



PRESEASON BULLETIN

To: TASO Football Officials

From: Rod McLain

Date: 8/20/24

Re: Interschool Scrimmages

Fellow Officials,

After our first week of interschool scrimmages (scrimmage between two or more different teams) it is important we all remember the following as we begin our second and final week.

Player Uniforms

The UIL/TAPPS recognize an intersquad scrimmage as a game, and all rules regarding player uniforms and equipment apply, just as they do in any regular season or playoff game. Players are required to have numbers and **ALL** of the required equipment. Players without a number on their jersey are not allowed to participate. Players wearing shorts are not allowed to participate.

Scrimmage Attire – Scrimmages will be treated like a game from a uniform standpoint. No shorts will be allowed, and jersey numbers must be legal position numbers. (excerpt from the 2024-2025 UIL Football Coaches Manual)

If an entire team arrives for an interschool scrimmage and that team is wearing jerseys without numbers, shorts or missing other mandatory equipment, TASO officials should inform the coaches that the officials are not allowed to officiate a game unless both teams are equipped according to rule. You should only work parts of the scrimmage that involve all players properly equipped. If that does not happen, our officials should very politely leave and not take part.

Tinted Eye Shields

Tinted eye shields, no matter the level or color of tint, are **NOT** allowed during interschool scrimmages. There are no exceptions to this rule. Players with tinted shields are not allowed to participate and should be sent off the field until they comply with the rule.

Drones

Drones are not allowed within the playing enclosure during interschool scrimmages. If a drone is present, please ask the coach to remove the drone. If they refuse, politely inform the coach that our officials are not allowed to officiate with drones flying within the playing enclosure, and if it is not removed our officials must leave the game.

Player Disqualifications and Coach Ejections

It is not unusual for coaches at interschool scrimmages to ask officials for some special allowances, such as to flag the fouls, but not enforce them. This is perfectly fine, but please remember, **if there are fouls that involve player disqualification or coach ejection, those participants will be removed from the game** and not allowed to return. There can be no exceptions to this.

Incident Reports

Incident Report guidelines for interschool scrimmages are the same as for every regular and postseason game. Those guidelines are available neat the back of each of our TASO Mechanics Manuals. If in doubt, fill it out.

Player Equipment

Interschool scrimmages are a great time to set the standard for player equipment that will be expected during the regular and postseason. Work with players to cover their knees, tuck in undershirts, cover pads and actually have their mouthpiece in their mouth during the down instead of just hanging from their facemask.



Guardian Caps

Guardian Caps are not allowed for UIL teams and players, including during interschool scrimmages. This week the UIL has delivered this message to coaches and there are no exceptions allowed to this rule. Players with Guardian Caps are not allowed to participate and should be sent off the field until they comply with the rule. If coaches insist that their players will continue to wear the caps, our officials should very politely leave and not take part.

TAPPS does allow teams and players to wear the Guardian Cap, but only if they comply with the following. Caps must match the current team helmet that other players are wearing, including color and logos. And the caps are **only allowed** if the coach presents a written TAPPS Waiver Form that has been approved by a TAPPS officer. This is the only acceptable waiver, and notes from doctors, parents, etc. do not apply.

If you are working a game with both a UIL and TAPPS team, the TAPPS player may wear the Guardian Cap if they meet the above requirements. UIL players will not be allowed to wear Guardia Caps.

The regular season is only a week away. Let's all give the players, coaches, schools and fans our very best, and let TASO officials be the very model of the Texas Way!

Have a great week, stay hydrated and Have Fun!

Rod McLain
President
TASO Football