

2024



**TRACK & FIELD
District/Area Director's
Manual**

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

TRACK & FIELD DISTRICT/AREA MEET

DIRECTORS' HANDBOOK

This directors' manual has been prepared to provide information for administration of UIL sponsored Track & Field Meets. It should serve as a guide to administrators, coaches and meet directors and assist in providing greater consistency in high school Track & Field throughout Texas.

Also, please refer to the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* and Coaches Manual for further interpretations and explanations.

Questions concerning UIL Track & Field activities should be addressed to the following staff members at the office Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5pm; (512) 471-5883:

Ray Zepeda – UIL Athletic Director

rzepeda@uiltexas.org

Joseph Garmon – Track & Field Director

jgarmon@uiltexas.org

(361) 244-0497

Hannah Higgins – UIL Event Coordinator

hhiggins@uiltexas.org

(512) 232-4971

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2024 NFHS Track & Field Rule Changes

3-8-1: Permits the Games Committee to set requirements for each meet on the number of timing officials.

Rationale: As technology continues to evolve in the sports of track and field and cross country, not all FAT systems require separate operators and evaluators. The Games Committee may set requirements for each meet on the number of timing officials.

4-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Permits state associations to set the participation limitations within their state, with six events being the maximum number.

Rationale: Adds flexibility for state associations to determine the number of events best suited for their state.

5-3-1, 9-4-1 (NEW): Removed and corrected information concerning track staggers

Rationale: Track staggers are dependent on the geometry of each individual track, and a competent surveyor should determine the lane staggers.

5-7-4c,d NOTE (NEW), 8-4-4 NOTE 2 (NEW): Extraneous motion before the device is fired does not necessarily require a false start to be charged unless the runner leaves their mark with hand or foot after the set command or leaves their mark with a forward motion without the starting device being fired.

Rationale: The change makes it clearer as to the definition of a false start and how it should be consistently officiated.

5-14-1, 2: Clarifies that displacement of any hurdle by hand is an infraction.

Rationale: Offers guidance to officials and umpires when determining hurdle infractions.

6-2-2d: Clarifies when a competitor enters a vertical jump for the first time, at any height, no matter the number of competitors left that this competitor is only permitted one minute for their attempt.

Rationale: This clarifies in the vertical jumps how the rule is to be interpreted and adds additional support to the official's decisions when a competitor enters after the event has been started.

6-3-2b: Added language in vertical jumps when breaking ties and competitors withdraw from the competition/jump-off.

Rationale: The addition offers guidance to officials when two or more tied competitors withdraw from the competition/jump-off at the same time.

6-3-2b NOTES (NEW): Any athlete withdrawing from a jump-off concedes the higher place but retains their performance in the event.

Rationale: The new note explains that an athlete withdrawing from a jump-off concedes the higher place but does not negate their performance in the event nor is it unsporting to simply withdraw in this scenario. The addition of the new note helps explain how to officiate these scenarios.

6-4-1, 6-5-1, 6-6-1: Permits athletes in the throws to apply tape to their fingers as long as the fingers are not taped together and all fingers can move independently.

Rationale: The rules change offers flexibility to athletes to apply tape to their fingers or wear a wrist wrap as long as there are no artificial aids within the wrap such as hard plastic pieces to keep the wrist stiff.

2024 Editorial Changes

4-2-1, 4-6-5, 5-9-2

2024 Points of Emphasis

1. Fair Starts
2. Sportsmanship
3. Cross Country Safety

Modifications and Event Procedures

NFHS Rule	Subject - Topic	UIL Requirements		
Level	# of athletes	800m	1600m	3200m
District	8 or less	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall
	9 or more	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley
Area	8	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall
Regional	16	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley
State	9	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall

NFHS Rule	Subject - Topic	UIL requirements
2.1.2	Championship scoring	1st-6th place and points will be given 10-8-6-4-2-1. Relays will be scored 20-16-12-8-4-2.
3.9.8	FAT – Manual timing	Conversion calculation required
3.17.1-2	Wind gauge	Required for national records; state records can only be set at statemeet with wind gauge reading.
4.2.1	Event allowance	Athletes are allowed 5 events total. Only 3 running events, with no distance restrictions, relays included. A competitor may enter 5 field events with no running events.
4.3.1	Uniform	Male contestants must wear shorts over the one-piece suit or compression short.
4.3.1(b-7)	Under garment	Any visible garment(s) worn underneath the uniform top and/or bottom is considered a foundation garment. Foundation garments are not subject to logo/trademark/reference or color restrictions.
4.3.2(a)	Relay Teams	All relay teams must wear uniforms clearly indicating, through prominent color, school logo and color combination of all outer garments worn as uniform, that members are from the same team. NOTE: the official should be able to observe that all members are from the same team.
5.6.4	Heats	Heat winner advances to finals and next best performances – usually six (6) on an eight (8) lane track.
5.6.3	Seeding	Choice for district and area meets. Seed by qualifying performance for regional meet. State meet is preferred lanes for regional champion; random for others.
6.3.2-3	Ties	Distance – events must be broken 1 st -6 th places all meets.
7.3.1-2	Ties	Vertical jumps – events must be broken 1 st - 6 th place. HJ: 2” increments until 4 jumpers are left then 1” thereafter. PV: 6” increments until 4 jumpers are left then 3” thereafter.
2.1.4 3.8.1-8	Scoring of ties	Advancement to next meet is based on all places identified 1 st -6 th place. Modification: Ties must be broken and award points accordingly.

Meet Information

Meet Rules. The current National Federation Track and Field Rules shall govern UIL track & field meets. Requests for track and field rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the UIL. The National Federations assists in answering rule questions whenever called upon by the UIL Staff.

Championship Meet Format. In all conferences, four contestants shall qualify from district to area; four from area to regional; two from regional to state, with a wild card 9th qualifier based on next best performance (all regions).

Wheelchair Division. This division includes participants from any conference 1A-6A. The top nine (9) performances that meet the UIL designated qualifying standards will advance to the state meet. **Participants must submit a qualifying mark or performance [HERE](#) to be considered for participation at the state meet no later than 12:00pm on April 21, 2024.** A qualifying performance may be obtained during the regular season, district, area, regional or Paralympic events from spring 2024. **The UIL recommends that Wheelchair athletes represent their schools by participating in the district, area and regional meets.**

Wheelchair Division Qualification Standards. Participants must meet the following standard for each event in order to submit an entry to the state meet.

Event	Boys	Girls
100M	:40	:45
400M	2:40	3:00
Shot Put	7'0" - 4K	7'0" - 6lbs

Wheelchair Participation Form. If you are a Meet Director of a post-season Track & Field Meet and a wheelchair athlete competes at your meet, please fill out the form in its entirety. This will allow the UIL to follow up with athletes to ensure they submit an entry to be considered for the State Meet.

Contacts & Resources for Wheelchair Division

- CENTRAL, SOUTH AND WEST TEXAS REGION
Wendy Gumbert 512-914-3152 (cell)
wgumbert@hotmail.com
- DALLAS/FORT WORTH METROPLEX & EAST TEXAS REGION
Paul Johnson 817-602-0243 (cell)
pjohnson@swaasports.org
- HOUSTON & GULF COAST REGION
Nolan Griffin 903-754-4913 (cell)
nolan.griffin@houstontx.gov
- NORTH TEXAS & PANHANDLE REGION
Joe Chris Rodriguiz 806- 683-6978(cell)
joe@onechairatatic.com

District and Area Meets.

District Meet Deadline is April 6, 2024

MileSplit

- District Meet Hosts
 - [Setting up your District Meet](#)
- [How to submit entries for District](#)
- [Find your District Meet Here](#)

Area Meets. Area sites will be facilitated by mutual agreement between the two designated districts. Schools should contact the DEC chair for district information. **Area Meet Deadline is April 13, 2024.**

- Unless mutually agreed otherwise (corresponding districts getting one vote each), districts located more than 150 miles apart may conduct a vote between all schools involved to cancel the area meet.
- With approval of the majority of schools in that area (corresponding districts), district meets can be skipped and the corresponding districts could elect to go straight to the Area Meet (with no district meet). In this scenario, the top four finishers in each event would advance to the Regional Meet.

Entries. Qualifiers will be certified to the regional director by the district director. The regional director will certify state entries to UIL office.

- Each qualifying school should follow the entry guidelines set forth by each individual regional site.

Regional Meets.

Regional Sites and Directors. Regional sites and directors may be found on the UIL website. <http://www.uil texas.org/track-field/regional-sites>. Regional Meet deadline is April 19-20, 2024.

Fees and Schedules. Regional directors shall post a notice of entry fees for all regional activities.

Representation.

- In individual events, a school may enter in the next higher meet only the individuals that qualified and only in that particular event.
- If a qualified contestant cannot enter the next higher meet, then the alternate (next eligible finisher) shall be eligible to participate.
- In relay events, qualification is by school and not by the individual. Individuals who qualify only on a relay team may not enter an individual event in the next higher meet unless they qualify for that individual event. Relay team members may be substituted or changed with an eligible participant.

Scratches. Schools should be permitted to scratch and add according to approved meet committee regulations determined in the meet instructions. Individual or relay events will be subject to changes under the following suggested guidelines:

- Meet director must establish and publish a deadline for all scratch and replacements.
- An athlete may regain academic eligibility at the time of the scheduled regional meet and be listed as a member of a relay team. They must be academically eligible at the time they actually compete.
- An athlete may lose their eligibility because of academic regulations and they should be permitted scratch.
- For an individual event, the meet director may call up the next qualifier to fill that event. The meet director shall determine if time permits and an eligible participant may be added to the vacated places.

Meet Schedule. The director of the meet shall see that events start at the time announced.

- No excuses shall be accepted for late arrival to an event.
- Any contestant who fails for any reason to report at the time an event is announced shall forfeit her/his right to compete.

Order of Events. Finals only with the 3200m held as the first event or running prelims and the 800m and 1600m in the appropriate order of the finals schedule.

Running Events	Girls	Boys
3200-meter run *	X	X
400-meter run	X	X
800-meter run*	X	X
100/110-meter hurdles	33"	39"
100-meter dash	X	X
800-meter relay	X	X
400-meter dash	X	X
300-meter hurdles	30"	36"
200-meter dash	X	X
1600-meter run *	X	X
1600-meter relay	X	X
Field Events		
Discus	1-kg	1.6kg
High Jump	X	X
Long Jump	X	X
Pole Vault	X	X
Shot Put	4-kilo	12-lb
Triple Jump	X	X

Races of 800m and Longer.

The primary objective is to conduct an event **safely and fairly**. To help accomplish these objectives, it is very important that events be conducted **within the rules** and as **consistent** as possible throughout the season.

To achieve safer and more consistent competitions in track and field, the recommendations shall be utilized at all events hosted by UIL schools and are within NFHS rules, thus do not represent a change. Best practices should be adopted throughout the season; subsequently, athletes and coaches will know what to expect when planning their competitions and be prepared for the championship meet situations.

With elimination rounds for all running events of 400 meters or less, these standards apply only to events starting at 800 meters and longer, specifically the 800 meter, 1600 meter, and 3200 meter races.

The following table includes the description of the running events where **there are more competitors than available lanes** on the track.

Meet Level	# of athletes	800m	1600m	3200m
District	8 or less	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall
	9 or more	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley
Area	8	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall
Regional	16	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley	Two waterfall alley
State	9	Individual lanes	Single waterfall	Single waterfall

Starting positions for district, area and regional can be determined either

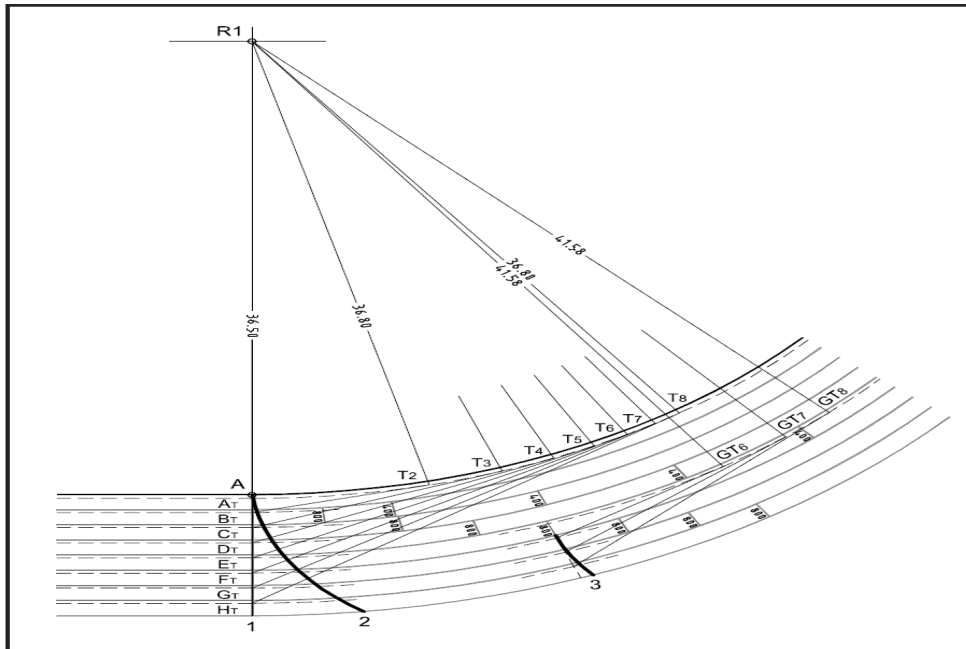
- By random draw or
- By the seeding process used in the selection meet leading to this competition.

** State meet will be random draw with preferred lanes for the regional champions.

To establish an alley on a standard 8 lane track:

- From the 800M start line on lane 5, extend a straight line to the outside edge of lane 8.
- At the right side edge of lane 3, measure the distance from the start line to the back edge of the waterfall line.
- Then from the extended straight line on the outside edge of lane 8, measure forward the distance taken from lane 3 and mark that point.

- Using 2" tape from the outside edge of lane 5's 800M start, extend the tape to the marked spot on lane 8, causing it to curve between the two points.
- On diagram, Line 1 = common finish line, Line 2 = 1600M waterfall, Line 3 = alley



Events and Scoring. A participant may be allowed to compete in a total of three running events (including relays) and no more than five events total. A participant could compete in five field events provided they are not in a running event.

- Scoring shall be 1st-6th place and points will be awarded 10-8-6-4-2-1. Relays will be 20-16-12-8-4-2.
- Fully automatic timing is recommended and all manual times must be converted by NFHS calculation requirements.
- State records can only be set at the State Meet.

Equipment and Implements. All track and field markings and equipment must comply with the National Federation Track and Field specifications. Implements and vaulting poles must be verified by the meet referee. Procedures must be in place to weigh implements, check specifications and verify the vaulting pole is legal for the weight of the contestant.

Uniforms. Each competitor shall wear a school issued track top and bottom or one-piece uniform per the NFHS specifications.

- Male participants must wear a loose-fitting track bottom, and they must wear shorts over the one-piece suit of compression style bottoms.
- Closed leg briefs are acceptable for girls, however high-cut apparel shall not be worn.
- Bare midriffs are not allowed for participants.
- Visible undergarments must meet the NFHS specifications including the relay members.
- Jewelry and wristwatches are allowed by NFHS rules.

Meet Duties and Responsibilities of Officials. The district, area and regional meet directors will have charge of the meets. The University Interscholastic League Athletic Director shall have general charge of the State Meet.

- *Meet Director*- Each meet will be under the direction of a meet director. The meet director will supervise the conduct of the meet and perform such duties to guarantee the competition will run smoothly. Directors are responsible for providing officials, securing entries, heating and seeding, arranging for programs and other such matters as may be required for the proper conduct of the meet.

One referee, two or more inspectors, three or more field judges, four or more judges at the finish, three or more timekeepers, one starter, one clerk of the course, one scorer, one clerk on the field, one marshal, one announcer, and one such assistant to these officials shall be provided.

- *Meet Referee*- The referee is directly in charge of activities during the meet. The referee has the sole authority for ruling on infractions or irregularities not covered within the NFHS rules.
- *Games Committee*- The games committee will have general supervision of the meet and will determine the administrative procedures, terms and conditions that will govern the competition. A games committee should be appointed and its jurisdiction should be determined and announce prior to the start of the meet.
- *Jury of Appeals*- A jury of appeals, if appointed, will serve as the final board of appeals. The UIL office will not overturn any decision by a meet referee or jury of appeals. A coach first appeals to the referee. If the coach feels that the terms and conditions of competition or the application of the rules have been misapplied or misinterpreted, a written appeal must be made to the jury.

Situations which are subject to appeal include, but are not limited to:

1. Misapplication of the rules which must be filed within 30 minutes after the announcement of event results.
2. Correction of clerical or team scoring errors which may be corrected up to 48 hours after the end of the meet, unless another time period is specified in advance by the games committee or meet director.
3. Correction of meet results involving an ineligible participant which may be made at any time.
4. Failure to follow a procedure contained in the terms and conditions of competition announced in advance by the games committee or meet director. This would include such items as the time schedule, the number of qualifiers to advance, number of trails, etc.

Non-appealable situations:

1. Any judgement decision pertaining to violations or alleged violations of the rules.
 2. A decision made by the finish judges or timers that does not involved misapplication of a rule or the terms and conditions of competition.
 3. Whether a start is fair and legal
- *NOTE: Section 4-6: The referee has the sole authority for ruling on infractions or irregularities not covered within the rules.

Checklist for Meet Directors

Meet Responsibilities (120 days out)	Completed
Facility and Arrangements	
Conflicts with other school events	
Check facilities as to rule specifications	
Course Map	
Restrooms	

Information to Participating Schools (60 days out)	Completed
Entry Forms	
Entry Instructions and Fees	
Scratch Process	
Bibs and Chip Devices	
Care of Course/Course Use	
Public Access	
Entrances	
Officials	
Timing and Results	
Concessions	
Ticket Prices	
Warm-ups	
Restrooms	

Staffing- Assign	Completed
Officials	
<i>Meet Committee (Referee, Jury of Appeals, Finish Judges, Other knowledgeable persons to comprise an additional number of committee members (3-5 recommended))</i>	
<i>Clerk of Course</i>	
Workers	
<i>Results</i>	
<i>Athletic Trainers</i>	
<i>Program and Concession Sellers</i>	

Equipment (14 days out)	Completed
Public Address System/Secure Announcer	
Timing and Results System (Timing Mechanism and Start Gun/Horn)	
Check/Organize Awards	

Meet Management Responsibilities (days before meet and during meet)	Completed
Heat or seed meet if box seeding is used for start – UIL has a format if needed	
Heat sheets prepared and packets stuffed	
Double check all timing equipment	
Supplies	
<i>Gun, shells (if starter not providing own)</i>	
<i>Clip boards (for start clerk)</i>	
<i>Staple gun (for posting results)</i>	
Hospitality	
Officials Meeting- conducted by Meet Referee	
Coaches Meeting	
<i>Last minute scratches</i>	
<i>Meet start, finish results and state meet entry report</i>	
Restrooms	
Awards	
Scoreboard	
Post final results after each race – 30 minutes (wait for official results)	

Post Meet Responsibilities (immediately following meet)	Completed
Results Distributed	
<i>Teams</i>	
<i>Media</i>	
<i>Regional Director!!</i>	
File records and results	