

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 @ 8:00 AM - Sleepy Ridge Golf Course**

**Attendees:** Chair Craig Hammer, Mr. Ross Harris (for Mr. Justin Whittaker), Ms. Rochelle Waite, Mr. Todd Dawson, Mr. Josh LeRoy, Mr. Michael Martini, Ms. Jennifer Christensen, Mr. Matt Christensen, Mr. Kevin Henshaw, Ms. Kim Monkres, Mr. Caleb Fine, Mr. Jim Crosbie, Mr. Kade Morrell, Mr. Steve Gordon, Mr. Nate Blackner, Mr. Devin Smith, Mr. Bryan Durst, Ms. Lora Nichols, Mr. Ryan Nielson, Mr. KC Olson, Mr. David Cluff, Mr. Darrin Jenkins, Mr. Everett Kelepolo, Ms. Teri Davis, Mr. Steve Marsing, Mr. Rob Cuff, Ms. Jan Whittaker, Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Mr. Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Mr. Justin Whittaker, Mr. Karl Jensen, Mr. Jeff Cluff, Mr. Brenan Jackson.

**Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

**1. Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the committee. He asked if any committee members had attended the awards banquet before. He shared that it is one of the best days of the year. He thanked the committee for attending.

**A. Welcome New EC Member:** Chair Hammer welcomed Ms. Rochelle Waite as a new member of the committee.

1. Rochelle Waite – Riverton HS – Region 2

**B. Reverence/Thought:** Mr. Nate Blackner shared that a common thing he learned in coaching sports is to learn to control what can be controlled. However, as a high school principal, he sometimes forgets this and thought it would be a good reminder for both him and the committee. He recently read an article and learned that a good leader spends 70% of their time focusing on the things that they can control. 20% of the time on the things that they can't possibly influence, and then 10% on the other things. Sometimes he finds himself flipped on that. He spends 20% on the things he can control and then 70% on the things he's trying to influence. He issued an invitation to himself and the committee to focus on what we can control.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought:** Mr. Matt Christensen reminded the committee that in the next few weeks all can watch the Olympics. High school sports also play an important role in patriotism. The mayor reached out to Mr. Christensen's school, and said they would have access to The Major, which is a 150-foot flag that is owned by the Major Brent Taylor Foundation. It was brought to the football game. It weighs 400 pounds and is so large, it went from the 25-yard line to the other 25-yard line. He recommended that the committee members reach out to the Foundation, so other schools can have the same patriotic experience.

**D. Chair's general observations:**

**E. Minutes of previous meeting:** Held on November 12, 2025.

**MOTION:** Mr. Darrin Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. David Cluff. The motion carried.

**F. Academic all-state deadlines, UHSAA Moratoriums etc.:** The committee was encouraged to refer to the Ready Reference Calendar on the UHSAA website.

**G. Updated Handbook is on the UHSAA Website.**

**H. Winter Sports Assignment Sheets:** Ms. Jan Whittaker said that a sheet is being passed around. She encouraged all to sign up and attend.

- I. **Distinguished Service Luncheon:** Mr. Rob Cuff welcomed Hannah Randall from the American Heart Association. He thanked the committee and said they are appreciated for all they do in service to the Executive Committee and for helping the UHSAA staff. He then asked several committee members to introduce the award winners at the banquet. He provided hard copies, if needed. There are seventeen recipients. Introductions should take no more than one to two minutes each. He requested they attempt to make them feel special, and to bring them to the front. He encouraged committee members to spread out and sit with the person they are introducing.
  
2. **BOT Meeting Report:**
  - A. **November 19, 2025:** Mr. Devin Smith provided a summary of the last BOT meeting.
  
3. **USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis shared that she is the Physical Education specialist. New standards are being introduced this week. Credits for Marching Band and Dance are being formulated and will be going to administrators shortly.
  
4. **Fall Activities Report:**
  - A. **Fall Results:** Mr. Cuff congratulated all the winners.
  
5. **UHSAA Calendar:**
  - A. **2025-2026 Calendar:** Mr. Jeff Cluff said that the calendar is always changing, so the committee needs to refer to it often. There was a concern that there were currently two dates for 2A Boys soccer semis. Brenan will get it corrected. In baseball, there are secured locations for 2A, 5A and 6A. There is an issue with 3A and 4A, as the venues have conflicts at the times they are needed. There are only two venues available. Kearns High School and the Raptors Lindquist field in Ogden. 4A asked for Kearns HS for May 11-14, 2026.
  - B. **2026-2027 Calendar:** If you see anything wrong let Mr. J. Cluff know.
  
6. **UIAAA: Mr. Everett Kelepolo**
  - A. **The UIAAA Conference:** This will be held in St. George on April 15-18, 2026. There will be six LPI classes with the keynote speaker Sandy Zimmerman. She won the America Ninja and is a teacher and coach. Workshops include AI and how to utilize it, nutrition, and other important topics.
  - B. **Report on NIAAA Conference in Tampa, Florida:** Fifty-three members from Utah attended. It was a great conference. Mr. Kelepolo is the new president elect for the next 3 years.
  
7. **Staff Items: UHSAA Staff**
  - A. **Sportsmanship Items:**
    1. **Sportsmanship/Gold Star Coach Award:** Each school was encouraged to nominate a coach for this award. It is on the UHSAA website.
  - B. **UHSAA Moratoriums:** Wanted thoughts on what the committee wants it to look like and feedback/thoughts on it.
  - C. **Women in Sports Day:** This will be held on February 3 at the Delta Center. All are welcome to attend. It is not just for women.
  - D. **Volleyball State Tournament:** The last few years they have been alternating the weekends for classifications. 1A/2A prefers UVU, so all state girls' volleyball will be held there. 1A will be held on October 23-24. 3A/4A will be on October 29-30. 5A/6A will be held the last weekend of October on the 27-28.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kim Monkres made a motion to approve the dates for state girls' volleyball for fall of 2026. Mr. Ryan Nielson seconded it. The motion carried.

- E. Unified Sports:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that the state Unified basketball finals will be held on March 16 at the Delta Center. The student-athletes love playing at that venue. For Track, the Unified coaches do not like sharing the track meet at BYU. They are hoping to hold a separate meet at Copper Hills. BYU is still an option. The date is being finalized. There are 41 Unified swimmers. They will compete on Thursday for 2A and Saturday for the other classifications.
- F. Academic All-State:** It is currently open and will close on February 3, 2026. Please get in any submissions before the due date.
- G. Wrestling Items:** 1A/2A girls wrestling planned for an 8-person bracket, based on previous years. They have more participants than 3A, so they are changing to a 16-person bracket. It can be done in one day.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lora Nichols made a motion to allow for a change from an 8-person bracket to a 16-person bracket in 1A/2A. Mr. Nielson seconded it. The motion carried.

South Summit high school attended the meeting and spoke regarding a wrestler's weight not being entered by the coach. Bryan Jaketta, AD at South Summit. Mr. Jaketta explained the situation that occurred. It was an oversight, due to the wrestler in question, who is the coaches' son and was marked DNP as he was recovering from an injury in football. He attended the weigh-in and held the weigh in, but it was not entered into the system correctly. The person delegated to do so did not take him off DNP, so he was missed. The coach was later taught about proper accounting. The board discussed whether any reprimand, a fine or both, should be given for the oversight. A \$100 fine and a reprimand were decided upon.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jenkins made a motion to reprimand the school and to assess the \$100 fine for not entering the weight into Track Wrestling. Mr. Nielson seconded it. The motion carried.

- H. Track Seeding Proposal:** There is a proposal from the Track Coaches Association. They would like to move all classifications into the TRI program. 2A piloted it last year and it was highly successful and liked by everyone. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** Mr. D. Cluff made a motion to approve the TRI program for all classifications. Mr. Blackner seconded it. The motion carried with one opposed.

- I. Credentials:** Mr. J. Cluff reminded the board that the deadline is early March. Spring schedules are due by Jan 15.

**J. Officials Update**

**K. Ejections Report:**

- 1. Status of coach ejections and NFHS course completions:** The first half of the season is trending to be much higher in football ejections, but ended up lower than the previous year, so it was a good year overall. There were some girls soccer ejections, but not many flagrant. No trends out of the norm. The ejections are holding steady.

- L. Spring Schedules:** These are due February 1<sup>st</sup> in Arbiter Sports.

- M. Cheer Items:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs shared that some divisionals were held last weekend and on Saturday the other divisionals will be held at Crimson Cliffs.

- N. **Softball Items:** 5A and 6A are confirmed at BYU. 4A will start in Spanish Fork then finish at BYU. There is a potential conflict with BYU's baseball team. The softball state championship games will need to be at times when they will not conflict with BYU baseball games.

**MOTION:** Mr. Blackner made a motion to stay with same format as previous years, but to start one day earlier on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Mr. Steve Gordon seconded it. The motion carried.

1A/2A softball will be held on May 7-9, starting in Spanish Fork and holding the final at BYU.

- O. **UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences:** If schools have not held them yet, Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs can help. She encouraged the schools to start looking at who they want as their representative for next year.
- P. **Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing shared that the meet management group will be holding a meeting with swim coaches on Monday, Feb 2, at 8:00 pm. They will answer any questions about state and how to enter swimmers.
- Q. **Sports Medicine (SMAC):** Mr. Shipman (for Mr. Brenan Jackson) introduced Hannah Randall from the American Heart Association. She shared that they are working on stopping deaths from sudden cardiac arrests. Forty-seven percent are involved with athletics. They want to make sure the requirements are up to date. They would like to update the requirement that plans be reviewed and updated yearly. This would meet the gold standard across the country. She also encouraged them to practice at the venues and outside games once a year. The changes for yearly review will be made for this. Ms. Jodi Parker collects data for the USBE, so if any CPR is used in the schools, please let her know.
- R. **UHSAA Moratoriums:** The summer moratorium is June 29 – July 5, 2026.
- S. **Basketball Items:** For the state tournaments, 1A will be held at SLCC, 2A will be held at UVU, 3A will be held at SUU, 4A at Weber State and 5A/6A will be held at the University of Utah.
- T. **Coaches Certification:** This information is provided in the meeting materials.
8. **Realignment 2027-2029:** Mr. Cuff explained the timetable, the meetings that will be held to decide the format and procedures, and when the decisions would be made. Mr. Marshall is currently working on a Z-score for success factors with bubble schools, to help with the alignment. They will be meeting with Mr. Aaron Brough, Director of Data and Statistics from the State Board of Education, to decide on what other potential data and statistics may be used as factors in the upcoming alignment. Potential format and procedures that will be used were discussed. Some recommendations for the Board of Trustees to consider were success factor (Z score), Having two alignments – one for football and one for the rest of the athletics and activities, and which grades to consider: 10-12 or just 10-11.
9. **Reports:**
- A. **1A Athletics:** Nothing to report.
- B. **2A Athletics:** Nothing to report.
- C. **3A Athletics:** Mr. Kade Morrell referred to Mr. Gordon, who asked about limited team membership. A family hosted a 3 on 3 basketball tournament in memory of a previous student who committed suicide and Emery and Carbon student athletes participated. He asked for clarification on whether they are allowed. In the handbook on page 40, Interps and Guidelines 1:12:1: Limited Team Membership. Item C gives exceptions. 3 on 3 is not currently allowed. The committee was encouraged

to go discuss in their regions if they would like to change this, and then it will be revisited in the next meeting.

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

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

**F. 6A Athletics:** Mr. Todd Dawson expressed realignment concerns about the number of schools in 6A and revisiting the transfer rule regarding the bullying transfer reason.

**10. For the Good of the Order:**

**A. BOT Election Results:** Mr. Cuff explained that the state school board elections occurred last weekend at Little America. 1A: A new member from San Juan School District will be the new representative starting next year, for three years. 6A: Marilyn Richards retired last year, and Mr. Bryce Dunford was appointed to finish her term, which ends on June 30, 2026. He was elected for a new three-year term. A 1A principal will be appointed by this committee for the BOT, next year. The 3A/4A superintendent's term will end in June. The superintendent's association will appoint that position and decide who the representative will be. It does not have to switch to 4A but will be who they appoint. The state school board position is decided year to year.

**B. UHSAA Super Fans/UHSAA Circle of Fame:** The awards committee met earlier this morning and made some recommendations.

**The Super Fan winners:**

1A: From Telos – Rachel Parrish

2A: From Millard HS – Grayden Worley

3A: From Juab HS – Donni Pay

4A: From Green Canyon HS – Terry Godfrey

5A: From Roy – Paul “Tex” and Lynnette Hancock

6A: From Westlake – Angela Webb

**MOTION:** Mr. Dawson made a motion to approve the Super Fans. Mr. Morrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**C. Spirit of Sport and Heart of the Arts Awards**

**Spirit of Sport:** From Gunnison – Ramiro Mendoza.

**Heart of the Arts:** No nomination has been received yet. He encouraged the committee to submit someone before next Friday.

**MOTION:** Ms. Monkres made a motion to approve the Spirit of Sport nominee. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**D. Circle of Fame:**

Joe Pereira - from Cyprus and Skyline (Swim Coach).

Kendra Tomsic - Longtime Athletic Director, coach and teacher at Rowland Hall and Grand County.

**MOTION:** Mr. Everett Kelepolo made a motion to approve the Circle of Fame nominees. Mr. KC Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2026