

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

**@ UHSAA Offices**

**9:00 AM**

**Members Present:** Jed Johansen, Rodney Shaw, Tim Brantley (for Todd Dawson), Josh LeRoy, Jason Smith, Jared Wright, Kevin Henshaw, Kim Monkres, Roger Arbabi, Daryl Guymon, Steve Gordon, Kade Morrell, Nate Marshall, Devin Smith, Ty Kennedy, Craig Morris, Kim Bailey, Karl Jensen, Andy Carlsen (for David Cluff), Roberta Hardy, Darin Jenkins, Teri Davis, Everett Kelepolo, Steve Marsing, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jan Whittaker, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs and Chris Shipman. **Missing:** Ryan Bishop, Craig Hammer. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. **Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the committee.
  - A. **Reverence/thought:** Mr. Everett Kelepolo pondered the question that many educators ask. How can they make a difference? He read an essay from the national winner about how thankful he was for being able to participate in athletics and the lessons it taught him.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Jared Wright shared that he was grateful for elections and the lessons they taught the students.
  - C. **Minutes of previous meeting – October 2, 2024**

**MOTION:** Mr. Darin Jenkins made the motion to approve the previous meeting’s minutes. Mr. Craig Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - D. **Deadlines for dues, CAT insurance, by-laws & arbiting fees:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas reminded the board to check with their regions to make sure all dues and fees have been paid.
2. **Football Endowment Games Report:** Mr. Rob Cuff shared details about the endowment games.
  - A. **The number of games held this year was 55 (44 games in 2008):** It was an all time high for the amount earned for the endowment.
3. **Region Visits by Staff:** Mr. Cuff shared that the staff is eager to get these completed. Please reach out to them to schedule.
4. **UHSAA Calendar:**
  - A. **2024-25 calendar:** Mr. Jeff Cluff shared that the calendar is constantly changing. He encouraged the committee to refer to it often.
    1. **Other Dates and Sites:** Mr. Cluff asked the committee how the RPI reveal went. The feedback was positive.
5. **Fall Activities Report:**
  - A. **Volleyball:** The big change was that there were only 2 games out of 3 in consolation. It went well for the most part. Mr. David Cluff asked if teams get 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> place if they could

play 3 out of 5? 5A-6A would like to remove consolation all together. 1A-4A likes the consolation. The committee members will take it back to their regions for discussion.

- B. Boys Golf:** Ms. Whittaker shared that state golf went well. The partnership with PGA is very helpful and appreciated. She then announced the state champion winners in each classification.
- C. Football:** Mr. Brenan Jackson explained that the 4A-5A-6A semifinals are at the University of Utah this upcoming Thursday and Friday for semi-finals and then next Thursday for the finals. The finals for 8P-1A-2A-3A will be held at SUU this weekend.
- D. Girls Soccer:** Mr. Jackson then shared that the semi-finals and finals were at Zions Bank Stadium. He then listed the winners for each classification.
- E. Cross Country:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that the state finals were held at Sugar House Park. It went well despite some rainy days. There were no parking issues. Highland High School had no issues on their end either. He then announced the winners in each classification. He also shared that they will need to work with park and sponsors to arrange the sale of hoodies during the state tournament next year.
- F. Girls Tennis:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs said that the state tournament was a great experience. They had good weather, and it went well overall. There are still some concerns about the UTR. They are looking for other options on what would be best for the student athletes and the tennis program overall. She then announced the state winners for each classification.
- G. 1A Baseball:** Mr. Cluff explained that the 1A baseball tournament was held at Kearns High School. It was a double elimination tournament for the first time. Attendance was down significantly unfortunately. There was great weather, and Kearns was a great host. Panguitch defeated Piute to win the state tournament. Moving forward they would like to stay with that same format. Spring baseball sites are finalized 2A will be held at BYU, 3A will be held at UVU, 4A will be held at Utah Tech, 5A will be held at BYU, and 6A will be held at UVU with the 5A finals ending at UVU also.

**MOTION:** Mr. Kim Bailey made a motion to approve the sites for spring baseball. Mr. Rodney Shaw seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**6. Current Items: UHSAA Staff**

- A. Spirit of Sport Award and Heart of the Arts Award (January 15):** Mr. Cuff explained that they are in search of nominations for these awards. It is for a student that has faced adversity. Last year the winners became section winners at NFHS. Mr. Cuff asked for the committee to think of someone at their school that deserves the honor.
- B. Two Weeks Prior Rule:** Region 11 asked Mr. Daryl Guymon to bring it back to the committee to lift the two-week restriction on all sports that have it. The purpose is to protect the starting dates. Discussion ensued and it was decided that it needs to remain, because it maintains the start date of each season. The possibility of a sub-committee was discussed. Mr. Cuff will speak with Chair Hammer to decide.

- C. Christmas Moratorium (December 22-26):** Mr. Jackson explained that the deadline to change the Christmas moratorium is November 1. It can be changed by sport. If you have any questions, you can go to the UHSAA website under schools/miscellaneous and it will show moratorium changes.
- D. Summer Moratorium:** It will be held from June 30-July 6. Mr. Jackson reminded the committee to make sure it's on their calendars.
- E. Basketball Items:** In 5A and 6A, the calendar has been updated and all state basketball will be at the University of Utah. 4A will be held at SUU. 3A will be held at UVU. 1A/2A will be held at SVC.
- F. Coaches Certification:** Course work can be done if your district approves it.
- G. Speech/Debate Sanctioning:** Mr. Shipman shared that the locations were handed out to the committee. A motion to approve those state schedules is needed.
- MOTION:** Ms. Hardy made the motion to approve the dates and times for the speech and debate state tournament. Mr. Karl Jensen seconded it. The motion carried.
- MOTION:** Mr. Wright made the motion to approve Alta High School to host the tournament of championship qualifier for speech and debate. Mr. Arbabi seconded the motion.
- H. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT):** This is increasing each year.
- I. Academic All-State Windows:** Many students earned this honor in the fall.
- J. Weight Management Update:** This starts on November 20. If there is conflict due to football, arrangements can be made.
- K. Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing shared that practice selection next year will be on October 20, 2025, which is three weeks later than previous years. The coaches would like the first meet to be on October 31, 2025, which would give them ten weeks for the season.
- MOTION:** Mr. Kade Morrell made a motion to keep the start date the same, (October 20), but to hold the first swim meet on the last Friday in October. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- 2A currently has 7 teams but needs 8 teams to qualify to receive trophies at the state tournament. The plan is to continue and give them trophies.
- Exhibition swimmers cannot be part of the top 100. F-1 Students have to be marked as exhibition swimmers.
- L. Sportsmanship Items:**
- 1. School Video Competition** was just held where every school is asked to make a video to show sportsmanship at their school. She announced the winners. The winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

2. **Gold Star Coach Award:** All the nominees have been posted on the UHSAA website. There will be female and male winner from the nominations in each classification.

**M. Volleyball Items:** The Kearns volleyball team was a no-show to the Ogden volleyball tournament. Five schools missed out on playing, because of Kearns' no-show. According to policy the committee can enact a fine. Last year a different school was fined \$500 per team plus the entry fee. The vice principal Steve Woolridge and the Athletic Director John Rowbotham called in and spoke to the committee about the situation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bailey made a motion to levy a fine to Kearns for \$500.00 per game; five games total, and to pay the tournament entry fee of \$325.00 to Ogden for a total of \$2825.00 Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. The motion was unsuccessful.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made the motion to levy a \$1,825.00 fine (\$300.00 each to five schools and the \$325.00 entry fee to the tournament host), and to suspend the head varsity coach for the first two volleyball contests the next season. It was seconded by Ms. Hardy. The motion carried. Mr. Bailey voted against the motion.

**N. Women In Sports Day (Feb. 19):** This will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

**O. Tennis Items:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs asked the committee members to go back to their regions and receive feedback about the UTR.

**P. Student Leadership Conferences:** The Show-up for Service Initiative culminated with four member schools being invited to a Utah Jazz game. They were chosen from a pool of multiple schools and a video showing their service was shown at the game. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs showed the video.

The student leadership conference in Logan was attended by Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs and she shared her positive experience at that conference. Mr. Shad Stevens worked in the past with Ms. Whittaker, and he now does retreats with Sun Rock Adventures. This is an option for any future student leadership conferences.

**Q. Cheer Items – Safety Clinics:** Mr. Morrell provided a Utah Safety Clinic Replacement Proposal that the Cheer coaches association provided. It provided three potential options. Discussion ensued. Ms. Monkres did some additional research during the lunch break and found that NFHS has several training clinics. The NFHS also has an online safety certification for Drill and Cheer. The cost is \$85 per coach. Varsity Cheer also does a course every year that could be potentially required for the coaches and cheerleaders. One option discussed was to require schools to attend a camp that has certifying standards. Mr. Cuff asked how often a coach needs to go through the Cheer training. They decided to require a certified clinic yearly, with a hands-on component, for the coach with their athletes.

**R. Coaches Credentials:** Mr. J. Cluff shared that the winter sports deadline is November 20. Coaches can go to the publications link on the website and order credentials. The Spring deadline is March 5. Credentials have been provided for the administrative staff. The

administrative credentials are not created in the office. You must make the deadline or wait until the next order is sent.

7. **Officiating:**

**A. Fall Update/Enrollment Numbers:** Mr. Cluff shared that the officiating fall numbers were great. The winter numbers are looking great overall. There are enough basketball referees for the season. Boys' and girls' lacrosse referees are lacking so far. Please encourage anyone with lacrosse experience to become a referee. Education courses for officiating have been provided to help the rural areas get more officials.

**B. Ejections/Reporting:** The numbers for football were up again. Two ejections occurred in the quarterfinals. We are over 100 ejections this year, which is up from last year. In the other sports, things were average.

8. **UIAAA:**

**A.** Mr. Kelepolo explained that the NIAAA Conference will be held in December in Austin, TX. As of today, there are 51 people from Utah that will attend.

**B.** The UIAAA Conference will be held on April 9-12, 2025.

9. **New member school applications:**

**A. New school applications for 2025-26:** Mr. Cuff turned the time over to the prospective high schools to share the details about their schools with the committee.

- 1. Deseret Peak High School:** Athletic Director Andee Bouhauis, and Principal Matt Parker, shared that they are expecting approximately 900 students to attend the new high school starting in Fall of 2025. There will be Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors the first year only, no Seniors. After the first year, enrollment is expected to increase to 1,300 students. They are hoping to be placed in the 4A classification, so they can compete with Tooele and Stansbury.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bailey made the motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees that they accept Deseret Peak's application for the 2025-26 year. Mr. Arbabi seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 2. Havenwood Academy:** They pulled out and will potentially apply again next year.

- 3. Mountain Valley School:** This is a small non-accredited religious private school in Bluffdale. K-12 with 85 students in high school.

**MOTION:** Ms. Hardy made the motion to recommend that the board not accept Mountain Valley School into membership with UHSAA, based on them not being accredited and not having adequate facilities. Mr. Jason Smith seconded that motion. The motion carried.

- 4. Others:** Layton Christian Academy requested that any UHSAA member schools who schedule a game at LCA with LCA for boys' basketball will get a free game at every level in which they compete.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marshall made the motion to accept the proposal for boys' basketball. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried with three committee members opposed.

**B. Status of 2024-25 new schools:**

1. Mr. Kennedy recommended that Vanguard become a full member in the next alignment based on how well they've done in their region. Mr. Guymon felt the same about West Field.

**10. Realignment 2025-27:**

**A. Schools by District, Charter Schools and Private Schools:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the listing and asked them to make sure the right people are listed.

**B. Timetable:** This will begin on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. Bubble schools will be created and then will be able to address the board. The rest of the timetable was provided in the meeting materials.

**C. Member School Profile:** A document was provided to the committee that shows the UHSAA Member School Profile that will be used for tied and bubble schools.

**11. Legal Report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner provided a legal report.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jason Smith made the motion to go into an executive session. Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

In the closed session, Mr. Van Wagoner shared information about the legal case.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to come out of the executive session. Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**12. Reports**

**A. 6A Athletics:** Mr. Rodney Shaw explained that they are concerned about the small number of schools in 6A. They would like more schools in their classification. Mr. Cuff explained that it will be determined on Tuesday at the Board of Trustees meeting.

**B. 5A Athletics:** Nothing to report.

**C. 4A Athletics:** Nothing to report.

**D. 3A Athletics:** Nothing to report.

**E. 2A Athletics:** Nothing to report.

**F. 1A Athletics:** Nothing to report.

**13. For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cuff referred the committee to the provided articles.

He announced the Distinguished Service Award Recipients.

**MOTION:** Mr. Darin Jenkins made a motion to accept the Distinguished Service Awards as announced. Mr. Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 @ 8:00 am (Location TBA).

**MOTION:** Mr. Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Morrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.