

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 11, 2020**  
**9:00 am**

Members Present: Greg Wilkey, David Dunn, Carolyn Gough, Joel Perkins, Jason Smith, Tom Sherwood, Doug Webb, Ryan Bishop, Rusty Taylor, Bill Sivert, Mike Monson, Steven 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, Brennan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Excused: Jodi Parker Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chairperson Business:** Mr. Hammer welcomed members to the meeting.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Wilkey offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Taylor said his students had placed flags along the walkway of their school in honor of Veteran's Day. He shared a portion of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address given on November 19, 1860. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Minutes of previous Meeting – September 30, 2020:

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2020. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Deadlines for Dues, Catastrophic Insurance, By-Laws & Arbiting fees:

E. Academic All-State Deadlines, UHSAA Moratoriums, etc.: Please refer to Ready Reference Calendar on the UHSAA website.

2. **Football Endowment Games Report:** Mr. Cuff reported the football game revenue was about \$70K. It is down about 50% of last year, but stadiums were limited to number of spectators. He thanked schools for participating.

3. **Region Visits by Staff (p. 67):** Staff members are trying to meet with regions. It is especially important this year with realignment. Please contact assigned staff member and provide meeting dates and times.

4. **Calendar:**

A. 2020-21 Calendar (pp. 68-70): Mr. Oglesby said the calendar is in constant flux. He encourages everyone to be aware of communications coming from the UHSAA as things are changing daily and quickly. Brackets on MaxPrep for game sites and times are a great source.

B. 2021-2022 Tentative Calendar: The tentative calendar will be coming soon.

Mr. Hammer thanked the staff for all their efforts with the current litigation and Covid-19 issues.

## 5. Fall Activities Report:

A. Volleyball: Ms. Whittaker said many changes were made for sites and she was grateful they were able to play. She thanked Union HS (1A), Hillcrest HS (5A/6A) and Corner Canyon HS (5A/6A) for hosting tournaments. She also thanked SVC for hosting the 2A, 3A and 4A tournaments.

B. Boys Golf: Ms. Whittaker reported the weather was great for the tournaments. Many individual and team records were accomplished.

C. Football: Mr. Jackson reported Beaver and Duchesne will be playing in the 2A championship game at Dixie State on November 14. Juab and Morgan will be playing at Dixie State also on November 14 for the 3A championship. 4A is playing semifinals at home sites and then the championship game will be at Dixie State on November 21. The 5A/6A semifinals were moved to Cedar Valley HS on November 12 and 13. He thanked everyone for help in securing venue sites. Schools will be sent wristbands to sell to spectators and the school will be invoiced. Teams are being tested so we can move forward. He asked for school administrators to help at the games. People are watching on TV and stream to see if Covid-19 protocols are being followed. Compliance at football will help with winter season considerations.

D. Girls' Soccer: Mr. Jackson said girls' soccer went very well. He said Rio Tinto had really stepped up and hosted 11 games – 4A/5A/6A semifinals and 2A-6A final games. He thanked Juan Diego for hosting the 2A/3A semifinals.

E. Cross Country: Mr. Oglesby reported the 1A/2A/4A meets were held at Cedar HS and the 3A/5A/6A meets were held at Soldier Hollow in Heber. The State Championships were moved from Sugar House Park and divided into two days. Mr. Oglesby said he received positive reports from coaches and administrators. He appreciated the support and help. He has received some questions regarding the meet format for next year. Some felt Soldier Hollow was more challenging with more incline and was a departure from the athletes' training. Mr. Gordon said he had heard coaches were hopeful to return to Sugar House Park to run on the grass.

F. Girls' Tennis: Mr. Oglesby reported tennis tournaments were outstanding with great weather. A few issues with fans and face masks, but overall, it went smoothly considering the current situation. Most were cooperative wearing masks. He felt we had record attendance. He thanked EC members who attended and helped with trophies.

G. 1A Baseball: Mr. Cluff said the tournament went well with incredible weather. The event site was moved from Dixie State College to Snow Canyon High School. Snow Canyon's administrators were gracious hosts. He thanked them for facilitating the change.

## 6. Current Items:

A. Spirit of Sport Award (January 15) and Heart of the Arts Award (January 15): Mr. Cuff encouraged schools to submit nominees for both the Spirit of Sport Award and Heart of the Arts Award. Please call Mr. Cuff with the names and he will send the application. Applications are due on January 15. The staff will determine a winner and the nominee will be sent on to the NFHS for consideration for section and national awards.

B. Winter Sports protocol (meeting handout): The handout for Winter Sports Protocol was emailed to members. This information is in partnership with superintendents. It was important to have superintendents on board because the plan needs to be enforced by districts and member schools. The Utah Department of Health is saying we need to do a better job in the winter than was done in the fall. The document includes restrictions on spectators, student groups and support groups. These are proposals and can continue to change. The document includes a Winter Policy Statement. The Governor and Department of Health want to include testing for athletes. The State has been given one million tests from the federal government. The groups they want to test are higher education students and extra-curricular activities in high school sports. The BOT and superintendents are committed to keeping winter sports alive if there is in-person learning options in the schools. If the executive order is lifted on November 23, winter sports could begin on November 24. Ms. Gough felt the Winter Sports protocol would be helpful to many people planning future events. At what point can it be circulated? Mr. Hammer said until the Governor determines next steps, the document is mute. Mr. Cuff reminded members that many surrounding states have not started any sports this school year. We are in this together. UEA is pushing remote learning to help teachers be safe. There are many factors being considered by the Governor and Department of Health. The protocol document is only a recommendation to them at this point.

C. Summer Moratorium (July 4-10): Mr. Jackson reminded members summer moratorium is July 4-10, 2021 for the entire school.

D. Weight Management Update: Mr. Jackson has been working with the Utah Wrestling Coaches Association president for possible start dates. Wrestling has the additional component of hydration testing and most coaches like a two-week period to get wrestlers to their actual wrestling weight. Practice allows them opportunity to prepare. One recommendation is for hydration testing on December 4, 5, 7, and start December 11. If they do hydration testing and the Governor mandates that winter sports be postponed, schools would still be responsible to pay for the hydration testing. Discussion item for start dates.

E. Wrestling: Mr. Jackson talked about the Rocky Mountain Rumble. In past years, the tournament has been sanctioned by the UHSAA because it was sponsored by a school. This year, the event is not being sanctioned and is run through USA Wrestling. Athletes are coming in from outside of Utah as well. Wrestlers can participate in non-sanctioned events as an individual or “unattached” wrestler/athlete. It has been asked if the high school coach can coach at an unsanctioned event.

(1) JV State Wrestling, sponsored by USA Wrestling, has a tournament for wrestlers that do not make it the UHSAA State Tournament. This tournament is not sanctioned by the UHSAA. Is it okay if students participate during the season? The wrestling season is ended when the State Tournament is complete. Discussed and determined they need to schedule the JV State Wrestling after the UHSAA State Tournament which is the end of the season.

(2) Girls’ Wrestling: Mr. Jackson said wrestling weights have been developed by the Coaches’ Association for girls’ wrestling. They are trying to align the weights that are anticipated from the NFHS. The weights are in five-pound increments.

Mr. Jackson said there are some schools with a team of one girl and they are looking to have permission to practice with other teams of girls and/or increase their tournaments. Mr. Cuff said there is precedence where schools share coaches and then represent their school. It was discussed it could help to build the new program.

**MOTION:** Mr. Sherwood motioned to allow girls wrestling an exception to practice with teams of less than 15 and increase girls' wrestling duals from 6 to 8. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC): Mr. Jackson said he appreciated all the work SMAC has put into the return to play protocol for fall and winter. Dr. Weenig has been a huge advocate for the Association and the students of Utah and has kept us on the path so we can continue to move forward. So grateful for his work and effort.

G. Lacrosse Update: Mr. Oglesby said there will be a lacrosse zoom meeting in January. He said there is a co-op issue that is affecting lacrosse and other sports. A student who attends a private or charter school that does not offer a sport can co-op to their home boundary school. The problem arises when the boundary school does not offer the sport, so the student is not able to participate at all. An interpretation of the co-op rule to benefit private and charter students enables the student to go outside those boundaries to participate.

Mr. Smith asked if lacrosse is going to be seeded into divisions for state. He has region coaches wanting to eliminate region play to strengthen their RPI schedule. Mr. Oglesby said some of the coaches wanted divisions at state for competition. He has told the coaches the region chairs will make the decision. Competing in region is not only about seeding for state especially this year with Covid-19. Mr. Sherwood said his region agreed to play each other once so it was open to play teams at their level of competition. It was discussed this was not a long term solution, but would help them as a new sport. Mr. Smith said that region play still matters and other sports might begin asking for the same consideration. Mr. Oglesby said lacrosse might be a good case study when considering a sport by sport alignment. Mr. Perkins said he does not want to de-emphasize the value of regions. Mr. Sherwood said he disagrees because some schools in his region feel they are forced to play teams for two years with which they do not compete. Region schedules is why there are three more independent football teams. There needs to be more conversation because not all regions are homogeneous. Mr. Smith said it will have an adverse effect on struggling programs. Mr. Oglesby said for this year there will be three divisions based on RPI for lacrosse.

H. Speech/Debate (p. 71): Mr. Oglesby said the committee is proposing to move the 6A tournament to Roy HS.

**MOTION:** Mr. Perkins motioned to hold the 6A Speech/Debate tournament at Roy HS. Ms. Gough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Oglesby referred to page 71 regarding online rules for Speech/Debate. Most tournaments have been online for fall. Most schools are already following the format. If an online state tournament is required, this will provide the framework for the tournament. This is using NSDA protocol.

**MOTION:** Mr. Perkins motioned to accept the online protocol for Speech/Debate. Ms. Gough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT): Mr. Oglesby reminded members the staff will send out the annual questionnaire for member schools to indicate interest in unified sports. The number of teams is needed to move plans forward. Mr. Sherwood asked if there has been any discussion about adding basketball? Mr. Oglesby said there have been inquiries, but they are looking to build soccer and track. This group could decide to add basketball. Mr. Perkins said

their district has unified basketball and every school in the district participates. Mr. Oglesby said they could work on a survey with SOUT.

J. Rosters on RegisterMyAthlete: Mr. Oglesby said we continue to encourage all rosters being entered on RMA. There has been some improvement and he appreciates those efforts.

K. Academic All-State Windows (p. 72): Mr. Oglesby did not have the list of late entries. There were nine schools that submitted late nominations. He will email the list to the Executive Committee. The Committee will be notified and a letter sent voicing displeasure of the late nominations. On the second violation, a school could receive a financial penalty.

L. Sportsmanship Items – School Video Competition: Ms. Whittaker asked members to encourage schools to participate in the sportsmanship video competition. The deadline is November 17. There will be a \$1000 scholarship for one winner in each classification. Details are on the website under the sportsmanship page. The video is part of the school sportsmanship award.

M. Emerging Sports Discussion: Ms. Whittaker reported 90% of schools filled out the declaration form regarding emerging sports. The Emerging Sports Committee met and created the list of sports meeting the criteria. Ms. Whittaker reviewed the criteria. Sports meeting the criteria for emerging sports were: Co-ed Competitive Cheer (70); Girls Dance Company (27); Co-ed Esports (46); Girls Mountain Biking (55); Boys Mountain Biking (59); Girls Rodeo (18); and Boys Volleyball (48). Sports meeting the criteria for sanctioning consideration were: Co-ed Competitive Cheer, Co-ed Esports, Girls Mountain Biking, Boys Mountain Biking and Boys Volleyball. Three groups presented that were on the list for sanctioning consideration.

(1) Volleyball: Jill Davis and Duke Mossman from the Utah Boys Volleyball Association reviewed updated information in their packet presented earlier. They feel they have met the criteria for sanctioning consideration, and they have made healthy suggestions to help resolve any issues for approval consideration. They would request boys' volleyball sanctioning for the 2021-22 school year.

Mr. Bishop was concerned to not consider volleyball because they have gone through the process and done what has been asked. He is prepared to make a motion. He asked the purpose of the Emerging Sports Committee if the sports are not going to be considered. Mr. Morris said they have made the threshold and it will go on to the BOT with or without the EC recommendation. Mr. Morris feels they have done everything the right way, communicated and are very prepared. Mr. Sherwood wonders if the entire sanctioning process needs to be reevaluated. His district will not consider adding another boys' sport until they become Title IX compliant. Mr. Taylor said the Association could sanction, but it is up to the district to adopt the program. Mr. Sherwood said we need to actively engage in growing sports for the underrepresented sex. Mr. Hammer said there is a concern not about boys' volleyball, but just adding one more sport to everyone's plate, resources and facilities.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bishop made the motion to recommend consideration of sanctioning boys' volleyball to the BOT. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Those in favor: 8. Opposed: 11.

(2) Competition Cheer: Lori Rupp works with Risk Management and certifies all cheer coaches and athletes. She and Kellie Chamberlain run Utah Cheer Club Sport. Ms. Rupp said cheer is a great sport, but there is much work to be done prior to sanctioning. She feels there needs to be more education on how sanctioning cheer would look. She worries that

sanctioning competition cheer is going to have an adverse effect on drill team. Cheer coaches do not want to have a separate competitive cheer team that does not cheer at games. She would like to have competition cheer tabled until next November and give them an opportunity to look at the criteria for sanctioning. Mr. Bishop feels his school has more control when cheerleaders are a support group.

**MOTION:** Mr. Sherwood made the motion to support the Emerging Sports Committee to sanction competition cheer and make a recommendation to the BOT to sanction competition cheer. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried – one opposed.

(3) Esports: Senator Daniel Thatcher and Robert Sorenson with ITeam USA were invited to present on Esports. Senator Thatcher said that Esports is different from standard physical sports. Esports has an intellectual property attached because someone owns the game. Someone owns the rights and there is a need to be in compliant with licensure. ITeam established themselves as a 501 (c3) and is non-profit organization. Currently, students are not being charged for access to the games. There will be some cost associated to Esports, but they are trying to keep it scholastically focused and the school in charge. Mr. Sorenson said ITeam USA and is reaching for CTSO status similar Skills USA, DECA, etc. They want that status to get PERKINS money to help pay for teachers to work with students after school. To qualify, they need 20,000 operating members in ten states. They were created to encourage students' career and technical development scholastic Esports. It is working well in schools and their IT class enrollment has increased. Their philosophy is WIN. Any organization working with them will WIN. Students playing Esports are better at solving problems and working as a team. They have a division called "Shesports" for girls and it is growing. The students interested in Esports are not necessarily athletically inclined. There are many opportunities for students. They said they are the only organization that did not shut down due to Covid-19 because everyone is online. Mr. Sherwood said Brighton has worked with ITeam and the students are enjoying the experience. Ms. Whittaker asked how quickly they could be ready to be sanctioned. They were comfortable requesting this school year because over 100 schools will be participating in January.

**MOTION:** Mr. Morris made the motion to recommend Esports as a sanctioned activity to the BOT. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. Those in favor: 10. Opposed: 5.

N. Drill Team: Ms. Whittaker said the Governor's health mandate has postponed practice until at least November 23, Schools are concerned about December competitions. The Drill Committee proposes to move all drill competitions to January if practice resumes November 24. Some schools have opted out of hosting events so she feels it can work. Schools will be able to choose the invitational competitions they would like to compete. They will not use the RPI for this year. The state competition would be held the first week of February but would be an all-comer tourney using small pods. Mr. Smith asked how the pods were determined. Ms. Whittaker said it would be a random draw. Top eight will move onto the finals. There will be no out-of-state judges this year. UVU is currently the scheduled site, if they are unable to host, it could move to a high school. She suggested 5A could do a region competition or all schools attend one competition to determine the winner from that competition.

**MOTION:** Mr. Taylor made the motion to move all drill team competitions to January and modify the state tournament to an all-comers with pods for each classification. 5A needs to determine. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

O. Coaches Certification/Credentials: Mr. Cluff reminded it was determined coaches' credentials would start with fall starts. There were problems with teams not ordering credentials even with late deadlines. The second piece is the certification. The staff proposed there be a deadline for certification and credentials for each sport season. They would propose September 1 for fall, December 15 for winter and April 1 for spring.

**MOTION:** Mr. Gordon made the motion to enforce deadlines for certification and credentials. September 1/fall; December 15/winter; April 1/spring. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Cluff said asked if there is going to be a penalty for someone that misses the deadline for certification and credentials. Currently, there is a \$500 fine for a non-certified coach coaching in a post season game and a \$250 fine for an assistant coach. Mr. Taylor said the information that was sent out was helpful to notify schools if the certification and credentials were complete. He supported a fine if not certified and credentialed. Ms. Gough said the list brought attention to volunteer coaches and tracking. She would support a fine if the lists are continued to be sent. Mr. Morris would like the lists sent prior to the deadline not prior to state tournaments. They are developing a portal so AD/Administrator can view the list. Updates can be sent when RMC certification and credential requests are made. Mr. Smith feels suspensions work the best – better than fines. Certification is a State Board rule and we need to put some teeth into the process.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made the motion that if a coach is not certified and a credential request is not made by the season deadline date, the coach will receive a minimum of a one-game suspension and will not return to coaching until the certification is completed and a \$100 fine to pay for the late credential request. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. **Officiating:** Mr. Cluff said officials did a great job in wearing masks and being part of the solution. He anticipates the winter will go as smoothly. Typically, we have 700 registered basketball officials, as of today there are 500. He is not concerned because he feels some officials are waiting to see if the winter season moves forward.

A. Ejections: Mr. Cluff reminded members ejection are based on quarters for basketball. Racial slurs and taunting issues receive an eight-quarter ejection. Officials are talking with coaches who then discuss with their teams. Mr. Cluff feels it is making a difference.

B. Swim Officials: Mr. Cluff said the Committee voted last year to pay swim officials. The rates are in Arbiter. If the school uses volunteers, they need not be paid; however, there will be some resistance as they work other events and receive payment.

8. **UIAAA:** Mr. Hunter said that page 73 indicates the proposal process for introducing a proposal for UHSAA Policy Change. Lacrosse, for instance, was not discussed with AD's. He suggested the process may need to be reclarified or rewritten. Mr. Sherwood wonders about coaches in the process because the coaches are so fluid and change frequently. He also is concerned about the limited support for emerging sports because it is not allowed by state funding code. Mr. Hammer said they take input from coaches, but the Committee makes the decision.

A. Virtual NIAAA Conference (December 2020): Mr. Hunter encouraged members to register for the virtual NIAAA Conference being held December 11-14. He said the leadership training classes will be taught December 7-9.

B. UIAAA Conference (April 2021): The conference is scheduled for April 14-17 in St. George.

C. Hall of Fame Games: UIAAA would like to schedule the Hall of Fame Games in December as opposed to November. The proceed fund scholarship. The organizers of the cross-country meet are requesting to hold the event on Wednesday instead of Friday at 1:00 pm. Mr. Hammer asked members to discuss in regions.

9. **New School Member Applications:** Mr. Cuff reported only one application has been received. St. George Academy submitted their application and fee. He spoke with Principal Kristie Hall and they would request girls and boy's cross country, girls and boys track and Speech/Debate. They were made aware they would have independent status for two-years because of the beginning of a new alignment. The school does not have facilities. It was discussed they may not be ready for membership. Mr. Hammer said he would discuss it with St. George Academy's Board president, Neil Walter. Mr. Cuff will have another discussion with the principal.

B. Status of 2020-2021 New Schools: Da Vinci Academy became a member last year and was assigned to 2A, Region 17. Mr. Morris reported Da Vinci has not attended region meetings. They have been an activity only member.

10. **Realignment 2021-23:** Mr. Cuff reported that BOT Chair, Jerre Holmes, has determine to move forward best we can with realignment. The meeting on November 19 will determine schools in classifications and bubble schools. There is no public meeting or feedback for this meeting. The timetable for future meetings and public hearings was included in the packet and specific dates will be emailed once determined.

11. **Legal Report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner reported to the Committee.

**MOTION:** Mr. Gordon made the motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Mr. Monson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made the motion to leave executive session. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12. **Reports:**

A. Music Reports: Mr. Jackson said the committee met once and discussed how to handle region and state Solo and Ensemble. They are discussing if virtual would be an option. They will be meeting again in November.

B. Theatre/Drama Report: Nothing to report.

C. 6A Athletics: Nothing to report.

D. 5A Athletics: Mr Smith asked to clarify start dates. The date will be determined by the Governor's mandate. Mr. Hammer thinks we set the 24<sup>th</sup> as the start date in case the mandate is listed.



**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made the motion that the start date will be November 30 and competition date December 3. No second. Mr. Smith withdrew his motion.

Mr. Cluff suggested November 24 for start date and competition date on December 3 if the Governor lifts the mandate because of scheduled tournaments and games. Mr. Morris asked if they keep the testing component will there be time to organize testing before play. Mr. Jackson said wrestling needed to do hydration before competition. He would recommend start date November 24, hydration testing December 4, 5, 7 and competition start date on December 11. He is concerned if hydration is done any earlier there will not be enough time for wrestlers to get to their optimum weight.

**MOTION:** Mr. Perkins made the motion to start on November 24 for basketball and wrestling and competition date for boys' and girls' basketball and swimming on December 3 and wrestling on December 11. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. 4A Athletics: Nothing to report.

F. 3A Athletics: Nothing to report.

G. 2A Athletics: Nothing to report.

H. 1A Athletics: Nothing to report.

13. **For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cuff provided articles on education-based activities. He also reported the Award Committee cancelled their meeting to determine the Distinguished Service Award winners. The January luncheon held in conjunction with the Distinguished Service Awards will be postponed until the April 28 meeting.

Next meeting: January 13 meeting will be held at the UHSAA Office at 9:00.