

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
UHSAA Office and Virtual
Thursday, July 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Those in attendance: Board Members: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Roger Pulsipher, Dale Whitlock, Adam Britt, Cory Anderson, Sam Jarman, Larry Bergeson, Jerre Holmes, Tom Sherwood, Steven Gordon, Jim Wood, Bryan Durst, and Greg Miller. Staff Members: Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Laura Belnap was excused. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed all members to the meeting. He acknowledged some were present at the UHSAA Office and others through virtual means. Jeff Cluff welcomed media and school representatives who were attending virtually. Chair Holmes also welcomed Nate Dowdle, from KSL Sports, and Rachel Townsend, West HS Athletic Director who were present. Chair Holmes thanked the staff and the Executive Committee for their work to prepare information/proposals for the Board and Trustees.

A. Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr. Britt made the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was noted there would not be an executive session.

B. New Members: Mr. Holmes welcomed Jim Wood as the new 1A/2A principal representative and Larry Bergeson as the new 3A/4A superintendent representative.

2. **Constitution/By-Laws Report (pp. 94-96):** Mr. Cuff reported this would be the second consideration for the BOT for the proposed changes to the Constitution/By-Laws. The proposals have come through the Constitution/By-Law Committee, BOT first consideration and the Executive Committee recommendation. He reported that the Limited Team Membership item and Transgender Participation item were changes to the Interpretations & Guidelines, and if approved, the items would immediately become part of the UHSAA Handbook. The Ineligible Participant item is a change in By-Law, if approved, the item would be sent for approval by the governing boards of all member schools for ratification.

A. Limited Team Membership: A copy of the revised language was provided to board members.

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to accept, as a second consideration, the proposed revised language for Limited Team Membership. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Transgender Participation: Mr. Cuff stated the wording had changed for Transgender Participation to strengthen the policy. Members received the proposed revised language.

MOTION: Mr. Anderson made the motion to accept, as a second consideration, the proposed revised language for Transgender Participation. Mr. Whitlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Ineligible Participant: Mr. Cuff said the Executive Committee worked on this by-law in their last meeting. It is not an easy issue. It was discussed that there would be no forfeiture of games, but instead the sanction would be against the head coach. Mr. Sherwood felt the current protocol works having the sanctions determined by the Region Board of Managers and then approved by the EC. He would like the Region Board of Manager to have the first word. Mr. Van Wagoner felt it should not be limited to the Region Board. Mr. Sherwood said if the EC does not approve the Region Board decision, there could be a hearing. Mr. Van Wagoner thought current protocol works. It was discussed that additional sanction could be determined by Region Board of Managers, EC or the BOT. It was discussed the head coach sanction would be the minimum. There could be sanctions for assistants, AD, principal, etc. The head coach is the gate keeper for eligibility for the team. Mr. Jarman suggested to leave the process as is and change wording to include program, staff or school. It was felt that coaching staff should be added for possible sanctions.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood made the motion to approve the proposal for the ineligible participant. The Head Coach will be suspended for all consecutive sports activities (contests, practice, meetings, etc.) and at all team levels for the number of contests in which the ineligible participant competed. Suspension will carry over to the next school year where applicable. Additional sanctions may be applied by the Region Board of Managers, EC or BOT to head coach, program or school. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Legal Report (possible executive session): Mr. Van Wagoner will report at a future meeting.

4. UHSAA Fall Sports and Activities: Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Cuff, Mr. Sherwood, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Wood to report on the Executive Committee virtual meeting that was held the previous day.

Mr. Cuff reported that the principals were in favor of moving forward with sports and activities as schools are opening. In the spring, there was no in-person learning for schools, so transportation and facilities were an issue. It was discussed in the spring if counties moved to the yellow phase, they would consider again sanctioning sports. Currently, all counties are yellow or green with a few hot spots within a county left in orange. The Executive Committee is very much in favor to opening sports and activities with the opening of schools.

Mr. Wood reported they had a discussion on the challenges to social distance and spectators, but everyone agrees they want to provide the experience and opportunities to the students.

Mr. Gordon said he agreed with Mr. Wood. Being in a rural area is a little different and they are receiving much pressure to start because they have had very few cases reported. They want to get going and get back to normal.

Mr. Sherwood agreed how diverse the state is and that areas are in different circumstances. He said the reality is that it is not up to UHSAA, but up to each local area, district and county if they can reopen. He said he has worked with the Department of Health for summer activities. He said it has been managed well in conjunction with the guidelines from the UHSAA Sport Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC). He thinks we can start with the same protocol. He recognizes the spectators will be an issue and will vary from county to county. He feels the need to get back to as much of the traditional aspect as possible. EC members realized some member schools are still in orange and the need to develop a path for those schools to participate.

Mr. Holmes thanked them for their remarks and then asked Mr. Jackson to report on the SMAC guidelines. Mr. Jackson said the Committee had met multiple times to discuss and project possibilities of the future. He said the UHSAA committees have worked hard to prepare to open activities for this fall. He said the SMAC had worked with the Governor's Plan 2.0 - 4.7 with its multiple changes and guidelines. They have also looked to NCAA and the NFHS for guidelines. All guidelines are in harmony within the parameters of Governor's current plan. Schools and districts will need to work with county health departments to implement to their unique situations. He then discussed the guidelines and acceptable practices in each of the orange, yellow and green phases. There was discussion of writing down temperatures by name and how it becomes a medical record.

Mr. Jarman discussed the concerns of crowd size and social distancing. He said it will be difficult to monitor social distancing. He feels they will need to reduce the number of fans in the stadium. Mr Holmes pointed out that every stadium is different and the school would need to determine capacity. Communication between schools will be important so parents and opposing teams are aware of the protocol for entering stadium. Mr. Sherwood said it will be different throughout the state. The direction he has received is he will need to know where people were seated for contact tracing. He has determined digital ticketing and assigned seating will give him the information for tracing. He is going to require masks at student events. He is currently working to label stadium seating. He said GoFan has been helpful to meet their digital ticketing needs. When a ticket is purchased, the information will be collected for the health department. There is no cost to the school, but there is a \$1 fee for ticket purchase.

Mr. Holmes asked for further questions or concerns. Mr. Britt said they are concerned with bussing and social distancing. Also, what will happen if season begins and another county moves to orange? Cases are on the rise and he is concerned about contingency plans. Mr. Holmes said they will be bussing students sitting together, but masks will be required. He pointed out it will be difficult to wear a mask traveling long distances.

Mr. Cuff said that the State School Board had worked on planning requirements and their plan refers to UHSAA for guidance on sports and activities. He said the UHSAA is trying to be uniform, but respectful of local control. The Executive Committee discussed because of the RPI, we can seed tournaments regardless of how many games are played. Everyone will need to be flexible and work it through. The staff is recommending that teams unable to play will not be held to a forfeit, but instead receive a 'no contest.' If one team can play and not another, the staff may need to assist scheduling teams who are able to play. No out-of-state opponent is suggested. If a game is cancelled due to Covid concerns, it would not be considered a breach of contract. Communication is going to be important and if a game is cancelled it needs to be communicated as early as possible. It was noted that some teams may need to quarantine.

Mr. Jackson reported his meeting with football coaches' association in which they discussed many scenarios. They realize the color phases could change and everyone will need to be fluid and follow protocol. The coaches felt it important to move forward, hoping schools in the orange phase will be competing as soon as possible. It will be left to local district and County Health Departments whether they will be allowed to play.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out this situation is the price of playing. We need to educate coaches because there are so many unknowns. These are unique and challenging times, but we need to move forward and do the best we can. We need to be more patient and flexible than in the past.

Mr. Whitlock called for a vote.

MOTION: Ms. Johnson made the motion to move forward with fall sports for 2020-21 as scheduled according to guidelines from UHSAA SMAC. She noted it will take patience and hard work to make it happen. Mr. Whitlock seconded the motion. Mr. Sherwood moved to amend the motion to include that each school would be accountable to their County Health Department. Ms. Johnson approved to amend her motion. Mr. Whitlock second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cuff said he appreciated their decision. It is important to communicate that we want to take care of the well being of students. It was noted a parent can opt out of activity participation for their child, but this gives parents the opportunity of choice. He asked members to expect another BOT meeting to continue to monitor and evaluate current situations. He noted that start dates begin July 20 for golf, July 27 for 1A baseball, football and girls' soccer.

The next BOT meeting will be held on July 28 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at the UHSAA Office, but members could choose to attend virtually. Mr. Cuff noted the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet August 6 unless circumstances necessitate an earlier meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Richards made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Next Meeting: July 28 at 10:00 am.