

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 @ The UHSAA Offices - 9:00 A.M.**

Attendees: Ross Harris (for Justin Whittaker), Rodney Shaw, Todd Dawson, Josh LeRoy, Bryan Heward (for Mike Martini), Jennifer Christensen, Matt Christensen, Kevin Henshaw, Kim Monkres, Caleb Fine, Jim Crosbie, Kade Morrell, Steve Gordon, Nate Blackner, Devin Smith, Bryan Durst, Lora Nichols, Ryan Nielson, KC Olson, David Cluff, Mike Lambson (for Karl Jensen), Darin Jenkins, Craig Hammer, Everett Kelepolo, Teri Davis, Steve Marsing, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Chris Shimpman. (Jan Whittaker excused). **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

- 1. Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the committee and thanked them for attending.
 - A. Reverence/thought:** Mr. Devin Smith shared a quote that he read recently: *Isn't it strange how paradoxical your world feels? Working out makes you feel weak...before it makes you strong. Facing your fears makes you feel terrified... before it makes you brave. In order to heal, you have to suffer. In order to have peace, you need chaos. Because life disguises growth as failure and progress as pain. But if it feels hard, it probably matters...because becoming is messy. It breaks who you were, to make room for who you're meant to be. You don't build strength by feeling powerful. You build it by showing up when you feel powerless. So, if you feel tired, uncertain and behind, you might just be in the middle of becoming, and that's exactly where you're supposed to be.* ~ Unknown author.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Bryan Durst shared that in his opinion, for some people it is a hard time to be patriotic. When things are bad we can come together and as a nation we are one people. He encouraged everyone by saying it will get better and to keep going. He then led the pledge.
 - C. Chair's general observations:** Chair Hammer explained that the section meeting was in Vegas where representatives from 11 western states meet together. He reported that things are still good on national level. He expressed gratitude for good people that are willing to serve. They are always trying to make it fair and better for kids. Mr. Rob Cuff stated that every state seems to deal with the same issues. It's nice to get together and have round tables and discuss what everyone is experiencing.
 - D. Minutes of July 31, 2025**

MOTION: Mr. Steve Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Durst. The motion carried.
 - E. Ready Reference Calendar Guides:** The below items are on the calendar.
 1. Academic All-State deadlines
 2. Eligibility lists deadlines
 3. UHSAA Moratorium dates
 - F. Member school dues, CAT insurance, By-Laws confirmation deadlines:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas provided an update on how many schools have paid and told the committee they could ask her to check their regions to see who still needed to pay.

- G. Fall Sports Assignment Sheets:** A sign-up sheet was provided and passed around to the committee, and they were encouraged to sign up to help with the state tournaments.
2. **BOT Meeting Report:** Mr. Gordon referenced the committee to the August 21, 2025, meeting summary on UHSAA website and provided a brief outline of what occurred in the Board of Trustees meeting held on August 21.
 3. **USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis stated that extracurricular activities cannot be taken for granted by anyone. There are many people in the communities who have opinions on how they should be run. She had previously discussed with Mr. Cuff some options to educate all communities about the benefits of extracurricular activities. She requested all committee members make a concerted effort to educate their communities about the importance of UHSAA. Extracurricular activities also need to be promoted and provided for special needs students. Unified Sports is already set up, parents just need to be told about the options. Additionally, sportsmanship needs to not only be promoted, but coaches need to also show good sportsmanship and be an example and hopefully parents and students will follow. Ms. Davis then thanked the committee for all they do and shared that CPR training saved a life in a school just this week.
 4. **Corporate Sponsorships:** Mr. Brandon Riley, General Manager of UHSAA Sports Properties (Play Fly) was introduced by Mr. Cuff and then Mr. Riley provided a handout that included all the UHSAA Corporate Partners and encouraged the board to support those sponsors.
 5. **Region Visits:** Mr. Cuff explained that the UHSAA directors are trying to visit every region meeting.
 - A. **Regions to be scheduled?** He asked that the regions let them know when they will be holding their next meetings.
 - B. **Region Reports, Agendas, Minutes:** Mr. Cuff reminded the committee to make sure they are reporting them to the UHSAA website. If there are any questions, Mr. Curt Pettingill in the UHSAA office can help.
 6. **Committee Assignments:** Mr. Cuff explained that the list provided has been updated and expressed appreciation to the committee members for being willing to serve. The Awards Selection Committee meeting will be held before the next Executive Committee meeting on November 12th at 7:30 a.m. in the UHSAA break room.
 7. **Football Endowment Games Report:** Mr. Cuff shared that the number of games held this year was 58. (44 games in 2008)
 - A. **Financial Report:** Gross revenue earned from football endowment games was \$576,705.00. Once expenses were paid, the total given to the foundation was \$237,337.77, which is the highest amount ever donated.
 8. **UHSAA Calendar:**
 - A. **2025-26 Calendar:** Mr. Jeff Cluff referred the committee to the UHSAA website for updates, as the calendar is always evolving. He encouraged the committee to reach out to the directors or front office if they ever see any errors or have questions, and it will be corrected.

- B. 2026-27 – Tentative calendar coming soon to UHSAA website:** This has been finalized and should be up on the website tentatively in the next few days.
- 9. UIAAA Report:** Mr. Everett Kelepolo provided a Profile of Athletic Administration.
- A. Cheer/Drill Survey:** This was sent out by ADEC, and they asked three questions regarding potential changes to the cheer and drill season length. The survey showed that the coaches would like to keep things the same. ADEC voted in favor of keeping it the same, due to the survey showing that it is what the coaches prefer.
- B. Other Items:** The ADEC conference will be held on Dec 12-16, 2025.
- 10. Follow-up Items from previous meetings and other items**
- A. Sportsmanship Items:** (Mr. Cluff for Ms. Whittaker)
- 1. Sportsmanship Report:** All schools are asked to create a video and enter it. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners in each classification. The videos are due by October 20, 2025.
 - 2. Gold Star Coach Award:** Nominations are due Nov. 1, 2025. Each school is encouraged to nominate one coach to receive the award. Those nominations will then be considered for the statewide award.
- B. Boys Volleyball Items:** A handout was provided to show the division of 3A, 2A and 1A schools and for those classifications to potentially divide 1A/2A from 3A for the state championship.
- MOTION:** Mr. Ryan Nielson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees that 1A/2A boys' volleyball be divided from 3A for the state boys' volleyball championships. Ms. Lora Nichols seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- C. Emerging Sports Form:** This is due October 15, 2025. It is only collected every other year.
- D. Golf Items:** Spring golf sites are still being finalized There have been challenges finding sites willing to host the state championships. Ms. Whittaker will send out the sites as soon as they are finalized.
- E. Esports Items:** Schools are encouraged to register as soon as possible, so classifications can be created.
- F. UHSAA Moratoriums:** Potential adjustments to the drill and cheer season were previously discussed. A letter from Representative Hall was provided, and the committee was asked to review this in their region meetings and then come to the next meeting with recommendations for the Board of Trustees.
- G. Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing provided a handout regarding Unified swimming. Unified athletes don't need to have Aktivite accounts and aren't required to get a physical. They will register through Special Olympics. Team selection is not due until October 20, due to the change in the swimming season.
- H. Officials Update:** Mr. Cluff shared that close to 2,000 officials have registered so far. There were discounts and incentives to join early. This has resulted in an increase in registrations.

Sportsmanship has continued to be a problem. We are close to 90 ejections already. The most in any previous year is 94. There has been an increase in fighting, (a punch or kick). Only 30% of the ejection reports have been submitted so far. The form to do so is located on the UHSAA website, under the officials tab. Discussion ensued regarding a recent ejection in football, where an ejected player returned to the game and played multiple downs. With a revision to the player ejection policy, allowing player appeals, if it affects the post-season, Mr. Cluff reminded the committee that appeals need to be filed within 24 hours.

GoFan ticketing is the only option for all post-season events. There will be a webinar on October 9. Mr. Cluff will send out more information.

All current surveys are on the UHSAA website in the forms section.

- I. Coaches Credentials:** Board Credentials were handed out. Credentials are not for admission. Only annual passes and silver passes are used for admission. All coaches and administrative credentials that were ordered so far have all been sent out. The next deadline is November 20, 2025.
- J. Winter schedule deadline:** The deadline to submit schedules for the winter season was September 15, 2025. 40% of schools have not entered their winter sports schedules yet. Girls' lacrosse held a scheduling meeting. The results of that meeting were sent out.
- K. 1A Baseball Update:** The 1A fall state baseball playoffs have been moved from Spanish Fork to Maple Mountain due to scheduling conflicts. Dixie HS could potentially host 1A instead of Snow Canyon.
- L. PSR Update:** Rankings are on the website under the rankings tab. Mr. Riley has contracted with KSL Sports to do the reveals. They will occur at 10 am and then the website will show these at 11 am.
- M. UVU Host Changes/Others:** Security changes will occur, due to the tragedy that happened at UVU last month.
- N. Football Items:** Mr. Brennan Jackson shared that there have been some rumors that houses within some school boundaries are being provided for students to live in so they can play for those schools. Mr. Jackson underlined that this is a complete violation. He encouraged the committee to let him know if they are aware about any of those violations in their area.

On the 31st of October, the default game time is 4 p.m., to avoid other activities that are occurring for the Halloween holiday.

Mr. Jackson requested that the committee members provide a sportsmanship reminder to their coaches to avoid huge blow-outs and to play younger players, etc. to avoid sportsmanship issues. Mr. Cluff will put the mercy rules on a one-page document and will email it to the committee to discuss in their region meetings, to see if there are potential changes needed.

The committee was asked to look at the UHSAA State Events Guidelines chart in the Handbook on the UHSAA website (page 78) and discuss whether they want to adopt the chart for every game of the season. This will be discussed in the next Executive Committee meeting.

- O. Soccer Items:** Mr. Jackson provided a handout based on his meeting with the soccer coaches' association. There has been continued increases in suspensions of soccer players and coaches. It is recommended that number of games be reduced again. The committee was requested to take this back to their regions for discussion.
 - P. Basketball Items:** A request was made to allow dual citizens in the United States and Tonga to participate in the FIBA U17 Oceania Games. Mr. Jackson recommended that this be handled similarly to the Soccer FIBA participants. This would apply to any dual citizen representing their country.
- MOTION:** Ms. Nichols made a motion to allow a basketball player to compete in one FIBA (Federation of International Basketball Association) tournament during the regular season. It was seconded by Mr. Todd Dawson. The motion carried.
- Q. Cross Country Items:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that the state information packet is available on the UHSAA website.
 - R. Wrestling Items:** Finding schools to host divisionals has been difficult, and with the new UVU security protocols, different things are being considered for 2027. A handout was provided.
 - S. Track and Field Items:** The coaches association sent out a survey to the classifications to see if they want to use same seeding. Information regarding this will be handed out at the next meeting.
 - T. Academic All-State:** The window is now open and will close on October 7th. In the larger schools, if the student is not in the matrix, they won't meet the threshold, so there is no need to submit. For the smaller schools they may, because of numbers, so seniors with grades/scores close to the matrix should still be submitted.
 - U. Speech and Debate Items:** A large packet was emailed to the committee. Handbook adjustments are being made.
- MOTION:** Mr. Durst made a motion to approve the changes to the handbook. Mr. David Cluff seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- V. Show Up For Sports Service Initiative:** Utah First Lady Abby Cox attended the committee meeting to speak about the service initiative. She explained that when students participate in serving others, it brings communities together. Students around the state have been encouraged to send in pictures and videos of their service projects to ShowupUtah.org. Three to four of those submissions go into a drawing to win tickets to a Utah Mammoth hockey game. In addition, state Unified Special Olympics soccer will be held in October. Ms. Cox encouraged all to attend, so there are fans in the stands to support the Unified athletes. She thanked the committee for all they are doing. Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs will send out more information about the service initiatives by the end of the day.
 - W. Student Leadership Conferences (Fall 2025):** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs recently attended the Region 21 student leadership conference. Mr. Karl Jensen did an incredible job. If anyone else is holding a conference, Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs would like to attend.
 - X. Theatre Items:** In the previous committee meeting, Ms. Giselle Gremmert, theater director at Hillcrest High School spoke via telephone about changes to theatre. Following that meeting. Ms.

Mackay-Whiteurs asked the committee to go back to their regions for discussion and provide their feedback. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs heard back from one region: Mr. Whittaker in Region One. Their response was no. Mr. Dawson said that Region Three is also a no to adding teams to 6A. A region theatre director was approved to facilitate the region competition.

Y. Tennis Items: The 4A play-in game will be held tomorrow. Indoor courts have been tentatively scheduled in case of inclement weather.

Z. Cheer Safety Clinics: Certification for the coaches and teams can be held in-person, online or during team camps. This will be finalized in November.

Cheer: Divisonals have been posted on the website. State assignments have also been posted on the website.

1A/2A Softball: A survey was sent out to see if any schools would be adding softball. Right now, there are eight teams in 1A. That is the minimum number allowed to have their own state tournament.

MOTION: Mr. D. Cluff made a motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees that 1A hold their own state tournament if they have all eight teams. It was seconded by Mr. K.C. Olson.

11. Realignment 2027-2029:

A. Timetable: There will be another Executive Committee meeting before the next Board of Trustees meeting. Recommendations for the Board of Trustees need to be fine-tuned before their next meeting. Mr. Nate Marshall, who helped with success factor while on the Executive Committee is now on the Board of Trustees, and can help again with success factor, if it is decided that it will be utilized in the next alignment. The number of bubble schools considered will need to be decided also. In the past, 7% to 10% has been used and success factors were used to break the ties. 6A schools would like to either add more teams to 6A or do away with 6A all together and go back to five classifications. Committee members were asked to go back to their regions for more discussion.

12. Legal Report

A. Legal Items: Mr. Mark Van Wagoner shared that the F-1 Visa hearing is scheduled with the Tenth Circuit in Denver, Colorado, in late November 2025.

13. Reports:

A. 1A Athletics: Nothing to report.

B. 2A Athletics: Nothing to report.

C. 3A Athletics: Nothing to report.

D. 4A Athletics: Nothing to report.

E. 5A Athletics: Nothing to report.

F. 6A Athletics: Nothing to report.

14. For the Good of the Order:

- A. Distinguished Service Award:** Mr. Cuff asked committee members to discuss potential nominees in their region meetings and nominate one per region, per category, by the November 1st deadline. A bio and letter of recommendation must be sent with the nomination.
- B. Super Fan Award:** Nominations are due by November 1st and one nominee per school can be sent by each school.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2025