

Proposed Amendment to Playoff Structure

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This change to the current playoff structure in some sports would allow for split divisions in the postseason for 2A-6A volleyball, softball and baseball, 4A-6A soccer, and 1A-6A basketball. This change would create two state championship brackets for teams to advance through the postseason for these conferences in volleyball, softball, baseball, soccer and basketball.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This amendment would follow the format used for the current 6A football championship structure. All schools in the conference would remain in their assigned district per the 2024-26 alignment. For conferences impacted by the proposed modified playoff structure, the top four teams from each district will advance to the playoffs as occurs in the current structure. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships after district certification.

C. Proposed Recommendation

The Coaches Manuals of applicable activities would be amended as noted below:

Teams Advancing to the Playoffs – Basketball

Conference 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A: the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships.

- Ranking Schools: Enrollment figures submitted in October 2023 for the 2024-2026 reclassification and realignment process will be used to determine Division I and Division II representatives.
- Enrollment figures utilized for determining Division I and Division II can be found on <https://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

Teams Advancing to the Playoffs – Volleyball

Conference 1A: The playoff structure will remain the same with the top three teams from each district advancing to the playoffs to compete for one state championship.

Conference 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A: the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships.

- Ranking Schools: Enrollment figures submitted in October 2023 for the 2024-2026 reclassification and realignment process will be used to determine Division I and Division II representatives.
- Enrollment figures utilized for determining Division I and Division II can be found on <https://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

Teams Advancing to the Playoffs – Softball and Baseball

Conference 1A: The playoff structure will remain the same with the top two teams from each district

advancing to the playoffs to compete for one state championship.

Conference 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A: the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships.

- Ranking Schools: Enrollment figures submitted in October 2023 for the 2024-2026 reclassification and realignment process will be used to determine Division I and Division II representatives.
- Enrollment figures utilized for determining Division I and Division II can be found on <https://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

Teams Advancing to the Playoffs – Soccer

Conference 4A, 5A & 6A: the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest enrollments, as submitted in October 2023 are bracketed into Division I and the other two schools are bracketed into Division II, with both divisions playing for separate state championships.

- Ranking Schools: Enrollment figures submitted in October 2023 for the 2024-2026 reclassification and realignment process will be used to determine Division I and Division II representatives.
- Enrollment figures utilized for determining Division I and Division II can be found on <https://www.uiltexas.org/alignments>

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

No anticipated additional fiscal impact to schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

The Standing Committee on Athletics moves that the Legislative Council pass this amendment, to be effective August 1, 2024, if approved by the Commissioner of Education.