

# Highlights from the UIL Legislative Council meeting

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The UIL Legislative Council wrapped up their June meeting on Tuesday in Round Rock, TX. (Photo: University Interscholastic League, 247Sports)

The UIL Legislative Council wrapped up their June meeting at the Austin Marriott North Hotel in Round Rock on Tuesday and came away with some interesting rule-changes of note to the Texas high school sports world.

There were five rule changes that affect the sports under the UIL while one side rule that was approved only affects marching band.

Today's UIL meeting approved...

One telecast football game per week.

Changed football practice regulations.

Harsher penalties for players ejected.

New baseball scrimmage start dates.

 : <https://t.co/fb6k6y7gYC> [pic.twitter.com/ObrADR2ZYz](https://pic.twitter.com/ObrADR2ZYz)

— Nick Walters (@NickWaltersTV) [June 12, 2018](#)

Here are the five major rule changes made at the meeting:

## 1. Harsher ejection penalties

Under the approved rules, harsher penalties will be enforced to players who are ejected from a contest.

In football, any player ejected will miss the remainder of the game plus the first half of the following game. In all other sports, with the exception of soccer, the player will miss the remainder of the ejected game plus the entirety of the following game.

This issue was brought up and addressed because of "the increasing number of player ejections and the seriousness of the actions that lead to those ejections [which] reveals a need for the UIL and its member schools to address this concern."

## **2. Scrimmage changes to baseball and softball**

Under the approved rules, baseball and softball cannot begin scrimmaging until a predetermined date set forth by the UIL. Under the previous rule, scrimmages were not allowed to begin until the 18th Monday prior to the state tournament.

For reasoning, the UIL cited that "scrimmage start dates for baseball and softball restrict the first date scrimmages can occur to the 18th Monday prior to the state baseball/softball tournament. This amendment would change this language to a date set forth by the UIL calendar and allow for scrimmages to start on the previous Saturday."

## **3. Playoff scheduling for baseball and softball**

This new rule allows for baseball and softball playoff series to play two games before a Friday. Under the previous rule, a three-game playoff series could not play more than one game before the Friday of the specific weekend that the series takes place.

"This change will provide flexibility to schools when faced with the challenges of weather concerns, conflicts with other UIL events, and the scheduling restrictions created by state law related to state testing," the UIL stated in the press release.

Approved at today's UIL meeting...

Two playoff baseball games will now be able to be played before a Friday.

Allows for more flexible scheduling. [pic.twitter.com/A0yyMwcJhK](https://pic.twitter.com/A0yyMwcJhK)

— The Old Coach (@TheOldCoach) [June 12, 2018](#)

## **4. Extended amount of time to conduct spring football practice**

The new rule approved on Tuesday allows a team to conduct 18 spring practices over a period of 34 consecutive days as opposed to 30 consecutive days under the previous rule.

The UIL says that "this amendment would modify fall practice regulations and spring training for football as recommended and approved by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee."

The rule change also contains information regarding fall practices and when 9th grade football can begin practice.

The UIL Legislative Council meeting has adjourned. Follow the link for information on all approved amendments → <https://t.co/qpoNBrMJUP>

The Commissioner of Education must approve amendments passed by the UIL Legislative Council before they may take effect.

— Texas UIL (@uiltexas) [June 12, 2018](#)

## 5. Telecasting pilot program for football

Under the new amendment, the UIL will permit one live video broadcast on a Friday night per season for football. Previously, no live video broadcasts were allowed during the regular season on Friday nights.

While only having one per season may be underwhelming to some, it is a step in the direction of the UIL allowing more live video broadcasts on Friday nights in the future.

The UIL says "this amendment extends the pilot program that allows an exception to Section 868(c) by authorizing the UIL to approve one Friday night live telecast of a regular season football game or games. Both schools involved in any game to be broadcast must consent before being broadcast."

Clarification on telecasts. Not one telecast football game per week. It's one Friday night during a single football season.

— Texas UIL (@uiltexas) [June 12, 2018](#)

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