

BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES NEW ADDITIONS

Why have inter-school activities?

Participating teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Students learn to win without boasting and to lose without bitterness.

Self-motivation and intellectual curiosity are essential to the best academic participants. Artistic commitment and a desire to excel are traits found in music participants. Physical training and good health habits are essential to the best athletes. Interscholastic competition is a fine way to encourage youngsters to enrich their education and expand their horizons.

Leadership and citizenship experiences through interscholastic activities help prepare students for a useful wholesome life. It's fun to compete.

Superintendent Responsible for UIL Activities

UIL rules are made by the member schools and include penalties to schools, school district personnel, and student participants. The superintendent is solely responsible for the entire UIL program. All activities, events, and personnel are under the jurisdiction of the superintendent. It is imperative that the booster clubs recognize this authority and work within a framework prescribed by the school administration.

Role of the Booster Club

Booster clubs are formed by school patrons to help enrich the school's participation in extracurricular activities. It is a violation of the UIL athletic amateur rule for booster club funds to be used for non-school purposes. The fund raising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today's economic climate.

The majority of activities supported by booster clubs are related to UIL activities. Since UIL rules regulate what UIL participants, sponsors, and coaches may and may not accept, it is important that booster clubs are aware of these rules.

Relationship with the School

- The superintendent or designee has approval authority over booster clubs and should be invited to all meetings.
- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct duties of a school district employee. The schedule of contest, rules for participation, method of earnings letters, and all other criteria dealing with inter-school programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.
- All meetings should be open to the public.
- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and kept on file at the school.
- School administration should keep booster clubs informed concerning all school activities.

Expenditure of Funds

- Booster club funds shall not be used to support athletic camps, clinics, private instruction or any activity outside the school.
- Booster groups or individuals may donate money or merchandise to the school with prior approval of the administration. These kinds of donations are often made to cover the cost of commercial transportation and to cover the costs for out of town meals. It would be a violation for booster groups or individuals to pay for such costs directly.
- To avoid violation of the UIL amateur rule, money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the school to use at its discretion.

- Coaches and directors of UIL academics, athletics and fine arts may not accept a petty cash fund or a miscellaneous discretionary fund. All funds must be given to the school administrator and spent at the discretion of the school, with the approval of the school board.
- Coaches and director of UIL academics, athletics and fine arts may not accept more than \$300 in money, product, or service from any source in recognition of or appreciation for coaching, directing or sponsoring UIL activities. The \$300 limit is cumulative for a calendar year and is not specific to any one particular gift. The district may pay a stipend (fixed at the beginning of the year) as part of the annual employment contract.
- Booster clubs can not give anything to students, including awards. Check with school administrators before giving anything to a student, school sponsor or coach. Schools must give prior approval for any banquet or get-together given for students.
- Individuals should be informed of the seriousness of violating the athletic amateur rule. The penalty to a student athlete is forfeiture of all varsity athletic eligibility for one calendar year from the date of violation. Student athletes are prohibited from valuable consideration for participation in school athletics (anything that is not given or offered to the entire student body on the same basis that is given or offered to an athlete). Valuable consideration is defined as tangible or intangible property or service, including anything that is wearable, useable or saleable. Saleable food items or trinkets given to athletes by students, cheerleaders, drill team members, little/big sisters, school boosters, parents of other students, teacher, or others violate this rule.
- Homemade “spirit signs” made from paper and normal supplies a student purchases for school use may be placed on students’ lockers or in their yards. Trinkets and food items cannot be attached. Yard signs made of commercial quality wood, plastic, etc, must be purchased or made by the player’s parents or returned after the season.
- Parties for athletes are governed by the State Executive Committee interpretation of Section 441:

VALUABLE CONSIDERATION SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT:

1. Pre-Season. School athletic teams may be given preseason meals, if approved by the school.
2. Post-Season. School athletic teams may be given post-season meals if approved by the school. Banquet favors or gifts are considered valuable consideration and are subject to the Awards and Amateur Rules if they are given to a student athlete at any time.
3. Other. At any time school athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served, provided all students from that high school are invited to attend for the same fee and on the same basis as the athletes or the athletic team. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything that is not given to all other students.

ADDITIONAL VALUABLE CONSIDERATION THAT SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT:

Examples of additional items deemed allowable under this interpretation if approved by the school, include but are not limited to:

1. meals, snacks or snack foods during or after practices;
2. parties provided by parents or other students strictly for an athletic team

Local school district superintendents continue to have the discretion to allow student athletes to accept small “goodie bags” that contain candy, cookies or other items that have no intrinsic value and are not considered valuable consideration.

Fund Raising

- Fund raising projects are subject to state law. Non-profit status may be obtained from the IRS.
- Community-wide sales campaigns should be coordinated through the school administration to minimize simultaneous sales campaigns.
- Sales campaigns should be planned carefully to ensure that the projects provide dollar value for items sold, and that most of the money raised stays at home, otherwise donations are often more rewarding than letting the major part of the money go to outside promoters.
- Fund raising activities should support the educational goals of the school and should not exploit students. Activities and projects should be investigated carefully before committing the school's support.

Written Policies

Booster clubs should develop and annually review policies to cover the following areas:

- How to plan and publicize meetings.
- Methods of financing the club; compliance with tax laws; administering funds; methods of bookkeeping.
- Election of officers.
- Taking, distributing and filing minutes.
- Effective communication – press releases, etc.
- Proper interaction with fine arts directors and academic and athletic coaches through lines of authority as established by the school board.
- Sportsmanship code governing behavior of booster club members and fans at contests, treatment of officials, guest, judges, etc.
- Plans to support the school regardless of success in competition, keeping the educational goals at the forefront of all policies.

What Parents and Fans Can Do

- *Help* the school conduct fair and equitable competition: adhere to rules, uphold the law, and respect authority.
- Remember that officials are human and make mistakes, and respect their decisions.
- Delegate authority to the school, then back up the decisions made by the school.
- Set standards by which you expect children to conduct themselves, and live by those standards yourself.
- Be aware of capabilities and limitations of young people; don't have unrealistic expectations.
- Let your children live their own lives – not relive your life.
- Be involved in areas in which your child is not involved, thus contributing to school unity and spirit.
- Show respect to the opponents of your children.
- Praise – don't criticize - all youngsters.
- Be attentive to the need of students.
- Remember – The classroom comes first!