

Athletic Directors and Soccer Coaches,

We are excited for the opportunity to move forward with soccer in the state of Texas for the 2020-21 school year, and we wanted to give you a quick update specific to the 2020-21 soccer season. There will be challenges from time to time throughout the year, but we are confident in our schools and our school leaders that we can make this season a success. Below is information pertaining to UIL updates for the upcoming season along with essential information pertaining to COVID-19. We have also posted a specific soccer calendar with additional information concerning the 2020-21 soccer season on the UIL Soccer web page.

COVID-19 Information

- [COVID-19 risk mitigation guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year can be found at this link](#)
- [Soccer specific COVID information can be found on the Soccer page at this link.](#)

Season Reminders Concerning 2020-21 Soccer Regulations

- 0 Tournaments and 21 games or
- 1 Tournament and 19 games or
- 2 Tournaments and 17 games or
- 3 Tournaments and 15 games
- Scrimmages - **no more than 4 schools** may meet for scrimmage purposes at one site. For sites that are used to having multiple groups of 4 at a scrimmage, that is **not allowed** for the 2021 soccer season. No team or student shall participate in more than 2 scrimmages per calendar week.
- For teams choosing to substitute games in place of tournaments, 3 games may be played in a calendar week. If school is in session, the 2nd and 3rd game must be played after the end of the school week.
- **Face coverings** do not have to be worn while actively competing. Face coverings **must** be worn by all team personnel (coaches, managers, players not in the game) while on the bench or not actively participating in the game or warm-ups.

New: School Week Limitation Exception – 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.

Tournament Guidelines and Restrictions:

1. Maximum of 4 teams per site at any one time
 - a. 2 teams playing in game
 - b. 2 teams warming up on opposite sides / ends of field
 - c. Teams coming onto field for next game must wait until the team before them completely leaves the field and sideline / dugout area and the area has been cleaned
 - d. The game must be completed and the 2 teams playing in the game must have left the facility before the next two teams can come in and begin their warm-up on opposite sides / ends of the field.
2. Participating school responsibilities
 - a. Follow all UIL protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>)
 - b. Follow all local district protocols
 - c. Follow approved NFHS sport specific rule considerations
3. Host site responsibilities
 - a. Follow all UIL protocols / guidelines (<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19>)

- b. Follow approved NFHS sport specific rules considerations
- c. Communicate any local protocols in addition to the UIL protocols, to participating teams well in advance of tournament
- d. Host school must create a warm-up plan where no two teams are in the same warm-up area at the same time
- e. Host school must create a plan to clean and disinfect the dugout / sideline areas between each game
- f. Host school must create a plan for a deep clean and disinfecting at the end of each day to prepare for next day

2020-2021 Soccer Important Dates:

November 30 – First day for practice	-
December 10 – First day for scrimmages	-
December 29 – First day for games	-
March 23 – DISTRICT CERTIFICATION	-

NFHS Rules Recommendations

- **Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)**
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
 - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- **Ball Holders (6-1)**
 - Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
- **Team Benches (1-5-1)**
 - Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.-
- **Substitution Procedures (3-4)**
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- **Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)**
 - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

Pre and Post Match Ceremony

- Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (3-6 feet apart) for introductions.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

Soccer Rules Interpretations

- **Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)

- Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
 - Check the market for other choices
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.

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.).

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. No more than 4 schools (all teams for school) may meet for scrimmaging purposes

Doubleheader – (Same Site, Same Night) – A student could play two back-to-back varsity games (same competition level) or in a varsity and junior varsity game (different competition levels), at the same site, the same night.

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

Miscellaneous Soccer Information

NFHS Rule Changes – The 2020-21 NFHS soccer rule changes are available at <https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/soccer-rules-changes-2020-21/>

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. https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/manuals/Soccer_Manual_20-21.pdf

UIL Coaches Certification Program – CCP has been posted on the UIL Portal (Register My Athlete system) (see below). CCP should be completed prior to the start of your sport season. UIL Portal Link: <http://www.uiltexas.org/uil-portal>

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We hope this serves as a reminder of important information, especially the information regarding any changes due to COVID-19 and the new rule 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 soccer. As well, we will periodically send out information with any additional important items throughout the season.

Best of luck to you and your team in the 2020-21 season. Please know that the UIL Athletic staff is here to serve you, 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 ever anything we can do for you.

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