

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 @ The UHSAA Offices - 9:00 A.M.**

ATTENDEES: Mr. Luke Rasmussen, Mr. Bryce Dunford, Ms. Michelle Barber, Mr. Burke Staheli, Mr. David Warren, Mr. Zack McKee, Ms. Gina Butters, Mr. Jason Young, Mr. Josh LeRoy, Mr. Steve Gordon, Mr. Devin Smith, Mr. Nathan Marshall, Mr. Patrick Lambert, Ms. Carol Lear, Mr. Steve Marsing, Mr. Rob Cuff, Mr. Jeff Cluff, Mr. Brenan Jackson, Ms. Jan Whittaker, Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Mr. Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Mr. Michell Glazier. **Minutes:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas.

1. Welcome & Chair Business:

- A. Chair's General Observations:** Mr. Luke Rasmussen welcomed the board and thanked them for all they do for students in the state of Utah.
- B. Reverence/Thought:** Mr. Nate Marshall shared that the government shutdown reminded him of how quickly things can change. It brought back memories of Covid. He then pointed out that what is done with high school activities is still valuable and it makes a difference. He then offered a prayer.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought:** Mr. Devin Smith explained that every year his community celebrates veterans and this year he had the opportunity to speak. He heard a podcast that said Bing Crosby was the first to record the song "I'll be home for Christmas." It was written during World War II, when many soldiers were away from home. The song was a prayer, a promise and a reminder for all those who were serving and dreaming of home so their loved ones could safely celebrate Christmas at home. He then led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
- D. Approval of Minutes:** The August 21, 2025, meeting.

MOTION: Mr. David Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from the past board meeting. Mr. Zack McKee seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- E. Approval of Board Agenda:**

MOTION: Mr. Steve Gordon made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Devin Smith. The motion carried.
- F. Board Meeting Public Comment:** A parent came to address the second transfer rule. She shared the situation of her son and how the transfer rule affected him.

2. USBE Report: Ms. Carol Lear shared that Mr. Rob Cuff and Mr. Brenan Jackson recently visited and gave an annual report to the USBE board. It was a great experience and showed the board members that high school activities are being run in a very positive way.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Reports:

- A. October 1, 2025, meeting:** Mr. Steve Gordon provided a brief synopsis of the executive committee meeting.

- B. **November 12, 2025, meeting:** Mr. Josh LeRoy provided a brief synopsis of the executive committee meeting.

4. Fall Activities Report:

- A. **Boys Golf & Girls Volleyball:** Ms. Jan Whittaker said both state tournaments went well. For golf, the challenge is always finding venues. Heightened security caused some delays for entry in state volleyball, but the actual tournament went well. She then announced the winners in each classification for each sport.
- B. **Girls Soccer & Football:** Mr. Jackson announced the winners in each classification for soccer. Football is still going on for 4A/5A & 6A, so he announced the winners in each of the classifications that have finished.
 - 1. **Invitation to BOT for Football Finals Thursday:** Members of the board were encouraged to attend the event.
- C. **Girls Tennis:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs shared that everything went well in tennis. She then announced all the winners in each classification.
- D. **Cross Country:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that the state event was held at Sugar House Park for two days and the weather was very good. He then announced the boys and girls team winners in each classification.
- E. **1A Baseball:** Mr. Cluff said that only the small schools in the state participate in fall baseball, as most do not have football. 19 teams participated in the fall. First rounds were held at Maple Mountain HS and then held at Dixie HS. He announced the state championship winner.

5. UHSAA Calendar

- A. **2025-26 Calendar:** Mr. Cluff explained that it is always changing and evolving. The board was asked to check it often. He encouraged the board to download the UHSAA app.
- B. **2026-27 Tentative Calendar:** Mr. Cluff referred the board to the UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year

6. BOT Elections Update:

- A. **January Elections:** Mr. Cuff referred the board regarding the information provided. The elections will occur on January 9, 2026, for the 1A and 6A.

7. UHSAA Items:

- A. **Spirit of Sport Award (January 15):** Mr. Cuff shared that he encouraged the Executive Committee to put forward nominees for these important awards. He also asked the board for any nominees they know in their area.
- B. **Heart of the Arts Award (January 15):** Mr. Cuff shared that he encouraged the Executive Committee to put forward nominees for these important awards. He also asked the board for any nominees they know in their area.

- C. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC):** Mr. Jackson said there is a concern regarding the nutrition of students, namely drinking energy drinks before competition, which elevates their heart. Some pre-participation items are being added regarding the heart and lungs due to Covid, to keep the student athletes safe.
- D. **Christmas Moratorium (December 21-25):** This will be Dec 21-25. This is done by sport, so modifications can be made by sport. The website has the modification requests under the resource tab. The EC approved teams to only travel on January 1, due to where New Years' fell this year.
- E. **Summer Moratorium:** This will be held on June 29-July 5, 2026, and if the days are adjusted, it must be the entire school, it is not allowed to be changed by sport.
- F. **Coaches Certification:** This goes hand in hand with the credentials, and the certification must be complete to receive the credential.
- G. **Coaches Credentials:** Mr. Cluff shared that the current deadline for winter is tomorrow, November 20, 2025. Coaches should receive credentials from that order by the middle of December. This was motivated by the state school board and allows for certification of coaches around the state. Over 26,000 credentials are issued each year. Each board member was provided with a credential and encouraged to wear them at UHSAA events.
- H. **Officiating Update:** Mr. Cluff said the number of officials who have already signed up is almost the same as last year, but more should be registered soon to officiate the winter sports. It is estimated that the overall numbers will be about 3-4% higher than the previous year. He shared his gratitude to the officials who are also employed by the schools. The only sport that is lacking officials is Girls Lacrosse. He then asked for any questions.
- I. **Sportsmanship Items:**
1. **School Video Competition:** Ms. Whittaker said that schools were encouraged to submit a video and enter it into the competition for \$1,000 scholarships. She announced the winners in each classification.
 2. **Gold Star Coach Award:** One coach per school that applied will receive a certificate and the schools are asked to honor them at an assembly. They will also be entered into a pool for a state award and one female coach and one male coach in each classification will win the state award in the spring.
- J. **Women In Sports Day (Feb. 3):** This will be held at the Delta Center and women in sports will be honored and given awards. Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the NFHS, will be the opening speaker.
- K. **UHSAA Moratoriums:** A survey was sent out to schools, parents and students. Ms. Whittaker shared the results of the survey and gave an overview of the legislative meeting that was held. The survey showed that parents would like to add a week to the summer moratorium. Parents would like to move the 20 hour a week maximum for games and practice to 15 hours a week. Mr. Rasmussen and Ms. Gina Butters will approach Representative Katie Hall and explain what the board and committee are already working on with the extra week moratorium, the concerns

regarding no off-season practice or play, and potentially reducing the hours per week for practices and games from 20 hours per week to 15 hours per week.

MOTION: Mr. Zack McKee made a motion to require a second summer moratorium of one week, (all-sports), and the week will be chosen by the school each summer. It was seconded by Mr. David Warren. The motion carried.

- L. Transgender Participation:** There is a potential change to the transgender policy. The current policy was provided, but due to the change in federal law that biological males cannot participate on biological female teams, it needs to be decided if biological females can participate on biological male teams.

MOTION: Ms. Carol Lear made a motion to change Interps & Guidelines 1.1.4: Transgender Participation on page 26 of the UHSAA handbook, to require all students to use the designation on their original, unamended birth certificate for participation in UHSAA sanctioned sports. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- M. Emerging Sports Update:** Ms. Whittaker provided the list of emerging sports that met the minimum criteria. She shared that two meet the threshold: Mountain Biking and Pickleball. Mountain Biking is not interested in being sanctioned, but Pickleball representatives attended the meeting and presented why they want to be sanctioned. Pickleball previously presented to the Executive Committee and the committee made a non-favorable recommendation. The board discussed the presentation to sanction pickleball and tabled the discussion until the March meeting.

- N. Esports Update:** 70 schools have indicated they are participating, and it is expected there could be up to 80. The season will be held virtually, with the state tournament in person at Weber State on April 11, 2026.

- O. Boys Volleyball:** As boys' volleyball continues to grow, there has been a request to split 3A schools from the 1A and 2A schools.. That would make five different classifications: 1A/2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A.

MOTION: Mr. Warren made a motion to make 3A its own classification in Boys Volleyball. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- P. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT):** Soccer was held at American First Field with 24 teams participating in the final event. 48 scholarships were given to student athletes. Basketball is also starting soon. Mr. Steve Marsing shared that Unified Swimmers are currently registering and he provided a list of all that have registered so far and encouraged the board to have any students that haven't yet registered to contact the Special Olympics.

- Q. Academic All-State Windows:** 1036 athletes won the award this fall.

- R. Student Leadership Conferences:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs shared that regions have put these together and she has had the opportunity to attend some of these and they are wonderful.

- S. **Show-up for Service:** This initiative is run by the Utah Governors wife, Ms. Abby Cox, and Ms. Ashley Smith of the Utah Jazz. This initiative gives student-athletes the opportunity to share service they are participating in, and they can send in videos of that service and can potentially win an opportunity to watch a hockey game in a suite. She then announced the winners.
- T. **Cheer Items – Safety Clinics:** This is no longer handled by risk management. A sheet of options was provided to the board for their review.
- U. **1A Softball Championship:** They would like to have their own state championship, and as of now, they have eight teams participating. The Executive Committee made the recommendation that this be allowed if 1A remains with eight teams throughout the season.

MOTION: Mr. Jason Young made a motion to allow 1A to have their own state championship if they remained with eight 1A teams throughout the upcoming softball season. It was seconded by Mr. McKee. The motion carried.

8. New member school applications:

A. New school applications for 2026-27

- 1. **City Academy:** Mr. Burke Staheli made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Mr. Patrick Lambert. The motion carried.
- 2. **Deer Creek High School:** A decision was made to wait until the January 22 meeting.
- 3. **Havenwood Academy:** Mr. Staheli made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Mr. Warren. The motion carried.
- 4. **Mountain Valley School:** A decision was made to wait until the January 22 meeting.
- 5. **Wallace Stegner Academy:** The school withdrew their application.

9. Realignment 2027-2029: This was tabled until the next meeting.

10. Legal Report: Mr. Mark Van Wagoner reported on two cases. On November 20, in Denver, Colorado, the F-1 case will be appealed, with a decision being rendered in the spring. The second case is the Jenny Rowe transgender case. After the Trump administration's executive order, the plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed the case.

11. For the Good of the Order

- A. **Sportsmanship:** Mr. Cuff shared an article with the board that was very timely, due to the start of the high school basketball season.
- B. **UHSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners:** A motion was made by the Executive Committee to approve the winners. Mr. Cuff announced those winners.

MOTION: Mr. McKee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Devin Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2026