

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 10:00 AM**

Executive Committee: Justin Whittaker, Rodney Shaw, Todd Dawson, Josh LeRoy, Mike Martini, Jennifer Christensen, Matt Christensen, Kevin Henshaw, Kim Monkres, Caleb Fine, Jim Crosbie, Steve Gordon, Nate Blackner, Devin Smith, Bryan Durst, Lora Nichols, Kim Bailey, KC Olson, David Cluff, Karl Jensen, Darin Jenkins, Craig Hammer, Teri Davis, Wendy Anae (for Everett Kelepolo), Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jan Whittaker, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Chris Shipman. Excused: Kade Morrell. Minutes: Jennifer Thomas.

1. Welcome & Chair Business:

A. Chair Craig Hammer welcomed the board to a new school year.

1. Mr. Hammer then welcomed the new committee members:
 - a. Mike Martini – West Field HS – Region 5
 - b. Matt Christensen – Spanish Fork HS – Region 7
 - c. Caleb Fine – Park City HS – Region 10
 - d. Jim Crosbie – Green Canyon HS – Region 11
 - e. Nate Blackner – Richfield HS – Region 14
 - f. Bryan Durst – APA – Region 16
 - g. Lora Nichols – ALA – Region 17
 - h. KC Olson – Monticello HS – Region 19
2. UHSAA now has 160 Member Schools for the 2025-26 school year.

B. Reverence/thought: Mr. Justin Whittaker talked about how we are currently living in a society where many feel that they can never have enough. They are always wanting more. The opposite of the never-enough mindset is gratitude for what we do have. Author Melanie Beattie said: *“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”* The positive thing about athletics and activities is that they teach students teamwork and resilience. Between many schools there are rivalries and competition, but it needs to be healthy. It is always sad when it gets negative. Mr. Whittaker has said that one thing that has helped him is to make it priority to meet with his administrative team every Friday, to write one note of gratitude to someone in their school, and one to someone outside their school. Sending a note to a rival principal makes him think about that person and find positives that he is thankful for. He then showed gratitude for others in the committee and encouraged them to do the same to others in their lives and schools this year.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought: Ms. Jennifer Christensen said it was just July 4, when we celebrated patriotism. I am excited to do the patriotic thought during this time. It is a privilege we have as educators to help students have a positive experience as they participate in sports and activities. A few years ago three girls from her school sang the National Anthem. She then shared a video of them singing in lieu of the Pledge.

D. Chair’s general observations: Chair Hammer excused Kade Morrell and Everett Kelepolo (Wendy Anae is attending in his place).

- E. **NFHS Summer Conference:** Chicago was a great conference. The next conference will be held June 26-29, 2026 hosted by UHSAA in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- F. **Minutes of previous meeting:** June 9, 2025 (summary on UHSAA website)

MOTION: Mr. Kim Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Steve Gordon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 2. **USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis expressed her gratitude for all that the members of the committee do for the students. She reminded regions and coaches to pay attention to certain things to keep them out of hot water. The foundation of activities and sports is education-based and must always be considered. The Physical Education section of the USBE website is a great resource. She also reminded the committee to pay attention to the air quality guidelines. Regarding Unified Sports, if a special needs student would like to participate, but isn't, the school could be held liable. If anyone needs help getting the Unified program started in their school, any UHSAA assistant director can help. Because of budget allocations, the writing of the P.E. standards is on pause. The writing of it should be starting soon. Coaches are going into the weight rooms and teaching strength and conditioning without any background in it. USBE is hoping to provide a course that will help avoid training issues in the weight room. Ms. Davis then thanked the committee for the effort that goes into participation of students in athletics and activities.

3. **UHSAA Procedures and Materials:**

- A. **2025-26 meeting schedule:** Mr. Cuff shared that the committee meetings for 2025-26 will all be held at the UHSAA offices, starting at 9:00 a.m., with the exception of the January 14th meeting which will be held offsite and will start at 8:00 a.m. More details will follow. This morning before the meeting, a new committee member orientation was held and many questions were answered. Mr. Cuff encouraged all board members to reach out with any questions they may have in the future.
- B. **Reimbursement claims for Executive Committee members for Board meetings and tournament supervision:**
 - 1. **Mileage:** It has been increased to .70 cents a mile.
 - 2. **Meals:** Lunch will always be provided during the meeting. If a committee member is traveling a great distance, breakfast and dinner can be reimbursed.
 - 3. **Lodging:** If you leave before 7 a.m. to attend the committee meeting, a room night can be utilized.
 - a. **Making lodging reservations for meetings:** Contact Jeff Cluff.
- C. **Committee Assignments:** The committees are made up of Executive Committee members and Board of Trustees members. Mr. Cuff referred the board to the provided list of committees.
- D. **Hearings and Appeals:** Mr. Cuff explained that this will occur throughout the year, and hearing panels are made up of members from both the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.
- E. **UHSAA Awards:** Mr. Cuff encouraged the committee to nominate someone in each category during their first region meeting.
 - 1. **DSA (distinguished service) nomination form due November 1.**
 - 2. **Super Fan nomination form due November 1.**

3. **Circle of Fame – due November 1:** Any nominations can be submitted to Rob by email.
 4. **NFHS Hall of Fame – due November 1:** Nominations can be submitted for this as well.
- F. UHSAA Information:**
1. **2025-26 Classifications and Regions:** Mr. Cuff referred the committee to the provided list of Executive Committee members, pointing out that the year by their names indicates the school year when their term ends. At term end, they potentially can be nominated again by their region and continue to serve on the committee. Regarding the Board of Trustees, school board members are elected to the Board of Trustees once they are elected to local school boards. The superintendents are approved by the superintendents and principals are approved to serve by the Executive Committee.
 2. **About the UHSAA and NFHS:** Mr. Cuff provided a background on UHSAA and their member schools and the NFHS. The UHSAA assistant directors currently serve on several NFHS committees and Mr. Cuff is a previous president of NFHS. The next NFHS conference will be held in Salt Lake City in June 2026.
- G. UHSAA governance chart:** Ms. Jan Whittaker referred the committee to the provided chart which shows the process of how rules and policies change.
- H. Role of UIAAA with UHSAA Executive Committee:** Ms. Whittaker
1. Screening function for Executive Committee
 2. Presentations to Executive Committee
 3. Non-voting seat on Executive Committee
 4. Spring conference in St. George (April 15-18, 2026)
- I. UHSAA Participation:**
1. **2024-25 UHSAA Participation:** All schools were asked for their number of participants in each sport and activity. It has increased by about 2,000 participants in the last school year.
- J. Promoting High School Activities:** Mr. Brenan Jackson referred the committee to the provided article for the regions to use as a resource to better explain why education-based activities are important to a student, the schools and communities. Page 17 provides quotes from students on education-based athletics and activities.
- K. Relationship to Board of Trustees:**
1. Superintendent Luke Rasmussen, Ogden School District is the board of trustees chair.
 2. The classification principals on BOT:
 - a. Josh LeRoy – Cyprus HS – 5A/6A
 - b. Steve Gordon – Emery HS – 3A/4A
 - c. Devin Smith – North Summit HS – 1A/2A
 3. The committee was encouraged to invite BOT members to region meetings.

L. UHSAA Athletics Committee Function

1. Chair responsibility: They can call a meeting if needed before the next Executive Committee meeting.
2. Classification meetings
3. Bracketing, qualifying procedure, site determination, dates.
4. Region qualifying forms and deadlines

M. Executive Committee Tournament Responsibilities:

1. **Role as Executive Committee Member:** Ms. Whittaker will provide sign ups for the committee members to assist at the state tournament.
2. **Personal information sheet:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas provided the sheet to all the new committee members and asked them to complete it and return it to her by the end of the meeting.

4. **UIAAA Business:** Ms. Wendy Anae shared that the new AD orientation will be held on August 11. Professional development classes will be held in September.

5. **Academic All-State:** Mr. Chris Shipman reviewed the Academic All State deadlines with the committee:

- A. **Sept. 9 – Oct 7; Jan. 6 – Feb. 3; Feb. 10 – Mar. 10; Mar. 17 – Apr. 14.** He then reminded the committee to pay attention to those windows and deadlines. If submissions are late, it causes the awards to be delivered late.

6. **Ready-Reference Calendar Guides:** Refer to uhsaa.org.

- A. **Starting dates reminder (RRCG):** Mr. Shipman reminded the committee to review the starting dates for all the athletics. He explained that at the top of the calendar, there is an option to select classification only, and this provides a nice easy chart, all in one place.

- B. **Please review RRCG's with your regions:** He then suggested the committee review the Ready Reference Calendar Guides on the UHSAA website with their regions.

7. **UHSAA Calendar:**

- A. **2025-26 Calendar:** A copy is provided in the meeting materials, but the best place to go is the website, as the calendar is always changing. If anyone is on the calendar and sees something awry, please contact the UHSAA office so it can be corrected.

1. **1A Baseball:** Mr. J. Cluff asked 1A committee members if they would like to have the fall baseball state tournament finals in St. George at Snow Canyon High School, with the previous tournament games occurring in Spanish Fork. It was agreed to hold the tournament at the two locations mentioned above.

- B. **2026-27 tentative calendar:** Mr. J. Cluff shared that they are working on next year's calendar, and it will be provided on the website soon.

8. **UHSAA Items:**

- A. **UHSAA Website Overview/UHSAA App:** The new website has been launched. It has been a positive change and there is also a new app. It is different but is much more intuitive than the previous website. All were encouraged to visit the new UHSAA website and to download the new app.

- B. **Social media:** Efforts are being made to be more engaged in social media. Followers are increasing all the time.
 - C. **Aktivate – Athlete and Coach:** Aktivate’s *Register My Athlete* is still being used. Improvements are always being made. Feedback is encouraged, so we can make it the best experience possible for schools, parents and student-athletes.
 - D. **Try-Out Checklist Form:** Please use this.
 - E. **Eligibility Lists:** Eligibility lists and rosters are required. Please make sure these are completed.
 - F. **Post Season Rankings (PSR/RPI):** The Executive Committee voted to change from the previous RPI to the MaxPreps ranking for all 1A to 4A schools. 1A-4A will still use RPI for football. 5A and 6A will still be using the previous RPI formula for all athletics. Rankings will be referred to as “PSR” or post-season rankings, as opposed to MaxPreps or RPI.
 - G. **Yearly Results/Record Book:** Can be found on the UHSAA website.
 - H. **Region Report Form:** Region Chairs are required to do a report if there are any sanctions in their regions. The region report form can be accessed on the UHSAA website. The password is reports. To access the report on the website, go to ABOUT>EC>Region Report.
 - I. **Posting Region Meeting Agendas/Minutes:** The place to post these is also on the same page. The password is region. For questions ask Jeff or Curt.
 - J. **Baseball PitchKount:** The system has been updated. Please remind your coaches to get the update and utilize PitchKount.
9. **UHSAA Credentials:** The deadline for the early fall order is tomorrow. Once they are ordered, they will arrive in about a week. There also is another fall deadline of August 13, which is listed on the UHSAA calendar. After that deadline, any additional requests for credentials will be late and fined. Orders for media passes through UHSAA have been scaled back, and now schools will receive more media passes per school, up to ten, dependent on the size of the school. Any school media, parents, etc., will need to use the media passes provided to the school.
10. **Officials:**
- A. **Online registration numbers and background checks:** The early registration deadline ends today. Almost 1,500 have already registered.
 - B. **Arbiter Pay Update:** Mr. J. Cluff encouraged all schools to use Arbiter Pay. It is how the officials prefer to be paid.
 - C. **Arbiter Website (link through UHSAA website):** Clinics can be accessed through the link on the UHSAA website.
 - D. **Live/Online Clinics:** Clinics are currently going on. The golf and cheer clinics were held the other night and they have been posted. Others will be held soon.

- E. **Sub-Varsity Football Games:** Due to referee numbers, sub-varsity games on the Wasatch front, need to have a 4 p.m. start, and can only be double-headers, with one game following the other. They cannot be held at opposite sites at the same time.
- F. **2025-26 pay scale:** This has been updated. It is an increase of \$3.00 in all sports.

11. Coaches Training:

- A. **District/School Responsibility:** Coaches' certification is the school's responsibility. NFHSlearn.com has many free videos that can be used for training.
- B. **Criteria for Certification:** For the CPR training, the State Board of Education's Admin Rules, R277-605 – *Coaching Standards and Athletic Clinics*, states that there are four approved CPR organizations. They are the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, the American Safety and Health Institute and the National Safety Council. They all have a hands-on component to them. It also states that any other provider must be approved by the state superintendent.
- C. **Fall Clinics:** These are currently going on. Mr. Jackson reminded the committee that the head coach is required to complete the clinic by the deadline on the UHSAA website, or they will get fined.

- 12. Region Visits by Staff:** The committee was referred to Page 29, which provides the breakdown between the UHSAA directors on which region meetings they will attend this fall. They are happy to discuss anything the region requests.

- 13. UHSAA Summits:** The committee was encouraged to attend and to invite their regions to also attend. These will take place on Monday, August 4, from 1-4 p.m. at the Sevier Valley Center and on Tuesday, August 5, from 1-4 p.m. at the SLCC Miller Conference Center. All district administrators, member school administrators and Athletic Directors are invited to attend.

14. UHSAA Foundation:

- A. **Committee Members:** Jerry Bovee, Chair; David Warren, BOT; Chris Neddo; Belinda Johnson; and Rex Thornton.
- B. **Catastrophic Insurance – Due September 15:** The committee was referred to the provided document that shows the amount due. Schools will be reimbursed 100% again this year. Over \$2 million dollars, in the past 15 years, has been returned from the Foundation to UHSAA member schools.
- C. **Endowment Games:** The endowment games fund the foundation. UHSAA appreciates participation in these games. Mr. J. Cluff will provide tutorials for digital ticketing. If there are any questions regarding the endowment games, Mr. Jackson is who to contact. For questions regarding ticketing, contact Mr. J. Cluff. Prices have gone up to \$13 for adults and \$8 for students/seniors. This includes all service fees. All the endowment information will be sent out within the next week.

15. Staff Items

- A. **UHSAA Sports Properties:** Mr. Brandon Riley is General Manager. He also handles all marketing. He will be at the next Executive Committee meeting.

B. Sportsmanship Committee

1. **2025 School Sportsmanship Award Recipients:** The sportsmanship committee will be getting tougher to organize that.
2. **Sixteen years of UHSAA Sportsmanship “Raise the Bar”:** Hoping every school will put up a banner in their school.
3. **Sportsmanship page:** The link is provided through UHSAA website.
4. **Sportsmanship Handbook:**
5. Sportsmanship Video Competition – due October 15: Ms. Whittaker reminded the committee that every school can make a video about sportsmanship at their school and it can be entered into a competition. The winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
6. **Gold Star Coach:** Each school nominates a coach that makes a difference in the students’ lives. A male and female coach is awarded in each classification.
7. **UHSAA Website Sportsmanship Spotlight:** If you see positive sportsmanship happening at your school, send it to Ms. Whittaker and it will be spotlighted on UHSAA social media.

C. Golf Items

1. **Region rules and etiquette clinic finalization:** The rules clinic was just held. The etiquette clinic for each school’s athletes must also be done and then checked off on the UHSAA website, once it is completed. Additionally, please have the designated person at your school upload the scores after each golf competition.
 - a. Deadline for 2A-6A boys golf is September 15
 - b. Deadline for 1A boys golf and all girls’ golf is April 15

D. Volleyball Items: The season had to be adjusted by a week due to a site conflict for the state tournament. The school volleyball schedules may need to be modified due to this. 2A has 30 teams that would potentially compete at state. They need to decide if they want to cut qualifying to the top 24 teams or allow all teams to qualify. After discussion, it was decided to only allow the top 24 teams to qualify for state.

MOTION: Mr. Bailey made a motion to make 2A a 24-team qualifier for state in all team sports for the 2025-26 season. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

E. Esports Update: This addition will be considered an activity. Transfers do not need to be completed for this activity. Classifications will be determined by who is playing what game. A PlayVS account must be created, and each participant must register for the game they will be playing. The game options are Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart and Rocket League. The maximum number of teams from each school is two. Two week pre-season, starting in January, with the finals at Weber State on April 20, 2026. All gaming can be done online or in person. Ken Garff will do a fall season and will run a season for non-member UHSAA schools and middle schools. All senior team members must be in Aktivite to be nominated for Academic All-State.

F. Emerging Sports: All schools will be asked to fill out a form, to let UHSAA know what comp leagues their students are already participating in outside of sanctioned sports and activities. Ms. Whittaker encouraged all schools to take the survey, so it is as accurate as possible.

- G. UHSAA Moratoriums:** The committee was provided with a letter from Representative Katie Hall. She would like to explore the idea of adding additional moratoriums due to concerns with limited family time and injuries. There will be a survey sent out. Suggestions are to potentially add to the all-sports summer moratorium, and/or reducing the current practice limitation from 20 to 15 hours per week.
 - H. Drill Team Items:** There will also be a survey sent out to see if coaches and administrators would like to see changes in drill and cheer moratoriums and season lengths.
 - J. Cheer Items/Cheer Safety Clinics:** The safety clinic options for next spring are online, in-person or at camps. More information will be provided at the next meeting.
 - K. Sportsmanship Specialists Training – Student Leadership Conferences:** This year’s training will be held on Tuesday, August 19th at Dugway High School from 9 a.m. to noon.
 - L. Tennis Items:** 2A/3A Tennis has been talking to Tennis Reporting, which is software that factors only the high school season for tennis vs the UTR which takes every tennis match. 90% of coaches would like to test Tennis Reporting. It is free for schools, but parents must pay a subscription fee to see the scores. It is proposed that 1A-3A pilot Tennis Reporting.
- MOTION:** Mr. Durst made a motion for 1A-3A tennis to pilot the software program Tennis Reporting for the 2025-26 season. It was seconded by Mr. Nate Blackner. The motion carried.
- M. Theatre Request:** Giselle Gremert, President of the Utah Theatre Association and a director at Hillcrest High School called in to make a few requests. She first requested that Tintic participate in the region that is geographically nearest to them, which is Region 21. She then requested that Region 7 attend the 6A state competition, so there is a more even split between 5A and 6A. All the coaches in Region 7 concur. No one from 6A has reached out with any concerns. Additionally, there is no one helping with the region events who is unbiased. This causes concerns, as the rules are being debated between coaches. It would be nice to have a meet director who is an unbiased authority to make decisions regarding rules, tabulations and training. They would be paid the same as a judge. These requests were discussed, and a decision was made that UHSAA assistant director, Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs will send the committee more information regarding this before a decision can be made.
 - N. Summer Moratorium:** This will occur on June 29-July 5, 2026.
 - O. Girls Soccer Items:** For the state tournament, America First Field is always scheduled, but if they have a professional game, the championships will occur at Zions’ Bank Field.
 - P. Football Items:** Research has been done on the importance of cooling due to heatstroke. Information was sent out about this earlier. Mr. Shipman will also send out a product that can help with heat stroke.

Air quality sensors have been put in many schools. Please use them if possible.

- Q. Basketball items:** Weber State has a contracted game with Montana State the week of the high school basketball state tournament, so 4A state basketball cannot be played at Weber State on Thursday, February 19. 4A agreed to hold their state basketball tournament on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at Weber State.

Mr. Trevor Lloyd addressed the committee. He is a parent that would like to change the rules regarding international players. His children are participating in FIBA Oceania tournaments, and these can occur during the basketball season. There are some options for international players in soccer, he is asking for the same concessions for basketball; an exception for kids that would qualify for a country or national team. The FIBA tournament would be a full week on the second or third week of December. After a discussion, the committee decided that more information is needed before a decision can be made.

- R. Cross Country Items:** Mr. Shipman referred the board to the championship dates, which were provided on a handout. The division schedule was also provided.

- S. Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing provided a copy of the state meet schedule and encouraged the committee to share it with their regions and swim coaches. A picture of the backstroke ledges was also provided. Training will also take place for those that haven't used the ledges before. The Unified swimming policies have been updated. He encouraged the committee to review the policies.

- T. Ejection Procedures:** Mr. Cluff shared that appeals to ejections have never been allowed. It is proposed that student athletes be allowed to appeal an ejection for the reasons listed on the provided handout.

MOTION: Ms. Monkres made a motion to accept the ejection appeal process as outlined by Mr. Cluff on the handout provided. It was seconded by Mr. Steve Gordon. The motion carried.

- U. Compliance Training:** Mr. Cuff provided compliance training. The posting of region meeting agendas and minutes are required on the UHSAA website. The agendas, summaries and minutes of the Executive Committee meetings are also posted on the UHSAA website. The BOT meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Public Notice website. Ms. Jennifer Thomas does this for each meeting. He then outlined the reasons for a closed meeting. When going into a closed meeting, it must be entered during a public meeting that has been posted. A reason for closing the meeting must be given and must be voted on.

- V. Realignment:** This will first be discussed during the Board of Trustees meeting on August 21. In the May 2026 BOT meeting, the first consideration of format and procedures will be presented. In June and August 2026 the Executive Committee needs to recommend their realignment format and procedures.

17. Reports

- A. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Report (SMAC):** Mr. Jackson provided a reminder that the air quality monitors are in many schools, and they need to be used if possible. There will be a panel discussion at the UHSAA Summit regarding mental health issues in schools and resources to help with this.
- B. 6A Athletics:** Nothing to Report.

- C. **5A Athletics:** Nothing to Report.
- D. **4A Athletics:** Nothing to Report.
- E. **3A Athletics:** Nothing to Report.
- F. **2A Athletics:** They requested that boys' volleyball be put on the next agenda, to discuss the possibility of combining 1A and 2A, to compete in their own classification.
- G. **1A Athletics:** Nothing to Report.

The next meeting is October 1, 2025.