

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
9:00 AM**

In Attendance: Chair Craig Hammer, Justin Whittaker, Rochelle Waite, Todd Dawson, Josh Leroy, Michael 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), Jesse Calder (for Darin Jenkins), Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Chris Shipman, Jan Whittaker. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. Welcome & Chair Business:

- A. Reverence / thought:** Mr. Ryan Nielson shared insights from *Kids These Days*, highlighting technology's impact on children. He described helping a student with behavioral issues by engaging her interest in cross-country, which led to positive changes. He concluded with a prayer.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance / Patriotic Thought:** Mr. Caleb Fine reflected on the recent loss of his mother-in-law, expressing gratitude for life, public education, UHSAA, and the freedoms in our country.
- C. Chair's general observations:** Chair Hammer welcomed the Committee and thanked them for their attendance. Mr. Rob Cuff spoke about his upcoming retirement and acknowledged the Committee's dedication, his assistant directors, and Chair Hammer for their seventeen years together. Chair Hammer urged everyone to support athletics and advocate for student-athletes, highlighting the value of UHSAA and school administrators' efforts for Utah's youth.
- D. Minutes of January 14, 2026, meeting:**

MOTION: Ms. Lora Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes for the previous meeting. It was seconded by Mr. David Cluff. The motion carried.
- E. Academic All-state, UHSAA Moratoriums, Eligibility deadlines:** Chair Hammer reminded the Committee to check the Ready Reference Calendar and UHSAA website for important deadlines.

2. BOT Meeting Report:

- A. January 22, 2026, meeting:** Mr. Cuff provided a summary of the meeting.

3. USBE Report: No report this month; Ms. Teri Davis was excused from the meeting.

4. Winter Activities Report

- A. Winter results:** Mr. Cuff extended his congratulations to the award recipients.
- B. Basketball:** Mr. Brenan Jackson provided venue details for each classification and reported successful, enjoyable tournaments.

- C. **Wrestling:** Mr. Chris Shipman reported that the wrestling venues were successful and asked if combining boys' and girls' events was effective; the Committee agreed and wants this to continue. There was also discussion about reducing divisional bracket sizes and holding the tournament in a single day.
 - D. **Drill Team:** Ms. Jan Whittaker reported a successful season with increased participation and talent, noting that introducing co-ed teams was positive. She stated the state tournament at UVU went smoothly and congratulated the classification winners.
 - E. **Cheer:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs reported that the state tournament was a success, announced the winners for each classification, and congratulated all participants. The Committee is considering venues for next year's state cheer event: UVU for 3A/5A/6A on January 20th, SUU or UVU for 1A/2A/4A on Jan 22. 4A prefers UVU; 1A/2A are open to either site. Further regional discussions will follow. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs also addressed regional topics.
 - F. **Swim:** Mr. Steve Marsing announced the winners in each category and congratulated them, noting memorable moments at the state tournaments and describing the tournament overall as a positive experience for participants.
 - G. **Ejection Report:** Mr. Jeff Cluff referenced the Committee to pages 117-118 in the materials for the winter ejection report. Ejections in boys' basketball went down from 41 to 30. Girls' basketball and boys and girls wrestling increased a little, but nothing concerning. In boys' soccer, the ejections are being closely monitored.
 - H. **Officiating Update:** This year marked the most registrations of officials in UHSAA history. The officials' association is doing a great job in helping with this.
 - I. **Spring Sport Credentials:** The deadline to order was March 4th and they have been ordered. Administrator's credentials were also ordered at that time.
 - J. **Baseball Items:** The 2A state tournament will have 14 teams due to Water Canyon withdrawing. The 3A tournament starts at Lindquist Field and ends at Kearns HIGH SCHOOL, while 4A will hold its entire tournament at Kearns. Brackets are available on the UHSAA website.
 - K. **RPI Review:** Changes will be considered in the next few months. Questions remain about differences between Max Preps PSR and RPI calculations. Feedback was requested, and the Committee will discuss this with their regions before addressing it as a future agenda item.
5. **Realignment 2027-2029**
- A. **Timetable:** The Committee was referred to the provided materials on page 124.
 - B. **Format and Procedures:** Mr. Cuff turned the time over to Mr. Nate Marshall to discuss options for factors they might want to consider for the upcoming realignment. He was then asked to send his presentation to the Committee.

- C. **Discussion/Action Items:** Mr. Cuff reviewed the current Alignment Guidelines for Member Schools and the adopted 2025-2027 format. The Committee discussed setting a minimum number of schools per classification and recommended using Mr. Marshall's model. For procedures, they advised that schools should apply to higher classifications by entire school, not by individual sports, with football classified separately. They considered reducing football classifications from seven to six but recommended keeping the current structure.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made a motion to approve the recommendations for the realignment to the Board of Trustees. It was seconded by KC Olson. The motion carried.

6. **UIAAA**

- A. **UIAAA Conference:** Mr. Kelepolo shared that this will be held on April 15-18, 2026, and there will be six courses available. He invited all to attend. Mr. Marsing reminded the Committee to participate in the golf tournament for the UIAAA Conference.

7. **UHSAA Calendar**

A. **2025-26:**

1. **Calendar Dates:** Mr. Cluff shared that the most updated version is on the website and to refer to it often.
2. **Baseball:** This was covered earlier by Mr. Cluff when he discussed the upcoming state tournaments.

B. **2026-27:**

1. **Christmas Moratorium:** This will be held on December 21-25, 2026
2. **Review dates and sites for tournaments:** Mr. Cluff requested the Committee look at these, so they are aware of the locations and dates.

8. **Staff Items**

A. **Sportsmanship Items:**

1. **School Sportsmanship Award Criteria:** Ms. Whittaker referred the Committee to the provided handout and said more information is on the UHSAA website.

- B. **Women in Sports Day Report:** This was held at the Delta Center and was a great event with wonderful speakers and breakout classes.

- C. **UHSAA Moratoriums:** The Board of Trustees previously implemented an additional week-long school-wide summer moratorium. With the passing of recent legislation, this moratorium has been redefined as a sport-specific restriction, set to commence in Summer 2027. The Board will review whether to adopt the sport-specific moratorium for the current year, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the bill for future years. Furthermore, two additional weeks have been added to the annual four-week sports-specific moratorium.

- D. **Golf Items:** Ms. Jan Whittaker presented the potential sites for the boys' state golf tournaments in the fall.

MOTION: Mr. Kevin Henshaw made a motion to approve the state tournament golf sites. Mr. Bryan Durst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

E. Drill Team Items: The last week to hold a region drill competition is Tuesday, January 19, 2027. Region competitions can be held anytime during the season. The only option for a Saturday competition is January 2, 2027.

F. Boys Volleyball Items: 2A & 3A each have twelve teams. 5A/6A will be held at the same time. It is proposed that 2A and 3A each bring eight teams to the tournament.

MOTION: Ms. Lora Nichols made a motion that 2A and 3A boys' volleyball bring eight teams to the state tournament. It was seconded by Mr. Bryan Durst. The motion carried.

It is proposed that a textured ball is used for the boys' volleyball state tournament. It was cost prohibitive in the past, but the Wilson textured ball is around the same price as the one the boys are currently using, and the current balls are wearing out quickly and need to be replaced often. The textured ball is more durable.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made a motion to approve the textured ball for boys' volleyball for the 2026-27 school year. It was seconded by Ms. Jennifer Christensen. The motion carried.

G. Esports Update: The state tournament will be held at Weber State on April 11, 2026. It will be streamed by KSL.

H. Swim Items: Mr. Marsing shared the sport specific moratorium. He gave a recommendation that the region swim meets give out medals to all finalists for the individual races. This is how it is done at state.

I. Special Olympics Utah – Unified Sports: Mr. Shipman shared that basketball ended on Monday. They are looking to create smaller tournaments for basketball next year. Unified Track finals will be at Copper Hills on May 12, 2026.

J. Academic All State: It opened on March 17th and will close on April 14th.

K. Credentials: Two coaches gave their credentials to other people to allow them access to the floor and/or bench. This occurred at wrestling and basketball. Brenan and Chris will research how previous infractions were handled and let the Committee know at the next meeting.

L. Lacrosse Items: There should not be any conflicts with lacrosse and soccer state tournaments.

M. Student Leadership Conferences – Fall 2026: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs is looking into dates for the fall to hold the training conference for one representative from each school. She is looking at UMA – Camp Williams on the third Monday in September.

N. Softball Items: 1A still has eight teams participating in softball this season and all is on track to have their own state championship.

O. Cheer Safety Clinics: Lori Rupp is the cheer safety clinic director. She will be providing options and information in the next few weeks.

- P. UHSAA Summer Moratorium Adjustments:** Mr. Jackson shared that the whole school moratorium is June 29, 2026, to July 5, 2026. Changes must be submitted to Mr. Jackson.
- Q. Coaches Certification:** The NFHS has NFHS Learn that provides great resources for coaches to get certified.
- R. Soccer Items:** Mr. Jackson provided a tutorial on how to do the next level opportunity for soccer due to some schools signing forms for clubs that are not approved. The away uniform must be white. It can't have colored sleeves or trim. The away uniform must be 70% or darker. He provided a guide for uniforms for reference and told them it is on the soccer page.
- S. Approved Soccer Clubs:** Mr. Jackson provided a step-by-step guide on where to find the information on the UHSAA website. He also explained that the qualifying students can only go to two, and possibly a third, if it is a professional opportunity for a national team or club team.

Mr. Ron Dolphin, athletic director at Grand Co. High School, requested that three boys' soccer players on their team be allowed to play for both the school team and a Colorado club team during the high school season, since Utah clubs are not close to their area and the Colorado club teams' season is the same as the high school season. He asked for a revision of the current rule to address their situation.

MOTION: Mr. David Cluff made a motion to approve a third club opportunity during the season for Grand Co. High School due to their geographic constraints. It was seconded by Mr. Todd Dawson. The motion carried with one opposed.

T. Football Endowment Game Requests:

Mr. Skip Lowe of East High School asked to host the yearly endowment football game at home against Tafuna High School from Tonga for the Fall 2026 endowment match contingent on Tafuna being approved by NFHS.

MOTION: Mr. Kevin Henshaw made the motion to approve East to play against Tafuna for the football endowment game in fall 2026 contingent on Tafuna being approved by NFHS. Ms. Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Kim Monkres received a request from Hurricane High School, located within her region, to reschedule their football endowment game to the third week of the football season.

MOTION: Mr. D. Cluff made a motion to approve the change for Hurricane High School's endowment game to the third week of the season. Ms. Monkres seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- U. Football Camps:** There are two options for camp. There is the THUD camp, which has helmets and shoulder pads, which is a five-day camp. There is no tackling allowed for this camp. The second option is a full-contact camp and that is an eight-day camp. need to start the week before because of climate acclimatization. It must be able to fit in June or July for THUD or full contact.

- V. **Basketball Items:** He asked for 2A/3A to stay after for discussion. 5A/6A will be at Weber State (end March 5, 6 or 7 – one week later than this year). 4A UVU – Mon/Tue/Wed (March 1, 2 & 3). The tournaments will be moved back a week for the next year.
- W. **Limited Team Membership:** Regarding the 3 on 3 memorial basketball event that occurred during the season, it was taken back to regions for discussion. The regions felt like it was a different sport. No action was taken.
- X. **Executive Committee Terms:** Mr. Cuff asked the Committee to let him know if they may not be able to serve on the Committee next year. Mr. Henshaw and Mr. Dawson are both potentially moving to the district level, but it is not sure when. Mr. Cuff asked that the Committee members go to their regions and let them know if they won't be back. The regions can re-up anyone whose term is ending. Mr. Matt Christensen is moving to Nebo district next year.
- Y. **Board of Trustees Terms:** There are some terms ending in 2026. Mr. Bryce Dunford was re-elected. Mr. Zack McKee was not re-elected. Mr. Ron Neilsen will be taking his place. Mr. Luke Rasmussen's term is expiring, and a decision will be made in the Superintendent meeting next month. Mr. Devin Smith's term is expiring and a 1A Principal will be taking over. There were some nominations, and Mr. D. Cluff was recommended.

MOTION: Mr. KC Olson made a motion to approve Mr. D. Cluff as the new 1A principal representative on the Board of Trustees starting in the 2026-27 school year. It was seconded by Mr. Ryan Nielson. The motion carried.

- Z. **Discussion/action items:** It was discussed that the UASSP would like to be added to the Executive Committee as a non-voting member, similar to the UIAAA. It was decided to invite Ms. Rhonda Bromley, executive director, to the next meeting.

9. Reports

- A. **6A Athletics:** Mr. Todd Dawson had nothing to report.
- B. **5A Athletics:** Mr. Josh LeRoy had nothing to report.
- C. **4A Athletics:** Ms. Kim Monkres had nothing to report.
- D. **3A Athletics:** Mr. Kade Morrell proposed the idea of not charging cheerleaders. A discussion ensued. It was decided to let the schools know not to buy for 15, because they are free, but only buy for additional cheerleaders beyond that number. This way reimbursements and invoices aren't being traded.
- E. **2A Athletics:** Mr. Devin Smith had nothing to report.
- F. **1A Athletics:** Mr. David Cluff had nothing to report.

10. For the Good of the Order:

- A. **Helping Coaches:** Mr. Cuff referred the Committee to the provided article.

11. NFHS Summer Conference:

- A. **Information and Interest:** This will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 26-29, 2026.