

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
9:00 A.M. @ the UHSAA Offices**

Mylei Zachman for Justin Whittaker, Art Erickson for Rodney Shaw, Todd Dawson, Josh LeRoy, Jason Smith, Jennifer Christensen, Ryan Bishop, Kevin Henshaw, Rodger Arbabi, Daryl Guymon, Steve Gordon, Kade Morrell, Nate Marshall, Devin Smith, Ty Kennedy, Craig Morris, Kim Bailey, Roberta Hardy, David Cluff, Karl Jensen, Mike Hughes for Darin Jenkins, Andee Bouwhuis for Everett Kelepolo. Steve Marsing, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Jan Whittaker, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Kim Monkres, Brenan Jackson. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. **Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the board.
 - A. **Reverence/thought:** Mr. Jason Smith found a quote he wanted to share that is attributed to Pope Francis. *"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you."* He then offered a prayer.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Ryan Bishop shared that he was recently in a classroom where government was being taught, and something was shared that changed his perspective on political thinking. The three R's were discussed: Rights, Responsibilities and Respect. It is our job to recognize that everyone has certain rights and freedoms. As administrators, we are protecting the rights of all the stakeholders in our districts and schools. We don't always have to agree but always need to remember that everyone has rights. End of year is a stressful time, so this is a good reminder that we want to finish it in the best way possible. He then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Minutes of March 19, 2025 Meeting:**

MOTION: Mr. Craig Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Roger Arbabi. The motion carried.

 1. **Moratoriums:** Please refer to the reference calendar on the UHSAA website.
 - D. **Spring Sports Assignment Sheets:** Ms. Jan Whittaker asked the board to sign up for attendance at the upcoming state tournaments. She will be passing the sign-up sheet around the room.
2. **USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis discussed the physical education endorsement email that recently went out with the recommendation of their legal counsel. The letter explained that all educators teaching any physical education class must be endorsed. This applies to all levels: elementary, middle, high school and adaptive P.E. The letter came from Ryan Bartlett, Director of Strategic Communications, State Board of Education and this will be required starting in the 2025-26 school year.
3. **BOT Report:** Mr. Devin Smith provided a summary report of the March 26, 2025 meeting. A summary is on UHSAA website.

4. Activities Report:

- A. Solo & Ensemble Music Festivals:** Mr. Cuff explained that the event will be held this Saturday, April 26, 2025.
- B. Theatre:** Mr. Jeff Cluff reminded the regions to pay their judges through Arbiter as soon as possible. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs announced the winners in each classification.
- C. Speech & Debate:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared the winners in each classification.
- D. Esports Update:** Ms. Whittaker shared that a survey went out asking each school if they would be participating in Esports this year. She asked the committee to return that survey as soon as possible.

5. UHSAA Calendar

A. 2024-2025 Calendar:

- 1. Conflicts with Graduation/AP Testing:** The Board of Trustees again directed that events would not be changed due to graduation or AP testing. An on-field graduation will be provided if any student-athletes are seniors and graduating as per request from the member school.

B. 2025-2026 Calendar: Substantial changes have been made, especially to baseball, so please refer to the calendar often.

- 1. Cross Country Site:** They are still waiting to hear from the Sugar House board to see if they have been approved to hold the state cross country event again next fall.
- 2. Wrestling State Tournament:** Mr. Shipman referred the committee to a handout that shared changes to the boys' and girls' wrestling schedule.

MOTION: Ms. Jennifer Christensen made a motion to approve the dates for boys' and girls' wrestling dates for next season that were provided in the handout. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karl Jensen. The motion carried.

6. UIAAA:

- A. UIAAA Conference Report:** 59 AD's took classes, and 10 took and passed the CAA. It was another successful event.

7. Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report: The Interps & Guidelines were reviewed.

MOTION: Mr. David Cluff made a motion to approve the changes to the Interps & Guidelines 1.1.4, 1.9.1 and 1.9.3. It was seconded by Mr. Jensen. The motion carried.

8. Legal Report: Mr. Mark Van Wagoner provided a legal report to the committee.

9. Follow Up Items from Previous Meetings:

- A. Executive Committee Terms:** Mr. Cuff explained that a list is still being compiled for the executive committee. There are a lot of changes.

- B. 3A Principal (three years) and 5A Principal (two years) to BOT:** There are two openings: 3A principal serving a 3-year term as Mike Mees is retiring. A 5A principal to finish Jason Smith's term (two years).
- MOTION:** For the 3A Principal Term: Mr. Nate Marshall nominated Mr. Steve Gordon. Mr. Kade Morrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- MOTION:** For the 5A Principal Term. Ms. Jennifer Christensen nominated Mr. Josh LeRoy. It was seconded by Mr. Ryan Bishop. The motion carried.
- C. Participation Survey Reminder:** Mr. Cuff reminded the board to please turn this in to Curt Pettingill, as they need to be sent to the NFHS and the number determines the premium for the catastrophic insurance.
- D. 1A Basketball Tournament Format:** It is proposed that they have a three-day tournament with eight teams of girls and eight teams of boys at one venue. This will bring it in line with what 2A and 3A are doing.
- MOTION:** Ms. Roberta Hardy made a motion to have a three-day tournament. Mr. Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposed.
- E. Unified Sports – UHSAA/SOUT State Events:** Mr. Shipman shared that the basketball tournament was held at the Delta Center, and it was a great event.
- F. Academic All-State:** Mr. Shipman reminded the committee that the submission deadline closed on April 17 and the correction window would close on May 5 so all certificates could be printed and mailed out to schools before the end of the year.
- G. Track Schedule:** Mr. Shipman asked for feedback on Unified Track and if they prefer to have it in conjunction with the state track meet or if they want their own separate event. The committee agreed that they wanted to keep it will the state track meet.
- H. UHSAA Moratorium Adjustments (June 30-July 6, 2025):** The form is online and available.
- I. Football Items:** They have been updated on the UHSAA calendar.
1. Spring Restrictions/Summer Camps/THUD Camps: There are now two options for camps. One option must be chosen.
- J. Boys Soccer Items:** The semi-finals at Zion's Bank Field and the finals at America First Field have been finalized.
- K. Football Endowment Requests:** 8 schools (Duchesne, Emery, Grantsville, Kanab, Millard, San Juan, South Sevier & South Summit) have asked to play their games at Snow College on the endowment game weekend. They are asking to have an exception for that date.

MOTION: Mr. Kim Bailey made a motion to approve the request for the 8 schools to play at Snow College on the Endowment Game weekend. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- L. Coaches' Credentials:** Mr. Cluff shared that they should arrive in the next couple of weeks.
- M. Football Endowment Games:** Mr. Cluff reminded the committee to get their requests in and when in region meetings to remind the region that fall entry into Arbiter is June 1st for fall events.
- N. Officiating Update/Sportsmanship Concerns:** We are up 10.96% over last year on officials' registrations. The only sports that were down are Cheer and Drill. The association has been successful in retaining officials in years two and three.

There is a major sportsmanship issue in Utah right now. Just recently there was a baseball game where coaches, players and parents were all involved in a brawl. In addition, seven players were ejected from a lacrosse game. Sportsmanship needs to improve across the state. Mr. Smith suggested that the administrators make sure they hold their coaches responsible for sportsmanship on their teams. Mr. Brian Veazie asked to speak and shared what Jordan School District is doing to educate their parents and coaches on being a positive support. Education and accountability need to happen in schools. Mr. Cluff shared with the committee that NHFS Learn provides over 100 courses, with 75 free courses, and many deal with sportsmanship. They can be shown at parent's meetings. There is a ton of education available to help with sportsmanship.

- O. Spring Minimum Number of Contests and End Dates for Sub Varsity:** They are now allowed to play up until Memorial Day.
- P. RPI Review:** Mr. Cluff reminded the committee that they had been asked to take the potential changes to the RPI back to their regions. 1A and 2A decided to go from the RPI to the MaxPreps system. The other classifications were asked to go to their regions and ask if they prefer to go to MaxPreps or remain with the RPI (except for football). 3A and 4A would like to move to MaxPreps. 5A and 6A would like to stay with RPI.

A new website and app will be launched after spring sports are completed. This will occur around June. The app is called UHSAA live.

10. Staff Items:

- A. Sportsmanship Items:** Ms. Whittaker explained that a link has been sent out to apply for the School Sportsmanship Award. It is due on May 26, 2025.
 - 1. Gold Star Coach Award:** Each classification is awarded one to a male, and one to a female. Every school can nominate, and they will receive a certificate.
- B. Drill Team Items:** Ms. Whittaker discussed the proposal from Mr. Jason Smith about shortening the drill season, while leaving the tryout date the same. The team can't have physical practice until June 1. The season and practices would end after the state tournament. Currently there is no time off. Cheer and Drill are year-round sports. This is proposed in order to protect the athletes from overuse. Ms. Whittaker suggested that it go to ADEC with three different proposals:

The one Mr. J. Smith provided, one where it doesn't start until June 1, but ends the normal time or no changes to the length are made. The decision was made to provide the three options to ADEC and go from there. Mr. Bailey suggested a fourth option that has the season ending in December with the state tournament held that month. It was also decided to include cheer with the same four options.

C. Volleyball Items: It was asked if the committee wants a different ball for boys' volleyball. (the dimpled one). The committee ultimately decided not to change to the dimpled ball for boys' volleyball the upcoming school year and to revisit it next year if needed.

D. Student Leadership Conferences - Fall 2025

1. Sportsmanship Specialists – Training on August 19, 2025.

E. Cheer Safety Clinics 2026: NFHS sent surveys to other associations on what they are doing for safety clinics and multiple associations answered. The committee will get together and then send out the survey results to the executive committee.

E. Softball Items: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs is in discussion with St. George Parks & Rec. to see if they can hold state tournament games down there next year.

F. Tennis Items: Information was provided on the divisions.

H. Swim Items: Mr. Steve Marsing provided information regarding the ledges for backstroke starting that will provide for stronger starts. Mr. Marsing recommends this for the high school swimming teams. He would like a recommendation from the committee to see if they would approve it for next season. Chair Hammer asked the committee to take it back to their regions and it will be revisited at the next meeting.

11. Reports:

A. 1A Athletics: Nothing to report.

B. 2A Athletics: Nothing to report.

C. 3A Athletics: Nothing to report.

D. 4A Athletics: Mr. Cluff shared that the 4A baseball tournament will be held in St. George.

E. 5A Athletics: Nothing to report.

F. 6A Athletics: Nothing to report.

12. For the Good of the Order: Mr. Cuff recommended that the committee read the article below.

A. Meeting the Needs...

13. NFHS Summer Conference: This will be held in Chicago, Illinois from June 27-July 2, 2025.

The next meeting is June 9, 2025.