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PARENT INFORMATION MANUAL

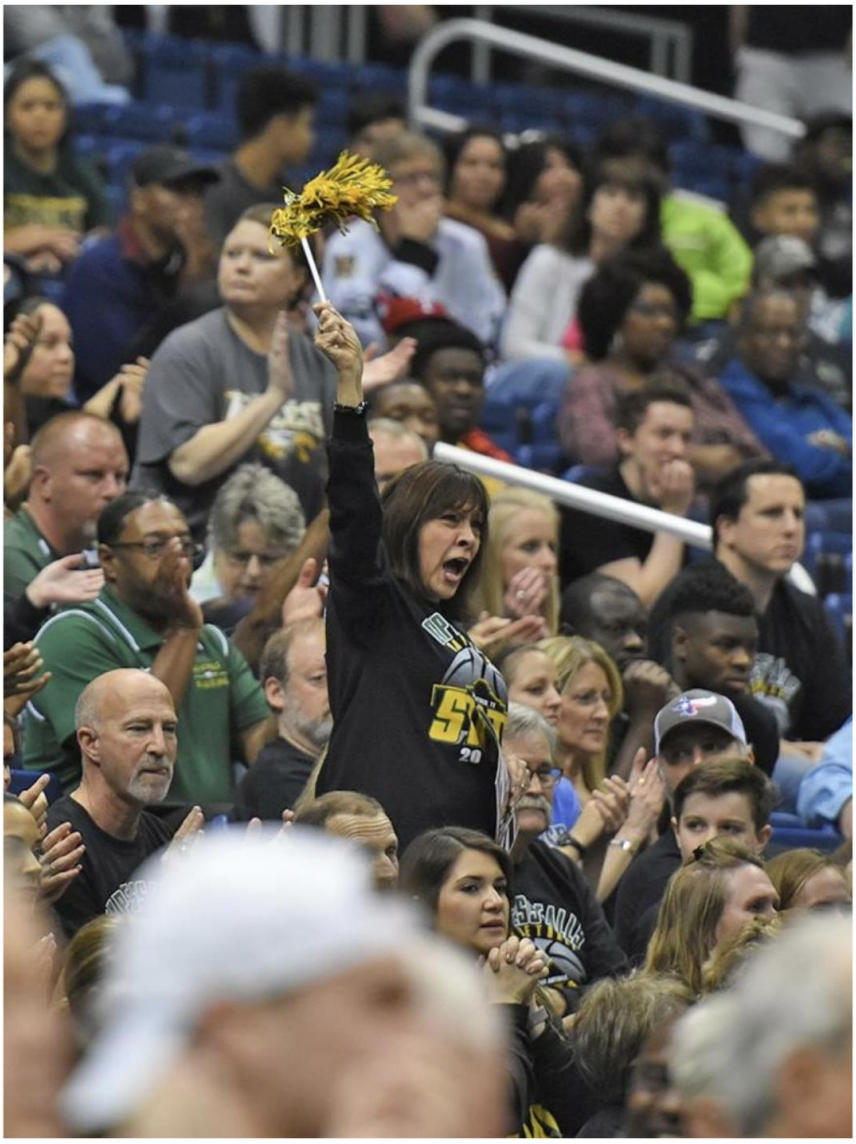


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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the University Interscholastic League. The UIL is the governing body for over 1,500 public high schools and over 2,100 middle and junior high schools in Texas. The UIL, which began in 1910, is the largest interschool organization of its kind in the world, offering 23 athletic activities to more than one million student-athletes.

The purpose of the UIL is to organize and properly supervise contests that assist in preparing students to become better citizens. Our aim is to provide healthy, character building, educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants. Research shows those who participate in extracurricular activities tend to make better grades and have fewer attendance and discipline problems than those who do not participate.

The UIL athletic program is based on the premise that athletes are students first and that interscholastic athletics should serve as an extension of the classroom. There are valuable lessons to be learned through participation in athletics, including teamwork, responsibility, and how to deal with success and overcome adversity. These lessons will have a positive impact on our students and will last a lifetime.

One of the most critical lessons is the importance of maintaining high standards of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in our society. We are asking for your support in this effort by emphasizing to your son or daughter what is expected of them at an athletic event as both a competitor and a spectator. The UIL encourages athletes to play the Texas Way, with respect for others, control of self and the spirit of competition. Competition, the Texas Way, is about more than a scoreboard. It's a commitment to do the best we can to put our team in the best position to win while maintaining the highest level of integrity.

Providing a positive educational environment for our students is of utmost importance. Coaches, athletes, officials and fans are expected to show mutual respect to one another, and to handle adversity with class and keep anger in check. It is up to us as adults to set the example of good sportsmanship, high ethical standards and integrity for our students. We must model positive behavior in the stands at events. Your positive example can help set the standard for students and those spectators around you so we can maintain a positive educational environment, and we may all enjoy our teams' games The Texas Way.

This manual is provided to assist in guiding you and your child through the UIL process. Please take time to read each section and feel free to visit our extensive web site at www.uiltexas.org. Of course you may also call any of our staff members should you have questions or need

clarification.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PARENTS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETES

We believe that interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that the highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- *Trustworthiness* – Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- *Integrity* – Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
- *Honesty* – Live and act honorable; don't allow your children to lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- *Reliability* – Fulfill commitments; do what you say you will do; be on time; when you tell your children you will attend an event, be sure to do so.

RESPECT

- *Respect* – Treat people with respect & fairness all the time and require the same of your children.
- *Class* – Live and cheer with class; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; compliment extraordinary performance; and show respect for all competitors.
- *Respect Officials* – Treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- *Respect Coaches* – Treat coaches with respect at all times; recognize that they have team goals beyond those of your child. Don't shout instructions to players from the stands; let the coaches coach.
- *Disrespectful Conduct* – Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

RESPONSIBILITY

- *Importance of Education* – stress that student-athletes are students first. Be honest with your children about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level. Place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of your children above desires and pressures to win.
- *Role-modeling* – Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a role model for your children.
- *Self-Control* – Exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to demean others.
- *Integrity of the game* – Protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble on your children's games.
- *Privilege to Compete* – You and your child understand that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege, not a right, and that they are expected to represent their team, school and family with honor, on and off the field.

CARING

- *Encouragement* – Encourage your children regardless of their play; offer positive reinforcement. Demonstrate sincere interest in your child's play.
- *Concern for Others* – Demonstrate concern for others; never encourage the injury of any player, official or

fellow spectator.

- *Empathy* – Consider the needs and desires of all team members in addition to your own child; help promote the team concept by encouraging all team members, understanding that the coach is responsible for determining playing time.

PARENT / COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult responsibilities. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

1) Coach's philosophy.
2) Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team, i.e., academics, player performance, community service, behavior, etc…
3) Locations and times of practices and contests.
4) Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
5) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.
2) What your child needs to do to improve.
3) Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

1) How much playing time each athlete is getting.
2) Team strategy.
3) Play calling.
4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

Procedures for a parent/coach conference: There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

1) Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation but often escalate it.
2) Call or email the coach to set up an appointment.
3) If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
4) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
5) Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them pertaining to your child.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution?

1) Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
2) At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Students' involvement in co-curricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope the information contained in this manual helps make that experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

- ❑ Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition- not to intimidate or ridicule the officials, opponents, or their fans.
- ❑ Remember that interscholastic athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- ❑ A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- ❑ Show respect for the officials, opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- ❑ Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials. Our contests could not happen without them. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- ❑ Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- ❑ Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- ❑ Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- ❑ Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- ❑ Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
- ❑ Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
- ❑ There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege.” Spectators are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.
- ❑ Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and sportsmanship.
- ❑ The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

WARNING ABOUT THE INHERENT DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Student athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

The UIL encourages student athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks minimization with coaches and school administrators.

HEALTH & SAFETY RESOURCES

The UIL values the health and safety of all student-athletes. We've provided access to important health and safety information for students, parents and coaches.

These links provide information about a wide range of health and safety issues. Opinions, perspectives, and conclusions expressed in any external websites are copyrighted by the relevant organizations and are not expressed UIL policy.

A Parent's Guide to Concussions

Avoiding Hyponatremia Cheerleader

Safety FAQ

Cold Weather Illness

Emergency Medical Procedures

Heat Stress and Athletic Participation

Information on Staphylococcal Infections for Athletes

Information on Staphylococcal Infections for Athletic Departments

Lightning Safety

NFHS Recommendations for Hydration

Reducing Head and Neck Injuries in Football

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

Eligibility rules are found in Section 400 and 403 of the *Constitution and Contest Rules.* Any question regarding a student's eligibility, should be addressed to the school coach, principal and/or superintendent. Residence requirements according to Sections 400, 403, and 442 should be thoroughly investigated for any student new to school.

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 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 (See Section 446);

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

(d) is an amateur (See 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 (See 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.

(5) Foreign Exchange Students.

(A) Foreign exchange students are ineligible for varsity athletic contests the first year they attend a member school unless they are granted a waiver of the parent residence rule as outlined in Sections 465 and 468.

(6) Homeschool Students

. (j) A non-enrolled (homeschooled) student seeking participation in accordance with Section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code 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. If the school that a non-enrolled student would be eligible to attend based on residence has opted out of participation for non-enrolled students, the student may participate in a league activity for the closest school, based on geographic proximity to the student's residential address, that allows participation for non-enrolled students.

. As the law states, a homeschool student who resides in an ISD that opts out of allowing homeschool participation may participate at the closest school to the student's residence that does allow homeschool participation.

. The closest school is determined by campus. So, if the closest ISD that allows homeschool participation is a multiple-high school ISD, neither the student nor the ISD may choose which of those high schools at which the student may participate. The closest campus to the student's residence is determined by the District Executive Committee.

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

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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.

NOTE: Any time a student changes schools, UIL staff strongly recommends the school check the residence of the parent(s) for varsity athletic participation and to be sure that the student complies with local transfer and admission policies. If the student has been continuously enrolled in and attending school for one calendar year and the parents leave the attendance zone, check to be sure that the student complies with local admission and transfer policies.

UIL REQUIRED FORMS

Required Forms for STUDENT Participation. 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. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms).

- Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form (page 2 of link)*:* 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.
- Medical History Form (page 1 of link): Each year prior to any practice or participation, a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian.
- Parent or Guardian Permit and Rules Acknowledgment: Annual participation permit and rules acknowledgement signed by the student's parent or guardian.
- Parent/Student Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Form: The parent/guardian of each high school athlete, along with each high school athlete, must annually sign the UIL Illegal Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form.
- Concussion Acknowledgement Form: Annual UIL Concussion Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.: Annual UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian.

Required Forms for VARSITY Participation. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following required forms. Forms to be filed can be downloaded from the UIL website (www.uiltexas.org/athletics/forms).

- Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF): New students in grades 9-12 who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest or practice in grades 8-12 in any previous school year must have a Previous Athletic Participation Form completed prior to participation at any level at the new school.

  Q: If a PAPF is completed and signed by the DEC chair, does this make a student-athlete eligible for varsity competition?

  A: No. A student-athlete must also meet all other eligibility rules.

  Q: If a student-athlete is continuously enrolled for one calendar year at a school, are they eligible for varsity competition?

  A: No. The student-athlete must also have a completed and signed PAPF from the DEC chair and be in compliance with all other eligibility rules.

  If 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 private reprimand to the school.

UIL REQUIRED FORMS - WAIVERS

The waiver process is designed to give an opportunity to students who encounter hardships due to extenuating life changing circumstances. With this process in place, students that normally would be ineligible to participate in varsity contests, due to these involuntary or unavoidable circumstances, now are able to seek eligibility through one of the various waivers. The waivers that are available are: Four-Year, Parent Residence, Retroactive, Middle School Over-Age, and High School Over-Age. Please visit our UIL Waiver website for more information.

- Over-Age Waiver. Subject to the other eligibility rules of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, an individual is eligible to participate in a League varsity athletic contest as a representative of a participant school if that individual 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, and the student is currently in special education and under the auspices of an ARD Committee or has been identified as a 504 student prior to the end of their second year in high school (effective for entering ninth graders in the current school year).

- Four-Year Waiver. Students seeking varsity eligibility during their fifth year of high school and does not comply with the four-year rule because he/she has not met the requirements for graduation four years after his/her first entry into the ninth grade and has not been able to participate in a specific activity for a season due to involuntary and unavoidable circumstances, that student may apply for this waiver.

- Parent Residence Waiver. Students who are determined not to be in compliance with the parent residence rule, (living with a parent who is separated or married living apart or with a guardian), that student may apply for a waiver for varsity athletic participation. If a student is attending school outside the attendance zone boundaries, where their parent(s) resides, the student may apply for this waiver for varsity athletic participation.

UIL PARENT RESIDENCE RULE

Excerpt from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules

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) moves 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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) 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.

- 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.*

- 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.*

- 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.*

- 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.*

- 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.*

- 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.*

CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

Excerpt from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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 (e) below.

(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.

(v) 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 (c) above and (f)(3) below.

(vi) 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 previous school signs a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited to the new school and did not change schools or attendance zones for athletic purposes;

(3) a representative of the new 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.

(vii) 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.

(viii) MINIMUM PENALTY. If 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. The committee may assess the minimum penalty of reprimand.

(ix) NO PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM REQUIRED. The Previous Athletic Participation Forms are not required 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.

PAPF - https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/papf_fillable_7172025_mc.pdf

NOTE: (d) and (f) 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 purpose.

REGULATIONS FOR NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION/SCHOOL CAMPS

I. The Constitution and Contest Rules state:

(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:

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, water polo, basketball, and soccer 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 (middle school and high school school) 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, volleyball, or water polo unless specifically noted below. Refer to Section 1209.

(1) TABC Summer Showcase. Basketball coaches are allowed to coach their high school team during the TABCA 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 June Summer Showcase

(2) Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, a pilot program allows coaches to coach two players in grades 7-12 in a UIL approved state association all-star game.

REGULATIONS FOR NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION/SCHOOL CAMPS (continued)

Team Sports:

Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Water Polo

In accordance with Sections 1201, 1206, and 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7, lineman challenges) coaches:

The C&CR **prohibits** the following:

1) Shall not instruct any student in 7th – 12th grade from his/her own attendance zone unless the student is his/her own biological or adopted child.
2) Shall not schedule matched games. A matched game is a contest between TWO teams that is not part of a league schedule or tournament.
3) Shall not transport students in a school vehicle or with school resources.
4) Shall not use school athletic equipment, school uniforms, and school health/first aid supplies.
5) Shall not use school or booster funds for any expenses associated with the activity.
6) Shall abstain from any practice that 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 (Section 120l [b, 9]).
7) Shall abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 120l [b, 10]).
8) Should not participate with their athletes in the athlete's sport (Section 1206 [i]).

In accordance to Section 1209 regarding non-school competition (leagues, camps, clinics, clubs, tournaments, 7 on 7) coaches or a group of coaches:

The C&CR **allows** the following:

1) Can supervise facilities.

2) Can assist with organization to include, but not limited to assignment of officials, helping to secure facilities, development of schedules, scheduling of facilities, assisting with the registration process, and helping to secure equipment.
3) Can assist with the selection of coaches.
4) Can assist with the selection of players.
5) Can distribute information regarding the details of the non-school event for informational purposes. Distribution of such materials should be in accordance with the policies and procedures of the local school district.
6) Can collect registration fees for coordination purposes only. No checks may be made payable to the school and no funds shall be deposited in any school account.

Individual Sports:

Cross Country, Golf, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track and Field and Wrestling

A. During the School Year

- Coaches of individual sports are allowed to work with student-athletes from their attendance zone in non-school practice during the school year with limitations. Coaches should be aware that any time spent working with a student-athlete from their attendance zone in grades 7-12, whether in school or non-school practice, will count as part of the eight hours of practice allowed outside of the school day during the school week under state law.
- Coaches should abstain from any practice that 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 (Section 120l [b, 9]).
- 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 students in grades 9-12, from the coach's attendance zone and participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible (Section 120l [b, 9]).
- Coaches should abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities (Section 120l [b, 10]).

B. Outside of the School Year

- Outside of the school year, the restrictions are somewhat reduced. Coaches are allowed to coach student-athletes from their own attendance zone.
- The use of school funds, school equipment, school uniforms, or school transportation is prohibited. Exception: School administrators may authorize the use of facilities, including scoreboards, implements, cross bars, poles, discus, shot puts, nets, etc. for school programs that are open to all students.
- School coaches can work with students from his/her own attendance zone in summer recreational programs (i.e. They coach in meets and tournaments with permission from the superintendent or superintendent's designee).
- Coaches should abstain from any practice that 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 (Section 120l [b, 9]).
- Coaches should abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.

Non-School Participation Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can TWO school coaches schedule a contest (non-school) between their schools?
A: No. TWO school coaches cannot schedule matched games with each other for a non-school contest.

Q: Can THREE or more school coaches assist each other with the organization of a non-school league to include, but not limited to: assignment of players, assignment of coaches, assignment of officials, helping to secure facilities, development of schedules, scheduling of facilities, assisting with registration process, helping to secure equipment?

A: Yes. THREE or more coaches may assist each other in setting up a non-school league. EXAMPLE: 7 on 7, Spring Basketball, Summer Volleyball, Fall Baseball/Softball

Q: Can a school coach instruct a student-athlete in his/her sport in a non-school league?

A: No. According to Section 1209 (g), school coaches shall not coach or instruct any 7-12 grade students from their school attendance zone in team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, or water polo. This also includes students whose seasons have concluded. EXAMPLE: Club Volleyball in the spring for outgoing seniors. The ONLY exception is that basketball coaches are allowed to coach their high school team during the TABC June Summer Showcase event.

Q: When is a student-athlete considered a 7th grader and can no longer be coached in non-school team sports by a coach in their attendance zone?

A: A student-athlete is considered a 7th graders on the first day of school in 7th grade.

Q: Can coaches of individual sports (cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, and wrestling) coach student-athletes from their attendance zone in non-school practices and/or competitions?

A: Yes, but during the school year any time spent coaching their athletes (non-school and school practices) will count towards the eight hours of practice allowed outside of the school day for that sport under state law.

Q: Can coaches provide transportation to non-school events, including college camps/visits?

A: Yes, with approval from the local school district, as long as no school vehicles or resources are used.

Q: Can a school coach serve as a facility supervisor for non-school activities?

A: Yes, provided they are there to monitor, supervise, and open and close the facility. No coaching is allowed.

Q: Can a school coach distribute information regarding the details of the non-school event for informational purposes?

A: Yes. Distribution of such materials should be in accordance with the policies and procedures of the local school district regarding non-school activities.

Q: Can a school coach collect registration fees for non-school competitions?

A: Yes, but only for coordination purposed. No checks may be made payable to the school or booster club, and no funds shall be deposited in any school or booster club account.

Q: Can a school coach officiate for non-school activities?

A: Yes, however, it is recommended they not officiate students in grades 7-12 from their own attendance zone.

Q: Can a school coach speak with the non-school coach during a competition about players and/or strategy?

A: Yes, provided the school coach does not instruct any 7-12 grade students from their school attendance zone.

Q: Can an athlete receive a scholarship or collect donations for participation in a non-school activity?

A: Yes, provided these funds are not from school funds or booster club funds.

Q: Can student-athletes raise funds for non-school activities?

A: Yes, provided the fundraising activities are not related to the school and the student-athletes do allthe fundraising on their own or with their parents.

Q: Can schools or school booster clubs contribute to any of the athlete's expenses or equipment associated with a non-school activity?

A: No. Schools and booster clubs are limited to providing funds for school activities and items for use in school competitions.

Q: Can a local business contribute to a student-athlete's expense for a non-school activity?

A: Yes, a local business can provide money to cover expenses for a non-school activity.

Q: Can coaches or school employees contribute to a student's non-school fundraiser?

A: Yes, provided the contributions are from their own personal funds and not from booster funds, activity accounts, school soft drink accounts, or any other accounts associated with the school.

Q: Can student-athletes in grades 9th-12th serve as volunteers/paid workers for non-school sponsored camps or leagues?

A: Yes, as long as their school coaches are not giving instruction. Students can't receive direct instruction from their school coach.

Q: Can a school coach instruct a student-athlete in his/her sport in a non-school activity if that student has no remaining eligibility in that particular sport?

A: No. According to Section 1209 (g), school coaches shall not coach or instruct any 7-12 grade students from their school attendance zone in TEAM SPORTS of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, or water polo.

Q: Are athletes permitted to play in non-school all-star contests?

A: Yes. Student-athletes who are selected for all-star teams based on non-school competition may have things such as lodging, meals, transportation, game jerseys, shoes, etc. provided by the non-school league for all-star team participation. All non-school groups should be structured to protect the amateur status of student-athletes in grades 9-12. Student-athletes in grades 9-12 may only accept symbolic awards (medals, trophies, plaques) for winning, placing, or finishing based on performance. UIL member schools may not participate in sponsoring these all-star contests nor provide transportation for such events.

Q: May students who have completed their high school eligibility in a particular sport compete in other all-star contests such as TABC, TGCA, and THSCA, etc?

A: Yes. Students who are selected for all-star may have things such as lodging, meals, transportation, game jerseys, shoes, etc. provided for all-star team participation. Students who have completed eligibility in the involved sport, with school superintendent approval, may also use school individual player protective equipment in any all-star game.

Q: When may students take private instruction?

A: A student may take a private lesson anytime except during the school day, including the athletic period or during school practice sessions. Schools shall not pay for these private lessons.

BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES

Role of Competition

In addition to being a privilege and an honor to represent one's school and community, participation in interscholastic athletics has been shown to lead to higher levels of success in school. There are valuable lessons to be learned through participation and competition in athletics, including teamwork, responsibility, perseverance, and how to deal with success and overcome adversity. Plus, competition is fun!

Superintendent Responsible for UIL Activities

Member schools make UIL rules and determine policies regarding penalties to schools, school district personnel and student participants. The superintendent is solely responsible for the entire UIL program. All school activities, organizations (including the booster club), events and personnel are under the jurisdiction of the superintendent. Booster clubs must recognize this authority and work within a framework prescribed by the school administration.

Role of Booster Clubs

Neighborhood patrons form booster clubs to help enrich the school's participation in extracurricular activities. The fundraising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today's economic climate. Positive and direct communication can prevent most problems. Keep the superintendent informed of all activities.

- Have a chain of command for communication with the administration.
- Clear all activities through your administration.
- The superintendent or a designee who does not coach or direct a UIL contest but has approval authority over booster clubs should be invited to all meetings. All meetings should be open to the public.
- Booster clubs should apprise school administrators of all club activities. Make sure your local administration has a copy of all booster club publications. Invite administrators to all booster club meetings. Have an officer meet with the school administration regularly.
- School administration should apprise booster clubs of all school activities.
- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct the duties of a school district employee. The scheduling of contests, rules for participation, methods of earning letters and all other criteria dealing with inter-school programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.
- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and kept on file at the school.
- Periodic financial statements itemizing all receipts and expenditures should be made to the general club membership and kept on file at the school.

Additional information regarding Booster Club guidelines can be found on our website:
https://www.uiltexas.org/files/policy/booster_club_guidelines.pdf