

Texas Uses Instant Replay At High School Football State Championships

By [Scott McDonald](#) On 12/20/18 at 3:00 AM

Thanks to TV, Texas and the growing fervor of fans, instant replay has officially worked its way into the high school football ranks. Texas launched instant replay through its high school state championship weekend that kicked off Wednesday night in Arlington.

For the first time, instant replay was used in high school football. In the Texas high school state championships that began Wednesday night, the Class 2A Division II game went to replay five times. Four of the replays were reversed. And it's just the first game of 10 televised state championship games in the Lone Star State. There will be three games each of the next three days — Thursday through Saturday.

Texas is among the first states to use replay for high school athletic competitions, joining state associations in Alabama, Minnesota and New Jersey, [according to this report](#) from the NFHS.

The system in Texas has been years in the works, dating back to when all state championship games were first centralized at the home of the Dallas Cowboys, and all contests from 1A to 5A televised on Fox Sports Southwest. The state has since changed its classification system, with 6-man football now occupying Class 1A while all 11-man games take on Class 2A-6A, with two divisions in each class depending on school enrollment size.

The state's public school governing body for sports, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), plays its athletics by NCAA rules. And with multiple TV angles at the state championship football games, the UIL figured it was time to implement instant replay afforded to broadcasters and viewers.

"With all UIL State Championship football games at a single location, we have the technology and ability to utilize these powerful tools to make the state championships the best possible experience for coaches, players, officials and fans," UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt said earlier this year. "Instant replay will help ensure that the calls during the biggest games of the year are as correct as possible."

The National Football League implemented instant replay review in the 1999-2000 season in order to make a more perfect and exactly-called game. With improving TV technology, the replay system has seen tweaks, and it worked its way to college football.

Through the years, broadcasters and fans have hinted at the possibility of wanting replay to help the make a more accurate game ending. The live telecasts allow slow-motion replays to the audience — as does the 180-foot-wide video board at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Announcers during Wednesday night's Mart-Gruver game said replay could have reversed outcomes of state championship games in the past had it been implemented at that time. It wouldn't have made a difference in Mart's 76-33 win on Wednesday, which set a Texas state championship record for points scored by a winning team.

The Texas state championships continue Thursday morning with the

2A Div. I game, followed by the 3A DII game and the 3A DI game. Friday will see two 4A state championships and the 5A DII title game. It culminates Saturday with the 5A DI title game followed by a pair of 6A title games.