

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sleepy Ridge

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

9:00 am

Members Present: David Dunn, Carolyn Gough, Joel Perkins, Jason Smith, Tom Sherwood, Doug Webb, Ryan Bishop, Rusty Taylor, Bill Sivert, Mike Monson, Steve Gordon, Luke Thomas, Jim Langford, Ty Kennedy, Wade Murdock, Craig Morris, Jim Wood, Clayton Carter, Darin Jenkins, Craig Hammer, Marc Hunter, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson and Jan Whittaker. Excused: Ryck Astle, Brady Fails, Spencer Singer, Jodi Parker and Jon Oglesby. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg

1. **Welcome and Chairperson Business:** Mr. Hammer welcomed members to the meeting. He excused Ryck Astle, Brady Fails, Spencer Singer, Jodi Parker and Jon Oglesby. He welcomed Robert Hardy who was representing Spencer Singer and Greg Wilkey representing Ryck Astle.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Webb said it was great to be a member of the Committee. He said he had an opportunity to meet with someone last week and he shared the impact that the Cuff family had had on his life. He felt he was a better person having known and interacted with them. Mr. Webb said the hardest thing in the world is to work really hard for something and still be able to be excited for the person who filled the position or job you wanted. That shows great character. He quoted Albert Schweitzer, "Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier." He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Perkins talked about his grandfather that passed away at the age of 89 and was a World War II Veteran. His grandfather was his hero and he shared many stories of the events and history of the war. Mr. Perkins found an old box of letters that he had written to his parents while he was in Berlin. It reminded him that his grandfather was an 18-year old in Europe and how much letters meant. Mr. Perkins asked him what he thought about the title Tom Brokaw gave to them as the Greatest Generation. His grandfather commented that they did what they had to do. Mr. Perkins shared a thought, "You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Additional Agenda Items: Ms. Gough said she would like to discuss the UIAAA Hall of Fame basketball games.

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting – September 25, 2019 and November 13, 2019 (summaries on the UHSAA website):

MOTION: Mr. Wood made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2019, and November 13, 2019. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Academic All-State Deadlines, UHSAA Moratoriums, etc.

F. Updated Handbook on Website.

G. Winter Sports Assignment Sheets: Ms. Whittaker asked members to sign up to help with trophy presentations, etc. at the state winter tournaments.

H. Distinguished Service Luncheon (p. 80): Mr. Cuff reviewed the protocol for introducing the Distinguished Service Award recipients. He thanked members for taking introduction assignments.

2. **BOT Meeting Report:** Mr. Gordon reported on the BOT Meeting of November 21, 2019.

- Endowment Report – 53 games
- Catastrophic Insurance premium will be reimbursed at 100%
- Fall Activities report was given by staff members
- Discussion on RPI
- Calendar
- Spirit of Sport, Heart of the Arts nominations due January 15
- Layton Christian proposal for 3A classification boys’ soccer/basketball was not approved
- Judge Memorial was approved for independent football
- #LeadTogether initiative - partnership with Utah Jazz
- Legal Report
- School sportsmanship video winners were announced
- Boys’ volleyball and girls’ wrestling associations presented
- DaVinci Academy in Ogden was approved for Association membership
- Coaches’ Certification on RMC
- Distinguished Service Award Recipients were announced

3. **Fall Activities Report:** Mr. Cuff reported a list of the state champions were included in the agenda. He congratulated teams. He said the fall weather was great and the revenue report would be given to the BOT.

4. **Calendar:**

A. 2019-2020 (pp. 83-86 and UHSAA website): Mr. Cuff said winter sports were around the corner. He appreciates members that help at the state tournaments. Please remember to bring your credentials. Window for drill, basketball, wrestling and swimming Academic All-State is open (January 7 to February 4).

B. 2020-2021 (tentative) (pp. 87-95): Mr. Cuff said this was the first draft of the tentative calendar. The calendar included the fall end dates and reveal dates for RPI sports.

End dates for winter and spring for 2021:

Winter Sports	End Date	Reveal Date	Post Season
Drill Team	January 23	January 28	January 29
2A/3A Basketball	February 12	February 13	February 16
4A/5A/6A Basketball	February 19	February 20	February 23
1A Basketball	February 20	February 22	February 26
Spring Sports			
2A/3A/4A Boys’ Soccer	April 27	April 28	April 30
2A/3A Baseball/Softball	May 4	May 5	May 8
4A Baseball/Softball	May 7	May 8	May 11
5A/6A Boys’ Soccer	May 11	May 12	May 14

Spring Sports, cont.	End Date	Reveal Date	Post Season
5A/6A Softball	May 11	May 12	May 14
5A/6A Baseball	May 14	May 15	May 18
Lacrosse	May 14	May 15	May 19

Mr. Morris asked if teams could not play games after the end date or will they just not count on the RPI. Mr. Cluff said this year there will be flexibility to allow games to finish due to weather. End dates the following year are hard and fast. Schedule some buffer time for weather games. Games scheduled after the end date will NOT count in the RPI. Bye teams cannot have a scrimmage game. Contest limitations include up to first day of post season.

Staff recommendations for sites based on rotation have been included on the tentative calendar. Classification chairs and members should discuss the tentative calendar and then be prepared to firm up and approve the calendar next meeting.

5. **UIAAA:** Mr. Hunter asked Ms. Gough about the Hall of Fame Basketball question. Ms. Gough said a coach in their region was concerned that it gives two teams a slight advantage and how it affects the RPI. They understand it provides revenue for scholarships, but it is concerning that it modifies the winning percentage. Mr. Hunter pointed out that when the games were approved it was approved prior to the RPI. He affirmed it is the UIAAA's opportunity to provide \$2500 toward scholarships. The game is played in November/December. Ms. Gough suggested to consider if exhibition games should be counted in RPI as an exhibition game (no value). Mr. Hammer asked members to discuss in regions and discuss in the next meeting.

The AD Conference will be held in St. George April 15-18. Registration is open. Mr. Hunter announced that Jamie Sheetz, Park City AD, was elected as the at large member for the NIAAA. He was up against Section 2 which included Maryland where the conference was held. Mr. Cuff said it was a great conference. He appreciated the interaction with the Athletic Directors and the breakouts. The leadership of UIAAA is very helpful to Utah. Mr. Cluff said it was his first experience and it was great.

On February 3, at the UHSAA Office, the UIAAA will be teaching the 501 and 710B courses. It is not too late to register.

6. **Staff Items:**

A. **Drill Team Items:** Ms. Whittaker said that region competitions started that day. There was meeting handout with all the dates, sites and competition directors. State Drill Team begins on January 24 with the 5A/6A quarterfinals.

B. **Sportsmanship Items:** Ms. Whittaker reported the Sportsmanship Committee would like to change up the Dare to Lead Conference to make a bigger impact and increase participation. The Committee feels it would be better if the conference was held on a region level. The curriculum would be updated and training provided for those hosting. Some regions are already doing similar conferences and the committee would like to see it statewide. It was suggested to hold the conference in September. Mr. Monson said his region has hosted a conference for students and it has been successful. This year it was a full day. Mr. Cuff said it has been suggested the staff and Sportsmanship Committee could create an agenda for half day and then the region could customize for their region the other half of the day. How much flexibility would the region want? Mr. Hammer asked them to discuss in regions and report next meeting.

C. Theatre: Ms. Whittaker stated the theatre policies are being updated. The theatre teachers met over the summer and cleaned up the language. The only proposed change is with the new ballots. They would like to eliminate the wording at the top (superior, excellent, good, fair) and give it a point value. There would be 25 points possible in each of the three rounds for a total of 75. Sixty points would qualify for state (Fifty-five for 1A/2A).

MOTION: Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the theatre proposal to assign point values instead of superior, excellent, good, fair. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Volleyball Survey: Ms. Whittaker reviewed the 2020 UHSAA Volleyball Proposal that was distributed at the meeting. The Volleyball Coaches' Association met with ADEC and presented proposals. The ADEC sent a survey asking schools if they would be in favor of volleyball contest limitations being changed to include a 20-match minimum to a 32-match maximum and allow multiple neutral site events in lieu of two tournaments (eliminating tournaments). Also, sanction best 3 out of 5 format for all varsity play. It was proposed to count out of state tourneys that do best 2 out of 3. The results of the survey were overwhelmingly in favor. 139 schools replied out of 141 schools. The survey was sent to principals, AD's and coach. 83% were in favor and 16% were not in favor. There was a feeling that 20 minimum and 32 maximum matches are too many with a 3 out of 5 format.

The coaches' association would propose the first Monday in August be the start date. Mr. Taylor thought it made sense to bring in alignment with other sports (soccer and tennis). Mr. Wood felt they wanted to stretch the season and ask for more games. Mr. Taylor said there will be end dates.

The coaches' association proposed changes to the RPI, but that will be a discussion for all sports. They also wanted no penalty within two classifications. Mr. Cuff said the staff is discussing changes for all sports. They are looking at how many RPI values, currently there are six (one for each classification). The proposal included out of state play reporting, hourly rates for officials at tournaments, region schedules (play teams one time), state tournament schedule, state tournament start times, tournament mid-week rotation, and venues. SVC has four courts so a tournament could be held there.

The staff would recommend approval of start date for the first Monday in August. Contest limitations with minimum of 16, maximum of 28 with no more 5 matches/day or 7 matches/two days. The staff is open to discussion on a venue and tournament format.

Mr. Gordon was concerned with so many changes in the first year of the RPI. He thinks a few tweaks would be more feasible. Mr. Cuff emphasized the staff supports the flexibility of regions deciding how many times teams play each other. Mr. Perkins said they need to move with caution as coaches are trying to gain advantage in the RPI. Mr. Hammer asked members to discuss in regions and be ready to report at the next meeting.

E. Unified Sports: Mr. Cuff reported that Skyridge HS had received a national award recognizing their efforts in Unified Sports. Hillcrest HS has now received a national award. Mr. Cuff encouraged schools to become involved in Unified Sports. Tami Pyfer, education specialist with the governor's office, is encouraging this program even at the collegiate level. He congratulated these two schools for making a big difference in Unified Sports. Mr. Perkins said Unified Sports produces greater acts of sportsmanship and inspires others who witness these events. It is incredible to be involved. Mr. Jackson said schools can have more than one team. Mr. Cuff said, at some point, another sport could be added to soccer and track and field.

F. Lacrosse: Mr. Cluff announced the upcoming rules clinics for lacrosse. The clinics will be held February 4 for girls' lacrosse and February 18 for boys' lacrosse at the UHSAA Office. Schools should now have access to lacrosse on the Arbiter. Schedules are due on February 5 (all spring sports).

G. Track and Field: Ms. Whittaker said qualifying marks for all state events are live on the website. State track schedule is available online. There are two proposals in the 4x800 and 4x200: (1) qualify top two from each region plus next teams (6A, 5A and 4A gets maximum of 18). Either qualify off relay or qualify off fastest times from a state qualifying meet. (2) Qualify based on region qualifiers. ADEC and coaches are in favor of the first proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Perkins made the motion to accept the proposal for top two plus next team. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

H. Cross Country: Ms. Whittaker emailed a copy of the cross country proposal for 5A and 6A. After a December conference call, a steering committee composed of Joel Perkins, Rusty Taylor, Roger Buhrley and the Coaches' Association President, Tyler Hill, it was decided the 5A and 6A classes would push ahead with investigating a divisional format for next year in Cross Country. It is being sent for discussion in regions and then will be reviewed in March. The first-round race would be held at Cottonwood Complex and the second round at Sugar House Park.

I. Tennis: Mr. Sherwood said they sent a survey to 5A/6A coaches to determine the interest in divisionals. No one wanted to change for this spring. They will schedule a meeting to discuss divisionals in the future. The concern is the rotating spot for regions. Mr. Sherwood said they fear the RPI and tying it to current rankings in the national clearing house because it might affect national rankings. Tennis will be status quo for spring.

J. Basketball RPI: Mr. Cluff asked everyone to remind coaches that scores must be entered as soon as possible in MaxPreps. Deseret News does an update on Saturdays, but the most up to date RPI is on the UHSAA website.

	End Date	Reveal Date
1A	February 11	February 18
2A/3A	February 1	February 8
4A/5A/6A	February 8	February 15

K. Officials Campaign Update: Mr. Cluff said there are many interested in officiating through the NFHS campaign. Sportsmanship continues to be a problem and affects the retention of new officials. Officials wore a different color whistle for their sportsmanship week. The announcer was asked to read a statement at all games. There are more sportsmanship issues at the subvarsity levels. Mr. Cluff said that educators still make some of the best officials. Please encourage staff members at schools to consider. Members were encouraged to share HUDL basketball film with officials for training purposes.

L. Ejection Report: Mr. Cluff provided a list of ejections by school and the summary for fall sports.

7. UHSAA Current Items:

A. Coaches' Certification: Mr. Jackson said that coaches' certification is not a new concept. He and Mr. Cuff met with superintendents asking for their support of the rule. The Association has provided a tool (RMC) to track certification of coaches. The superintendents were notified at the USBA Conference that the Association is piloting a coaches' credential requirement at the wrestling and drill team state tournaments. A coach must be certified and apply for a coaches' credential. No coach will be allowed on the floor without a coaches' credential at the state drill and wrestling tournament.

Mr. Cluff said there are 600 coaches in wrestling and only approximately 200 have applied for credentials. This will be a terrible spot for Mr. Jackson to not allow a coach to be on the mat with his athletes. Credentials must be requested by noon on January 17. No exceptions. Coaches can request a credential and then their certification will be verified before it is issued. Mr. Smith feels most of the issues are a communication error between having the items completed and entering it on the system. Eventually all coaches will be credentialed. Mr. Cluff explained there will be three periods/deadlines (fall, winter, spring) for requesting credentials. The credential will be issued at the beginning of the season and should be worn for the entire season not just post season.

The tracking of certified coaches is the trade off from the State School Board to allow schools to hire a non-teacher as a coach. All coaches must be certified.

B. Wrestling Championships:

(1) State Championships at SVC for 1A/2A on February 7-8 and UVU February 12-13 for 5A/6A and February 14-15 for 3A/4A.

(2) Weight Management: The hydration test fee was raised from \$5 to \$8 for the 2020-21 school year. Invoices will be coming soon for the current year.

C. Football Items (p. 97): Mr. Jackson asked if 2A/3A would prefer to hold finals at a neutral site over playing at a university. There were some issues this year with parking, but the staff would schedule games further apart to help with parking. Mr. Hammer asked 2A/3A members to discuss with regions their feelings if the finals should be played at a university site or is a central location more important.

D. Football Request (p. 98): Timpanogos, Payson and Cottonwood HS were requesting independent status in football.

(1) Timpanogos HS: Chas Dewitt expressed concern for their football program due to low participation numbers and the safety of their players. They would like the opportunity to rebuild their program and feel this will be best accomplished by going independent so they can compete against like-programs.

(2) Payson HS: Brian Argyle said they are concerned for the safety of their football athlete. They have overwhelming approval from the superintendent, students and parents to go independent. They are concerned about filling a schedule, but willing to try. Principal Shepherd said their student population geographically covers over 30 miles. Student safety and morale are their biggest issues.

(3) Cottonwood HS: Principal Royslance said their request is based on safety. They are having a difficult time increasing participation with a losing record. The mercy rule has been used for every one of their games this last season. They have students from five

different cities and have 17 busses dropping off students at the school. Mike Miller feels if they can schedule like-programs it will help them to rebuild their programs.

Schools were thanked for presenting. Mr. Cuff reminded members that Providence Hall is independent in football. Monument Valley and Whitehorse have elected to be independent to play the four-corner area schools. Mr. Sherwood feels this may be a last resort for these schools to try to save football.

MOTION: Mr. Thomas made the motion to recommend to the BOT independent status approval for Cottonwood, Payson and Timpanogos. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Jenkins feels the discussion goes beyond these three high schools. 2A has lost one school's football program and others are borderline. He feels it is time to start the discussion of 8-player football. Mr. Smith said some 5A schools are struggling to field all levels of football. It is a state-wide issue. He sees the independent league growing. Mr. Hammer said 8-player football is growing in many states. Ogden went independent and came back and their program is doing well now. Mr. Sivert suggested RPI rankings could be used in the next realignment to develop classifications. Mr. Cuff said we were the first state to realign football separately from other sports. Mr. Taylor wonders about the future of regions. In his community, region matters. He is concerned if region play goes away. Mr. Hammer thinks travel will keep regions.

E. 8-Player Football: Mr. Jackson said he had attended a football rules committee meeting in Indianapolis recently. They had a breakout session for 6, 8, 9-player football. 8-player football is very popular in some states. He is wondering if there are enough teams interested in Utah to make a viable state tournament. Mr. Jenkins said he has had discussions with some schools that would be interested (Altamont, Rich, Monticello). Mr. Wood said cost would be a factor and the impact on 1A baseball. What enrollment would be the cut off for 8-player football. Other state enrollment cut off is 200-300 students (grades 10-12).

8. Reports:

- A. 1A Athletics: Mr. Wood had nothing to report.
- B. 2A Athletics: Mr. Morris had nothing to report.
- C. 3A Athletics: Mr. Gordon had nothing to report.
- D. 4A Athletics: Mr. Taylor had nothing to report.
- E. 5A Athletics: Mr. Bishop had nothing to report.
- F. 6A Athletics: Mr. Wilkey had nothing to report.

9. **NFHS Summer Conference:** The NFHS Summer Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado on June 28- July 2, 2020. Members were encouraged to attend at least once during their term. Mr. Cuff asked members to indicate their interest now and commitments will be firmed up at the next meeting. He provided a tentative agenda for the conference (p. 102).

10. For the Good of the Order:

A. BOT Election Results: Mr. Cuff stated that Mr. Cory Anderson and Ms. Marilyn Richards were reelected to the BOT for another three-year term.

B. UHSAA Super Fans: These recipients will be honored at a winter state tournament and a luncheon hosted by the Board of Trustees in March.

6A	Erica and Celeste Efron	West Jordan HS
5A	Chad Knapp	Payson HS
4A	Jim and Carol Laub	Logan HS
3A	D. Bob Bailey	North Sanpete HS
2A	Kathy Chappell	North Summit HS
1A	Wayne James	Piute HS

C. Circle of Fame: This award is the highest honor given by the UHSAA. These recipients will be honored at a winter state tournament and a luncheon hosted by the Board of Trustees in March.

Terry Bowler	Enterprise Baseball Coach
Lee Mitchell	Alta Soccer Coach
Lori Salvo	Volleyball and Golf Coach

D. Spirit of Sport Award and Heart of the Arts: The Spirit of Sport Award winner is Jonny Stott, a student athlete at Green Canyon High School. The Heart of the Arts Award winner is Howard Summers, a music educator at Skyridge High School.

MOTION: Mr. Wood made the motion to accept the proposed recipients for the Super Fan, Circle of Fame, Spirit of Sport and Heart of the Arts Awards. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. The Parent Seat . . . (pp.103-104): Mr. Cuff said this is an excellent video found on NFHSlearn.com. The video lasts 5-6 minutes reviewing a parent's role in supporting a high school athlete. It was recommended the video be shown at parent meetings.

11. UHSAA Handbook:

A. By-Laws Article 7, Section 6 (pp. 99-101): Mr. Smith said currently, with the RPI, if a team is forced to forfeit it has a huge effect on everyone. The fairest way is to penalize the coach, so it doesn't affect the RPI. He would suggest coach suspension. Mr. Hammer said the head coach needs to be held responsible. He thought the suspension could carry over to the next school year or school if the coach changes positions. Mr. Morris said it is difficult when coaches and administrators are relying on the information parents are entering on RMA. It is easier in smaller schools to track students and recognizes the difficulty in larger schools. The ineligible student could be an impact player that changes the outcome of a game. It can be detrimental to the other team and that affects the RPI. Coaches are trying to gain a few decimal points in the RPI, so we need to continue to consider forfeiture. Mr. Hammer said we are not talking hundreds of students that transfer to a certain school. Mr. Perkins said he lived the impact this year. It was an error that an adult made and then we punished the students on the team and continued the punishment on other students on other teams. He feels we need to adjust how we are impacting other teams with forfeiture. Mr. Sherwood said this is a manageable task to make

sure the athlete is eligible. He said the problem with hearings it is hard to prove intent. They didn't intend to cheat, but it caused a large problem. Discussion continued regarding ineligible players. Mr. Hammer said the Constitution By-Law Committee is going to consider this and they will be looking for a recommendation from the Executive Committee. He asked members to be prepared with solutions/suggestions at the next meeting so they can unanimously agree on a recommendation.

Meeting adjourned and members moved to the Distinguished Service Award Luncheon.