

Athletic Directors and Soccer Coaches,

We wanted to give you a quick overview of important information so you are well prepared to start the year off right and keep both yourself and your assistant coaches well informed. Here is a list of the most frequently asked about topics for your reference:

Season Reminders Concerning 2021-22 Soccer Regulations:

COVID Postponements: UIL varsity district contests postponed because of COVID-19 reasons may be rescheduled and played as exceptions to the school week limit as noted in state regulations, as long as they are rescheduled and played on a date agreed upon by the two schools involved in the contest, or on a date as determined by the District Executive Committee, if the two schools cannot agree.

Practice: When School is In-Session – Practice outside the school day, excluding holidays, is limited to a maximum of eight hours per school week, per activity. The in-school athletic period does not count towards the allotted 8 hours, but any time used in connection with a practice that is not part of the athletic period counts as part of the 8 hours (dress, mandatory weights, meetings, etc.).

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.

Scrimmages/Games/Tournaments

Scrimmage – A scrimmage is a meeting of no more than four teams for practice purposes, which does not count as a game (allowable contest) for any of the teams.

Soccer teams are allowed to participate in scrimmages 10 days after the first practice date set forth by the UIL calendar. Teams may play one scrimmage per school week, two scrimmages per calendar week.

Allowable Games:

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

Weekly Allowable Contests: Teams or individual(s) are limited to two matched games per calendar week. The **week of an invitational tournament only one matched game may be played**. The state law limiting school week participation must be followed, (i.e. one contest Monday through Thursday night with a second contest after school Friday or Saturday).

Doubleheader: (Same Site, Same Night) – A student may play in a varsity and a JV game, a JV game and a ninth-grade game, or a ninth-grade and a varsity game on the same night at the

same site. This counts as the two total allowable games per calendar week and counts as two of the total games for the season. Students may not play in a tournament the same week as they play in a doubleheader.

Tournaments: A tournament is defined as at least three teams assembled at one site for competition. Schools shall not schedule tournaments on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless school is not in session. Schools may schedule tournaments on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A two-day tournament shall not be scheduled on Thursday and Friday. A one-day tournament must be scheduled on Saturday.

Pool Play: Teams can play regulation games (two per day) in pool play, or they can play shortened pool play games of 20-minute halves with sudden death for ties. If teams are playing 20-minute halves pool play games, all pool play games combined would count as one of the two allowable games for that day.

Max Number of Games Per Day: Teams or contestants may participate in no more than two interschool games per day.

Max Number of Games Per Day in Tournaments: Two games per day are allowed in a two or three-day tournament, and three games per day are allowed in a one-day tournament scheduled on Saturday.

Max Number of Tournaments: Three Tournaments

NFHS Rule Changes: The 2021-22 NFHS soccer rule changes are available at <https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/soccer-rules-changes-2021-22/>

MaxPreps: Please begin utilizing MaxPreps when your season begins as this is required for all playoff matches. For more information, see <http://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/uil-maxpreps>. To create an account, please go to [MaxPreps](#).

Athletic Manuals: All sport manuals are posted online. Please download these and read them. These manuals have all information pertaining to soccer from pre-season to post-season as well as soccer rule changes that are in effect for this year. We modified these to be user-friendly and easy to read, so please take advantage of these available resources. <http://www.uiltexas.org/soccer/manual>

We hope this serves as a refresher of important information that may affect you and a couple changes that are happening this year. Please make sure to check our website for detailed information about any of these rule changes and the most up-to-date information on your activities. As well, we will periodically send out information with any additional important items throughout the season.

Good luck kicking off your season and best of luck. Please know that the UIL Athletic staff is here to serve you, and do not hesitate to contact Joseph Garmon (Soccer Director at

jgarmon@uiltexas.org or 361-244-0497) or any other athletic staff member if there is anything we can do for you.

Thank you,
Susan Elza, Ed.D.
UIL Director of Athletics