

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

UHSAA Office

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Members Present: Craig Hammer, Jed Johansen, Rodney Shaw, Todd Dawson, Josh LeRoy, Jason Smith, Jared Wright, Ryan Bishop, Kevin Henshaw, Kim Monkres, Roger Arbabi, Daryl Guymon, Steve Gordon, Kade Morrell, James Cordova (for Nate Marshall), Devin Smith, Ty Kennedy, Craig Morris, Kim Bailey, Mike Lambson (for Karl Jensen), 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.

Minutes: Jennifer Thomas

1. **Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the committee to the meeting.
 - A. **Reverence/thought:** Mr. David Cluff shared an experience he had several years ago. A member of his community was given bad information. This person lashed out against Mr. D. Cluff personally and then lashed out at the school. In deciding how to respond, Mr. D. Cluff decided not to let being right become more important than doing what was right. He pointed out that as educators and committee members, all face tricky situations, but encouraged the committee to not let being right get in the way of doing right.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Ms. Kim Monkres pointed out that it is only a month until the elections. The last four years the nation has been divided. Ms. Monkres used to consume all news, all stations. One day she realized that her obsession was having a negative effect on her. She then found a social media account of a former History and Social Studies teacher named Ms. Sharon McMahan. Ms. Monkres has enjoyed learning from her because she shares facts. This has also helped Ms. Monkres to check the sources behind what she is hearing and to make sure it is a reliable source. Ms. McMahan has authored a book entitled “The Small and the Mighty.” One story in the book talks about a teacher who was the daughter of slaves. She became a teacher and gave service to children in her community. “What’s the next needed thing,” was her mantra. Ms. Monkres reminded the committee to not get overwhelmed as things at school ramp up, but to just follow the mantra “What’s the next needed thing.” She then led the committee in the Pledge.
 - C. **Chair’s General Observations:** Chair Hammer attended the NFHS section meeting in Whitefish, Montana. He said it was interesting to hear from other associations. Many of the same issues that Utah is dealing with are also happening in the other states.

MOTION: Mr. Steve Gordon made the motion to approve the previous meeting’s minutes. Mr. Kim Bailey seconded it. The motion carried.
 - D. **Ready Reference Calendar Guides:** Academic All-State deadlines, Eligibility lists deadlines, UHSAA Moratorium dates were discussed.
 - F. **Member school dues, CAT insurance, By-Laws confirmation:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas shared that reminders have gone out to all schools who are still missing payments.
 - G. **Fall Sports Assignment Sheets:** Ms. Jan Whittaker encouraged the committee to help with the upcoming fall state tournaments. She referred the committee to the 2025 Region Drill Competitions Schedule that was provided.

2. **BOT Meeting Report:** Mr. Jason Smith reported on the previous Board of Trustees meeting held on August 22, 2024.
3. **USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis shared that there will be a course held on October 28 entitled “Education-Based Athletics – Making the connection to Physical Education. A free book will be given out to all that sign up. In addition, two P.E. credits will be given, and the sign-up is located on the MIDAS section of the USBE website. The course ID number is: 63984. Ms. Davis is also looking for Physical Education and coaching legends for the upcoming SHAPE conference in March 2025. She asked the committee members to reach out to her if they would like to suggest someone in their schools that has coached or taught P.E. for many years.
4. **Corporate Sponsorships (Play Fly) UHSAA Sports Properties:** Mr. Cuff turned the time over to Mr. Jason Herbers with PlayFly. Mr. Herbers introduced himself and shared that things are going well.
5. **Region Visits:** Mr. Cuff referenced the committee to the page of staff region visits. He encouraged the committee to let the UHSAA directors assigned to their region know when the next meeting will occur.
6. **Committee Assignments:** Mr. Cuff shared that these assignments have been completed and referred the committee to the list in the agenda.
7. **Football Endowment Games Report:** Mr. Cuff shared that the games went well and having great weather helped with the number of fans that attended the games. This year 55 games were held, as opposed to 44 games in 2008. \$163,102.00 were raised last year. \$203,939.00 was the total raised this year, so the number of games and the amount raised is growing each year.
8. **UHSAA Calendar:**
 - A. **2024-25 Calendar:** Mr. Jeff Cluff reminded the committee to refer to the calendar often as it is always changing and being updated.
 - B. **2025-26 Calendar** – This new calendar has been put up on the UHSAA website.
9. **UIAAA Report:** Mr. Everett Kelepolo shared that the following items were brought to ADEC.
 - A. **Two Weeks Prior Rule:** It is proposed that the current two-week prior restrictions be lifted on all sports and replaced with the statement provided on page 48 in the agenda materials. Mr. Cuff requested feedback from each of the regions on their feelings regarding this. Discussion ensued.
 - B. **Other Items:** Lacrosse asked about two weeks prior. The newly proposed Track ranking system was also discussed. The higher classifications did not feel there was an issue with the current ranking system. 2A was asked to pilot the new ranking system in Track in the upcoming season in Spring 2025. The 2A committee members agreed that they are willing to pilot it this year.

MOTION: Mr. Bailey made a motion to pilot the changes to the track program qualifying standards in 2A for the upcoming season. Mr. Craig Morris seconded it. The motion carried.
10. **Follow-up Items from previous meetings and other items:**
 - A. **Sportsmanship Items:**
 1. **Sportsmanship Report (Video Competition):** Ms. Whittaker asked the committee to encourage their schools to participate.

2. **Gold Star Coach Award:** Information on this was sent out about this award yesterday. The deadline is November 1, 2024. Each school can nominate a coach.
- B. **Boys Volleyball Items:** UVU can only give one week for state boys volleyball on May 5-10, 2025. The end date needs to be moved up a week to accommodate. The season start date would stay the same. Discussion ensued. The committee felt the season end date should be changed to May 2, 2025, with the 5A & 6A tournament bracket reveal on May 3rd. The play-in games would start on May 5th. The 3A & 4A state tournament would be held at UVU on May 7-8, with the 5A & 6A tournament occurring at UVU on May 9-10.

MOTION: Mr. Jared Wright made the motion to change the above dates for Boys Volleyball to accommodate the dates that UVU has available. Mr. Roger Arbabi seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- C. **Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing shared that Region 13 & 14 will be combined for the region swimming state championship. There will not be a separate state championship for 2A. They will compete in the 3A meet but can win team trophies. A team consists of four members. To have their own state championship in 2A, there needs to be eight teams that have at least four members for each team (boys and girls). It was discovered after last year's state meets that an athlete should not have competed as a Special Olympian. Going forward, the Special Education department from each school will need to provide a letter that says the student athletes qualify as Special Olympians. In addition, it will be recommended, but it is not required that they attend three prior meets before the state tournament.
- D. **Officials Update:** Mr. J. Cluff explained that the official's early registration period has occurred. 475 have registered. This is a little bit above normal. He is expecting they will meet the threshold needed. Wrestling, cheer, and drill are also progressing well with registered officials. All is going well with winter sports.

Regarding sportsmanship, racial slurs continue to be a problem. Out of 73 total ejections, 23 were racial slurs. Conversations with teams and players need to occur in football. He requested the help of the committee to take it back to their regions and encourage the football coaches to speak with their teams.

Of the 88 ejections so far this fall, only 25 have been reported by the schools. The administrators need to file their report to UHSAA. The committee was asked to encourage their schools to file these reports.

- E. **Coaches Credentials:** These have been sent out. The second order for Admin credentials will arrive soon also, hopefully for most of the fall state tournaments.
- F. **Winter schedule deadline:** The deadline for schedules in Arbiter for winter was September 15. As of today, most schools have not submitted those schedules. Please get them in.
- G. **1A Baseball Update:** The RPI was revealed at 10:00 a.m. today. The tournament will start next weekend.
- H. **RPI Dates:** The window of the RPI being closed will be three days, as requested by the committee. Please make sure all schedules are up to date and accurate.

- I. Aktivite Update:** Mr. J. Cluff asked if there were any comments regarding Aktivite. Mr. Brenan Jackson requested the schools have the music teachers added, so they can receive valuable information regarding Solo & Ensemble. All teachers in charge of activities need to be in Aktivite.
- J. Football Items:** Mr. Jackson shared that 8-player, and 1A-2A-3A football state semi-finals will be held at Zion's Bank Stadium, with their finals at SUU. The 4A-5A-6A semi-finals and finals will be held at the University of Utah. He referred the committee to a document that outlines the rules for the school band and any music being played in the stadium during the game. This has become a problem at some football games and needs to be discussed with the schools. The committee requested that they add the announcer to the document, so there is also no talking by the announcer during the live ball plays.

MOTION: Mr. Smith motioned that they adopt the document provided regarding music and talking over the sound system during live ball plays. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Jackson then reminded the committee that the RPI release may prompt teams to withdraw from the state tournament. If a team chooses to withdraw, it needs to be done by Friday at 4 p.m. or fines may result.

- K. Soccer Items:** Soccer semifinals and finals will all be held at Zion's Bank Stadium this year. Schools need to make sure their schedules are updated in Max Preps before the release of the soccer RPI.
- L. Basketball Items:** Weber State is unavailable for the 5A and 6A state tournaments due to construction. An agreement has been worked out with the University of Utah for quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. The dates may change depending on what Utah can work out. 1A-2A will be held at SVC. 3A will be held at UVU, 4A will be held at SUU.

The AD from Layton Christian Academy addressed the committee. He formally requested that the Layton Christian Academy (LCA) Boys Basketball program be allowed an independent status in their program through UHSAA. The committee asked questions related to their region and reasoning for wanting to go independent.

The committee discussed the proposal from LCA.

MOTION: Mr. Kevin Henshaw made the motion that the committee recommend the Board of Trustees approve LCA's request to go independent in boys' basketball. Ms. Monkres seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- M. Cross Country Items:** Mr. Chris Shipman explained that the coaches' association is working hard to make sure things will go well at Sugar House Park.
- N. Wrestling Items:** Mr. Shipman referred the committee to page 51 in the meeting materials. He explained that there has been feedback on changing the state wrestling tournament schedule from Option A to Option B. This was discussed.

MOTION: Mr. Ryan Bishop made the motion to move to Option B (a two-day tournament back-to-back). Mr. Kade Morrell seconded it. The motion carried.

Weight management assessors have asked for an increase in the cost of private testing from \$15 to \$20 per athlete, due to scheduling, the time it takes to do the testing, and the increase in participation numbers in girls' wrestling.

MOTION: Mr. Bailey made a motion to change the private weight management testing from \$15 to \$20 for the 2025-26 wrestling season. Mr. Rodney Shaw seconded it. The motion carried.

Track Wrestling has changed their fee schedule, so they now have everything included in their package. The OPC is included in this. Schools would be charged \$125 for the year. No other costs would come from Track Wrestling. The schools would pay UHSAA and UHSAA would then pay Track Wrestling.

MOTION: Mr. Morrell made the motion to have the fee for Track Wrestling increased to \$125 for each school, which would just be one fee, including OPC. Mr. Todd Dawson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. D. Cluff made the motion to allow 1A to make a schedule adjustment to the state boys' wrestling tournament so that it will be starting on Friday. Mr. Darin Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

O. Track and Field Items: (This was covered by Mr. Kelepolo in the UIAAA part of the meeting).

P. Academic All-State: The deadline is October 8.

Q. Dare2Lead Student Leadership Conferences: Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs will provide a packet to give to the reps for student leadership.

R. Show up for Sports Service Initiative: This is a service project initiative by First Lady Cox and Ashley Smith of the Jazz. Students can upload a video and share what service project they completed. The winner gets a suite at a Jazz game and receives a visit from Governor Cox. This went great last year, and all schools/teams are encouraged to do so again this year.

S. Softball Items: Mr. Bailey and Ms. Roberta Hardy had a meeting and the 1A schools would like to grow their softball programs and have a state tournament. Three different divisions were combined, but some teams did not end up playing. Mr. Bailey had a proposal (Page 54) to try and have eight teams in 1A so they can have their own state tournament. This will likely not happen this year, so they will need to combine with 2A as before.

MOTION: Mr. Morris made the motion to have 1A and 2A softball combined for the state tournament. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

T. Tennis Items: The 3A and 5A girls' tennis state tournament is coming up this weekend. 4A and 6A will be next weekend. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs discussed stacking. When there is alleged stacking, it goes to the regions for discussion and sanctions. It does not go to UHSAA.

U. Cheer Items: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs, Ms. Whittaker and Mr. Cuff met with Ms. Lexi Cunningham to see if they could put the safety clinics on the fee schedule through the school districts. It will cost approximately \$100,000.00 to have someone run the clinics for all the cheer

schools in the state. Ms. Cunningham will be taking this to superintendents. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs asked for feedback from the committee regarding this. The committee decided to go to their regions and get ideas coming from the schools in what direction they want to go regarding the safety clinics. This will then be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

- V. **Article 7, Section 7 and Interps and Guidelines 2.2.3:** Mr. Cuff opened the discussion on whether this would only pertain to the varsity head coach. It was discussed if a sub-varsity coach plays an ineligible player, will they or the varsity head coach be suspended? It was decided that it needs to be more specific and state if it is the varsity head coach or the coach at that level of play who will be suspended if they play an ineligible player.

MOTION: Ms. Monkres made the motion to alter the language in Article 7, Section 7 to say that the suspended coach will be the head coach at that level of play (i.e. freshman, sophomore, JV, varsity) where the ineligible player participated. Mr. Smith seconded this. The motion carried.

11. **Realignment 2025-2027:**

- A. **Timetable:** Mr. Cuff referred to the board's timeline for the realignment. The timeline contains the extra meetings for the Board of Trustees that will take place. The first consideration will take place at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 19, 2024. The next meeting will take place on December 4, 2024. Bubble schools will be allowed to come and participate in the meeting. The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting/public hearing and will be held on December 11, 2024. All are invited to speak at this meeting. The board will listen and will not interact with the speakers. The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The second consideration of the assigned regions will be discussed and decided on. The next meeting will be held on December 19, 2024, and schools will have the opportunity to petition to move up in their classifications.
- B. **Final Format and Procedures:** Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming realignment.

13. **Reports:**

- A. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC):** The committee heard a SMAC presentation by Deonna Willie, who is a dietician. She spoke of the danger of energy drinks for student athletes. It was recommended that UHSAA make a statement like the NFHS has done regarding energy drinks, extreme caffeine consumption, pre-workout powders, pain relievers, etc. The NCAA has banned substances with excessive caffeine due to their negative effects on athletes.

MOTION: Ms. Hardy made the motion that a statement goes into the Sports Medicine handbook and the UHSAA handbook, which recommends student athletes do not use these legal substances as part of their pre-game preparation. Mr. Morris seconded it. The motion carried.

14. For the Good of the Order

- A. Distinguished Service Award:** These nominations are due November 1, 2024. Mr. Cuff encouraged the committee to make sure each region recommends someone for this award. They would like more nominations for this award. He referred to the categories provided in the meeting materials.

- B. Super Fan Award:** The due date for this award is November 1, 2024. Any school can nominate a Super Fan. The nomination needs to be sent to Mr. Cuff directly.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.