETIC/PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES. Student-athletes shall not be enrolled in more than one physical education and/or athletic class whether or not they are receiving credit. **Exceptions:** (with local school approval) PE Class: lifetime recreation and outdoor pursuits; PE substitutes: Partners PE, JROTC, cheerleading, drill team, marching band; innovative course: team sports officiating.

(f) OFF-SEASON SCHOOL TEAM PRACTICES AND STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING. School teams shall not practice outside the specific allowable practice dates except during the one in-school day practice period.

(1) Off-season skill activities before or after the school day or during the lunch periods are specifically prohibited.

(2) Off-season strength and conditioning sessions are allowed. A strength and conditioning session shall be no more than one hour per day outside the school day, Monday through Friday, and a student shall attend no more than one session of supervised instruction per day. Students may use school issued shoes and/or clothing before or after school.

(g) SCHOOL SUMMER PRACTICE PROHIBITED. Any specific grouping of high school baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer volleyball or water polo participants during the summer months for the purpose of conditioning and/or organized athletic team instruction is prohibited except as specifically provided for within the plans for these

activities and in (h) below.

(h) SUMMER STRENGTH/CONDITIONING PROGRAMS & SPORT SPECIFIC SKILL INSTRUCTION. Summer strength and conditioning programs and sport specific skill instruction may be conducted by school coaches for students in grades 7-12 from that coach's attendance zone only under the following conditions.

(1) Sessions may be conducted by school coaches starting on Monday of the first week school is not in session and ending on a date set forth by the UIL calendar. Sessions may be conducted only on Monday through Friday.

(A) A student may attend no more than one two-hour strength and conditioning session, conducted by a school coach or coaches, per day. Schools shall take administrative care to prohibit an athlete from working with one school coach for two hours and a separate school coach for another two hours.

(B) A student may attend no more than 90 minutes per day of sport specific skill instruction with no more than 60 minutes a day in a given sport, Monday through Friday.

(2) Sessions conducted by school coaches shall include only students who are incoming seventh graders or above.

(3) Sessions shall include only strength and conditioning instruction, exercises, and sport specific skill instruction. Football contact/restricted equipment is prohibited.

(4) School shirts, shorts and shoes may be provided by the school.

(5) Attendance shall be voluntary. Coaches shall not require athletes to attend in order to try out for or participate in any UIL sport. Attendance records shall be kept, however students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days. Students may work out on their own, without direction of the school coach.

(6) Fees, if any, shall be established and approved by the superintendent and collected by the school. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures should be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.

(7) Any payment for conducting strength and conditioning sessions to school coaches who instruct students from their attendance zone shall be from the school and no other source.

(i) OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE. Athletes may attend open gyms, facilities and weight rooms. School personnel shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a school team. Attendance records may not be kept. Coaches may be present to supervise the facilities and school equipment, if permitted. Coaches shall not provide specific instruction in sport skills. Weight lifting instruction is permitted and progress charts may be kept. Facilities may be made available to athletes under the following conditions:

(1) Recreational opportunities receive advance approval by the local school board and administration.

(2) The dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted or publicized so that every student attending that school is aware of the opportunity.

(3) Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.

(4) School coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their participation is strictly voluntary, never required, and is in no way a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing time.

(5) No instruction may be given on a Sunday or during the off-season of a team sport.

(6) Someone other than a coach should be appointed to supervise facilities.

(7) Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes' sport. Such actions place the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.

(8) Use of facilities may be restricted to that school's student body. Note: If only members of an athletic team are participating in their sport in an open recreational facility, it could be deemed a violation of off-season regulations.

Refer to sport specific manuals for further details.

(j) DAY OF GAME RESTRICTION. Participation in an off-season program shall not be required for varsity athletes on the day of an in-season varsity competition, or for non-varsity athletes on the day of an in-season non-varsity competition.

(k) ROOM AND BOARD RESTRICTIONS. Workout sessions which involve meals and/or overnight

lodgings are prohibited.

(l) HOLIDAY RESTRICTION. A school shall not conduct contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during five consecutive days of December. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. Schools may choose any five consecutive days which include December 24, 25 and 26, with the following exceptions.
  (1) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools may participate in a tournament game on December 26.
  (2) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools shall still follow a five-consecutive day restriction, including December 24 and 25.
  (3) No practice shall be permitted on any of the five consecutive days.
  (4) Travel is not permitted on December 25.
  (5) Travel is permitted on the 26th if a tournament game is scheduled on December 27; however, no practice shall be permitted on the 26th.
  (6) A team that has a game on December 23 could travel home on December 24 and still be in compliance with this section.
  (7) A school may request an exception to these travel restrictions when safety concerns exist relative to travel. The UIL Executive Director, or his or her designee, may grant the exception only when the school has clearly provided evidence of the travel safety concerns and determines the school cannot reasonably be expected to comply with these restrictions.

(m) POWER LIFTING TEAM RESTRICTIONS.
  (1) Power lifting teams shall be authorized by the superintendent or local board of trustees prior to their inception.
  (2) If there is an in-school day athletic period, it is a violation for off-season athletes to participate in power lifting outside the school day unless weight training is also provided during the in-school day off-season period.
  (3) Power lifting teams may not, in any way, be construed as part of a student's off-season conditioning responsibilities.
  (4) Power lifting teams shall not be limited to athletes from a particular sport or to athletes specifically.

(n) PRE-SEASON PRACTICE REGULATIONS FOR SPORTS WHICH BEGIN PRACTICE PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL YEAR.
  (1) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
  (2) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
  (3) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
  (4) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.
  (5) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days. **Exception**: Volleyball and water polo.

Section 1207: RULES, VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

(a) RULE VIOLATIONS. Students who violate the rules in the specific athletic plans shall be subject to the penalty in the specific athletic plan, or subject to the range of penalties applicable to student representatives in Sections 27 and 29. The regulations in the athletic plans govern all varsity and sub-varsity teams and contestants. Ninth grade (whether in junior high, on a separate campus or with other high school grades) and other sub-varsity teams and contestants are restricted to the same game limitations, season, etc. as the varsity team.
  (1) An individual who commits an offense under section 22.01 C 2 of the Texas Penal Code (assault of a sports participant) while participating in UIL contests will subject themselves and any school with which they are affiliated to the full range of penalties in sections 27 and 29 of the constitution, up to and including disqualification and suspension.
  (2) Schools shall develop policies for preventing any spectator who commits an offense under section 22.01 C 2 of the Texas Penal Code (assault of a sports participant) from attending future events in activities sanctioned by the league. The policy shall provide for the school to consider all circumstances of each incident when determining the length of suspension from future events in activities sanctioned by the league.

(b) ELIGIBILITY RULES. In addition to rules in individual sports plans, each varsity team and athlete shall observe all rules contained in Subchapter M of the *Constitution*.

(c) MINIMUM PENALTY FOR USING INELIGIBLE PLAYER. In the event an ineligible contestant is used in any UIL game or contest, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfei-

ture of the game, contest or event. Refer to Section 27 (c)(3).

(d) UNATTACHED PARTICIPATION. In any UIL member school sponsored athletic contest, meet or tournament, UIL member high school students shall not be permitted to enter unattached. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed against the member school(s) in violation. This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(e) POSITIVE ANABOLIC STEROID TEST.

(1) *First Positive Anabolic Steroid Test*. Upon a report of confirmation of a first positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection, a student-athlete shall be suspended for thirty (30) school days of competition in all UIL athletic activities. Prior to eligibility restoration, a student-athlete shall undergo an exit anabolic steroid test and receive a negative result.

(2) *Second Positive Anabolic Steroid Test*. Upon a report of confirmation of a second positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection of a student-athlete who has previously been subjected to the first positive test penalty, a student-athlete shall be suspended from all UIL athletic contests for one (1) calendar year. Prior to eligibility restoration, a student-athlete shall undergo an exit anabolic steroid test and receive a negative result.

(3) *Third Positive Anabolic Steroid Test*. Upon a report of confirmation of a third positive specimen 'B' anabolic steroid test result during his/her high school participation, or upon a refusal to submit to testing after random selection of a student-athlete who has previously been subjected to the first and second positive test penalties, a student-athlete shall be suspended from all UIL athletic contests for the remainder of his/her high school career at any UIL member school.

(4) *Responsibility for Cost of Tests.* The UIL will cover the cost for the first exit test for purposes of eligibility restoration for the penalties outlined in (1) and (2) above. Any subsequent exit test(s) for purposes of eligibility restoration are conducted at the expense of the school, student-athlete or the family of the student-athlete. Only anabolic steroid tests conducted by the UIL approved contractor will be considered for the purposes of this testing program.

Section 1208: ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

Schools shall abide by rules in the *Constitution*, by rules in the *Contest Rules*, by rules in the "Official Notices" column of the *Leaguer*, by regulations issued from the UIL office in the sports specific manuals, and other official notices from the UIL office. Where any term or section of the *Contest Rules* or the sports specific manuals is found to be inconsistent with the *Constitution*, the *Constitution* shall prevail and apply, and the remaining terms and sections of the *Contest Rules* and/or the sports specific manuals shall continue in effect.

(a) ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS. A school shall not participate in a sports activity unless its varsity acceptance for that sport, signed by the superintendent or designated administrator, is on file in the UIL office by January 15 of the preceding school year (September 1 for football). If a school wants to register for a sport after the filing deadline, it may do so if approved by a majority of the District Executive Committee.

(1) A school which does not participate in football the first year of a new alignment may not participate the second year except by unanimous consent of the District Executive Committee.

(2) Only schools in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A are eligible to participate in UIL soccer. **Exception:** 2A and 3A schools who sign up as noted above for participation in soccer will be placed in a 4A district for competition.

(3) Only schools in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A are eligible to participate in UIL team tennis. **Exception:** 3A schools who sign up as noted above for participation in team tennis will be placed in a 4A district for competition.

(b) DISTRICTS AND CONFERENCES.

(1) *Conferences*. Schools are placed in conferences according to enrollment figures.

(2) *District Assignments*. Schools will be assigned to districts by the UIL office. District assignments and a list of tentative chairs will be provided to member schools prior to the season. The district shall select a permanent chair and notify the UIL office. However, the superintendent, principal or coach in each school competing under this plan, is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the name of the district chair, time of meeting, etc. If the chair moves from the district each school in the district has a responsibility to see that a new chair is elected and to notify the UIL office.

(c) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SEASON.

(1) *Regular Season*. A school that does not participate in a sport after signing the acceptance form should notify the UIL office prior to the season. A school may be suspended by the State Executive Committee in that activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not participating.

(2) *Playoffs*. Any school that qualifies for the playoffs in a sport and fails to participate or complete the official schedule of games/matches unless excused for valid reasons by the State Executive Committee (and/or by the UIL office in baseball) may be suspended from that activity for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

(d) BREAKING CONTRACTS; CANCELING DISTRICT GAMES PROHIBITED.

(1) Schools shall not forfeit any district games in order to play non-district games. Schools in violation of this provision will be subject to the range of penalties.

(2) A game or match canceled after the contract has been signed, unless both parties agree to the cancellation, shall be forfeited by the team canceling the game or match.

(3) In football, when two schools agree to play on a two-year basis, and agree that the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts, and the game is canceled the second year by the team that received 100% of the gate receipts the first year, the team that received no gate the first year is entitled to 50% of the net gate receipts from the first game unless mutually agreed otherwise.

(e) PRACTICE 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. Refer to Section 1204 (n) and (o). A school shall not play in a scrimmage after its first interschool game or match in that sport. Refer to individual sports sections for other limitations.

(f) PLAYING RULES. The National Federation playing rules govern UIL sports. **Exceptions:** NCAA rules shall govern football; USTA rules shall govern tennis; USGA rules shall govern golf. Any modification of or exception to a playing rule shall be noted in the manual for that sport.

(g) GAME ADMINISTRATOR. In all UIL varsity athletic team contests, a game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. That person shall 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) see that officials are directed to their dressing room;

(2) meet with the officials prior to game time (preferably on the playing field or court);

(3) inform the officials where the game administrator will be seated;

(4) assist the officials if they need to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct of a fan, player or coach (such as removal from the gym);

(5) check with the officials after the game to see if there is any misconduct that needs to be reported;

(6) offer to provide an escort for the officials to their cars;

(7) report incidents to the appropriate school administrator; and

(8) 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 two working days.

(h) UIL COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

(1) All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program prescribed by the UIL prior to their sport season or prior to the first day of school if their sport is not in season. A coach who is hired less than one week prior to the start of the sport season or after the first day of school (whichever is earlier) must complete the CCP within thirty (30) days of being hired.

(2) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Coaches Certification Program will be kept on file by the school.

(i) MINIMUM PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT.

(1) *Automatic Minimum Penalty*. Any coach who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, or any football coach who is given two or more 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest may accept an automatic penalty for their ejection or appeal the ejection. A coach who appeals their ejection is required to appear before the State Executive Committee. If the coach accepts their automatic penalty or their ejection is not overturned on appeal, the coach will be subject to:

(A) an automatic penalty of public repri-

mand (name will be published once in the *Leaguer*) and one year's probation in the applicable sport;

(B) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching Course; and

(C) completing the National Federation of State High School Associations Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course.

(2) *Automatic Greater Penalty*. If a coach so penalized has no proof of having completed the UIL Coaches Certification Program prior to the sports season, that coach shall also be automatically suspended from the next game/contest.

(3) *Subsequent Violations*. Any further ejection or accumulation of two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a football game, while on probation, will require the coach to appear before the State Executive Committee for consideration of penalty.

(4) *Notification*. Schools shall notify the UIL within three school days if a coach has been ejected from a game or received two 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties.

(5) *Player Ejection*. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.

(B) Other Team Sports. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus all of the following game. **Soccer Exception**. This Section does not alter the current point penalty structure for soccer player ejections, as required by National Federation of State High School Associations soccer playing rules, that is outlined in the soccer coaches' manual.

(C) Appeals. The UIL Executive Director may develop a process for appealing student ejections.

(j) GATE GUARANTEES.

(1) *Football*. In district and non-district football games, the visiting team shall be entitled to 50% of the gate receipts after payment of game officials unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools.

(2) *Other Team Sports*. In district and non-district games/matches unless there is mutual agreement or District Executive Committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.

(3) *Playoff.* In playoff games, the visiting team shall have a sufficient guarantee to cover expenses and also 50% of the net gate receipts unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools. Unless mutually agreed upon prior to the playoff game, the expenses as outlined in this section shall not exceed the home school's net share of the gate.

(4) *Excessive Demand.* A demand of a flat guarantee which is clearly in excess of expenses shall, upon action of the District Executive Committee or State Executive Committee, disqualify the offending team from further participation. A flat guarantee for a visiting team shall be in lieu of expenses and shall be calculated as expenses of the game, prior to division of the net gate receipts.

(5) *Expenses.* Expenses of visiting team, officials, advertising, labor, services and printing in connection with 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.

(k) BROADCASTS OF UIL EVENTS. Refer to Section 868.

(l) VIDEOTAPING AND FILMING.

(1) *All Athletic Contests*.

(A) Videotaping/Filming/Recording by Schools.

(i) A non-competing school shall not film, videotape or otherwise make a visual recording of an athletic contest without the prior written consent of the schools competing in the contest.

(ii) A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape, or otherwise make a visual recording of an athletic contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape or other visual recording may only be reviewed or otherwise utilized during the contest in accordance

with applicable contest rules.

(iii) Films, videotapes and all other kinds of visual recording of all athletic contests in compliance with UIL rules are the property of the school that made them unless their ownership, use or distribution is governed by district rule or if there is no agreement between the schools competing in the contest.

(B) Videotaping/Filming/Recording by Individuals and Organizations. Except for persons or organizations acting under subsections (1)(A)(i) and (ii) above, no person or organization shall film, videotape or otherwise make a visual recording of any athletic event or activity without prior written consent of the schools that are competing in the event. Any filming, videotaping or other recording of an athletic contest may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.

(C) Commercial Use of films, videotapes or other visual recordings of regular season athletic contests for commercial purposes shall be approved in writing by all schools competing in the contest. Any agreements between the competing schools regarding the filming, videotaping or other visual recording of regular season athletic contests, including without limitation any commercial uses, shall be consistent with the UIL's *Constitution and Contest Rules* and any contracts made thereunder.

(m) MASCOTS, FIREARMS, PYROTECHNIC DEVICES, BALLOONS. Live animal mascots, cannons, firearms, fireworks, etc. are prohibited at UIL athletic contests. Except in their normal course of business, emergency vehicles shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a game. Noisemakers are prohibited at UIL athletic events held in field houses or gymnasiums. Releasing balloons is prohibited at UIL athletic events held outdoors.

(n) TOURNAMENT DEFINITION AND LIMITATIONS FOR BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL, VOLLEYBALL AND WATER POLO.

(1) *Number of Teams and Type of Play*. A tournament is defined as at least three teams assembled at one site for competition.

(2) *Scheduling*. Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. (Refer to 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 shall be scheduled on Saturday.

(3) *Site*. A tournament should be held at the ISD of the host school or at an adjoining ISD. The host school may authorize additional sites for preliminary round games.

(4) Refer to individual contest plans for limitations on games/matches per day.

(o) SITES DEFINED FOR ALL TEAM SPORTS.

(1) *Home Sites*. When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field or court, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.

(2) *Neutral Sites*. A site mid-point or near mid-point, or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if its distance from either school is more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.

(p) MID-POINT SITES. Unless mutually agreed otherwise, post district contests in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, team tennis, volleyball and water polo shall be at a mid-point site for schools located more than 100 miles apart.

(q) STATE PLAYOFF INSTRUCTIONS. Playoff instructions for all applicable sports will be provided to participating schools by the UIL office in the sports specific manual.

(r) STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS. The pairings for the state tournament in team tennis and water polo will be made by the UIL athletic staff, in front of witnesses, as soon as regional champions have been determined and reported to the UIL office. Brackets for other team sport post-season playoffs will be issued from the UIL office.

(s) REBATE FROM STATE EVENTS.

(1) In baseball, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo, sixteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per

mile.

(2) In basketball, sixteen percent of the state tournament gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per mile.

A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses (including travel reimbursement), there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be equally divided among the schools participating in the tournament. The Legislative Council may stipulate a maximum to be divided among schools.

(3) In football, twenty percent of the championship event gate receipts will be retained by the UIL Office. If there are surplus funds remaining after deducting the UIL percentage and paying all expenses of the event, to the extent possible, participating schools will be reimbursed for travel based on a uniform rate per mile.

A) Balance To Schools. If after expenses (including travel reimbursement), there is a balance in the fund received from gate receipts, this balance shall be equally divided among the schools participating in the championship event. The Legislative Council may stipulate a maximum to be divided among schools.

(4) In all other state events, all funds collected from admissions at the state championship event shall be retained by the UIL Office.

(t) ALL-STAR GAMES.

(1) *School Equipment.* Students who have completed eligibility in the involved sport, with school superintendent approval, may use school individual player protective equipment in any all-star game.

(2) *School Personnel.* No athletic director, coach, teacher, school administrator or school district shall at any time assist directly or indirectly with the coaching, management, direction, selection of players, promotion or officiating in any all-star game in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of one or more players who have eligibility remaining in that sport.

(3) *School Facilities.* School facilities may be used for all-star games only by prior written consent of the superintendent.

(4) *Penalties*. Any member high school violating the provisions of this all-star contest rule shall be subject to penalty.

(u) NON-UIL CONTESTS.

(1) *Contests With Non-participating Schools.* A defeat by a non-participating Texas public high school shall eliminate a school so defeated from the district race.

(2) *Contests With Non-school Teams.* A school team that competes against or participates in a tournament with a non-school team, composed of one or more UIL participant high school students with remaining eligibility in that sport, (whether or not academically eligible), shall not represent the district in that sport.

(3) *Participating With Other Leagues.* A UIL member school that participates in an athletic activity offered by the UIL in a non-UIL league under the auspices of any other sanctioning organization is subject to the range of penalties, up to and including suspension from UIL athletic activities. This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(v) JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETICS. All athletic rules for seventh and eighth grades are listed in Sections 1400, 1401 and 1478 of the *Contest Rules*.

(w) JURISDICTION OF INTERDISTRICT DISPUTES. The State Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.

(x) CHEERLEADERS; SPIRIT GROUPS. All cheer and spirit performances at any UIL activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook. Cheerleading sponsors are required to complete a course regarding Safety/Risk Minimization for Cheerleading and present proof of course completion to the school district.

(y) CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL. At all UIL athletic activities (including practices and contests), including cheerleading, schools shall implement and follow a concussion management protocol as prescribed by Texas Education Code Section 38 Subchapter D.

(z) CONCUSSION INCIDENT REPORTING. UIL member schools in Conference 6A are required to report concussion incidents for all sports in the reporting system designated by the UIL.

(aa) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED). Each high school campus shall have at least

one Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available on the premises. Additionally, each high school campus shall develop a plan for implementation, coordination and maintenance of its AED program.

(bb) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.

(cc) CATASTROPHIC INJURY REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file reports of catastrophic injuries, as defined by the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research (NCCSIR), that occur during UIL practices and/or competitions utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.

(dd) EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS. UIL member schools are required to develop and implement a venue specific emergency action plan (EAP) for each venue utilized for UIL athletic practices and/or competitions.

Section 1209: NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

(a) REQUIRED PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED. Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team in any sport as a prerequisite to playing on a school team.

(b) OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE. Refer to Section 1206 (i).

(c) CAMPS.

(1) *Camps After The Last Day Of The School Year: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo where school personnel work with their own students.* After the last day of the school year in May, June, July and prior to the second Monday in August, on non-school days, all students other than students who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may attend two camps in each team sport, held within the boundaries of their school district, in which instruction is given in that team sport, and in which a 7th-12th grade coach from their school district attendance zone works with them:

(i) Students who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may volunteer to work up to two camps in each team sport. Time volunteering at these camps would not count towards summer sport specific skill instruction.

(2) *Camps During The School Year.* A member school district is allowed to sponsor camps during the school year, outside the school day, for students in grades six and below. No student is allowed to participate in more than two school sponsored camps per sport/activity during the school year.

(3) *Camps Described Above Shall Be Conducted Under The Following Conditions:*

(A) Number of Days. Attendance at each type of sports camp is limited to no more than six consecutive days.

(B) Prohibited Activities. Students shall not attend football camps where contact activities are permitted.

(C) Fees. The superintendent or a designee shall approve the schedule of fees prior to the announcement or release of any information about the camp. The Texas Education Code requires school districts to adopt procedures for waiving fees charged for participation if a student is unable to pay the fee, and the procedures should be made known to the public. Fees for all other students shall be paid by the students and/or their parents.

(D) School Equipment. Schools may furnish, in accordance with local school district policies, school-owned equipment, with the following restrictions.

(i) Schools may not furnish any individual baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball or water polo player equipment, including uniforms, shoes, caps, gloves, etc., but may furnish balls and court equipment including nets, standards, goals, etc., for volleyball, basketball, soccer and water polo camps.

(ii) For football camps, schools may furnish hand dummies, stand-up dummies, passing and kicking machines and footballs. Use of any other football equipment, including contact equipment, is prohibited.

(iii) For baseball and softball camps, schools may furnish balls, bats, bases, pitching and batting machines, batting helmets and

catcher protective equipment. Use of any other baseball and/or softball equipment is prohibited.

(d) BONA FIDE SUMMER CAMPS. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply to bona fide summer camps giving an overall activity program to the participants.

(e) CHANGE OF RESIDENCE FROM OUT OF STATE. The provisions of the summer camp rules do not apply in the case of a person who attends an athletic training camp which is allowed under the rules of the state in which the student then lives, and then makes a bona fide change of residence to Texas, provided that there has been no deliberate attempt to circumvent the rule.

(f) OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL TEAM SPORTS.

(1) School coaches shall not coach 7-12 grade students from their own attendance zone on a non-school team or in a non-school camp or clinic, with the exception of their own adopted or birth children.

(2) School equipment shall not be used for non-school teams/leagues.

(g) COACHING RESTRICTIONS. For non-school competition school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone. School coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and may supervise school facilities for non-school league play. School coaches shall not coach or instruct students in grades 7-12 from their school district attendance zone in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball or water polo unless specifically noted below. School coaches shall not supervise facilities for non-school activities on school time. Refer to Section 1201.

(1) *TABC Summer Showcase*. Basketball coaches are allowed to coach their high school team during the TABC June Summer Showcase event only.

(A) Students participating in the TABC June Summer Showcase may only represent the school or feeder pattern in which they were enrolled and attending the previous school year, or if attending a new school, they have a PAPF that has been submitted to the UIL for participation at the new school.

(B) School resources would be allowed to be utilized for the TABC Summer Showcase.

(2) Coaches can coach two players in grades 7-12 in a UIL approved state association all-star game.

Section 1210: ANABOLIC STEROID TESTING

(a) As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 8 by the 80th Texas State Legislature, the UIL implemented an anabolic steroid testing program and adopted rules for its administration. In 2015, the legislature voted to terminate funding for the program. While the rules and laws pertaining to the program remain in effect, the UIL no longer conducts random anabolic steroid tests due to the absence of funding, which initiates the testing protocol. The testing protocol includes:

(1) test student-athletes in grades 9-12 for the presence of anabolic steroids in their bodies at multiple times throughout the school year;

(2) be administered, by random selection, at approximately 30 percent of UIL member high schools;

(3) randomly select a statistically significant number of student-athletes in grades 9-12 who participate in athletic competitions sponsored or sanctioned by the UIL;

(4) require that testing be performed only by an anabolic steroid testing laboratory with a current certification from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the World Anti-Doping Agency, or another appropriate national or international certifying organization;

(5) provide a process for confirming any initial positive test result through a subsequent test conducted as soon as practicable after the initial test, using a sample that was obtained at the same time as the sample used for the initial test; and

(6) be conducted in accordance with the UIL Anabolic Steroid Testing Program Protocol.

Section 1220: BASEBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSE, CODE, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Baseball Plan.

(b) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

(1) *Violations/Penalties*. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the regulations below.

(2) *Total Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 baseball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools 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. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(3) *Exception To Resolve District Ties*.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

(4) *Invitational Tournament Restriction*.

(A) No team shall participate in an invitational baseball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(B) Tournament Restriction. Baseball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.

(5) *Site of Game*. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

(6) *Exception for Rescheduled Games*. District varsity baseball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee, but may not be made up as an exception to the school week limitation.

(c) PLAYING DATES.

(1) *Practice Dates*. There shall be no organized or formal school baseball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated from the playoffs.

(2) *Scrimmages*. Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per calendar week, Monday through Saturday.

(3) *Games*. Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Baseball Tournament.

(4) *School Equipment*. It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.

(5) *Non-School Participation*. Refer to Section 1209.

(d) TIES IN DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES. Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the beginning of season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(e) GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION. If a district or non-district game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Baseball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(f) Post-season PLAYOFFS.

(1) *Day of Playoff Game*. Playoffs games shall not be played before Thursday of that week unless

by mutual consent.

(2) *Playoffs*. Playoffs may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format. **Exception:** Starting in the 2023-2024 baseball season, as a pilot in conference 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A, playoffs will be two-outof-three unless mutually agreed to play a single game.

(3) *Two-out-of-Three Series*. If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game three shall not be played until Friday. If one game is played and a second game cannot be played because of weather, then the winner of the one game advances to the next round. If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

(4) *State Championship*. All conferences will be single elimination at the state championship.

(5) *Disputes*. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. Refer to Section 1208 (o).

(6) *Playoff Games*. In playoff games, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

(7) *Gate Receipts From State Tournament*. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state baseball tournament.

Section 1230: BASKETBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSE, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Basketball Plan.

(b) DATES FOR PRACTICES, GAMES AND CERTIFICATIONS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS, ALL CONFERENCES.

(1) *Practice Dates*.

(A) *Girls.* There shall be no school basketball practice for a student or a team in girls basketball, before or after school until the 20th Wednesday prior to the Girls State Basketball Championship or during the five-day holiday restriction, or after the last date for certifying district champions, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.

(B) *Boys.* There shall be no school basketball practice for a student or a team in boys basketball, before or after school until the 20th Wednesday prior to the Boys State Basketball Championship or during the five day holiday restriction, or after the last date for certifying district champions, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.

(2) *Scrimmages*. Teams in girls basketball are allowed to scrimmage beginning with the 18th Saturday prior to the Girls State Basketball Championship. Teams in boys basketball are allowed to scrimmage beginning with the 18th Saturday prior to the Boys State Basketball Championship. Only one scrimmage is permitted between Monday and the end of the school day on Friday of any one school week. Teams are limited to a maximum of two total scrimmages and may use them any time before playing their first game.

(3) *Interschool Games*. No interschool games in girls basketball shall be played until the 17th Friday prior to the Girls State Basketball Championship. No interschool games in boys basketball shall be played until the 17th Friday prior to the Boys State Basketball Championship. Schools may not play games during the five-day holiday restriction. Except for teams in the playoffs, schools may not play games after the last date for certifying district champions.

(4) *District Games*. District games may not be played prior to December 15, except by unanimous consent of all district members.

(5) *Basketball Season, Dates*. Refer to Official Calendar and Basketball Manual.

(6) *Off-Season Workouts*. Refer to Section 1206.

(c) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

(1) *Violations/Penalties*. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

(2) *Number of Games Per Day*. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool basketball games per day, including tournament games. **Exception:** Contestants and teams may play three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(3) *Total Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 21 basketball games in a

season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games and games played in pre-scheduled district tournaments. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools 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 games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(4) *Exception To Resolve District Ties*.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game provided only one other matched game is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the 21 allowed games, but not as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a tournament provided only two matched games have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

(5) *Invitational Tournament Restriction*. No team shall participate in an invitational basketball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. (Note: This provision does not apply to (c)(4)(B) above.) However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(6) *Number of Games Per Week*.

(A) Matched Games Only. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games (as distinguished from tournaments) per calendar week. Refer to Section 5.

(B) Week of an Invitational Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than one matched game during the calendar week of an invitational tournament.

(C) Week of a District Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games during the calendar week of a district tournament, including a district tournament authorized by the District Executive Committee to resolve a tie for district championship. To be considered a district tournament, at least three teams shall be assembled at one site for an elimination contest on consecutive days. Refer to Section 1203.

(7) *Exception When Games Are Substituted For Tournaments*. Students and teams may play in three matched games per calendar week under the following conditions:

(A) Two of the three games are being played instead of a tournament; and

(B) Two of the three games are on a Friday and a Saturday, or on a night prior to a school holiday and a non-school day.

(8) *Exceptions During November, December/January Holidays*. During a November holiday break of three or more days and following the five-day December holiday restriction until school resumes in January, schools may participate in no more than:

(A) two matched games during the calendar week of an invitational tournament;

(B) two matched games plus two matched games played in lieu of an invitational tournament during a calendar week; or

(C) three matched games during a calendar week if they are not participating in an invitational tournament or playing games in lieu of a tournament.

(9) *Exception for Rescheduled Games*. District varsity basketball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(10) *Site of Game*. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case the two teams disagree.

(11) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions*. No girls' team shall play in a game against a boys' team and vice versa.

(d) POST-DISTRICT RECEIPTS. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state basketball tournament.

(e) OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION. Refer to Section 1209.

Section 1240: CROSS-COUNTRY PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to Cross-country.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be one division for boys and one for girls in the respective conferences. Boys' teams may not compete on or against girls' teams.

(c) DISTANCE.

(1) *Girls, Boys.* The distance for the cross-country event will be approximately two miles for 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A girls (3200 meters) and three miles for 1A-6A boys and 5A and 6A girls (5000 meters).

(2) *Limitation.* A race of six miles or longer shall not be considered a cross-country meet.

(d) ENTRIES.

(1) *Number*. A minimum of five participants and a maximum of seven participants shall constitute a team. If a school enters fewer than 5 students, it cannot compete for the team title.

(2) *Team Score*. The place of the first five finishers on each team will count for the total team score.

(3) *Team Limit*. A school may enter only one team of boys and one team of girls in the district, regional and state meets.

(4) *Fee*. There is no entry fee for the state cross-country meet.

(e) MEET LIMITATIONS.

(1) *Number of Meets*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year, excluding one district meet, the regional meet and the state meet. Each meet a school team enters counts as one meet for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee. Meets which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(2) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one tournament/meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** the regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(f) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) *District Meets*. District meets shall be held in districts with more than three teams and/or 10 individuals entered. District cross-country chairs shall be responsible for organizing the district cross-country meets.

(2) *Qualifiers to Regional Meet*. The top three teams and the top 10 individuals shall qualify from district to the regional meet. An individual qualifier may also be a team member of one of the qualifying teams.

(3) *Qualifiers to State*. The top four teams and the top 10 individuals (who are not already on the advancing teams) shall qualify from regional to the state meet.

(g) PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR. Any cross-country practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

(2) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(3) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(4) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(5) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

Section 1250: FOOTBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Football Plan.

(b) DATES AND OFF-SEASON REGULATIONS.

(1) *Spring Training*. There shall be no school football practice or training for a contestant or team, and no football equipment issued after the close of the regular season schedule, except as incidental to the football championship playoffs, and in Conferences 5A and 6A only, 18 spring training practice days which may be conducted in a period of 34 consecutive calendar days. **Exception:** Conference 5A and 6A schools may choose not to conduct the 18 days of spring training, replacing said training the next school year by following the workout days as specified for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

(A) The first two days of spring training shall be conducted without any contact equipment except helmets.

(B) During spring training, a maximum of 12 practices may contain full contact. Refer to the football manual for explanations of full contact.

(C) During spring training, football players are not allowed to participate in more than 90 minutes of full contact practice per week. Refer to the football manual for explanations of full contact.

(D) During spring training, a maximum of three practices per calendar week may include full contact.

(2) *Off-Season Workouts*. Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual football skills, strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school term within the school day provided such activities do not exceed one regular classroom period, not to exceed 60 minutes per day (or 300 minutes per week on a block schedule). Practice may include eleven-on-eleven drills without contact activities or equipment. Activities before or after school or during the lunch period are specifically prohibited. Refer to Section 1206 (d) and the Restricted and Non-Restricted Football Equipment information on the football page of the UIL website.

(3) *Summer Practice*. Refer to Section 1206 (h).

(4) *Summer Camps*. For rules and applicable penalties refer to Section 1209.

(5) *Fall Practice, Beginning Dates.*

(A) Practice Regulations Outside the School Year. Any football practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

(i) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities, with up to a one hour break, on those days during which one practice is conducted. The one hour break is not included as a part of the practice time limit. Total time shall not exceed four hours.

(ii) A one-hour walkthrough is allowed on days during which one practice is conducted. There shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the walkthrough.

(iii) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(iv) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(v) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(vi) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

(B) In Conferences 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A and all 9th graders in 5A and 6A, practice shall begin no earlier than the date set forth by the UIL calendar. In Conferences 5A and 6A, practice shall begin no earlier than the date set forth by the UIL calendar. **Exception:** If Conference 5A or 6A schools forego the 18 days of spring training, they may begin workout days on the date set forth by the UIL calendar as delineated for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A and all 5A and 6A 9th graders. Interschool scrimmages shall be allowed on the date set forth by the UIL calendar.

(C) Acclimatization Period. The first two days of practice shall be conducted

without any contact equipment except helmets. Other contact equipment may be fitted and placed in lockers. During the first two days, however, only shoes, socks, T-shirts, shorts and helmets may be worn. On the third and fourth days of practice, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, but no player to player contact is allowed. On day five of the acclimatization period, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, and player to player contact is permitted. During the five-day acclimatization period, no full contact activities shall be permitted. All student-athletes who arrive after the first day of practice are required to undergo a five-day acclimatization period. During the five-day acclimatization period and subject to the rules as noted in (A) (i-vi) above, if more than one practice is conducted on the same day, the second practice shall be a teaching period/walkthrough practice only with no conditioning or contact activities/equipment permitted. At a minimum, there must be two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the walkthrough.

(D) Football equipment is interpreted to mean football shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads, shoes, helmets, football pants or any other equipment used primarily in football. Football practice or training is interpreted to mean any organized instruction in football plays, formations or team skills.

(E) Ninth grade football practice shall correspond with the high school dates whether the ninth grade is in high school, junior high or on a separate campus. Exception: 5A and 6A ninth graders may start on the date set forth by the UIL calendar as delineated for Conferences 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

(F) *Interschool Games*. With the exception of certain sub-varsity games as outlined in the *Football Manual*, no high school (9-12) interschool games shall be allowed until the date set forth by the UIL calendar. However, schools that play prior to the first Thursday in September shall omit a scrimmage and have an open date during the season. Refer to Section 1478 for 7th and 8th grade regulations.

(G) During the pre-season, regular season and post-season, football players are not allowed to participate in more than 90 minutes of full contact practice per week. Refer to the Football Manual for explanations of full contact.

(6) *Preseason or Summer Practice for Seventh and Eighth Grade or Elementary School Students Prohibited*. Schools may not:

(A) hold any preseason football practice in junior high school (eighth grade and below) or elementary school, individual or team, prior to the opening day of school; or

(B) conduct any spring training either in elementary school or seventh and eighth grade the preceding spring. This section does not prevent students from participating in summer camps, as allowed in Section 1209. Penalty for violations shall be assessed by the appropriate executive committee.

(7) *Spring Training For Ninth Graders Restricted*. Students in the ninth grade may participate in spring training in Conference 5A and 6A schools provided:

(A) that such participation is at the same time as the high school squad practices; and

(B) that said high school is the one which the ninth-grade students will attend the following fall. Penalty for violations shall be assessed by the appropriate executive committee.

(c) 1A FOOTBALL. Schools may choose to participate in 1A football with an enrollment of 104.9 or below. If enrollment in grades 9-12 is greater than 104.9, and the school is currently playing 1A football, it may continue to participate if any one of these three conditions exist: Enrollment of 104.9 or below in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10, or grades 8, 9, 10 and 11, or grades 9 and 10 doubled. The pertinent figures that total 104.9 or below shall be submitted with reclassification and realignment figures.

(d) PLAYOFF ELIMINATIONS ALL CONFERENCES. District representatives are bracketed for elimination play to the state championships on a weekly schedule beginning the first weekend after

the specified date for determining district representatives. State elimination games may not be scheduled earlier than the first Thursday after the certification date for district representatives.

(e) NUMBER OF GAMES; TIME BETWEEN GAMES.

(1) *Maximum Number of Regular Season Games*. No team or student shall participate in more than 10 games during the 11-week regular season, prior to bi-district play. **Exception:** See below for ten-team districts that zone. Some districts do not play bi-district games and have 12 weeks to play 10 regular season games.

(2) *Exception For Ten-Team Districts That Zone*. A football district that contains 10 schools, by majority vote of the District Executive Committee, may subdivide into zones for contest purposes. Districts that choose this option are allowed to schedule and play one additional regular season game to determine an overall district champion. This additional game is only allowed for the first and second place team in each zone. Districts choosing this option are required to play their first game during the first week games are allowed. Refer to Section 28 (k) for information on zones.

(3) *Minimum Time Between Regular Season Games*. Up to and including the final district game, no team or student in any conference shall be permitted to take part in more than one game within five calendar days. Example: A team playing Saturday night cannot play again until the following Thursday night. A team playing Monday night could play any time on Saturday.

(4) *Minimum Time Between Playoff Games*. No team or student in any conference shall be permitted to take part in more than one playoff game within six calendar days, unless mutually agreeable to play within five calendar days. This rule also applies to the first playoff game.

(f) PRACTICE SCRIMMAGE. A practice scrimmage is a meeting of up to 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. Refer to Section 1204 (n) and (o). There shall be no kickoff.

(1) *Scrimmages*. No team or student shall participate in more than one interschool football scrimmage during any given period of five calendar days, prior to the playing of the first football game.

(A) Example: A team scrimmaging on Saturday cannot scrimmage again until the following Thursday.

(B) A team scrimmaging on Saturday may play a game or scrimmage the next Thursday. (Five calendar day rule applies.)

(C) No team or student may participate in more than three scrimmages.

(2) *Scrimmage Limits*. No interschool scrimmages shall be allowed after a school has played its first interschool game in football.

(g) EXPENSES. Expenses of visiting teams, officials, advertising, labor, services and printing incident to the contest shall be considered as expenses of the game. These expenses shall be itemized with supporting bills, properly receipted. Number of participants allowed upon expense account shall be agreed upon by the school administration of the teams involved. Unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the home team will furnish a playing field without cost to the visiting school.

(1) *Seating*. The visiting team has the right to demand one-half of the stadium seats in relation to the 50-yard line in all UIL football contests, whether district games, non-district games or playoff games, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two schools involved. A visiting team can demand one half of the reserved seats. A visiting team has a right to split the stadium in relation to the 50-yard line, subject to the end zone situation being equal, unless mutually agreeable otherwise.

(2) *Season Tickets*. Proceeds from the sale of season tickets are considered a part of the receipts of the game.

(3) *Radio, Television Proceeds*. Proceeds from radio and television are considered a part of the receipts of the game.

(4) *Gate Receipts*. Refer to Section 1208 (j).

(h) TIED GAMES.

(1) *Non-district Varsity, District Varsity and Post-District Games*. The NCAA overtime system shall be used in all non-district varsity games, district varsity games and post-district games tied at the end of regulation play. (Refer to *Football Manual*.)

(2) *Other Games*. The NCAA overtime system

shall not be used in any sub-varsity games or junior high games.

(i) SITE AND DAY OF GAME.

(1) *Non-District Games*. Mutual agreement determines site and day of game.

(2) *District Games*. District schedules, unless unanimously agreeable otherwise, shall be made by a draw for a two-year period. Home team may designate the day of the game. **Exception:** When a school district has more than one home game per week and only one stadium, the day of the game shall be determined by a draw unless mutually agreeable otherwise. Starting time shall be set by the District Executive Committee, unless mutually agreeable otherwise.

(3) *Playoff Games*. Excluding state championship games, unless mutually agreeable otherwise, the place for playing a playoff game shall be determined on a "home and home" basis for the past two football seasons. The team that was the visiting team the last time the two teams met on a home field in a post-district playoff game may require the game be played at its home field. In case of disagreement between two teams who have not played a post-district playoff game during the past two football seasons, the game site shall be decided by a coin toss. A school cannot be required to flip for a playoff site that is not large enough to accommodate the fans from both schools. **Exception:** In 5A and 6A, for the first round of the playoffs only, the opponent with the higher district finish will determine whether the game is played on its home field or mutually agree to play the game at a neutral site. If the opponents have the same district finish, the two teams will flip a coin or agree on a neutral site.

(4) *Home Sites*. When two schools flip for two separate sites other than their home field, the sites are considered home sites unless both sites are near mid-point.

(5) *Neutral Sites*. A site mid-point or near mid-point or a site agreed on by both schools as neutral, is a neutral site. Unless mutually agreeable, a site cannot be neutral if it is more than two-thirds the total distance between the two schools.

(6) *Playoff Contract*. Post-season contracts should show either home site, neutral site or mutually agreed-on site.

(7) *Day of Game*. The home team may designate the day of the game for non-district games during the regular season only. **Exception:** If the visiting school has to miss class time to travel to the game, the game shall be played on a non-school day unless mutually agreed otherwise.

(j) SIXTEEN PERCENT POST-DISTRICT RECEIPTS. Sixteen percent of the gross receipts of post-district games shall be paid to the UIL. The radio broadcast receipts and the telecast receipts are considered a part of the game receipts in all post-district games.

(k) NO INTERSCHOOL SPRING SCRIMMAGE OR POST-SEASON FOOTBALL GAMES. No member school shall play any football game, practice or scrimmage with another high school after the close of its season. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed by the State Executive Committee.

(l) POST-SEASON GAMES. No school may engage in any postseason game, other than in regular interdistrict playoffs scheduled by the UIL. A post-season football game in all conferences is one played between two schools after the deadline for certifying district representatives. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed by the State Executive Committee.

(m) TRAINING RESTRICTED TO LOCAL ISD. The pre-season conditioning and fall training period shall be conducted on the campus of the local school or on a site controlled by the school board and lying within the boundaries of the school district. On-campus workout sessions which involve meals and/or overnight lodging are prohibited.

(n) Refer to football manual for NCAA rules exceptions.

(o) GAME VIDEOS. Playoff teams are required to exchange all videos leading up to the playoff game to include regular season and post-season games. Upon mutual agreement, teams may agree on trading a specific number of games.

(1) All videos must be traded by noon on the day following the last game played by the two teams involved. **Example:** Team (A) plays on Friday and Team (B) plays on Saturday, all videos must be traded by noon on Sunday. By mutual agreement games may be traded earlier.

Section 1260: GOLF PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 apply to the Golf Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be the following divisions in girls' and boys' districts: (1) singles and (2) teams consisting of five (or a minimum of four) entries from the same high school. The singles representatives may also be a member of the team. The medalist for each respective meet is singles champion, regardless of whether he/she is a member of a team or a single entry.

(c) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Team Limit*. At the district meet, each high school may enter three singles and two teams in each division.

(2) *Qualifiers to Regional Meet.* Each district may qualify the first and second place teams and the first and second place individuals to regional competition. If one of the first two individual finishers is on an advancing team, the next highest ranked individual who is not on an advancing team shall advance. If both of the first two individual finishers are on advancing teams, the next two highest ranked individuals who are not on advancing teams shall advance. Meet director shall authorize play-offs to break ties. (Refer to golf manual).

(3) *Qualifiers to State Meet*. Each region may qualify the first, second and third place teams and the first, second and third place individual finishers, to state competition. If one of the first three individual finishers is on an advancing team, the next highest ranked individual who is not on an advancing team shall advance. If all three individual finishers are on advancing teams, the next three highest ranked individuals who are not on advancing teams shall advance.

(4) *Certification*. Winners will be certified to the next higher meet by the meet director.

(5) *Team Member Changes*. Teams qualifying to the next meet qualify as a school team, and members can be changed before the next qualifying meet begins.

(6) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions*. No girls' teams shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.

(7) *Closing of Entries*. Entries shall not be allowed for district meets unless submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the tournament. Districts may authorize a later meeting after the entries are due, to allow for substitutions.

(8) *Disqualifications*. A player disqualified (for other than an unsportsmanlike conduct violation) shall have the disqualification apply only to the 18-hole round in which the infraction occurred.

(d) SUBSTITUTION.

(1) *No Singles Substitution.* There shall be no substitution allowed in the singles.

(2) *Team Substitution*. Once a meet has started no substitution shall be allowed to the school team composed of five players. **Exception**: Injury or illness certified by a physician prior to any 18-hole competition.

(3) *District Tournament*. In districts playing more than 36 holes, District Executive Committees shall authorize substitution standards prior to the beginning of competition.

(e) INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Number of Meets*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments during the school year, excluding one 36-hole maximum district tournament, the regional tournament and the state tournament. Each tournament a school team enters counts as one tournament for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee. Tournaments which are limited to three or fewer schools do not count as a tournament for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(2) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than two tournaments per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day of the week). **Exceptions:** The regional and state tournament, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week. Schools shall not enter invitational golf tournaments scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament.

(3) *End of Season*. Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any golf tournament after the date of the state golf tournament.

(4) *Scoring*. In invitational tournaments consisting of 36 holes or less (e.g., a 27-hole tournament), team honors shall be determined by totaling the best four scores for all holes actually played.

(5) *Cancellation or Continuation*. A tournament is

considered a tournament when all contestants have played one half of the predetermined length. It is recommended that in order to prevent additional loss of school time, the tournament be called and a champion determined on less than the scheduled number of holes. However:

(A) If the second half of the tournament has not begun and the tournament cannot be continued, the remaining holes may be played at a later date without counting as another tournament provided there is no additional loss of school time.

(B) If less than half of the tournament has been played and the tournament cannot be continued, the tournament may be canceled and does not have to count as one of the allowable 8 tournaments. If there was a loss of school time, the tournament shall be counted.

(6) *Time and Order of Starting*. The players shall start at the time and in the order arranged by the committee or director. The penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification.

(f) TIES.

(1) *Individual Ties*. Individual (singles) ties shall be determined by playing additional hole or holes until the tie is broken.

(2) *Team Ties*. Team ties shall be broken by the five players with the best scores on the final 18 holes being involved in the playoff of additional hole or holes until the tie is broken.

(g) PLAYOFF STRUCTURE.

(1) *Individual Medalist*. The individual with the lowest score will be the medalist. The medalist may be the representative in the singles and/or may be a member of the team. The individual, regardless if team member or singles qualifier, who has the lowest score will win the medalist honors and be the singles winner.

(2) *Team Honors*. Team honors shall be determined by adding the best four scores for each 18-hole round of the five players who enter as a team.

(3) *Team Winners*. The team with the lowest score will be the team winner.

(4) *Ties*. In case of a tie, the five players with the best scores on the final 18 holes will be involved in the playoff.

(5) *Monitors*. In district, regional and state competition, golf coaches or qualified volunteers should be assigned to foursomes for monitoring play.

(6) *Regional, State Meets*. All entries in the regional and state golf meets will play a total of 36 holes unless the tournament director determines it is necessary to play fewer than 36 holes (a minimum of 9 holes shall be played).

(7) *Practice Round*. Individuals and/or teams qualifying for regional and/or state golf may be permitted one practice round of 18 holes at the site of the regional and/or state golf tournament if permitted by the regional and/or state director. Schools shall not use more than one hour during the school day for practice rounds. There shall be no more than one day loss of school time involved in practice or travel in relation to practice preceding the tournament. Once a practice round has been completed, neither teams nor individuals are allowed to return to the site on another day to chip and/or putt. Refer to Section 1206.

Section 1270: SOCCER PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Soccer Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be three divisions for high school boys and three divisions for high school girls, in Conferences 4A, 5A and 6A only.

(c) DATES FOR PRACTICE AND GAMES. There shall be no school soccer practices for a contestant or team before or after school from the first day of school until the first Monday after Thanksgiving, and after the date for certifying district representatives, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs. Refer to Official Calendar for practice and playing dates, and certification deadlines.

(d) NUMBER OF GAMES, SCRIMMAGES AND TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Scrimmages*. For UIL boys and girls soccer, no interschool scrimmage shall be permitted after the 'first day for games' on the official UIL calendar. Any interschool contest played after this date shall be considered an official game and count towards a team's total allowable game limits. Furthermore, all official UIL rules, including those pertaining to player eligibility and card accumulation (yellow and red cards), shall apply to any contest played after the official 'first day for

games,' and such contests shall be officiated and compensated as an official game.

(2) *Number of Games Per Day*. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two interschool soccer games per day, including tournament games. **Exception:** Contestants and teams may play three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(3) *Total Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 15 soccer games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games and games played in prescheduled district tournaments. If the district champion has a bye for the first round of the play-offs, that school 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 games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(4) *Exception To Resolve District Ties*.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the 15 allowed games provided only one other matched game is played that calendar week. It may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a tournament provided only two matched games have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

(5) *Number of Games Per Week; Tournament Restrictions*.

(A) Matched Games Only. No high school team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games (as distinguished from tournaments) per calendar week.

(B) Week of an Invitational Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than one matched game during the calendar week of an invitational tournament.

(C) Week of a District Tournament. No team or contestant shall participate in more than two matched games during the calendar week of a district tournament, including a district tournament authorized by the District Executive Committee to resolve a tie for district championship. To be considered a district tournament, at least three teams shall be assembled at one site for an elimination contest on consecutive days. Refer to Section 1203.

(D) Invitational Tournament Restriction. No team shall participate in an invitational soccer tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(E) Exception for Rescheduled Games. District varsity soccer games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(e) BOYS', GIRLS' TEAM RESTRICTIONS. No girls' team shall play in a game against a boys' team and vice versa.

(f) SITE OF GAME. The District Executive Committee, in arranging a schedule within the district, shall determine the site of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

(g) GATE RECEIPTS FROM STATE TOURNAMENT. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state soccer tournament.

Section 1280: GIRLS' SOFTBALL PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLI-

CABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls' Softball Plan.

(b) ELIGIBILITY. Only girls eligible under Subchapter M of the *Constitution* may try out for and participate under the high school Girls' Softball Plan.

(c) NUMBER OF GAMES, TOURNAMENTS AND SITES.

(1) *Violations/Penalties*. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

(2) *Total Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 softball games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools 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, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(3) *Exception to Resolve District Ties*.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the allowed number of games delineated above, but may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season. Refer to Section 1203.

(4) *Invitational Tournament Restrictions*.

(A) No team shall participate in an invitational softball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(B) Tournament Restriction. Softball teams shall play no more than six total games in a tournament and no more than three games in any one day.

(5) *Site of Game*. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the place of games in case of disagreement between the two teams.

(6) *Exception for Rescheduled Games*. District varsity softball games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup game to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as an exception to the school week limitation. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(d) PLAYING DATES.

(1) *Practice Dates*. There shall be no organized or formal school softball practice for a contestant or a team, before or after school, prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, and after the date for certifying district champions, except for teams that have not been eliminated in the playoffs.

(2) *Scrimmages*. Schools shall not scrimmage prior to the date set forth by the UIL calendar, not to exceed two scrimmages per week, Monday through Saturday. Scrimmages are subject to the one contest per school week limitation.

(3) *Games*. Schools shall not play their first game until the 16th Monday prior to the State Softball Tournament.

(4) *School Equipment*. It will be considered a school game if a team is wearing school uniforms and/or using school equipment following the close of the regular UIL season.

(5) *Non-School Participation*. Refer to Section 1209.

(e) TIES: DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT GAMES. Unless otherwise specified by District Executive Committee minutes prior to the beginning of the season, a regulation district or non-district game called with a tie score after five innings have been played (and a winner cannot be determined) shall be counted as one-half game won and one-half game lost for each team. The game shall not be replayed provided five innings have been completed. If five innings have not been completed, the game shall be replayed from the start.

(f) GAME CALLED BEFORE COMPLETION. If a district or non-district game is called before comple-

tion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in National Federation Softball Rules, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game". Unless otherwise specified by district minutes prior to the season, the game will be replayed from the start. In games beyond the district level, a game begun, then suspended, shall continue at a later time from the point of suspension.

(g) POST-SEASON PLAYOFFS.

(1) *Day of Playoff Game*. Playoffs games shall not be played before Thursday of that week unless by mutual consent.

(2) *Playoff.* Playoffs may be single elimination or two-out-of-three from bi-district to state. If neither method is mutually agreeable, a coin flip shall determine play-off format. **Exception:** In the first round of the playoffs only, the district champion will have the choice of a single game or two-out-of-three series.

(3) *Two-out-of-Three Series*. If schools play a two-out-of-three elimination series, the first and second games may be played prior to Friday. Game (3) three shall not be played until Friday. If one game is played and a second game cannot be played because of weather, then the winner of the one game advances to the next round. If two games are played (and split) and the third game cannot be played on Saturday because of weather conditions, the third and deciding game should be played on Monday of the next week.

(4) *State Tournament*. All conferences will be single elimination at the state tournament.

(5) *Disputes*. In case there is a dispute regarding a neutral or home site or time of a game, it shall be settled by the flip of a coin. Refer to Section 1208 (o).

(6) *Gate Receipts From State Tournament*. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state softball tournament.

(7) *Playoff Games*. In playoff games beyond district, a suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

Section 1290: SWIMMING PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Swimming Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be three divisions for high school boys and three divisions for high school girls, Conferences 6A, 5A and 4A and below.

(c) ENTRIES.

(1) *Girls', Boys' Team Restrictions*. No girls' team shall compete against a boys' team and vice versa.

(2) *District Entry*. Each school shall submit the official entry files with qualifying times to the meet director on or before the fifth day prior to the district meet unless other arrangements have been authorized by the District Executive Committee.

(3) *Regional Entry*. It shall be the responsibility of the district director to submit the district report to the regional director by midnight of the final day of the district meet

(4) *State Entry*. It shall be the responsibility of the regional director to submit the regional report to the UIL office by midnight of the final day of the regional meet.

(5) *Relay Events*. In relay events, qualification is by school. Schools may change personnel on relay teams prior to the next UIL qualifying meet according to National Federation regulations.

(d) SUBSTITUTION IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS. After the entry deadline, there shall be no substitution allowed in the individual events according to National Federation Rules. If the individual place winner cannot compete in the next higher meet, the next place winner may be certified if time allows.

(e) QUALIFICATIONS.

(1) *Regional Meet Qualifications*. It shall be the responsibility of the district director to submit the district report to the regional meet director by midnight of the day of the district meet. The regional director may contact alternate qualifiers to replace individual school entries who are scratched, if time permits.

(2) *State Meet Qualifications*. It shall be the responsibility of the regional meet director to submit the regional report to the state meet director by midnight of the day of the regional meet. The UIL office shall contact additional qualifiers to the state meet after individual school entries are received.

(f) NUMBER OF MEETS.

(1) *Number of Meets*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year, excluding one district meet, the regional meet and the state meet. Each meet a school team enters counts as one meet for each participating individual. Students are con-

sidered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee. Meets, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(2) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The regional and state meet and district varsity meets postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(g) CONSOLATION FINALS. There shall be no consolation finals in district meets. Refer to Swimming Manual for scoring.

(h) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) *District Meets.* District meets shall be held in districts with more than six individuals or relays in any event.

(2) *Qualifiers to Regional*.

(A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, the top six individuals and relays shall qualify from district to regional.

(B) In the 4A and below conference, the top four individuals and relays shall qualify from district to regional.

(3) *Qualifiers to State*.

(A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, the first place and second place in each of eight regional swimming meets and the next eight swimmers with the best regional final times overall will advance to the state meet.

(B) In the 4A and below conference, the first place and second place in each of four regional swimming meets and the next eight swimmers with the best regional final times overall will advance to the state meet.

(4) *Diving*.

(A) In the 6A and 5A conferences, in diving, three divers will qualify at each of eight regional meets.

(B) In the 4A and below conference, in diving, four divers will qualify at each of four regional meets.

(5) *Timing*. Swimmers shall have been electronically timed unless the UIL office grants an exception.

(6) *Ties*. If ties occur for positions to the state competition, the times of the competitors from the regional preliminary competition will be considered first with the competitor with the fastest preliminary time advancing to the state meet. If a tie should still exist, then decision as to which qualifier will advance will be made by a coin toss.

Section 1300: TENNIS PLAN (INDIVIDUALS AND DOUBLES)

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Tennis Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS.

(1) *Boys', Girls' Divisions*. There shall be the following divisions in the respective conferences:

(A) high school boys, singles and doubles;

(B) high school girls, singles and doubles; and

(C) mixed doubles.

(2) *Entries*. At the district meet, each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles and two girls' doubles, and two mixed doubles teams.

(3) *Girls', Boys' Team Restrictions*. No girls' team shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.

(c) PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS. In contests which count on UIL standing, an individual shall not be allowed to compete in both singles and doubles or mixed doubles, or in both doubles and mixed doubles.

(d) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) *Closing District Entries*. No entries shall be allowed for district meets which are not submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the meet unless other arrangements have been previously authorized by the District Executive Committee. Districts may authorize a meeting after the entry deadline to allow for substitutions.

(2) *Regional Contests*. The winners of first and second places in district contests, singles and doubles, boys and girls, and mixed doubles are eligible to enter the regional contests. The UIL staff will provide tournament seeding recommendations.

(3) *State Contests*. The first, second and third place contestants in the regional tournaments in all conferences qualify to enter the state tournament.

(4) *Number of Matches and Sets*.

(A) Determining the Winners. In all match-

es, the best two-out-of-three sets shall determine the winners.

(B) Limit on Matches. No contestant or team shall play more than three matches per day. Note: Under the team tennis plan, different restrictions exist. There shall be a minimum of one hour's rest for a team or player between the close of one match and the beginning of another. This rule shall apply only to district, regional and state competition.

(5) *Substitutions*.

(A) District. In district meets, the District Executive Committee shall set entry deadlines. The District Executive Committee may set guidelines on substitutions prior to the start of the tournament.

(B) Regional and State. In regional and state meets, no substitutions in singles will be allowed. A substitution for tennis doubles and mixed doubles will be permitted prior to the start of the tournament if a player is injured, ill or academically ineligible.

(C) Limit on Substitution. After a tournament has begun, no substitution will be allowed.

(e) INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Number of Tournaments*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments (total for tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding one district tennis tournament, the regional tournaments and the state tournament. (Note: The team tennis district tournament counts as one of the eight allowable tournaments if school time is lost.) Each tournament a school team enters counts as one tournament for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.

(2) *Exceptions*:

(A) Triangular matches, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a tournament for participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(B) If no more than four teams meet to play predetermined opponent(s), it shall not be counted as one of the eight tournaments allowed the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.

(3) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one contest (tournament, dual or triangular match) per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). Schools shall not enter invitational tennis tournaments scheduled on more than one school day per any one tournament. **Exceptions:** The regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(4) *End of Season*. Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any tennis tournament after the date of the state tennis tournament.

(f) WEATHER CANCELLATION OR CONTINUATION. A tournament postponed or canceled by weather is considered a tournament when all semi-final matches have been completed. The remaining matches may be played at a later date (preferably Monday or Tuesday of the next week) without its counting as another tournament, provided there is no loss of school time. When all semi-final matches have not been completed, the tournament director has three options:

(1) The tournament may be canceled and not count as a tournament for the individuals or the school.

(2) The tournament may be continued, provided there is no additional loss of school time.

(3) The tournament may be continued with loss of school time and shall count as two tournaments.

(g) PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR. Any tennis practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

(2) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(3) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(4) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours

of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(5) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

Section 1310: TEAM TENNIS PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Team Tennis Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be the following divisions: Conference 6A, 5A and 4A. Conference 3A may compete for full honors in Conference 4A.

(c) REPRESENTATION AND TEAM COMPOSITION.

(1) *Composition*. At the district level each school may enter one team consisting of a minimum of six boys and six girls.

(2) *Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions*. Girls may not qualify for boys' positions on the team and vice versa.

(3) *Matches*. Each team match will consist of 19 matches:

(A) six boys' singles;

(B) six girls' singles;

(C) three boys' doubles;

(D) three girls' doubles; and

(E) mixed doubles.

(4) *Singles, Doubles*. Players may, but are not required to, play both singles and doubles or mixed doubles.

(5) *Singles Ladder Positions*. In singles, each player is to play according to ladder position, meaning the best player at #1, the next best at #2, and so on down the lineup to #6.

(6) *Doubles Ladder Positions*. In doubles, players shall be placed on doubles teams according to a ladder position, meaning the best two doubles players at #1 doubles, the next two doubles players at #2 doubles and so on for #3 doubles.

(7) *Mixed Doubles*. Mixed doubles can consist of any boy or girl who is not participating in the doubles competition.

(d) TEAM SCORING AND TIES.

(1) *Scoring*. The scoring system will be No Advantage-Scoring, best 2-out-of-3 set matches with a 7-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. If a third set is necessary, it will be played as a ten-point match tiebreak.

(2) *Point Count*. Each match won will count one point for the team.

(e) FORFEITS AND DEFAULTS.

(1) *Forfeiture*. If after an individual match begins, a forfeit occurs due to illness, injury or penalty for misconduct, the games and set won by the forfeiting team shall stand and count.

(2) *Default*. In all other matches, if a default occurs before the individual match begins, then the tournament director shall record the score as 6-0, 6-0.

(f) NUMBER OF MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Number of Tournaments*. No student or team representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments (total for tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding one district tennis tournament, the regional tournaments and the state tournament. (Note: The team tennis district tournament counts as one of the eight allowable tournaments if school time is lost.) Each tournament a school team enters counts as one tournament for the team and one tournament for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.

(2) *Exceptions*.

(A) Tournaments, which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a tournament for teams or participants, provided there is no loss of school time.

(B) If no more than four teams meet to play predetermined opponent(s), it shall not be counted as one of the eight tournaments allowed the team or the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.

(3) *Exception for Rescheduled Matches.* District varsity team tennis matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup match to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup matches may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. District varsity matches that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date

determined by the District Executive Committee.

(4) *School Week Limitation*. No student or team representing a member school shall participate in more than one invitational meet/tournament, dual or triangular meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The regional and state tournaments, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(5) *Match Limitation*. Each player shall play in no more than three dual matches per day.

(g) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) *District Tournaments*.

(A) Format. The District Executive Committee will make arrangements and set format to determine the district representatives.

(B) Entries. Each school shall enter the district meet by certifying entries to the district director by the entry deadline set by the District Executive Committee. If a round-robin format is utilized in lieu of a district tournament, the District Executive Committee shall specify entry and team roster regulations prior to the entry deadline.

(2) *Regional Tournaments*.

(A) Regional qualifiers. Regional quarterfinal winners will advance to a regional tournament. Regional tournament entries shall be certified by regional quarterfinal winners to the regional director.

(B) State tournament entries shall be certified by the regional meet director.

(3) *State Tournament*.

(A) The first-place team from each region will advance to the state tournament.

(B) Pairings will be made based on season records.

(h) SUBSTITUTIONS IN REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Lineup Changes*. Between district and regional, or regional and state, the coach may change the lineup to reflect proper ladder position prior to the start of the tournament, following the guidelines below.

(2) *Singles Movement on Ladder*. After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the singles lineup.

(3) *Doubles Movement on Ladder*. After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the doubles lineup.

(4) *Doubles Moves*. After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may change a player from one doubles partner to another partner, but no player may move more than one position in the doubles lineup.

(i) TAUNTING PENALTY. Refer to taunting penalty, exception to USTA rules in the *Team Tennis Manual.*

(j) PRACTICE REGULATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL YEAR. Any team tennis practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

(2) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(3) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(4) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(5) Schools shall not schedule more than one practice on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

Section 1320: TRACK AND FIELD PLAN.

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Track and Field Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS. There shall be a boys' division and a girls' division in the respective conferences. Girls' teams shall not compete against boys' teams, and vice versa.

(c) REPRESENTATION. Each member school may enter one boys' team and one girls' team in the district meet, advancing to regional and state meets as provided in the *Track and Field Manua*l.

(1) *Number in Each Event*. Each school shall be allowed a maximum of three contestants in each individual event. Only one relay team per school may be entered.

(2) *Individual Events*. In individual events a school may enter in the next higher meet

only the same individuals and in the same events as they qualified for in the preceding meet.

(3) *Alternates*. If a qualified contestant cannot enter the next higher meet, then the next place winner in that event at the lower meet shall be qualified to participate.

(4) *Relays*. In the relay event, qualification is by school and not individual. Individuals qualifying only as a member on the relay team may not enter any individual event in the next higher meet.

(d) POINTS. The point system in scoring high school track meets shall be the same in all meets which count on UIL standing.

(1) *Points for Individual Events and Relays*. Points shall be given in individual events as follows: First place 10 points, second place 8 points, third place 6 points, fourth place 4 points, fifth place 2 points, sixth place 1 point. Points for relays shall be as follows: first place 20 points, second place 16 points, third place 12 points, fourth place 8 points, fifth place 4 points, sixth place 2 points.

(2) *Points to All Finishers*. Points shall be awarded to all finishers (first through sixth).

(3) *Individual Honors*. In computing individual honors, a contestant's points on the relay team shall also be counted; i.e., each contestant on the winning relay team shall receive five points for individual honors.

(e) EVENTS.

(1) *Order of Events*. The events and order in which they shall be held, are:

(A) *Running Events*.

(i) 3200-meter run: girls; boys
(ii) 400-meter relay: girls; boys
(iii) 800-meter run: girls; boys
(iv) Girls' 100-meter hurdles (33")
(v) Boys' 110-meter hurdles (39")
(vi) 100-meter dash: girls, boys
(vii) 800-meter relay: girls; boys
(viii) 400-meter dash: girls; boys
(ix) Girls' 300-meter hurdles (30")
(x) Boys' 300-meter hurdles (36")
(xi) 200-meter dash: girls; boys
(xii) 1600-meter run: girls; boys
(xiii) 1600-meter relay: girls; boys

(B) *Girls' Field Events*.

(i) 4-kilo shot put
(ii) Discus
(iii) High jump
(iv) Long jump
(v) Triple jump
(vi) Pole vault

(C) *Boys' Field Events*.

(i) Pole vault
(ii) High jump
(iii) 12-pound shot put
(iv) Long jump
(v) Discus
(vi) Triple jump

(2) *Metric Distance Only*. The 3200-meter run, the 100-meter dash and the 1600-meter run for both boys and girls shall be run at the metric distances only.

(3) *Feet/Yard Equivalents*. In the 400, 800 and 1600 meter relays and the 200, 400 and 800 meter dashes and runs, the equivalent yard distances may be run.

(f) EVENT LIMITATIONS.

(1) *Event Limitations*. A contestant shall not be allowed to compete in more than three running events, including the relays, and in not over five events total.

(2) *Field Events*. Contestants may enter five field events provided they are not entered in any running events.

(g) ENTRIES FOR THE DISTRICT MEET.

(1) No entries shall be allowed for district meets which are not submitted to the director on or before the fifth day before the first day of the meet.

(2) Districts may authorize a scratch meeting after the entries are submitted to allow for substitutions.

(3) Schools should be permitted to scratch and add according to approved District Executive Committee regulations. Those events that have been entered by the school on the fifth-day-prior entry form may be subject to some changes under the following suggested guidelines:

(A) Students who are not eligible 5 days prior to the meet, but may become eligible at the time of the scheduled district meet, may be listed on the entry form and assigned to events. They shall be eligible at the time they actually compete.

(B) Students entered, but who have lost their eligibility because of the academic regulations, should be permitted to be dropped or scratched.

(C) Other eligible participants should be permitted to be added to the vacated places. These substitutes should be on an eligibility form turned into the district chair prior to the contest.

(D) If a school which has not entered an event 5 days prior wishes to enter an event at the time of the scratch meeting, it would be up to the District Executive Committee's policy or authorized meet director to determine if that school could enter.

(h) QUALIFICATION. The district director shall, subject to exceptions provided in (h)(1) below, certify the first four winners to area competition, and the first four winners at area will be certified to regional competition. The regional director shall certify first and second place winners for the state meet in accordance with the schedule provided in the *Track and Field Manual*.

(1) *All **Conferences*** Except in cases where the options provided for in the *Track and Field Manual* concerning district and area meets are adopted, four contestants qualify from each district to area; four contestants qualify from each area to region, and two contestants qualify from each region to state meet. Refer to #5 below.

(2) Qualifications are to be made in accordance with the National Federation Track and Field Rules.

(3) If a tie still exists after the application of these rules, then it will be decided by a coin toss and points split.

(4) Individual school entry forms and entry fees are not required for the state meet.

(5) After the regional meet directors have certified state qualifiers, the UIL staff will select one additional qualifier for each event to compete in the state meet. This qualifier will be the individual and/or relay team with the best overall time, mark, or height from all regional meets per classification that did not finish first or second. Ties will be broken as noted above.

(i) AREA, REGIONAL AND STATE MEET ALTERNATES.

(1) *Alternates*. In the event a qualified contestant is unable to compete, area, regional and state meet directors may permit the next highest place finisher to compete. Relays qualify by schools. Relay team members may be changed according to rule.

(2) *Restriction*. An alternate on a relay cannot participate in any other event except the relay unless the alternate qualified in another event. This rule is applicable in all area, regional meets and in the state meet.

(3) *Preliminaries*. A contestant in an individual event shall compete in the preliminaries in order to compete in the finals.

(j) AREA, REGIONAL AND/OR STATE QUALIFIERS MEETS. All area, regional and/or state qualifiers, including alternates in individual events and relays, shall be eligible to participate in any event at the applicable area, regional and/or state qualifiers meet(s).

(k) REPORTING TO EVENT. The director of the meet shall see that the preliminaries and the finals start at the scheduled times.

(1) *No Excuse*. No excuse shall be accepted for failure of a team or contestant to appear at the time announced for the event to start.

(2) *Forfeiture*. Any contestant who fails for any reason to be on hand at the time of the preliminaries shall forfeit the right to compete in the preliminaries and the finals, in that event.

(l) NO EXTRA TRIALS FOR RECORD. Winners in the field events at the state meet will not be allowed extra trials for a state record. Those who qualify for the finals will be allowed three additional trials, and the contestants will be credited with their best performance whether it was made in the preliminaries or in the finals.

(m) INVITATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD MEETS.

(1) *Number of Meets*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight meets during the school year, excluding one district meet, the area meet, the regional meet, a regional qualifiers meet and the state meet. Meets which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a meet for participants, provided there is no loss of school time. Each meet a school enters counts as one meet for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.

(2) *Cancelation*. A track and field meet is considered a meet when one-half or more of the field events and one-half or more of the track events are completed. If less than one-half of the field events and less than one-half of the track events are completed, and the meet cannot be continued, the meet may be canceled and does not have to count as one of the allowable eight meets, unless there was loss of school time. A canceled meet shall be counted if there was loss of school

time.

(3) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than one meet per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). **Exceptions:** The area meet, regional and state meets, and district varsity meets postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.

(4) *Day of Week and Starting Time*. Students or teams representing a member school are permitted to participate in an invitational track and field meet only as listed below:

(A) After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break. **Exception:** A student representing a member school may participate in a maximum of three meets Thursday or Friday, or the last day of the school week with no restriction on start time.

(B) Or on Saturday or school holidays;

(C) Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:

(i) Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.

(ii) Schools utilizing this option are limited to a one-day meet.

(iii) A school or student participating in this type of meet shall not enter another track and field meet during the same school week, Monday through Friday.

(iv) No event shall start after 10:00 p.m.

(5) *End of District*. A member school shall not enter a student or students in an invitational track and field meet after the final date for district certification of track and field representatives except those students qualifying for further competition as a qualifier, relay alternate (maximum of two alternates on any one relay team) or alternate (fourth place finisher at district) in the UIL regional or state meets. One regional qualifiers meet would not count in the allowable total of eight meets per student per year. A state qualifiers meet would count in the allowable total of eight meets per student per year.

(6) *End of Season*. Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any track and field meet after the date of the State Track and Field Meet.

Section 1330: GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL PLAN.

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Girls' Volleyball Plan.

(b) DATES FOR PRACTICES, MATCHES AND CERTIFICATIONS.

(1) *Practice Dates.*

(A) There shall be no high school volleyball practice for a contestant or a team until the first week in August as determined by the UIL calendar. Refer to Section 1478 for seventh and eighth grade restrictions.

(2) *School Practice Regulations Outside the School Year.*

(A) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

(B) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(C) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(D) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(3) *Scrimmage Dates*. Schools shall not scrimmage until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar. Teams and schools may participate in an unlimited number of scrimmages prior to the first day of school. After the first match, scrimmages are not permitted.

(4) *Matches.* Schools shall not participate in a match until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar or after the last date for certifying district representatives, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.

(5) *First Two Weeks of Season.* During each of the first two calendar weeks allowed for matches on the UIL Official Calendar, teams or students shall participate in no more than three matches (or dual matches) plus one tournament. The third match of the calendar week shall be after the last instructional day of the

school week if school is in session.

(6) *Remainder of Season.* After the first two calendar weeks allowed for matches, teams or students are limited to no more than two matches (or dual matches) during each calendar week, plus one tournament.

(7) *Beginning First Day of School*. On and after the first day of school, teams are limited to no more than two scrimmages, matches or dual matches during the calendar week. School week means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.

(c) NUMBER OF SCRIMMAGES, MATCHES, TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Violations/Penalties*. The District Executive Committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

(2) *Game-Matches Defined*. A game shall be defined as when a team has scored 25 points and is at least two points ahead. A match shall be defined as when a team has won three games out of five.

(3) *Total Number of Games, Matches, Tournaments*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 23 matches in a season, including all matches prior to the first playoff match. This shall include non-district and district matches. If the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, 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. Two matches may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(4) *Substituting Dual Matches for Regular Matches*. Dual matches consisting of two or more teams may be played. A team may play two other teams or play the same team twice at the same site. The second match shall be played as soon following the first match as possibly can be scheduled. A dual match will count as one of the two contests allowed per calendar week (in addition to a tournament), and will count as two of the 23 total matches allowed per season.

(5) *Exception To Resolve District Ties*.

(A) Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the District Executive Committee may authorize a single elimination match, provided only one other match is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking match may be in addition to the 23 allowed matches. It may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the District Executive Committee may authorize a tournament provided only two matches have been played that week, using the procedure in Section 1203. These tournament matches may be played in addition to the total number of matches and tournaments allowed for the season.

(6) *Exception for Rescheduled Matches*. District varsity volleyball matches postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than Sunday, on which another district match is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup match to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup matches may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the District Executive Committee.

(7) *Invitational Tournament Restriction*. No team shall participate in an invitational volleyball tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. However, matches or games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(8) *Invitational Tournament Exception*. Volleyball tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament shall be scheduled on Saturday.

(9) *Number of Matches Per Day in Tournaments*. No team or student shall compete in more than three matches per day in tournament play. **Exception:** Contestants or teams may play in four matches per calendar day in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday, and contestants or teams may play in four matches per day during a two-day tournament.

(d) SITE OF MATCH. The District Executive Committee in arranging a schedule within the district shall determine the site of matches in case of disagreement between two teams.

(e) BOYS PROHIBITED. Boys shall not compete on girls' teams.

(f) OFF SEASON PARTICIPATION. Refer to Section 1209.

(g) GATE RECEIPTS FROM STATE TOURNAMENT. The UIL office retains an annually determined percentage of gate receipts from the state volleyball tournament.

Section 1340: WATER POLO PLAN

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Water Polo Plan.

(b) DATES FOR PRACTICES, GAMES AND CERTIFICATIONS.

(1) *Practice Dates.*

(A) There shall be no high school water polo practice for a contestant or a team until the first week in August as determined by the UIL calendar. see section 1478 for seventh and eighth grade restrictions.

(2) *School Practice Regulations Outside the School Year.* Any water polo practice conducted by a school outside the school year shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

(A) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.

(B) Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.

(C) The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.

(D) On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice.

(3) *Scrimmage Dates.* Schools shall not scrimmage until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar. Teams and schools may participate in an unlimited number of scrimmages prior to the first day of school. after the first game, scrimmages are no longer permitted.

(4) *Games.* Schools shall not participate in a game until the first date allowed on the UIL calendar or after the last date for certifying district representatives, except for teams who have not been eliminated in playoffs.

(5) *Spring Training.* There shall be no school water polo practice or training for a contestant or team, and no water polo equipment issued after the close of the regular season schedule, except as incidental to the water polo championship playoffs. A two-year pilot program will be established for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years allowing for an optional spring training period consisting of 15 practice days which may be conducted in a period of 30 consecutive calendar days during the spring semester after the conclusion of the state swim meet:

(A) The first three practices shall be conducted as non-contact instruction.

(B) Each practice session shall be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes in duration, and total practice time shall not exceed 360 minutes per calendar week.

(c) NUMBER OF SCRIMMAGES, GAMES, TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Violations/Penalties*. The district executive committee shall determine the penalty for violations of the following regulations.

(2) *Total Number of Games and Tournaments*. No team or student shall compete in more than three invitational tournaments plus 17 games in a season, including all games prior to the first playoff game. This shall include non-district and district games. if the district champions have a bye for the first round of the play-offs, those schools 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. Three games may be substituted in place of a tournament.

(3) *Exception to Resolve District Ties*.

(A) **Two schools tied**. To resolve a two-way tie, the district executive committee may authorize a single elimination game, provided only one other game is played that calendar week. The tie-breaking game may be in addition to the 17 allowed games. It may not be played as an exception to the school week limitation.

(B) **Three or more schools tied**. If three or more schools are tied, the district executive committee may authorize a

tournament provided only two games have been played that week, using the procedure in section 1203. These tournament games may be played in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

(4) *Exception for Rescheduled Games*. District varsity water polo games postponed by weather or public disaster (not including illness) shall be rescheduled on the next date, other than sunday, on which another district game is not scheduled. In the event weather or public disaster forces the makeup games to be rescheduled, it shall be rescheduled on the next date as described earlier. These makeup games may be played as exceptions to the school week and calendar week limitations. District varsity games that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the district executive committee.

(5) *Invitational Tournament Restriction*. No team shall participate in an invitational water polo tournament held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except on school holidays. however, games in tournaments may be played after school on the last day of the school week prior to holidays.

(6) *Invitational Tournament Exception*. Water polo tournaments may be scheduled on non-consecutive days. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament shall be scheduled on Saturday.

(7) *Number of Games Per Day in Tournaments*. No team or student shall compete in more than three games per day in tournament play. Exception: Contestants or teams may play in four games per calendar day in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday, and contestants or teams may play in four games per day during a two-day tournament.

(d) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE.

(1) *District Tournaments*.

(A) **Format.** The district executive committee will make arrangements and set format to determine the district representatives.

(B) **Entries.** Each school shall enter the district meet by certifying entries to the district director by the entry deadline set by the district executive committee. If a round-robin format is utilized in lieu of a district tournament, the district executive committee shall specify entry and team roster regulations prior to the entry deadline.

(2) *Regional Tournaments*.

(A) **Regional Qualifiers**. Regional quarterfinal winners will advance to a regional tournament. Regional tournament entries shall be certified by regional quarterfinal winners to the regional director.

(B) **State tournament**

Section 1350: WRESTLING PLAN.

(a) ATHLETIC PURPOSES, CODES, PLAN APPLICABLE. Rules in Sections 1200-1209 also apply to the Wrestling Plan.

(b) DIVISIONS.

(1) There shall be two divisions for high school boys and two divisions for high school girls, in conferences 5A and 6A only. Conference 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A schools may compete for full honors in conference 5A.

(2) *Boys', Girls' Restriction.* No high school boy shall wrestle against a high school girl and vice versa. This prohibition is only applicable when the contest is held in Texas or in any other state that sponsors wrestling programs for both boys and girls. Refer to Official Interpretation #05-09-01, Appendix I.

(c) DATES FOR COMPETITION.

(1) Refer to Official Calendar.

(2) No school or student-athlete representing a school shall participate in a tournament or dual meet until the first Monday following the football district certification deadline and after the date for certifying district representatives.

(d) MEETS AND TOURNAMENTS.

(1) *Number of Tournaments.* No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments during the school season excluding one district tournament and the regional and state tournaments. Each tournament the school team enters counts as one meet for each participating individual. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.

(2) *Exceptions*. Dual, triangular and quadrangular meets do not count as a tournament for participants provided there is no loss of school

time.

(3) *School Week Limitation*. No student representing a member school shall participate in more than two contests (tournament, dual, triangular or quadrangular) per school week (the first instructional day of the calendar week through the last school day). **Exception:** Regional and state competition.

(e) END OF SEASON. Students and teams shall not represent a member school in any wrestling meet or tournament after the date of the State Individual Championships.

(f) RULES. All UIL tournaments will be conducted in accordance with National Federation Rules.

(g) CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE. Refer to the Wrestling Coaches Manual for the championship structure.

Subchapter D:

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND JUNIOR HIGH

Section 1400: JUNIOR HIGH (SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES)

(a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPANTS.

(1) *Student's Eligibility*. An individual may participate in UIL competition or contests as a representative of the participant school he/she attends if that student has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(2) Junior high students are not prohibited from competing at a grade level higher than the one in which they are enrolled. Refer to Subchapter M for high school eligibility standards.

(3) To participate in athletic competition, a student who initially entered the seventh or eighth grade during the current school year and has a special needs condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year, and students who are overage due to limited English proficiency, and who have substantiation from a language proficiency assessment committee, may petition the UIL to participate at grade level. The following must be submitted to the UIL for eligibility determination (not required for non-athletic competition).

(A) A special education student must provide documentation of a special education status and documentation that a disability delayed his or her education by at least one year.

(B) A student with a history of a disability must provide documentation from a 504 committee or an ARD committee proving the existence and length of time of the disability that caused the delay of at least one year in his or her education.

(C) A student with limited English proficiency must provide documentation of the recommendation of the LPAC.

(D) Students must provide documentation of date of birth and a copy of a current physical, including height and weight.

(E) The district executive committee may appeal the decision of the UIL to the State Executive Committee.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS. An individual may participate in UIL competition or contests as a representative of the participant school he/she attends if that student:

(1) Has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education and is passing the courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(2) Is a sixth-grade student who will be too old to participate the following year as a seventh grader and who has a special needs condition which delayed his or her education by at least one year. (Applies to athletic competition only – Refer to Section 446).

(3) *No Interscholastic Athletic Competition Below Seventh Grade.* No interscholastic athletic competition is allowed in any conference for teams in the sixth grade and below. This does not apply to annual inter-school elementary field days. This rule would not prohibit a school district from being involved in the facilitation of an enrichment/intervention program which may or may not include athletic activities involving students from their own schools. **Exception**: Certain athletic exceptions allow sixth grade students to participate. Refer to (2) above and Section 1478.

(c) RULES JURISDICTION. All public schools that participate in seventh and eighth grade UIL activities must abide by public school laws, TEA regulations and UIL regulations. Refer to Section 11.

(d) SCHEDULING.

(1) *District Academic Contests.* Schools may use no more than one school day or two half-school days per school year to hold the district academic contests.

(2) *District Music Contests*. Schools may use no more than one school day per school year to hold the concert and sight-reading contests.

Students in seventh and eighth grade may participate in composite groups prior to the end of the academic school day. Refer to Section 1102 for definition of composite groups.

(3) *Other Competitions*. No other game, contest or tournament shall begin prior to the end of the academic school day.

(e) SUNDAY PARTICIPATION. No UIL participant school shall sponsor individuals or teams in any contest or school competition on a Sunday in a UIL contest or a contest similar to one offered by the UIL. Schools shall not conduct practices or teach any plays, formations or skills on Sunday.

(f) NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEAR. (Refer to Section 383).

(g) LIMITATION OF AWARDS.

(1) *Awards To Individuals*. A participant school may not give and a student may not accept awards for participation in interschool competition in excess of $10 per year (total for all UIL school activities). Certificates awarded by the school, school district or district executive committee to recognize participating students do not count against the $10 limit. A student may accept a symbolic award in recognition of his/her achievement in an interschool contest if it is given by the organization conducting the contest (e.g., all-tournament awards, ribbons, plaques and medals).

(2) *Awards To Schools*. A district championship trophy or award may be awarded by the district executive committee.

(h) AMATEUR RULE. There is no amateur rule for junior high school students competing in junior high competitions. Section 441, Amateur Athletic Status, does not apply to students until the first class day of their ninth-grade year.

(i) MEMBERSHIP.

(1) *School District*. Junior high/middle schools receive membership in the UIL through the paid memberships of their parent high schools.

(2) *K-8 Independent School Districts*. For school systems with no high schools, refer to the membership fee structure in Sections 10 through 14.

(3) *Superintendent's Responsibility*. The superintendent shall have final responsibility for membership. When a school board elects to pay membership fees to join the UIL, it agrees to accept and observe the terms of participation in the contests as set forth in the *Constitution and Contest Rules*. This is a voluntary organization. All conditions surrounding participation are freely accepted and both the letter and spirit of the rules are to be observed. Thus, when disputes arise, they shall be settled by the committees in the prescribed manner.

(j) DISTRICTS.

(1) *No District Assignments*. Junior high schools will not be assigned to junior high districts or conferences by the UIL office. Schools may follow the high school academic and/or athletic district assignments or form their own district. Students will represent their campus in the junior high academic and athletic district meets.

(2) *Required Assignments*. The UIL office reserves the right to assign contestants or teams to districts.

(3) *Composite or Combined Teams.* Students will represent their campus. Combined or composite teams are not allowed in UIL district academic or athletic competitions.

(k) PROTESTS.

(1) *Persons Responsible*. In junior high schools that do not form a district, the district executive committee of the high school which the students will attend shall decide protests for the junior high school that has been protested. In junior highs that do form districts, the junior high school administrators from their schools shall consider all protests and eligibility of the students. In disputes between junior high schools from different junior high districts, neutral representatives from the executive committees of both districts will settle the dispute.

(2) *Time For Protest*. The superintendent or a designated administrator must file the protest in writing with the district executive committee. The protest must be filed within a reasonable time, but not exceeding four days after the contest, unless it involves eligibility or a rule imposing mandatory penalties.

(3) *Appropriate Committees*. All disputes among participant schools shall be settled by the appropriate executive committee.

(4) *Jurisdiction Within District*. The district executive committee shall have jurisdiction over all eligibility cases, disputes and protests within the district. The representative of a protesting school or the school protested is disqualified from the adjudication of the dispute.

(5) *Jurisdiction Outside Of District*. All disputes and

protests arising between schools belonging to different districts shall be resolved through a meeting with equal representation from each district including the two teams involved. The disputing school and the school charged with violation shall not be allowed to vote.

(l) VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.
(1) *Penalties*. Penalties are applicable to the appropriate violator as stated in Sections 27 and 29.
(2) *May Not Play Suspended Schools*. No school in the UIL shall engage in any contest, game or scrimmage with a suspended school, and any school violating this rule may be suspended. This prohibition applies only to the contest in which the school is suspended.
(3) *Minimum Penalty*. Forfeiture of the contest is the minimum penalty for using an ineligible contestant.
(4) *Receiving High School*. The receiving high school will be notified of any violations. The associated high school may be suspended by the State Executive Committee in the activity in which the junior high violates rules if the junior high does not abide by the ruling of the district executive committee.

(m) INDIVIDUAL PLANS. Specific requirements and regulations may be found in the individual contest plans.
(1) *Academic*. Sections 1410-1474.
(2) *Athletics*. Section 1478.

Section 1401: A+ PROGRAM ACADEMIC PLAN

(a) PURPOSES. Participation in UIL academic contests should help students develop oral language and communication skills, become independent readers and writers, develop conceptual understanding, learn to solve problems and apply knowledge to all facets of their lives.
(1) All A+ competitions should be conducted so that educational objectives are achieved, highest standards of sportsmanship are upheld, and no single phase of the program is promoted at the expense of other programs.
(2) Schools are encouraged to participate in a full range of contests, to offer as many opportunities for competition as possible, to administer all contests fairly and efficiently, to provide specific, positive feedback and to see that competition is conducted in a nurturing and educational environment.
(3) Faculty leaders are encouraged to fully prepare students for competition while insuring that broad educational objectives are never compromised in the pursuit of victory.
(4) Administrators should help create learning environments, structures and policies that encourage educational competition while adhering to the school's general educational mission.

(b) A+ MEET CODE. The general A+ Meet Code means to:
(1) participate in contests in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules – both in letter and in spirit;
(2) sponsor and advise individuals and teams without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules or any other unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles;
(3) accept decisions of officials and judges without protest and extend protection and courtesy to officials;
(4) regard opponents as guests or hosts while placing personal and/ or team integrity above victory at any cost. Maintain grace and poise in victory or defeat. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens competitors, based on gender or ethnic origin, has no place in interscholastic activities;
(5) provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to local school administrators or to the appropriate judicial bodies upon request;
(6) understand and appreciate the educational values of competition and abstain from modifying or soliciting another teacher to modify grades for eligibility purposes, knowing that such behavior defeats the character-building purposes of extracurricular competition;
(7) abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities; and
(8) at all times, ensure that competition is relative to a more important overall educational effort, using competition as a tool in the preparation of students for citizenship and successful adulthood.

(c) SALARY/STIPEND. Any salary or stipend arrangement which makes it to the financial interest of a coach, director or sponsor to win a UIL contest will be in violation of the A+ Meet Code, and the member school district, participant school and the school district personnel shall be subject to the range of penalties outlined in Sections 27 and 29.

(d) CONTESTS. The Academic Meet Plan covers these

A+ Academic Activities for the grade levels indicated in parentheses:

(1) Art (4-8)
(2) Calculator Applications (6-8)
(3) Chess Puzzle (2-8)
(4) Creative Writing (2)
(5) Dictionary Skills (5-8)
(6) Editorial Writing (6-8)
(7) Impromptu Speaking (6-8)
(8) Listening (5-8)
(9) Maps, Graphs, & Charts (5-8)
(10) Mathematics (6-8)
(11) Modern Oratory (6-8)
(12) Music Memory (2-8)
(13) Number Sense (4-8)
(14) One-Act Play (6-8)
(15) Oral Reading (4-9)
(16) Ready Writing (3-8)
(17) Science (6-8)
(18) Social Studies (5-8)
(19) Spelling (3-8)
(20) Storytelling (2-3)

Instructions and required contest procedures are found in the A+ Handbook.

(e) MEMBERSHIP IN UIL; FORMING DISTRICTS.

(1) *Membership.* Elementary, middle and junior high schools receive membership in the UIL through the paid memberships of their parent high schools. The superintendent shall have final responsibility for membership. For school systems with no high schools, refer to the membership fee structure in Sections 10 through 14.

(2) *Statement of Participation.* Elementary, middle and junior high schools should indicate their desire to participate in UIL activities by registering with the UIL office. Deadline for registration is designated on the official UIL calendar.

(3) *Compliance with the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.* Contest directors shall not deviate from the *Constitution and Contest Rules* in administering UIL A+ academic contests. The district executive committee may elect to add or delete UIL contests from its specific meet plan.

(4) The UIL's elementary contest plan is restricted to academic competition. No interscholastic athletic competition is allowed in any conference for teams in the sixth grade and below. This does not apply to annual interschool elementary field days. For athletic exceptions to allow sixth grade students to participate, Refer to Section 1478 (c).

(5) Elementary and junior high school contestants do not qualify to a higher post-district meet.

(f) ORGANIZING THE DISTRICT. Elementary, middle and junior high schools will not be assigned to districts or conferences by the UIL office. Schools may follow the high school Academics Meet district assignments or form their own district.

(1) *Required Assignments*. The UIL office reserves the right to assign contestants or teams to districts.

(2) *Composite or Combined Teams*. Students will represent their campus. Combined or composite teams are not allowed in UIL district academic competitions.

(3) *District Executive Committee*. This body shall be composed of an administrator from each of the participating schools in the district. Duties include: enforcing the eligibility rules in the district; selecting the district director; selecting the site and date for the meet; arranging for financing the meet; determining which events will be offered and for which grade levels; designing a district meet entry form; notifying members of the district of the events and entry restrictions; soliciting entries from each school; cooperating with the schools in effecting and promoting a district organization; and adjudicating disputes arising within the district subject to provisions of Subchapter E of the Constitution.

(4) *Materials Order Form*. This information shall be submitted to the UIL office online through the UIL website. The meet director's name shall be included. Deadlines are posted on the A+ calendar webpage.

(5) *District Director*. Each district shall select a district director for A+ activities. Duties include: selecting the directors of the contests in accordance with individual contest plans; arranging for necessary facilities; requisitioning all contest materials from the UIL office; distributing the materials to contest directors; assuming immediate responsibility for conducting the meet in an orderly manner; being available to assist contest directors when questions arise; and seeing that a list of winners is compiled immediately from the reports furnished by the contest directors. The district director shall notify all participant schools regarding the dates and contest schedule of the meet, but each school has the final responsibility for ascertaining the dates

and schedule.

Section 1405: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students are eligible so long as they have been in attendance and are passing all classes in accordance with state law and rules of the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency. The UIL has no age limit for elementary academic competition, nor does it have a residence rule.

(a) COMPETING OUT OF GRADE LEVEL. Elementary students are not prohibited from competing one grade level higher than the one in which they are enrolled. However, a student shall not compete in two or more grade levels of the same contest in the same year.

(b) AMATEUR RULE. There is no amateur rule for students competing in elementary school or junior high school competitions. Section 441, Amateur Athletic Status, does not apply to students until the first class day of their ninth-grade year.

Section 1408: A+ MEETS

(a) SUNDAY PARTICIPATION. No UIL participant school shall sponsor individuals or teams in any contest or school competition on a Sunday in a UIL contest or a contest similar to one offered by the UIL.

(b) SCHEDULING. Schools may use no more than one school day or two half-school days per school year to hold the district academic contests.

(c) MEET TIMEFRAMES. Campuses may choose to participate in a district meet in a maximum of one of the three timeframes beginning in October and ending in May referred to as Set A, Set B, and Set C. Scrimmage or qualifying meets organized locally may be held outside of the district timeframe.

(d) DISTRICT ENTRIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS. Each district may devise its own entry forms for entering contestants in academic contests or use the form found in the *A+ Handbook*. Policies regarding due dates, late entries and substitutions should be determined by each district prior to the academic meet.

(e) CONTEST MATERIALS.

(1) *Confidentiality*. Coaches, contest directors and contestants are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of district meet contest materials. Transfer of information relative to the tests shall be considered a violation of the A+ Meet Code and subject to penalties as outlined in Section 27 and Section 29.

(2) *Materials*. Contest materials supplied by the UIL office will be prepared for the grade levels designated in each contest plan. Two or more grade levels will, in most cases, take the same test.

(3) *Contest Materials*. Testing materials for A+ activities will be available starting in October and ending in May. Specific dates for each timeframe will be posted on the A+ calendar webpage and identified as: Set A, Set B, and Set C. It is permissible for districts to schedule meets outside those time frames, but testing materials will not be available from the UIL office for those meets. Materials necessary for conducting meets shall be requisitioned from the UIL office by the district director. Set A, Set B and Set C will be available in digital format. Districts may opt to receive one set of printed materials for either Set B or Set C. Contest materials may be returned to participating schools on the dates posted on the A+ calendar webpage.

(f) OPTIONAL CONTEST.

(1) *Speech*. The middle or junior high schools in any A+ district may hold any of the speech contests listed in the high school Academics Meet Plan in Section 1000. Winners do not advance to a higher level.

(2) *Additional Grade Levels.* With the approval of the A+ district executive committee, districts may elect to create a division of a contest for each designated grade level or additional grade levels.

(3) *Other Contests.* Districts may pilot contests that are not described in the Constitution or may alter other high school contests in a manner appropriate for the particular grade level.

(g) TESTS /JUDGING.

(1) *Philosophy.* Critiques of tests and performances should first comment on the positive aspects of the competition and then offer constructive criticism. When comments are possible, they need not be long, but they should be specific. Strictly objective tests do not need commentary.

(2) *Corrections.* Any corrections to contest material will be made available to meet director.

(3) *Changing Answer Keys.* If there is consensus among the graders, judges and coaches that an answer on the answer key is incorrect, the contest director is authorized to correct the answer key. This decision shall be made before the official results are announced.

(h) POINTS. In determining the overall championship, points shall be awarded according to the following chart. Points shall be awarded for all places in which a contestant participated. For example, if

only two contestants participate in an event, both contestants receive points according to the results of the event.

CONTESTS	PLACES AND POINTS					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Art	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Art	8	6	4	0	0	0
Calculator Applications	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Calculator Applications	8	6	4	0	0	0
Creative Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Chess Puzzle	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Chess Puzzle	8	6	4	0	0	0
Dictionary Skills	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Dictionary Skills	8	6	4	0	0	0
Editorial Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Impromptu Speaking	15	12	10	8	6	4
Listening	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Listening	8	6	4	0	0	0
Maps, Graphs, & Charts	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Maps, Graphs, & Charts	8	6	4	0	0	0
Mathematics	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Mathematics	8	6	4	0	0	0
Modern Oratory	15	12	10	8	6	4
Music Memory	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Music Memory	8	6	4	0	0	0
Number Sense	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Number Sense	8	6	4	0	0	0
One-Act Play						
Ranked Plays	22	18	15	0	0	0
Individual Awards	8	4	2	0	0	0
Oral Reading	15	12	10	8	6	4
Ready Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Science	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Science	8	6	4	0	0	0
Social Studies	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Social Studies	8	6	4	0	0	0
Spelling	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Spelling	8	6	4	0	0	0
Storytelling	15	12	10	8	6	4

(1) *One-Act Play Points*. The first-place play receives 22 points, the second-place play receives 18 points and the third-place play receives 15 points. Individual awards shall consist of first place (each best performer), second place (each all-star cast) and third place (each honorable mention all-star cast). Individual awards may not exceed those specified in Section 1033. An all-star cast award assigned by the judge to a chorus or other group of players counts as only one individual award and shall be allocated the appropriate points.

(2) *Ties in Individual and Team Competition.* In contests in which a tie cannot be broken, tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which the tie exists. Two schools tied for first place in a contest shall add first and second place points and divide equally. The school ranking next shall receive third place points. Two schools tied for second place shall add second and third place points and divide equally, and no third place points shall be awarded. Ties for remaining places shall be decided in the same manner, except that schools tied for last place shall divide equally the points assigned to that place.

(i) CHAMPIONSHIPS. An overall academic district champion may be named, and a trophy awarded to the winning elementary, middle and/or junior high school, at the discretion of the district executive committee. Points won by an elementary, middle or junior high school shall not be counted toward the overall championship in a high school meet and vice versa. No school shall be eligible for the overall championship that does not place in at least three events.

(j) TROPHIES AND AWARDS. The district executive committee may authorize the purchase of a standard or approved district championship trophy to be given to the winning school.

(k) LIMITATION OF AWARDS. There is no Awards Rule for students in grades 2 through 6 who compete in UIL elementary academic contests. Awards for elementary students are determined by the participating schools.

(l) INDIVIDUAL PLANS. Specific requirements and regulations may be found in the individual contest plans.

(1) *Academic.* 1410 through 1474.

(2) *Athletic.* Section 1478.

Section 1410: ART

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. This contest involves the study of paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and paintings from selected Texas museums. The *Art Smart Bulletin* is the source for test material of history and art elements relative to the art selections. As part of their study, students will demonstrate an understanding of art history and interpret ideas and moods in original artworks while making informed judgments about the artwork.

(2) *Contest Format.* Part A requires contestants to identify the artist's name, as it appears on the official list, and the title of 15 paintings selected randomly from the official list of 30 paintings as published in the *Art Smart Bulletin* and on the UIL website. Part B consists of 30 questions about art elements and principles and art history characteristic of the 30 art

selections. Both Parts A and B of the contest shall be conducted. Approximately 30 minutes will be allotted for Part A and 30 minutes for Part B of the contest exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition*. For each division, each school may enter as many as five contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition*. If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of all contestants in each division from a school, divided by the number of contestants from that school, shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have at least three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students, with the exception of the person choosing the selections to be used in Part A of the contest. This person shall not be the coach of any student in the competition.

(2) ***Verification Period.*** Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(3) ***Official Results.*** After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(4) ***Points and Ties.*** Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.

(5) ***Certificates***. Students who score 100% in both sections of the contest at the district competition are eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement.

(6) ***Returning Materials.*** No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1414: CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. This contest is designed to stimulate the development of mathematical and calculator skills. Goals are both intellectual and practical: developing mathematical reasoning and knowledge and requiring the application of problem-solving skills toward realistic problems.

(2) *Contest Format*. Students will take a test containing 80 problems. The contest consists of problems that may include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots and powers. It also includes straightforward calculation problems and simple geometric and stated problems similar to those found in recently adopted textbooks. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) ***Verification Period***. Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision will be final.

(3) ***Official Results***. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(4) ***Points and Ties***. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individual or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.

(5) ***Returning Materials.*** No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1416: CHESS PUZZLE

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* The study of chess teaches analytical thinking, pattern recognition and creativity, which in turn improve student performance in reading, writing, history, geography, and math.

(2) *Contest Format.* Students will take an objective test containing approximately 20 chess puzzles, plus a tiebreaker section. Answer formats may include fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice and/or true/false. Thirty minutes will be allotted for the testing period and an additional five minutes will be allotted for the tiebreaker, exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in the contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Verification Period*. Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official answer keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(3) ***Official Results.*** After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(4) *Points and Ties.* Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which the tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.

(5) ***Returning Materials.*** No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1418: CREATIVE WRITING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* This contest is designed to promote creativity in an academic format and to encourage writing skills at an early grade level. Through preparation for the contest, students will be able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.

(2) *Contest Format.* Contestants will be given a prompt with several captioned pictures. From these pictures, the students will create an original story based on their selections. The stories shall contain at least one of the pictured items, but it is not required that all items on the page be included. Thirty minutes will be allotted for writing exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in the second grade who are eligible under Section 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. This contest will consist of only one division.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in creative writing.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.

(2) *Viewing Period*. An optional period not to

exceed 15 minutes may be arranged for coaches and contestants to review their own evaluations, stories and verify identification.

(3) ***Official Results.*** After the viewing period has ended and all contest papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(4) ***Returning Materials.*** No materials from the district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1422: DICTIONARY SKILLS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Thorough knowledge of the dictionary is a way to increase a student's ability to find the information that is needed for class work as well as everyday living. The subject matter of all tests is taken from *Merriam Webster's Intermediate Dictionary.* Contestants may use other dictionaries in the contest. In preparation for this contest, students will develop skills to communicate effectively.

(2) *Contest Format.* Each test consists of 40 objective questions. Contestants use dictionaries in the competition. Twenty minutes will be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants competing to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Verification Period.* Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(3) *Official Results.* After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(4) *Points and Ties.* Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. Tied contestants or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1424: EDITORIAL WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* Editorial writing teaches critical and analytical thinking, as well as the ability to write persuasively and concisely. Students learn to examine both sides of an issue, select and develop a stance and support that stance with logical, clear writing.

(2) *Contest Format*. Contestants will be provided a fact sheet from which they will develop and write an editorial. Forty-five minutes will be allotted for the writing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 or 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in Editorial Writing.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. A single or an odd number of judges should be selected.

Judge(s) shall not be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Options for Writing.* Contestants may handwrite their editorials or may bring and use their own computers. If contestants choose to use their own computers, they shall bring their own printers, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check and thesaurus functions may be used. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in handwriting. Contestants may use electronic or printed dictionaries and thesauruses.

(3) *Viewing Period.* An optional period not to exceed 15 minutes may be arranged for coaches and contestants to review their own evaluations and stories and verify identification.

(4) *Official Results.* After the viewing period has ended and all contest papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announce, are final.

(5) *Points and Ties.* Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). There can be no ties in this contest.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1426: IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* This contest gives students experience in formulating and organizing clear thoughts and effectively delivering those thoughts to an audience. The contest provides opportunities for students to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations; to examine different purposes for speaking; to organize ideas and deliver speeches on a variety of topics; to evaluate speeches given by others; and to develop self-confidence.

(2) *Contest Format.* Contestants will draw three topics, select one, and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which shall be presented without any notes. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest. The maximum time limit for each speech is five minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the allotted five minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone overtime, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation. Audiences are permitted.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions.* Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. A timekeeper should be provided for each section. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

(2) *Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of impromptu speaking, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures.

(3) *Rankings, Ties and Points.* Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Verification Period.* If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period and shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.

(5) *Official Results*. The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials*. No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1430: LISTENING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* This contest is designed to help students recognize the importance of effective listening skills and to identify problems they may have in listening effectively. It also provides a challenging format to test the improvement of their listening abilities. Through preparation for the contest, participants will listen to a variety of material and learn to evaluate and critically analyze a speaker's message. The objective tests will measure skills such as identifying the main idea and supporting ideas, listening for details, drawing conclusions and distinguishing fact from opinion.

(2) *Contest Format*. Contestants will listen to a script ranging from approximately seven to 10 minutes in length, take notes as needed, and use their notes to answer 25 objective questions. Ten minutes will be allotted for the testing period.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students except the script reader. The reader may not be a coach of any contestant entered in the contest.

(2) *Ties and Points*. No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(3) *Verification Period*. A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(4) *Official Results.* After verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1434: MAPS, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* This contest is designed to help students learn to get information from a variety of maps, graphs and charts including world maps, pie charts, bar charts and local area maps. The objective test will measure skills such as using an atlas as a reference book to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale and interpreting grid systems, legends and keys.

(2) *Contest Format*. Some subject matter will be taken from the designated official sources(s). Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 75 objective questions. Contestants may use an atlas during the contest; an atlas will be needed to answer some test questions. Forty-five minutes will be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each

participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Ties and Points*. No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied contestants or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.

(3) *Verification Period.* A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(4) *Official Results.* After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1438: MATHEMATICS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Learning to complete math problems quickly is a valuable skill in all facets of life. This contest includes problems covering, but not limited to: numeration systems, arithmetic operations involving whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, exponents, order of operations, probability, statistics, number theory, simple interest, measurements and conversions. Geometry and algebra problems may be included as appropriate for the grade level.

(2) *Contest Format*. The contest consists of 50 multiple-choice problems. Thirty minutes will be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contest-ants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Ties and Points*. No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(3) *Verification Period*. A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(4) *Official Results.* After verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1442: MODERN ORATORY

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* In this contest, the contestant will select one of the topics, determine the critical issues in the topic, and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support discovered in their research. Students will choose a side they will defend and support that side with additional evidence. Along with

the skills of analysis, research, note-taking, documentation, evaluation and decision-making come those of memorization and delivery.

(2) *Contest Format.* The UIL will provide a selection of topics each academic year from which the student will pick one. Contestants will deliver a three to six-minute speech on their topic without the use of notes. Contestants shall not use costumes or props in the contest. Students going over the maximum or under the minimum time limit shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone over the time limit, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation. Audiences are permitted.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

(2) *Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of modern oratory, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures.

(3) *Rankings, Ties and Points*. Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Verification Period*. If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.

(5) *Official Results.* The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No confidential materials are used in this contest. Therefore, evaluation sheets may be returned to contestants at the conclusion of the contest.

Section 1446: MUSIC MEMORY

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. The focus of this contest is an in-depth study of fine pieces of music taken from a wide spectrum of genres to expose students to great composers, their lives and their music. In the course of preparing for the contest, students should be given the opportunity to describe and analyze the music, relate the music to history, to society and to culture, and to evaluate musical performance. The UIL will publish each year the official UIL Music Memory List and provide sources for obtaining recordings of the music and information on the pieces and composers.

(2) *Contest Format*. Students in grade 2 will listen to and identify short excerpts of 10 musical selections. Additional optional components may be available for district consideration. There is no tiebreaker section for the grade 2 contest. Students in grades 3 and 4 will complete a matching section and will listen to and identify short excerpts of up to 20 musical selections. Students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will listen to and identify short excerpts of up to 20 musical selections. Specific test formats for grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 may differ by grade level and may include tiebreaker sections or optional components for district consideration. The current *A+ Handbook* includes complete rules and instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate

division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individuals.* Each participant school may enter as many as five contestants in each division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of all contestants in each division from a school, divided by the number of contestants from that school, shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have at least three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Ties and Points*. Ties shall be broken, when applicable, by applying the tiebreaker rules for that grade level. If a tie remains after the tiebreaker has been scored, the tie will stand. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.

(3) *Certificates*. Students having a 100% correct paper on the district test selections are eligible for a Certificate of Achievement. The four tiebreaking questions are not to be considered in determining 100% papers.

(4) *Verification Period.* A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(5) *Official Results.* After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1450: NUMBER SENSE

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Individuals are called upon every day to use their ability to make quick mental calculations to make decisions. The development of such abilities should be an integral part of the math curriculum. Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, and use of mathematic notation.

(2) *Contest Format*. Students will be given a fill-in-the-blank test which they shall complete without doing calculations on paper or on a calculator. Erasures, mark-overs and mark-outs are not permitted. Requirements for numeric forms shall be as specified in official contest procedures. Exactly 10 minutes shall be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Ties and Points*. Ties are not to be broken in either individual or team competition. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.

(3) *Verification Period.* A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(4) ***Official Results.*** After the verification period

has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1454: ONE-ACT PLAY

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Students will have the opportunity to work in all aspects of the production of a 40-minute play. During the production of the play they will be able to:

(A) satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools, emphasizing high quality performance in this creative art;

(B) foster appreciation of good acting, good directing and good drama;

(C) promote interest in that art form most readily usable in leisure time during adult life;

(D) learn to lose or win graciously, accepting in good sportsmanship the judge's decision and criticism with a view to improve future productions; and

(E) increase the number of schools that have adopted theatre arts as an academic subject in school curricula.

(2) *Contest Format.* Schools will produce a play in strict accordance to the rules and regulations in the current *One-Act Play Handbook* and Sections 1033 and 1034, with the following exceptions:

(A) all deadlines and schedules are to be determined by the district executive committee;

(B) enrollment and Title Entry Forms are not required for junior high schools and will not be available from the UIL office; and

(C) directors for eighth grade and below do not have to be full-time employees of the school district as required by 1033 (b) (5) (A).

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in the seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Section 1400 may enter this contest. Sixth graders who are eligible under Section 1405 may participate in the contest if they are on the same campus as the seventh and eighth grade. Participants shall be full-time students in grades six, seven or eight at the school they represent.

(2) *Divisions*. This contest consists of one division.

(c) OFFICIAL RESULTS. The decision of the critic judge or judges is final. The winner of a junior high school one-act play contest shall not advance beyond the district level. Winners shall be ranked first, second and third.

(d) MATERIALS. No printed materials are shipped for A+ One-Act Play contests. All instructions and forms are available for download from the UIL website.

Section 1458: ORAL READING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Reading a text out loud serves four purposes: to analyze the text as a literary critic; to grow and to develop as a performer; to communicate a message to an audience; and to perform an artistic creation. All of these apply to the Oral Reading competition, which should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction.

(2) *Contest Format.* Requirements for acceptable selections shall be as specified in official contest procedures. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the allotted six minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone overtime, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest. No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation. Audiences are permitted.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest at the district meet. Eligible ninth grade students may also enter oral reading.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. A timekeeper should be provided for each section. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

(2) *Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of oral reading, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round.

(3) *Rankings, Ties and Points.* Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Verification Period*. If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided, during which unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period and shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.

(5) *Official Results*. The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No confidential materials are used in this contest. Therefore, evaluation sheets may be returned to contestants at the conclusion of the contest.

Section 1462: READY WRITING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* Texas has put a great emphasis on writing skills at all levels of school and all levels of statewide testing. Ready Writing builds upon those skills and helps students refine their writing abilities. In particular, this contest helps them learn to write clearly and correctly a paper that is interesting and original.

(2) *Contest Format*. Contestants are given a choice between two prompts, each of which defines the audience and provides the purpose for writing. Students should be encouraged to analyze the prompts for purpose, format, audience and point of view. The format may be, for example, a letter, an article for the newspaper or an essay for the principal. Various writing strategies may be stated or implied in the prompt. Some of these include:

(A) description to inform – describe the happening or person/object from imagination or memory;

(B) narration – write a story;

(C) persuasion – describe and argue just one side of an issue; describe both sides of an issue then argue only one side; write an editorial; write a letter to persuade, etc.

There is no minimum or maximum number of words the contestants may write. Two hours are allowed for writing the composition. The District Executive Committee may shorten the length of the contest period to conform to the needs of the grade level.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.*

(A) Contest Director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. A single or an odd number of judges should be selected. Judge(s) shall not be coaches of participating students.

(2) Options For Writing. Contestants may hand-write their essays or may bring and use their own computers. If contestants choose to use their own computers, they shall bring their own printers, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check and thesaurus functions may be used. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers

accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in handwriting. Contestants may use electronic or printed dictionaries and thesauruses.

(3) *Viewing Period* An optional period of time not to exceed 15 minutes may be arranged for coaches and contestants to review their own evaluations and compositions, and verify identification.

(4) *Ties and Points*. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(5) *Official Results*. After the optional viewing period has ended and all compositions have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official winners. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1466: SCIENCE

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. Emphasis for the Science contest will be placed on knowledge of scientific fact, understanding of scientific principles and the ability to think through scientific problems. The contests are designed to test not only memory but the ability to think critically about science and scientific processes and concepts. Such concepts include, but are not limited to: matter and energy, equilibrium, force and motion, physical and chemical properties, the relationship between organisms and the environment, the components of our solar system, the composition of matter and genetics. The contests will build upon the vast body of changing and increasing knowledge described by physical, mathematical and conceptual models.

(2) *Contest Format.* Each test will consist of approximately 50 objective questions that will be taken primarily from current state-adopted science textbooks and the curriculum. Forty-five minutes will be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 or 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Verification Period.* A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(3) *Ties and Points.* Ties shall not be broken. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is not third, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Official Results.* After the verification period has ended and all test papers and answer sheets have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1468: SOCIAL STUDIES

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. This contest is designed to encourage students to expand their knowledge of social studies, particularly in the areas of history, government systems, economics, citizenship and culture. Subject matter used for the test will be taken from currently adopted social studies textbooks and identified primary sources.

(2) *Contest Format*. Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 40 questions. Thirty minutes will be allotted for the testing period exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants*. Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel*. All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.

(2) *Verification Period*. A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.

(3) *Ties and Points*. No ties are to be broken. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Official Results*. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(5) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1470: SPELLING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary*. This contest is designed to give students exposure to a wide variety of vocabulary words. It is not a contest of memorization. For the most educational value, preparation for this contest should include instruction in the rules of the English language, meanings and definitions, and root words. In addition to learning to spell proficiently, contestants will learn to write clearly and to capitalize words properly. Words will come from the appropriate UIL spelling list, state adopted textbooks and words of common usage. Approximately 20 percent of the test words will come from sources other than the UIL spelling lists. The source designated in official contest procedures will serve as the authority for all words in the contest

(2) *Contest Format*. Students will write down words given by the pronouncer on their paper at a rate of approximately five words per minute.

(A) Grades 3 and 4: 50 words; tie breaker, 15 words.

(B) Grades 5 and 6: 80 words; tie breaker, 20 words.

(C) Grades 7 and 8: 110 words; tie breaker, 30 words.

The tiebreaker is given to all contestants immediately following the initial test. Contestants who do not take the tiebreaker shall be disqualified.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in the team competition.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel*. The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may also serve as the pronouncer as long as he/she is not the coach of any student in the contest. The pronouncer shall not be a coach of any contestant entered in the contest. Responsibilities of the pronouncer are as specified in official contest procedures. Additional required and recommended contest personnel are specified in official contest

procedures.

(2) *Verification Period*. A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decisions shall be final.

(3) *Ties and Points.* Ties in individual competition are to be broken by scoring the tie breaker test of only those involved in the tie. When calculating team scores, do not include scores from the tie breaker portion of the test unless a tie exists. If a tie exists in team competition, calculate the tie breaker scores for only those teams involved in the tie. If the tie remains after scoring the tie breaker, the tie shall stand. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Certificates*. Students who score 100% in district competition are eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement. Words misspelled on the tie breaker do not disqualify a student from a certificate.

(5) *Official Results.* After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1474: STORYTELLING

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Summary.* To tell a story, the participant should develop skills in listening, thinking and speaking. This contest also allows for the development of creative expression. For practice, teachers can use stories from any good children's books or magazines.

(2) *Contest Format*. Contestants shall listen to a storyteller read a brief story (between 600 and 1100 words long) only once, and then retell that story in their own words before a judge or judges. Contestants shall not use costumes or props in the contest. No materials or notes may be used during the presentation. There is no minimum or maximum time limit for the presentation. Contestants may not receive prompting of the story plot or details. Audiences are permitted to hear contestants tell their stories.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

(1) *Contestants.* Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 or 1405 may enter this contest.

(2) *Divisions*. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.

(3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.

(4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.* The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. If the contest director is not the coach of a participating student, the contest director may serve as the storyteller or may appoint a qualified person to act in this capacity. Responsibilities of the storyteller are as specified in official contest procedures. The storyteller may not be the coach of a participating student. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

(2) *Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of storytelling, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round.

(3) *Rankings, Ties and Points*. Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).

(4) *Verification Period*. If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The rankings given by judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period and shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verifica-

tion period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.

(5) *Official Results.* The director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.

(6) *Returning Materials.* No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Section 1478: SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ATHLETIC PLAN

(a) PURPOSES. The UIL is vitally interested in the welfare and development of every youngster. A properly administered athletic program can enhance their overall education. Junior high programs need to take into consideration the substantial range in individual differences among seventh and eighth grade students, i.e., age, body build, interests, ability, experience, health, and stages of physiological, emotional and social maturity. Exploring a wide range of activities rather than specializing in one area, and what is best for the greatest number of participants involved should be emphasized. Each local district has final responsibility for enforcement of all objectives, guidelines and codes in the junior high program of competition. The purposes of the junior high athletic program of the UIL include the following.

(1) To conduct the athletic program so that educational objectives are achieved, highest details of sportsmanship are upheld, and no single phase of the athletic program is promoted at the expense of other programs.

(2) To provide broad and varied athletic programs with an opportunity for equitable competition for all students. A desirable program involves participation in intramural competition at several ability levels and interschool competition for the more advanced students.

(3) To equalize competition and administer the programs so that mismatching of teams or individuals is not permitted. Individual schools shall have the final responsibility of enforcing this concept.

(4) To integrate the athletic program with all other activities essential to junior high school youth, avoiding an excessive activity load for any student.

(5) To require that participants are properly examined, approved, equipped, classified, instructed and supervised.

(6) To administer the program so that there will be a minimum loss of school time, proper but minimal publicity, competent officiating, limited awards, and the program kept in its proper perspective.

(7) To provide qualified faculty leadership who understand this adolescent age group, the objective of this modified sports program, and the emphasis on safety and welfare of the student.

(8) To foster proper respect for authority and avoidance of all evidences of undesirable athletic mannerisms.

(9) To compete within the spirit of the rules, giving every opponent due credit and respect, and making every effort to be gracious in victory or loss.

NOTE: All middle and junior high coaches are required to comply with Section 1202 (j), (k), and (l).

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPANTS. An individual may participate in UIL athletic competition or contests as a representative of a participant school if he/she:

(1) has met the requirements of Section 1400 (a) regarding general eligibility;

(2) for seventh grade athletic competition, has not reached his/her 14th birthday on or before September 1, and has not enrolled in the ninth grade;

(3) for eighth grade athletic competition, has not reached his/her 15th birthday on or before September 1, and has not enrolled in the ninth grade; and

(4) a student who initially entered the seventh or eighth grade the current school year and is too old for seventh or eighth grade participation may participate according to age, that is, seventh graders on the eighth grade, ninth grade, high school junior varsity or high school varsity team, and eighth graders on the ninth grade, high school junior varsity or high school varsity team.

(A) Four Consecutive Years. A student has only four consecutive calendar years to complete high school varsity eligibility. **Exception:** Refer to Section 463.

(B) Athletic Class. Overage junior high school students who have reached their 15th birthday on or before September 1 of that school year may be assigned to high school athletic periods if they are participating with the high school sub-varsity or varsity. Otherwise seventh and eighth grade students remain in their junior high school athletic class

throughout the school year.

(C) Full Participation Allowed. Only seventh and eighth grade students who are too old to represent the eighth-grade team may participate on the high school's athletic team. Overage junior high school students who participate with a high school ninth grade, subvarsity or varsity team, may participate fully under the rules for high school athletes in that sport, including, but not limited to, rules governing number of games, post-season games, etc.

(5) Is a full-time student in grade seven or eight at the school he/she represents, or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code. **Exception:** Seventh and eighth grade students from public K-8 ISDs that do not field a team, may participate on the seventh and eighth grade baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and/or volleyball teams at the junior high school in the attendance area where they reside or which is a part of the designated receiving school district. (Parochial, private schooled students are not eligible.)

(6) Has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; or is a non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation and is in compliance with all provisions included in section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(7) Has not changed schools for athletic purposes.

Note : Eligibility is lost for one to three years for seventh grade "A" team, eighth grade "A" team or combined seventh and eighth grade "A" team. An "A" team is the same as a high school varsity team.

(c) SIXTH GRADE PARTICIPATION.

(1) *No Interscholastic Athletic Competition Below Seventh Grade.* With only the exceptions noted below, no interscholastic athletic practice or competition is allowed in any conference for teams in the sixth grade and below. Sixth grade students may not practice with or against junior high students. This does not apply to annual inter-school elementary field days, assuming there is no awarding of place ribbons or determination of team champions.

(2) *Student's Eligibility*. A sixth grader may participate in UIL competition or contests as a representative of a participant school only if he/she:

(A) is a student with a disability which delayed his or her education by at least a year and therefore will be too old to participate the following year as a seventh grader;

(B) has met the requirements of Section 1400 (a) regarding general eligibility;

(C) Is a full-time student in grade six at the school he/she represents;

(D) has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education; and

(E) has not changed schools for athletic purposes.

(3) **Exceptions.** A sixth grader may also participate in UIL competition or contests as a representative of a participant school under the following circumstances.

(A) In Conference 1A and 2A schools or in small junior high schools whose enrollment corresponds to Conference 1A and 2A enrollment, sixth graders may be used when their participation is vital to field one combined seventh and eighth grade baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball team on the first day of the season. Sixth graders may not be used on either team when a school has more than one team playing baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball team on the first day of the season. 1A and 2A schools are allowed to use sixth graders to field as many as two (2) teams under this rule. The first day of the season is defined as the first day of practice outside the school day or the day of the first competition, whichever occurs sooner. If fewer than the below listed number of seventh and eighth grade students report the first day of the season, then sixth graders shall be notified the next day that they may try out for the combined seventh and eighth grade team and may participate for the entire season. If the number of seventh

and eighth graders reporting the first day of the season meets or exceeds the number listed below, then sixth graders shall not be used anytime during the entire season.

Baseball - 18
Basketball - 10
Football: 6-man - 12
Football: 11-man - 22
Soccer - 22
Softball - 18
Volleyball - 12

If a coach intentionally prevents seventh or eighth graders from reporting at the beginning of the season (so as to permit sixth graders to participate) it will be considered a violation of the Athletic Codes and subject to penalty.

(B) Individual Sports. Sixth graders shall not represent a UIL seventh and eighth school in individual sports (cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track and field and wrestling), except students with disabilities who meet the criteria of the provisions of Section 1478 (c) (2). Sixth graders are allowed to participate in individual sports in conference 1A if they meet the conditions above in a preceding team sport.

(C) Schools must provide evidence of compliance with the rule above to the DEC to utilize sixth graders.

(d) GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION. Prior to all athletic games, meets, matches and practices the following shall be adhered to, if applicable.

(1) *Scheduling*. No game, contest, scrimmage or tournament, including district competition, shall begin prior to the end of the academic school day for all participants. Refer to 1478 (b) (4) for junior high students who participate on a high school team and for scheduling athletic classes.

(2) *No Post-district Competition*. There shall be no post-season playoffs or competition in any athletic event.

(3) *Non-Discrimination Policy In UIL Junior High School Contest Plans*. Refer to Section 360 of the Constitution.

(4) *Pre-Participation Physical Examination.* Upon entering the first year in junior high athletics a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a state board of physician assistant examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the board of nurse examiners or a Doctor of Chiropractic is required. Standardized pre-participation physical examination forms, available from the UIL office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee are required.

(5) *Medical History Form.* Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL medical history form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required. A medical history form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.

(6) *Concussion Acknowledgement Form*. According to Section 38.155 of the Texas Education Code, "a student may not participate in an interscholastic athletic activity for a school year until both the student and the student 's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have signed a form for that school year that acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion …..." This section also applies to students participating in the cheerleading program at the school.

(7) *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form*. Each year prior to any practice or participation in athletics, a UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required.

(8) *Sunday Participation*. No UIL participant school shall sponsor individuals or teams in any contest or school competition on a Sunday in a UIL contest or a contest similar to one offered by the UIL. Schools shall not conduct practices or teach any plays, formations or skills on Sunday. Any showing of films to or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instruction or reviewing of plays, formations or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation. This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from seeing films or planning an instructional program, provided that no student athletes are involved in the meeting.

(9) *Holiday Restriction*. A school shall not conduct

contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during five consecutive days of December. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. Schools may choose any five consecutive days which include December 24, 25 and 26, with the following exceptions.

(A) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools may participate in a tournament game on December 26.

(B) When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools shall still follow a five consecutive day restriction, including December 24 and 25.

(C) No practice shall be permitted on any of the five consecutive days.

(D) Travel is permitted on the 26th if a tournament game is scheduled on December 27; however, no practice shall be permitted on the 26th.

(E) Travel will not be permitted on December 25.

(F) A team that has a game on December 23 could travel home on December 24 and still be in compliance with this section.

(10) *Officials*.

(A) Responsible School. Home school is responsible for obtaining officials. Unless mutually decided otherwise UIL member schools shall use UIL registered officials for non-varsity games.

(B) Fee Schedule. The flat fee schedule and travel reimbursement, as approved by the Legislative Council, shall be posted on the UIL website.
www.uiltexas.org/athletics/officials

(11) *Tournament Regulations*. Definition: at least three teams assembled on days other than Sunday for an elimination contest. Tournament games shall not begin prior to the end of the academic school day for all participants. Games do not have to be scheduled on consecutive days. Round robin tournaments limited to four teams and pool play tournaments limited to 16 teams shall be permitted. Refer to team sports plans for further regulations.

(12) *Recommended Standards*. It is recommended that seventh and eighth grade activities be held on a Saturday or on a non-school night, or end competition to allow students to be back at home no later than 10 p.m. on a school night. It is highly recommended that no contest be scheduled on a night prior to a semester or a six-weeks exam.

(13) *Physical Education/Athletic Periods*. No student shall be enrolled in more than one physical education or athletics class per school day. Schools may use a seventh, eighth or zero period concept for athletics, provided no student enrolled in the class is enrolled in any other physical education/athletics class. This period shall not exceed 60 minutes per day (or 300 minutes per week on a block schedule) and the allotted time includes time for dressing and re-dressing in street clothes. Refer to Section 1206 (d). This provision applies to a non-enrolled (home schooled) student participating in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code.

(e) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR TEAM SPORTS: BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, SOFTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL.

(1) *Coaches Involvement with Non-school Teams*. For non-school competition seventh- and eighth-grade school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone during the school year. Coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and supervising facilities for non-school UIL play. School coaches shall not coach or instruct students from their school district attendance zone, except their own adopted or birth children.

(2) *Rule Modification*. Any extension of a game in baseball, softball, basketball, football or soccer shall involve different players from those who participated in the earlier contest. Any extension means any additional time, i.e., another quarter played at the end of the regulation junior high contest. The additional play shall count as one of the allowable contests per school week, calendar week, and season for the individuals participating. Schools shall count the contest as one of the allowable B team contests in that sport. Schools are allowed to pay an additional partial game fee to officials.

(3) *Summer Camps*. Refer to Section 1209.

(4) *Summer Strength/Conditioning Programs and Sport Specific Skill Instruction* Refer to Section 1206 (h).

(5) *Prescheduled District Tournaments - Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball*. Junior high prescheduled district baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball tournaments may be played in addition to invitational tournament(s) provided each game/match

in the prescheduled tournament is counted as a game/match on the regular season record. Example: A junior high school could participate in nine regular season basketball games, two invitational tournaments and a three-game district tournament. Schools need to save enough games/matches to cover all possible district tournament games.

(f) BASEBALL AND GIRLS' SOFTBALL.

(1) *Number of Games*. No team or individual shall compete in more than 12 games and 2 invitational or district tournaments. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. A scrimmage counts as one of the 12 contests.

(2) *Number of Games Per Week.* One game or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. A tournament may be played in the same calendar week of a game.

(3) *Number of Tournament Games Per Day*. Contestants or teams shall play no more than two tournament games per calendar day, except contestants or teams may play in three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(4) *Season for Workouts and Games*. Schools shall have 97 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and games. The season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above.

(g) BASKETBALL.

(1) *Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than 12 games and two invitational or district tournaments. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. If a team or student does not play in any invitational or district tournaments, four additional games may be played. A scrimmage counts as one of the 12 games.

(2) *Number of Games Per Week*. One game or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. A tournament may be played in the same calendar week of a game.

(3) *Number of Tournament Games Per Day*. Contestants or teams shall play no more than two tournament games per calendar day, except contestants or teams may play in three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(4) *Season for Workouts and Games*. Schools shall have 121 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and games. The season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above.

(5) *Eight Minute Quarters*. Junior high schools may, by mutual consent, play eight-minute quarters. Refer to Basketball Manual.

(h) FOOTBALL.

(1) *Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than nine (but recommend eight) football games. A scrimmage counts as one of the allowable games.

(2) *Number of Games Per Week*. One game or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. There shall be a minimum of five days between contests.

(3) *Season for Workouts and Games*.

(A) Practice. Practice shall not begin prior to the first day of school. Football equipment may be checked out to the players on any one day during the week preceding the first day of school. The first five days of practice shall consist of the following acclimatization period. The first two days of practice shall be conducted without any contact equipment except helmets. On the third and fourth days of practice, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, but no player to player contact is allowed. On day five of the acclimatization period, helmets, shoulder pads and padded girdles (shells) may be worn, and player to player contact is permitted. During the five-day acclimatization period, no full contact activities shall be permitted. All student athletes who arrive after the first day of practice are required to undergo a five-day acclimatization period. No interschool scrimmages or games shall be allowed until after a period of at least seven days of contact football.

(B) Schools shall have 90 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and games. The season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above..

(C) For schools choosing not to start their 90 days on the first day of school, students may be in an athletic period, but cannot participate in any football activities outside the school day until

the first day of the 90 consecutive calendar days.

(D) During the season, football players are not allowed to participate in more than ninety (90) minutes of full contact practice per week. Refer to the Junior High Coaches Manual for explanations of full contact.

(4) *Off-Season Workouts*. Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual football skills, strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school term within the school day, (provided such activities do not exceed one regular class period not to exceed 60 minutes per day (or 300 minutes per week on a block schedule). Practice may include 11-on-11 drills without contact equipment or activities. Activities before or after school or during the lunch period are specifically prohibited. Allowed equipment is limited to a football, shoes with cleats, passing and punting machines and physical education attire. Air or padded blocking dummies or devices, and other similar devices are prohibited. Refer to Section 1206 (d).

(5) *Preseason or Summer Practice for Junior High or Elementary School Students*.

(A) Eighth Grade and Below Pre-Season Practice Prohibited. Schools shall not hold any preseason football practice in junior high school (eighth grade and below) or elementary school, individual or team, prior to the opening day of school.

(B) Eighth Grade and Below Spring Training Prohibited. Schools shall not conduct any spring training either in elementary school or junior high school (eighth grade and below) the preceding spring.

(C) Exception for Ninth Graders Not on High School Campus. Students in the ninth grade may participate in spring training in Conference AAAAAA and AAAAA schools provided that such participation is on a site and at the same time as the high school squad practices and that said high school is the one which the ninth grade students will attend the following fall.

(D) Violations. Penalty for violations shall be assessed by the appropriate executive committee.

(6) *Tied Games*. The NCAA tie breaker system shall not be used by junior high school teams.

(i) SOCCER.

(1) *Number of Games*. No team or student shall compete in more than 10 games and two invitational or district tournaments. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. A scrimmage counts as one of the 10 games.

(2) *Number of Games Per Week*. One game or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. A tournament may be played in the same calendar week of a game.

(3) *Number of Tournament Games Per Day*. Contestants or teams shall play no more than two tournament games per calendar day, except contestants or teams may play in three games in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(4) *Season for Workouts and Games*. Schools shall have 86 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and games. The season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above.

(j) GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL.

(1) *Number of Matches*. No team or girl shall compete in more than 12 matches and two invitational or district tournaments. Two matches may be substituted in place of a tournament. If a team or student does not play in any invitational or district tournaments, four additional matches may be played. A scrimmage counts as one of the 12 matches.

(2) *Number of Matches Per Week*. One match or dual match or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. A tournament may be played in the same calendar week of a match.

(3) *Number of Tournament Matches Per Day*. Contestants or teams shall play no more than three tournament matches per calendar day, except contestants or teams may play in four matches per calendar day in a one day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(4) *Season for Workouts and Matches*.

(A) Traditional School Years. Practice shall not begin prior to the first day of school. Schools shall have 86 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and matches. Volleyball equipment may be checked out to the players on any one day during the week preceding the first day of school. The

season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above.

(B) Non-traditional School Years. Schools should schedule their season to coincide with the schools in the UIL playing district they will compete against.

(k) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS: CROSS COUNTRY, GOLF, SWIMMING, TENNIS, TRACK AND FIELD AND WRESTLING.

(1) *Number of Meets/Tournaments*. No team or student shall compete in more than six meets or tournaments, including the district meet/tournament.

(2) *Exception to Six Meet/Tournament Limitation*.

(A) Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Track and Field and Wrestling. Schools may also hold competitions with three or fewer schools provided there is no loss of school time.

(B) Tennis. If four teams meet for the purpose of playing tennis dual matches, it shall not be counted as one of the six tournaments allowed the team or the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.

(3) *Number of Contests Per Week*. Individual sport participants are limited to one contest, meet or tournament per calendar week.

(4) *Season for Meets/Tournaments and Workouts*. Practice and/or competition shall not begin prior to the first day of school. There is no mandated season length however, there is the limitation of six meets/tournaments per school year.

(l) TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS. The recommended track and field events and order of events, is as follows. The district executive committee may by majority vote, alter the distance of certain events or authorize additional events.

(1) *Boys' and Girls' Running Events*.

Girls' 2400-meter run,*
Boys' 2400-meter run*
Girls' 400-meter relay
Boys' 400-meter relay
Girls' 800-meter run
Boys' 800-meter run
Girls' 100-meter hurdles 30"
Boys' 110-meter hurdles 36"
Girls' 100-meter dash*
Boys' 100-meter dash*
Girls' 800-meter relay*
Boys' 800-meter relay*
Girls' 400-meter dash
Boys' 400-meter dash
Girls' 200-meter low hurdles
Boys' 200-meter low hurdles
Girls' 200-meter dash
Boys' 200-meter dash
Girls' 1600-meter run
Boys' 1600-meter run
Girls' 1600-meter relay
Boys' 1600-meter relay

*These events shall be run at the metric distance only. All other events may be run in yard equivalents.

(2) *Boys' and Girls' Field Events*.

Girls' Pole vault
Girls' 6-pound shot put
Girls' Discus
Girls' High jump
Girls' Long jump
Girls' Triple jump
Boys' Pole vault
Boys' High jump
Boys' 4-kilo shot put
Boys' Long jump
Boys' Discus
Boys' Triple jump

(3) *Event Limitations*.

(A) No contestant shall be allowed to compete in more than three running events, including the relays, or in more than five total events.

(B) No contestant shall be allowed to enter more than two of the following events: 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, 1600-meter run or 2400-meter run. This does not prevent a 400, 800, 1600 or 2400-meter contestant from running on the relays provided he/she is entered in no more than three total running events.

(C) Contestants may enter a maximum of five field events provided they are not entered in any running events.

(4) *Day of Week and Starting Time*. Students or teams representing a participant school are permitted to participate in a track and field meet only after the end of the academic day for all participants. **Exception**: Two of the six allowable meets may start no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

(m) WATER POLO PROGRAM

(1) *Number of Games*. No team or individual shall compete in more than 12 games and 2 invitational or district tournaments. Two games may be substituted in place of a tournament. A scrimmage counts as one of the 12 contests.

(2) *Number of Games Per Week*. One game or scrimmage may be played per calendar week. A tournament may be played in the same calendar week of a game.

(3) *Number of Tournament Games Per Day*. Contestants or teams shall play no more than three tournament games per calendar day, except contestants or teams may play in four games per calendar day in a one-day tournament scheduled on a Saturday.

(4) *Season for Workouts and Games*. Schools shall have 70 consecutive calendar days to practice outside the school day and to complete scrimmages and games. The season can be held anytime during the school year, provided it does not exceed the number of consecutive calendar days listed above.

(n) CHEERLEADERS; SPIRIT GROUPS. All cheer and spirit performances at any UIL activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook. Cheerleading sponsors are required to complete a course regarding Safety Risk Minimization for Cheerleading and present proof of course completion to the school district.

(o) CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL. At all UIL athletic activities (including practices and contests), including cheerleading, schools shall implement and follow a concussion management protocol as prescribed by Texas Education Code Section 38.155 Subchapter D. * This section also applies to students participating in the cheerleading program at the school.

(p) CATASTROPHIC INJURY REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file reports of catastrophic injuries, as defined by the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research (NCCSIR), that occur during UIL practices and/or competitions utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.

(q) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL web site.

(r) EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS. UIL member schools are required to develop and implement a venue specific emergency action plan (EAP) for each venue utilized for UIL athletic practices and/or competitions.

Subchapter E:
HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT

Section 1500: INTRODUCTION TO SPIRIT CONTESTS AND EVENTS

(a) PURPOSES OF HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT. The purpose of the spirit program for the member schools is:
- (1) to provide statewide spirit competitions and evaluations that foster high performance standards;
- (2) to provide rules and regulations designed to promote the health and safety of all participants;
- (3) to assist, advise and aid the member schools in organizing and conducting interschool spirit;
- (4) to devise and prepare eligibility rules that will equalize and stimulate wholesome competition between schools of similar size, and reinforce the curriculum;
- (5) to regulate competition so that students, schools and communities can secure the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contests;
- (6) to reinforce the concept to all member schools that spirit is an integral part of the educational program;
- (7) to promote good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
- (8) to promote among the participants, schools and communities a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules; and
- (9) to forward the concept of accepting decisions of contest officials without protest and treating contest officials as so-partners in the educational process of competition.

Section 1501: SPIRIT CONTEST ETHICS CODE

The Spirit Code carries the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel or students who violate any of the provisions of these codes will be subject to penalty.

(a) THE SPIRIT CODE. The general Spirit Code means to:
- (1) Participate in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules, both in letter and intent.
- (2) Coach and sponsor the teams and individuals without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules, or any unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles.
- (3) Accept decisions of contest and school officials without protest and without questioning their honesty or integrity, and extend protection and courtesy to contest officials from participants, school personnel and spectators remembering the contest officials are guest.
- (4) Win without boasting and lose without bitterness. Victory is important, but the most important thing in competition is striving to excel and the positive feelings it fosters between those who play fair and have no excuse when they lose. The development of positive human relations should be stressed in all competition.
- (5) Remember that conduct that berates, intimidates, or threatens competitors, has no place in interscholastic activities.

(b) SCHOOL OFFICIALS.
- (1) Provide support for students and coaches for implementing contests and events;
- (2) create a climate of professional concern to assure that contests and events are carried on with sound educational qualities as the uppermost priority; and
- (3) strive to assure that coaches are aware of and observe the letter and intent of all UIL rules and regulations.

(c) CONTEST OFFICIALS.
- (1) administer and adjudicate spirit contests and events with a spirit of courtesy and cooperation among all participants; and
- (2) see that spirit contests and events are conducted with discipline and decorum, maintaining both the spirit and intent of the rules and regulations.

(d) COACHES. The code for spirit coaches includes the principles described in Subsection (a). Further, the coach's code includes:
- (1) Being aware of, understanding and following all rules governing the competition for which the coach is responsible;
- (2) treating participants based on what is best for the education, general welfare and health of the student;
- (3) professional loyalty to other coaches;
- (4) not removing a team from a contest as a

protest;

(5) adhering to practice regulations;

(6) adhering to policies that do not force students to specialize or restrict them from participation in other activities;

(7) avoiding any coaching practice that would endanger the welfare or safety of any participant;

(8) emphasizing the academic progress of all participants by a regular, documented check of their academic standing;

(9) utilizing the best and most current teaching, coaching and training methods through affiliation with professional associations and publications;

(10) abstaining from any practice that solicits teachers to modify a participant student's grade for eligibility purposes;

(11) avoiding any actions that encourage, condone or tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs by any student-participant; and

(12) emphasizing a chemical awareness program that informs and educates students of the damaging effects of anabolic steroids and other illegal drugs.

(e) STUDENTS.

(1) Know and respect the rules and regulations pertaining to participation in any UIL spirit competition or event;

(2) maintain a sense of the educational purpose of participating in spirit contests and events, keeping uppermost in mind the two-fold benefit of self-gratification of participation in an activity as well as the representation of one's school community, and;

(3) remember that conduct that berates, intimidates, or threatens competitors has no place in interscholastic activities.

Section 1502: GENERAL REGULATIONS

(a) SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY. Schools shall participate in UIL Spirit competition and events based on assignment to conferences in even numbered years.

(b) Schools shall abide by rules in the *Constitution*, by rules in the "*Official Notices*" column of *The Leaguer*, by regulations issued by the UIL office in the UIL Spirit Manual, and other official notices from the UIL office. Where any term or section of the contest rules or the UIL Spirit Manual is found to be inconsistent with the *Constitution*, the *Constitution* shall prevail and apply, and the remaining terms and sections of the contest rules and/or the UIL Spirit Manual shall continue in effect.

(c) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY. Eligibility regulations as outlined in the *Constitution and Contest Rules,* Subchapter M, Section 400, and Subchapter D, Section 1500 shall apply to UIL spirit competitions and events. The superintendent or designee shall certify the eligibility of participants at the time of their entry into the event.

(d) FORFEITURE. In the event an ineligible student participates in any spirit competition or event, knowingly or unknowingly, the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the ratings and awards.

Section 1503: HEALTH AND SAFETY

(a) All cheer and spirit performances at any UIL activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the *National Federation High School Spirit Handbook*. Cheerleading and UIL spirit coaches are required to complete a course regarding safety/risk minimization for cheerleading and present proof of course completion to the school district.

(b) Concussion Management Protocol. At all UIL activities (including practices and contests), including cheerleading and UIL spirit, schools shall implement and follow a Concussion Management Protocol as prescribed by Texas Education Code Section 38 Subchapter D.

(c) Cheerleading/Spirit Pre-participation Physical Examination. Upon entering the first and third years of high school and upon any 7th or 8th grade student participating in cheerleading/spirit, a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a state board of physician assistant examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the board of nurse examiners or a doctor of chiropractic is required. Standardized preparticipation physical examination forms, available from the UIL office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, are required.

(d) Cheerleading/Spirit Medical History Form. Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL medical history form signed by both student and a parent or guardian is required. A medical history form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both student and a parent or guardian.

(e) All coaches shall annually complete the UIL Rules Compliance Program prescribed by the UIL.

(f) The names of coaches who complete the UIL Rules Compliance Program will be kept on file by the school.

APPENDICES

Appendix I

Official Interpretations of the State Executive Committee

18-08-10 Section 400(b), 403(f) and 406 Student Elgibility.
For the purposes of this interpretation, the divisions of UIL activities are: Academics (includes One-Act-Play), Music and Athletics.
Local school district policies may permit students who are attending a magnet school located on a campus (within their ISD) that does not offer any activities within a particular division of UIL activities (Academics(including One-Act-Play), Music or Athletics) to participate at their home attendance zone campus, in that division, under the jurisdiction of that principal for UIL purposes with the following provisions:

(a) The home attendance zone campus approves of the student's participation.
(b) Student is enrolled in enough classes to be considered a full-time student at the magnet school. Full time is defined as enrolled in at least four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school credit.
(c) Student's grades are reported from the magnet school officials to the home attendance zone campus at scheduled grading periods to insure compliance with no-pass, no-play.
(d) Verification that the student complies with the age rule, 4-year rule (for high school students) and other pertinent information requested by the home attendance zone campus.
(e) High school students who participate in varsity athletics must comply with University Interscholastic League rules, Sections 440 and 442 in the home attendance zone campus.
(f) A student in this situation is prohibited from representing both the magnet school and the home attendance zone campus in the same division of UIL activities.
(g) If the magnet school offers a division of UIL activities, the student would have to represent the magnet school in that division of UIL activities.
(h) If the magnet school does not offer a division of UIL activities, the student could petition to represent their home attendance zone campus in that division of UIL activities.
(i) It would be allowable to have a student represent their magnet school (school of attendance) in one division of UIL activities and their home attendance zone campus (school of parents residence) in a division of UIL activities not offered at the magnet school.
(j) If the student subsequently changes schools within that ISD (to a school other than the home attendance zone campus), the student would be ineligible for varsity athletics for one calendar year unless the parents made a corresponding move to the new school attendance zone.

Exception: This interpretation would not require a student who has been participating at a school, under this interpretation, for two or more continuous years to change their school of participation based on a change of residence of their parents, as long as that change of residence is still within the boundaries of the school district in question.

17-09-19 Section 403(f)(1) - Eligibility - Athletics:
Previous State Executive Committee Interpretations for Section 403 (f) are no longer applicable since the rule is addressed in Section 403 (7).

17-09-11 Section 1204 (r)(2)(E) - Sports Officials: Review Criteria and Process.
Appeals as described in Section 1204 are limited to resolving factual disputes from a background check, and all decisions regarding membership in a sports offficial's chapter or association, are to be determined by the chapter or association.

17-01-17 Section 400 (b) and 403 - Student Transfers:
The State Executive Committee was asked for clarification to State Executive Committee Interpretation 00-09-13 concerning Section 400(b) and Section 403(f).
The SEC determined that students are ineligible to participate at their home campus if the magnet campus they attend is engaged in organized athletic competition involving UIL activities against teams of students organized by other schools. Additionally, the SEC determined that students who previously particpated in organized competition at both their magnet program and home school, prior to the January 17, 2017 meeting, in athletics at a 'home' school while attending a magnet school are grandfathered in, without penalty

16-03-22 Section 1102 (f) – Region Executive Committee:
Previous State Executive Committee Interpretations for Section 1102 (f) are no longer applicable since the rule has been modified.

16-01-11 Section 465 (b) (3) (A) and Section 468 (a) (3) (A)– Foreign Exchange Students and J-1 Visa:

In cases where a foreign exchange student is unable to obtain a J-1 visa because such a visa is not legally available or is not required of the student in order for them to travel to the United States to participate in an education program a waiver could be granted as long as the foreign exchange student is able to provide sufficient evidence to show they do not qualify for a J-1 visa; provide a copy of the passport or other travel documents (visa) the student intends to rely on when traveling to and entering the United States and meets all the other applicable waiver criteria.

15-08-19 Sections 400, 406 and 407 - Students affiliated with two schools:

In circumstances where under local district policy a student is permitted to be affiliated, either by enrollment or attendance, with two or more schools within the same school district, for the purposes of participation in UIL contests, one of the school's shall be designated as the student's 'school of participation'. A student's "home school" or any school of choice (as long as choice was made at the first opportunity) that offers UIL activities may be designated as that student's 'school of participation'. (A student's "home school" is a school that the student is required to attend under local district policy, typically based on parents' resident.)

In the circumstances described above, a student may represent a "school of participation" in UIL contests under the following conditions:

(a) The hours that the student is enrolled in classes offered by the district at two or more schools are in total sufficient for the student to be considered a full time student. Full time is defined as enrolled in at least four hours per day of instruction for either state or local credit. See Section 403 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(b) Student must comply with the regular attendance rule at "school of participation". See Section 404, UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(c) Student's age must be verified and the student must comply with the 4-year rule and all other UIL eligibility requirements. See Subchapter M, Eligibility, UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

(d) Student may only represent one school as "school of participation". The school must approve of the student's participation and the student is under the jurisdiction of the school of participation principal for UIL purposes.

(e) Any changes in the student's "school of participation" are to be processed and reviewed under the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* as would any other student who changes schools.

(f) Student's grades are reported by all schools attended by the student to the student's "school of participation" during that schools scheduled grading periods to ensure compliance with no pass/no play law.

10-05-26 Section 441 – Athletic Amateur Rule:

Previous State Executive Committee Interpretations for Section 441 are no longer applicable since the rule has been modified.

10-03-12 Section 400 (b) 403 and 406

For the purposes of this interpretation, the divisions of UIL activities are: Academics (includes One-Act-Play), Music and Athletics.

Local school district policies may permit students who are attending a magnet school located on a campus (within their ISD) that does not offer any activities within a particular division of UIL activities (Academics (including One Act Play), Music or Athletics) to participate at their home attendance zone campus, in that division, under the jurisdiction of that principal for UIL purposes with the following provisions:

(a) The home attendance zone campus approves of the student's participation.

(b) Student is enrolled in enough classes to be considered a full time student at the magnet school. Full time is defined as enrolled in at least four hours per day of instruction for either state or local high school credit.

(c) Student's grades are reported from the magnet school officials to the home attendance zone campus at scheduled grading periods to insure compliance with no-pass, no-play.

(d) Verification that the student complies with the age rule, 4-year rule (for high school students) and other pertinent information requested by the home attendance zone campus principal would also have to be provided.

(e) High school students who participate in varsity athletics must comply with University Interscholastic League rules, sections 440 and 442 in the home attendance zone campus.

(f) A student in this situation is prohibited from representing both the magnet school and the home attendance zone campus in the same division of UIL activities.

(g) If the magnet school offers a division of UIL activities, the student would have to represent the magnet school in that division of UIL activities.

(h) If the magnet school does not offer a division of UIL activities, the student could petition to

represent their home attendance zone campus in that division of UIL activities.

(i) It would be allowable to have a student represent their magnet school (school of attendance) in one division of UIL activities and their home attendance zone campus (school of parents residence) in a division of UIL activities not offered at the magnet school.

(j) If the student subsequently changes schools within that ISD (to a school other than the home attendance zone campus), the student would be ineligible for varsity athletics for one calendar year unless the parents made a corresponding move to the new school attendance zone.

Exception: This interpretation would not require a student who has been participating at a school, under this interpretation, for two or more continuous years to chage their school of participation based on a chage of residence of their parents, as long as that change of residence is still within the boundaries of the school district in question. **18-08-14 Section 406(d).**

09-03-04 Section 1202 (b) – Employment of Coaches:

Compensation (not included as part of the coach's salary at the beginning of the school year) for progress past the district level of competition is considered pay for success in the UIL competitive activity and a violation of Section 1202. Advancement beyond the first level of competition is one of the goals of any UIL activity and is a desired expectation of the salary and stipend set by the board of trustees prior to the school year.

08-09-03 Section 1478 (b) (5) – Eligibility Requirements for Seventh and Eighth Grade Participants:

Students attending a public K-8 ISD that does not field a team and does not have a designated receiving school district as indicated in Section 1478 (b) (5), may participate on the seventh and eighth grade baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and/or volleyball teams at the junior high school with geographical boundaries contiguous to his/her K-8 ISD; or the junior high school located nearest his/her residence.

The student would be considered a full time student for eligibility purposes at the school he/she selects at his/her first opportunity. Should the student subsequently decide to represent another school under these guidelines without enrolling in the new school, he/she would be ineligible to participate at that new school.

08-09-10 (b) Sections 5 (u), 13 (b) and 400 (b) – Magnet Schools:

When separate magnet schools are located together, the ISD shall designate one of the following configurations for UIL varsity participation.

(a) All components create one participant high school, and one membership fee is due for that school. Students enrolled in any of the magnet schools located at the center may represent that participant high school in UIL activities; or

(b) Each magnet school within the center is considered a separate participant high school and must pay a separate UIL membership fee. Students enrolled in a magnet school may represent only that magnet school in UIL activities.

07-04-18 Sections 400 (g) and 405 (a) – Enrollment in Ninth Grade:

Based on Section 5 (l), a student is considered to be enrolled in the ninth grade the day of that student's registration and attendance in a full class period at the ninth grade level.

05-09-01 (a) Section 409 (a) – Promotion:

When parents or guardians are successful in convincing school officials to allow their child to repeat the seventh or eighth grade, academic promotion is effectively withdrawn and the student is ineligible for the first six weeks because he is repeating the grade. If the student passes all courses for the first six weeks, academic eligibility may be regained seven calendar days later.

05-09-01 (b) **Section 1340 (b) (2) – Boys', Girls' Restriction:**

This rule clearly addresses students and does not prohibit a coach from providing instruction to a student of the opposite gender.

05-08-03 Sections 1033 and 1202 – Employment of Coaches:

Full time employees must comply with the following standards in order to serve as a high school (grades 9-12) athletic coach or a high school one-act play director.

TRS Minimum Employment Eligibility Standards cited below are used to define full-time (but the employee does not have to actually qualify for TRS):

(a) A minimum of one-half of the time required of the standard workload (minimum of 15 hours per week for non-certified and 20 hours per week for certified employees); and

(b) Earning a salary comparable to one-half the salary earned by a full-time employee in a similar position; and

(c) For UIL: is under contract to the school board for the whole scholastic or calendar year for coaching or directing stipend (or contract could be contingent

on district's ability to hire a full time qualified instructor.)

Exception: School boards may hire individuals to coach who are not teachers and whose regular duties do not qualify them for a contract with the school district, provided: their employment conditions satisfy (a) and (b) cited above; their rate of pay for the school year is determined by the board before they begin coaching; they are informed by the person approving them for hire that they are not eligible to receive a bonus or any part of their coaching salary from any source (including booster clubs) other than the school district; they complete and sign a UIL Professional Acknowledgement Form.

UIL rules do not govern cheer or drill sponsors - those decisions are left with the local school district.

01-09-18 (a) Sections 353 and 440 – Optional Attendance Zone:

A school board may create an optional attendance zone to facilitate the opening of a new high school by adopting the following language: Students who participate in extracurricular activities who will not have the opportunity to compete for varsity district honors at the new high school have the option to attend the high school they would have attended if the new school had not been created or to attend the new school. The student would be eligible at the school they first select. If the student subsequently changes to another school within that district they are not eligible for varsity athletic competition until they have been enrolled in and regularly attended that school for at least the previous year.

01-09-18 (b) Section 409 (a) – Promotion:

Promotion means that a student has been academically promoted from the previous grade level by officials in an accredited public or private school. Students who enroll in a UIL participant school from home school or an unaccredited private school become academically eligible seven calendar days after the first grading evaluation period in which they have passed all courses.

00-09-13 Sections 400 (b) and 440 (b) – Student Transfers:

When a student transfers from their home attendance zone campus district to a public high school in another school district to enroll in a magnet program, the student may not be eligible for varsity athletics at a high school other than the home attendance zone campus. The policy that addresses returning to the home attendance zone campus to participate follows:

When a student transfers out of the district to a public high school that does not participate in athletics:

(a) The student may petition administration of his home attendance zone campus (school zone where his parents reside) to represent the home attendance zone campus in athletics.
(b) Student's grades must be reported from magnet high school officials to the home attendance zone campus to ensure compliance with no-pass, no-play.
(c) Verification that the student complies with the full-time student status, age rule, four-year rule and other UIL eligibility rules and all other pertinent information requested by home attendance zone campus principal would also have to be provided by magnet school principal.
(d) Student is under the jurisdiction of the home attendance zone campus principal for all UIL purposes. It is important to note that the student would also have to represent home attendance zone campus high school in UIL fine arts and academic competition. A student in this situation is prohibited from representing more than one high school.

Students in this situation would be able to represent the school they attend in any sub-varsity athletic activities.

00-08-03 Section 403 (a) – Local Eligibility Rules:

School districts with board policies that lock all four years of eligibility for ninth grade students from a 7-8-9 campus into the high school they first represent causes those students to be eligible only at that high school. In the event the school board changes it policy and the student wishes to return to the high school where the parents reside, loss of varsity athletic eligibility for at least one calendar year would occur. Local school district policies could cause a student under these circumstances to be ineligible for more than one calendar year.

99-04-20 Section 400 (b) – Charter Schools:

(a) Students whose parents live within the boundaries of an independent school district where a charter high school is located and opt to attend the charter high school at their first opportunity to select a high school, are eligible according to this section.
(b) Students whose parents live within the independent school district where the charter

school is located, who do not select the charter high school at their first opportunity, are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter high school for at least the previous calendar year.

(c) Students whose parents reside outside the boundaries of the independent school district where the charter school is located are ineligible for varsity athletic competition unless they have been enrolled in and regularly attending the charter school for at least the previous calendar year.

95-11-09 Section 400 (c) – Attendance:

Section 400 (c) would allow a student to be considered in regular attendance at the participant high school even though the hospitalized student has been transferred to another school's home bound program provided: the student's class work assignments are determined by the home attendance zone campus; the hospitalized student never attends a class held in a regular classroom of the home bound ISD; the student's physician certifies that he/she may return to the home attendance zone campus and is able to participate; the student's grades are transferred back to the home attendance zone campus with him/her.

88-11-03 Section 442 – Boarding Facilities:

Section 442 (b) applies if at least one of a student's parents is alive. Students who are placed by their parent(s) or guardian(s) in a home licensed by the state as a child care boarding facility are eligible for athletic competition after one calendar year, even though they are transferred from one boarding facility campus to another boarding facility campus, provided the home licensed by the state was appointed as their guardian by appropriate authority more than one year ago.

Appendix II

Who to Call

Most questions and interpretations concerning extracurricular activities are covered in the *Constitution and Contest Rules* or in the manuals for the individual activities. Questions for which answers are not complete or not found in the above sources should be referred to the local school administrator in charge of the various programs. Questions that cannot be resolved at the local level should be directed to specific officials in the League office, at phone number 512-471-5883 — or for theatre only, 471-9996 or 471-4517.

Topic	**Staff to Call**
Contest Rules and Eligibility	
Academics - High School	David Stevens Alyssa Boehringer (Journalism) Jana Riggins (Speech & Debate)
Academics - A+ Program	David Trussell Lisa Parker
One-Act Play & Theatre	Paula Rodriguez
Music	Brad Kent Gabe Musella
Athletics - High School & Junior High	Ray Zepeda Grace McDowell A.J. Martinez Joseph Garmon Virginia Flores
Leaguer Content	Alyssa Boehringer
Policy	Kevin Jones
Public Information	Kim Carmichael
Trophies & Medals	Jason Castillo
Orders/Invoices for Materials	Lanita Hidalgo
Business Office General Questions	Ben Martinez
UIL In-Service Presentations	Caroline Walls
TEA Related Questions	Kevin Jones
Waivers	Nakita Guillory
Rule Compliance/Violations	Mark Cousins Darryl Beasley Joel Nolte
Email Address:	
Administration/Eligibility:	info@uiltexas.org
Academics:	academics@uiltexas.org
Theatre:	theatre@uiltexas.org
Music:	music@uiltexas.org
Athletics:	athletics@uiltexas.org
Media/Public Information:	pr@uiltexas.org
UIL Web Address:	www.uiltexas.org

Appendix III

Interscholastic League Press Conference

(a) PURPOSE. The purpose of the Interscholastic League Press Conference (ILPC) is to assist advisers and staffs in the production of journalistically sound Texas high school and junior high/middle school media. The program is sponsored by the University Interscholastic League.

(b) MEMBERSHIP. Any high school or junior high school is eligible for membership in ILPC. A general membership mailing is sent to all UIL member schools and others in late August. Deadline for enrollment in ILPC is December 1. All inquiries and requests for enrollment must be made to the Director of Journalism, UIL, Box 8028, Austin, Texas 78713; e-mail to: jacton@uiltexas.org.

(c) DIRECTION. ILPC is supervised by the UIL Director of Journalism who consults with the Texas Association of Journalism Educators, The University of Texas at Austin Department of Journalism and the Texas Education Agency.

(d) FEES. Enrollment in ILPC requires a membership fee per publication/program to defray the expense of providing special services. The fee must be paid at the time of enrollment. Payment of ILPC membership dues is separate from the school's UIL membership fees.

(e) SPECIAL SERVICES. ILPC offers its members several services aimed at improving scholastic journalism in Texas. Specially prepared books, pamphlets and other materials providing suggestions, instruction and information on a variety of journalistic topics are available to ILPC members.

(f) RATINGS. ILPC sponsors yearbook, newspaper and broadcast critique/rating competition for its members. All publications are critiqued/rated by qualified scholastic journalists. ILPC champions represent the finest in American scholastic journalism.

(1) *Ratings*. Staffs must be ILPC members in order to submit materials for rating. Staffs must submit the publication or broadcast and other necessary paperwork to the ILPC office by individual deadlines.

(2) *Rating Categories*. Certificates of rating are issued in four degrees:

(A) Award of Distinguished Merit to the outstanding publication/program in each class.

(B) Award of Achievement to outstanding publication/program which fall short of the first degree of excellence.

(C) Award of Honor to publications/programs of high caliber which have shown continued excellence throughout the year.

(D) Award of Merit to publications/programs which have made contributions to the school for which they were published by maintaining a basic level of journalistic quality.

Ratings or rating certificates will not be given to members failing to submit their publications for rating.

(3) *Star Awards*. Judges are asked to nominate the most outstanding yearbooks or newspapers for either a Gold Star, Silver Star or Bronze Star Award, which represent approximately the top 10% of publications in the state. These awards are presented during the ILPC state convention.

(g) INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (IAA) CONTEST. A contest is sponsored each spring for individual work published in ILPC member publications.

(h) DIVISIONS. In the newspaper and yearbook competitions, students compete in nine divisions, according to school enrollment and conference. Individual gold (first), silver (second) and bronze (third) medals are awarded in each enrollment division. Division winners in newspaper and yearbook then compete for a "Tops in Texas" medal. Contest information will be provided to ILPC members at least six weeks prior to the contest deadline. Entries submitted become the property of ILPC. They will not be returned and may be used for UIL or ILPC publications.

(i) STATE CONVENTION. The annual ILPC state convention will be held in Austin on the campus of The University of Texas. The convention program is arranged to include workshops, seminars and instructional sessions dealing with all aspects of scholastic journalism and general publications improvement. Convention participation is open to ILPC members, as well as to other school newspaper, broadcast and yearbook staffs and non-ILPC members. All delegates are responsible for their own transportation to Austin, lodging, meals and other expenses. ILPC ratings, IAA contest winners and other special awards are announced during the convention.

(j) SUMMER WORKSHOP. The ILPC summer workshops are held each June on the campus of

Texas State University at San Marcos. The purpose of the workshop is to teach journalistic basics by which the publications will be judged the following year. A general workshop flier will be mailed and/or emailed to all ILPC member schools no less than two months prior to the workshop. Deadline for registration is June 1. For complete workshop information, contact the ILPC Director.

(k) ILPC DEADLINES

(1) *December 1*. Deadline for ILPC enrollment.

(2) *December 1.* Yearbooks for rating must be received by ILPC unless an extension request is filed with the ILPC office.

(3) *December 1*. Last day for receipt of ILPC individual achievement award (IAA) entries for yearbooks.

(4) *February 15*. Last day for receipt of newspapers for rating.

(5) *February 15*. Last day for receipt of ILPC individual achievement award (IAA) entries for newspapers.

(6) *March 1*. Last day for receipt of Edith Fox King and Max Haddick adviser award nominations.

(7) *May 1-2*. ILPC State Convention.

(8) *June 1*. Deadline for receipt of publications workshop enrollment without penalty.

(9) *June 25-27*. ILPC Summer Publications Workshop.

Appendix IV

2026-2027 Rule Changes

All amendments are effective for the 2026-2027 school year, unless otherwise noted.

Policy

- *Section 403, Eligibility Athletics; Section 465, Decision by a Waiver Officer; Section 468, Review Decision Process; Section 469, Retroactive Waiver:* Removes the waiver process for foreign exchange students to participate at the varsity level in athletics. This will allow foreign exchange students to compete in UIL athletics at the sub-varsity level, but not at the varsity level.
- *Heat Stress and Athletic Participation Guidelines:* Changes the current recommended heat safety procedures to required standards for member schools conducting athletic and marching band practices and activities during periods of elevated heat.

Academics

- *Section 1001, Cross-Examination Debate; Section 1002, Lincoln Douglas Debate; Sections 1004-1007, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Prose, Poetry:* Increases the number of entries allowed in all individual speaking and debate events.
- *Section 1401, A+ Program Academic Plan; Section 1408:* Invitational/District Meets – reorganizes A+ academic meet timeframes so district meets can be held during three testing windows.

Athletics

- *Section 1202, Employment of Coaches:* Proposes a two-year pilot program to expand the current exception for student teachers to include student coaches enrolled in a UIL-approved university coaching program.
- *Section 1203, Duties of Athletic District Executive Committee:* Requires, unless unanimously agreed otherwise, all schools assigned to a competitive district to be included in the district schedule, unless suspended from competition by the State Executive Committee.
- *Section 1208, Athletic Regulations:* Revises the language regarding concussion incident reporting for 6A schools as well as the location where these incidents should be reported.
- *Section 1209, Non-School Participation:* Removes the pilot status of the program that allows coaches to coach up to two of their students in a UIL-approved state association all-star game.
- *Section 1209, Non-School Participation:* Allows students in their second, third or fourth year of high school to voluntarily work up to two camps in each team sport, without counting against the student's skill time.
- *Section 1270, Soccer Plan:* Prohibits all interschool scrimmages for boys and girls soccer from occurring after the designated first day for games on the official UIL calendar.
- *Section 1340, Water Polo Plan:* Proposes a two-year pilot program to allow the addition of an optional spring training period for UIL water polo programs.
- *Section 1478, 7-8th Grade Athletic Plan:* Removes the pilot status for allowing Conference 1A and 2A to field as many as two teams when 6th grade participation is vital to team sports. Also removes pilot status to allow for 6th grade participation in individual sports in Conference 1A and 2A.
- *Section 1478, 7-8th Grade Athletic Plan:* Revises the allowable season length for 7th and 8th grade football by increasing the number of consecutive calendar days from 80 to 90.
- *Section 1503, Health and Safety:* Requires cheerleading and spirit participants to complete the Medical History/Pre-participation Physical Examination Form prior to participation in any cheer practices or tryouts.
- *Basketball Manual:* Enacts a pilot program for the 2026-27 school year for the optional use of a 35 second shot clock for basketball in all conferences for varsity tournaments and showcases upon mutual agreement between coaches.

Music

- *Jazz Festival Pilot Proposal:* Creates a state contest pilot for jazz ensembles.

Appendix V

Applicable Portion of Texas Education Code, as required by Senate Bill 82

80th Legislative Session

Sec. 33.203. COMPLETION OF UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE FORMS. (a) Each student participating in an extracurricular athletic activity must complete the University Interscholastic League forms entitled "Preparticipation Physical Evaluation--Medical History" and "Acknowledgment of Rules." Each form must be signed by both the student and the student's parent or guardian.

(b) Each form specified by Subsection (a) must clearly state that failure to accurately and truthfully answer all questions on a form required by statute or by the University Interscholastic League as a condition for participation in an extracurricular athletic activity subjects a signer of the form to penalties determined by the University Interscholastic League.

Sec. 33.204. CERTAIN UNSAFE ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED. A coach, trainer, or sponsor for an extracurricular athletic activity may not encourage or permit a student participating in the activity to engage in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health of a student, including using a helmet or any other sports equipment as a weapon.

Sec. 33.205. CERTAIN SAFETY PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED.

(a) A coach, trainer, or sponsor for an extracurricular athletic activity shall at each athletic practice or competition ensure that:

(1) each student participating in the activity is adequately hydrated;

(2) any prescribed asthma medication for a student participating in the activity is readily available to the student;

(3) emergency lanes providing access to the practice or competition area are open and clear; and

(4) heatstroke prevention materials are readily available.

(b) If a student participating in an extracurricular athletic activity, including a practice or competition, becomes unconscious during the activity, the student may not:

(1) return to the practice or competition during which the student became unconscious; or

(2) participate in any extracurricular athletic activity until the student receives written authorization for such participation from a physician.

Sec. 33.206. COMPLIANCE; ENFORCEMENT. (a) In accordance with Chapter 552, Government Code, a school shall make available to the public proof of compliance for each person enrolled in, employed by, or volunteering for the school who is required to receive safety training described by Section 33.202.

(b) The superintendent of a school district or the director of a school subject to this subchapter shall maintain complete and accurate records of the district's or school's compliance with Section 33.202.

(c) A school campus that is determined by the school's superintendent or director to be out of compliance with Section 33.202, 33.204, or 33.205 with regard to University Interscholastic League activities shall be subject to the range of penalties determined by the University Interscholastic League.

Sec. 33.207. CONTACT INFORMATION. (a) The commissioner shall maintain an existing telephone number and an electronic mail address to allow a person to report a violation of this subchapter.

(b) Each school that offers an extracurricular athletic activity shall prominently display at the administrative offices of the school the telephone number and electronic mail address maintained under Subsection (a).

Sec. 33.0832. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "League" means the University Interscholastic League.

(2) "Non-enrolled student" means a student who receives instruction as described by Section 29.916(a)(1) from a nonpublic school.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the holding in Texas Educ. Agency v. Leeper, 893 S.W.2d 432 (Tex. 1994), classifying home schools as private schools. The legislature finds that a home school is a private school for purposes of this section.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (i), a public school that participates in an activity sponsored by the league may provide a non-enrolled student, who otherwise meets league eligibility standards to represent that school in a league activity, with the opportunity to participate in the activity

on behalf of the school in the same manner that the school provides the opportunity to participate to students enrolled in the school.

(d) A non-enrolled student who seeks to participate or participates in a league activity on behalf of a school is subject to the following relevant policies that apply to students enrolled in the school:

(1) registration for league activities;

(2) age eligibility;

(3) fees;

(4) insurance;

(5) transportation;

(6) physical condition;

(7) qualifications;

(8) responsibilities;

(9) event schedules;

(10) standards of behavior; and

(11) performance.

(e) A non-enrolled student may only participate in a league activity for the school in the school district that the student would be eligible to attend based on the student's residential address. A non-enrolled student who seeks to participate in a league activity on behalf of a school shall be required to establish minimum proof of residency acceptable to the district in the same manner as an applicant to attend a school in the district under Section 25.001.

(f) The parent or person standing in parental relation to a non-enrolled student is responsible for oversight of academic standards relating to the student's participation in a league activity. As a condition of eligibility to participate in a league activity during the first six weeks of a school year, a non-enrolled student must demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California Achievement Test, or Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. A non-enrolled student demonstrates the required academic proficiency by achieving a composite, core, or survey score that is within the average or higher than average range of scores, as established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of this subsection, a school district shall accept assessment results administered or reported by a third party.

(g) A non-enrolled student's demonstration of academic proficiency under Subsection (f) is sufficient for purposes of that subsection for the school year in which the student achieves the required score and the subsequent school year.

(h) After the first six weeks of a school year, the parent or person standing in parental relation to a non-enrolled student participating in a league activity on behalf of a public school must periodically, in accordance with the school's grading calendar, provide written verification to the school indicating that the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.

(i) A non-enrolled student is not authorized by this section to participate in a league activity during the remainder of any school year during which the student was previously enrolled in a public school.

(j) The league may not prohibit a non-enrolled student from participating in league activities in the manner authorized by this

section.

(k) With respect to a non-enrolled student's education program, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit an agency of this state, a public school district, or any other governmental body to exercise control, regulatory authority, or supervision over a non-enrolled student or a parent or person standing in parental relation to a non-enrolled student beyond the control, regulatory authority, or supervision required to participate in a league activity.

(l) Subject only to eligibility requirements under this section for a non-enrolled student to participate in a league activity:

(1) the curriculum or assessment requirements, performance standards, practices, or creed of the education program provided to a non-enrolled student may not be required to be changed in order for the non-enrolled student to participate in a league activity; and

(2) for a non-enrolled student participating in an education program on January 1, 2021, the education program provided to that student may not be required to comply with any state law or agency rule relating to that education program unless the law or rule was in effect on January 1, 2021.

(m) Notwithstanding any other law, a non-enrolled student who participates in a league activity under this section is subject to the immunization requirements and exceptions of Section 38.001 in the same manner as a public school student.

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