

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football

National Collegiate Athletic Association and UIL rules will be observed with the following modifications:

- The games for seventh and eighth grade will have eight-minute quarters with ten minutes at half-time.
- The home team will wear dark-colored jerseys. (Coaches should check with opponents to avoid conflict).
- The home team will furnish an adult timekeeper, chain crew, and a football.
- Eighth grade will play with regulation-size football.
- A designated intermediate-size football will be used in seventh grade only.
- **There is no over-time provision for middle school football. Games that end in a tie will be recorded as such.**
- Football is a no-cut sport.

(12-11-08)

The team with the best division win/loss record will be declared division champions. In case of a tie, all teams involved will be declared co-division champions. If there is a championship game, the division champion will represent EPISD in the contest.

In case of a tie for Division Champion, we will use the following to decide which team will represent their division in the championship game.

1. Head to head competition.
2. If there are two teams who tie for the division champion and the teams tie in head-to-head competition, then the teams will flip a coin to determine who will go to the city championship game. The coin flip will be administered by an athletic director, the principals and head coaches.
3. If there are more than two teams tied for the division champion and there is no clear head to head winner, the teams will flip a coin with the odd coin going to the city championship game. The coin flip will be administered by an athletic director, the principals and head coaches.

Volleyball

National Federation volleyball rules will be observed with UIL modifications.

- The height of the net will be 7' 4 1/8" for seventh and eighth grades.
- Eighth grade teams must serve overhand.
- Eighth grade teams may use the libero position.
- Each team will provide one volleyball with the school's name marked on it.
- The home team will be responsible for furnishing a scorekeeper and libero tracker. Each team provides one adult linesperson.

(11-25-08)

The division standings will be used to determine seeding for the divisional tournament. If there is a tie in the division standings the following will be used as a tie-breaker for seeding the division tournament play:

1. head-to-head competition
2. coin flip

Division Tournament champion will be declared division champions and will advance to the city championship tournament.

Volleyball Participation Rule

It is the responsibility of the team that does not meet all requirements to notify the athletic office the day preceding the contest.

In both 7th and 8th grade games each team must carry a minimum of 13 athletes. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many team members as possible. If the minimum number of 13 athletes is not met, the match will be played out in its entirety. However, the team committing the violation will forfeit the match. If neither team meets the 13 minimum player requirement, both teams' records will reflect forfeits (or losses).

7th Grade Participation Rule: Coach will divide the team into two squads that are as equal as possible (minimum of 13). Squad 1 will play in the first game. Squad 2 will play in the second game. If a third game is needed, coach may play any combination of athletes.

8th Grade Participation Rule: Coaches may or may not use the libero at the 8th grade level. Each player in uniform (minimum of 13) will play before the match is concluded. Coaches must play all athletes that are suited out (8th graders must serve overhand).

*Penalty for team not playing all students suited out will be forfeiture of match.*If a team uses a libero they must provide a tracker at the score table.

Basketball

National Federation Basketball rules will be observed by boys and girls with UIL and EPISD modifications.

- All games will use composite balls.
- Each team will provide one basketball.
- There will be two officials per game.
- Playing time will be eight-minute quarters for 8th and 7th grade, one minute between quarters and five minutes between halves. There will be an eight minute pre-game warm-up between 7th and 8th grade games.
- Coaches should discourage zone defense and encourage man-to-man defense.
- The home team will wear light-colored uniforms. Coaches should check with opponents for possible conflict.
- The home team will be responsible for furnishing an adult scorekeeper. The visiting team will be responsible for furnishing an adult timekeeper.

(11-25-08)

The division standings will be used to determine seeding for the divisional tournament. If there is a tie in the division standings the following will be used as a tie-breaker for seeding in the division tournament play:

1. head-to-head competition
2. coin flip

The teams that win their respective divisional tournaments will be declared division champions and will play for the district championship.

Basketball Participation Rule

Each team must carry a **minimum of 14** athletes. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many team members as possible. If the minimum number of 14 is not met, the match will be played out in its entirety. However, the team committing the violation will forfeit the match. If neither team meets the 14 minimum player requirement, both teams' records will reflect forfeits (or losses).

The Participation Rule will be in effect for all games except the Divisional Tournament and District Championships

- The team that does not meet all participation requirements must inform the athletic office the day preceding the contest.
- The team is divided into two equal units.
1st Unit plays – 1st Quarter 2nd Unit plays – 2nd Quarter
Example: If you have 14 members divide one unit into 7 and the other into 7. You may combine them any way you like during their quarter but they should each play at least 4 minutes. You may not pull players from the first unit to the 2nd unit unless you have less than 10 players. If you have less than 10 players, the opposing coach will randomly draw a player from the first unit to play with the second unit. This must be done prior to the game.

First Half

- You must submit your squads for the first half prior to the start of the game. You may not change your line-up once it has been submitted.
- It will be the responsibility of the official book keeper and the coaches to monitor each other. The bookkeeper should notify the coach immediately in order to rectify the mistake. If he chooses to keep the wrong players in the game, it should be noted and reported to the athletic office the following morning. This infraction will lead to a forfeit. It is important that an adult be the official bookkeeper to help monitor this rule.

Second Half

- There are no restrictions.

Basketball Press Rule

A team shall stop the press (of any kind) immediately if they are 20 points ahead of the opposing team. This is a great opportunity for more players to participate and also to work on other aspects of the game.

- 1st Notice -Verbal Warning
- 2nd Notice -If a team does not adhere to the warning the coach will be assessed a technical foul and the opposing team will shoot free-throws and receive possession of the ball.
- 3rd Notice – Second Technical assessed to the coach and he/she will be ejected from the game. If this occurs, understand that you will also miss the next game.

Track and Field

National Federation rules with UIL and El Paso Independent School District modifications will **be observed. There will only be one classification for boys and girls at each level.**

The boys' 7th & 8th grade events are:

2400 Meter Run	High Jump
400 Meter Relay	Long Jump
800 Meter Run	6 lb. Shot (7th)
110 Meter Intermediate Hurdles (36")	4 Kilo Shot (8th)
100 Meter Dash	
800 Meter Relay	Junior Discus-1 Kilo
400 Meter Dash	(wooden or rubber)

200 Meter Low Hurdles with 300 marks (33")
200 Meter Dash
1600 Meter Run
1600 Meter Relay

Triple Jump

The girls' 7th and 8th grade events are:

2400 Meter Run
400 Meter Relay
800 Meter Run
100 Meter Hurdles (30")
100 Meter Dash
800 Meter Relay
400 Meter Dash
200 Meter Low Hurdles with 300 marks (30")
200 Meter Dash
1600 Meter Run
1600 Meter Relay

High Jump
Long Jump
6 lb. Shot (7th & 8th)
Discus
Triple Jump

Rules Clarifications

- The 400 Meter Relay will be four consecutive legs of 100 meters each with appropriate staggers.
- The 800 Meter Run will be run with a half-stagger.
- The 400 Meter Dash will be run in lanes.
- The 800 Meter Relay will be run in lanes with a double stagger.
- The first leg of the 1600 Meter Relay will be run in lanes with appropriate staggers. Number-two person will break for the pole after he/she has run one turn in his/her lane (same as high school).
- The length of the baton will not exceed 11 1/2 inches. The use of tape in wrapping the baton is prohibited.
- Shoes must be worn. Only racers or short spikes may be used.
- Hats, headbands, and jewelry are not allowed.
- ***Starting blocks will be used up through the 400 Meter Dash, to include all relays.**
- The 200 Meter Hurdles for boys will be 33" high, girls will be 30", and will start at 200 meter marks and use the 300 meter hurdle lines (6 hurdles).
- Only three (3) trials in the field events will be given, except in the final meet where eight qualifiers will be given four (4) trials.

Track Participation Rule

- ***A contestant may participate in only four events. (No more than 3 running events.)**
- Three contestants from each school per event may be entered.

- A contestant may run only two open events of 400 meters or more. This does not prohibit him/her from running a leg in the 1600 Meter Relay.
- Track is a “no-cut” sport for EPISD Middle School Programs.

Track Meets

- A school may enter three contestants in the individual running events and one team in a relay.
- An extra heat of runners may be allowed if coaches agree to do so prior to the meet, but will not count toward team points. These runners must be designated at the seeding meeting. In the field events, each school may enter three contestants.

The divisional meet will be held to determine the winner of each division and to qualify for the District finals. The first three places in each Divisional Meet plus the next two best times or distance will advance to the District Finals.

Scoring

Scoring will be 10, 8, 6, 4, 2 and 1 for the individual events and 20, 16, 12, 8, 4 and 2 for the relays.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation will be provided for all local competition. Coaches should order buses from the Transportation Department prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches of teams with fifteen squad members or less who desire to provide their own transportation may do so with prior approval of the principal. Adults must drive all private modes of transportation and **are liable in case of accident or injury**. Drivers must have proof of insurance, a copy of current vehicle inspection sticker and parent permission on file in the principal’s office. Vehicles must have a seat belt for all occupants. Only coaches and athletes/managers listed on the team eligibility form may ride the bus to and from an event.

9/27/06

AWARDS

Awards to Individuals: A participant school may not give and a student may not accept awards for participation in interschool competition in excess of \$10 per year (total for all UIL school activities).

Certificates will be awarded as recommended by the principal and coach.

EQUIPMENT

Coaches will adhere to the equipment purchasing and distribution policies in the general section of this handbook. Equipment colors may not be altered. Colors of jerseys, pants, and especially helmets must remain as they are when issued. Numbering used for identification purposes should be marked on the inside surface of the equipment.

OFFICIALS

All officials will be assigned by the officials' association.