

Utah Olympic Park Community Briefing Packet & Advocacy Playbook

Keep Us Flying – Protect the Pipeline. Preserve the Pool



***#KeepUsFlying #LetUsFly #SaveOurSummer
#SaveTheFreestylePool***

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Prepared for the Park City community, freestyle community, teams, families, and supporters

1. Executive Summary

The Utah Olympic Park (UOP) represents a vital part of Utah's Olympic legacy, serving athletes, coaches, staff, and the broader community. At its center lies the **Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool**, an irreplaceable training facility that directly supports Utah's Olympic pipeline, the local economy, and year-round athletic programming. Proposed amendments to the Development Agreement (DA) for the Utah Olympic Park threaten to close this pool for one or more seasons to facilitate nearby construction — a move that would have serious and far-reaching consequences.

This briefing packet is designed to inform and mobilize the community. It combines factual background, historical context, impact analysis, and an advocacy playbook to ensure that community members can engage effectively in the upcoming Summit County Planning Commission and County Council processes. Our goal is simple: to **keep the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool open** and ensure that all Utah freestyle clubs — including Wasatch Freestyle and Revolution Ski and Blade — retain equitable access throughout any development.

2. Background on the Utah Olympic Park & Development Agreement Amendment

The Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation (UOLF) is seeking an amendment to its long-standing Development Agreement with Summit County to authorize a range of new developments at Utah Olympic Park. These include a hotel and several other facilities intended to expand the park's year-round offerings. UOLF leadership, represented by Colin Hilton, has suggested that construction will necessitate closing the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool for at least one summer — possibly two.

However, during a recent Planning Commission meeting, the hotel developer, **Chris Conabee**, clarified that pool closure is **not required** for construction. The developer's comments raise some questions and also offers hope that with a collaborative dialogue, UOP could find a way to plan development that accommodates the pool training season, etc. While a few members of the public raised concerns about the pool closing and the negative impact it would have on the community, very few people were even aware that the meeting was taking place. There has been little to no communication with the clubs and community members who rely on the pool. If the broader public were given the opportunity

to engage, feedback would demonstrate overwhelming support for keeping the pool open — underscoring its significance to the community, the athletic programs it sustains, and Utah’s Olympic identity.

3. Historical Context: Freestyle Skiing in Park City

Park City has long been recognized as the beating heart of freestyle skiing in the United States. For decades, multiple freestyle clubs have operated in and around Park City, each contributing to the region’s deep legacy of Olympic and World Cup success.

Over time, several programs consolidated under **Park City Ski & Snowboard (PCSS)**, a large multi-discipline organization that represents numerous winter sport programs across the Wasatch Back. Several programs, however, chose to remain independent for various reasons (e.g. ski resort affiliation, focus, independence). Wasatch Freestyle chose to remain independent, preserving its long-standing athlete-first philosophy, deep technical coaching expertise, and distinctive culture of excellence. In recent years, **Revolution Ski and Blade** has also joined the landscape, adding energy and opportunity for local athletes as the newest program in the area.

Collectively, **Wasatch Freestyle, PCSS, and Revolution Ski and Blade** form one of the most accomplished freestyle skiing ecosystems in North America. Each relies heavily on access to the **Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool** at Utah Olympic Park for skill progression, athlete safety, and competitive development. The facility is also used every summer by **The US Ski Team** and **leading freestyle programs from across the U.S.**, including athletes from other elite clubs and national development teams who travel to Park City specifically to train at this world-class venue. The US Ski Team runs development camps each summer for the top athletes in several age groups — part of the team’s development program.

Colin Hilton serves as President and CEO of the **Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation (UOLF)**, which manages the Utah Olympic Park — a publicly funded facility that serves as both a state and community asset. Leadership at the Utah Olympic Park also holds roles within Park City Ski & Snowboard (PCSS), underscoring the importance of transparency and fairness in ensuring equitable access to shared Olympic facilities among all freestyle clubs that contribute to Utah’s proud winter sports tradition.

4. Wasatch Freestyle’s Leadership in Athlete Development

While multiple clubs contribute to Utah’s strong freestyle pipeline, **Wasatch Freestyle** stands as the state’s largest and most accomplished program — and one of the most successful freestyle clubs in the country. It serves as a cornerstone of the U.S. freestyle

ecosystem, producing champions and Olympians while maintaining a deep commitment to long-term athlete development and coaching excellence.

A Proven Development Pipeline

- **Wasatch Freestyle athletes** consistently earn spots on the **U.S. Ski & Snowboard Team**, the **U.S. Development Team**, and **Project Gold**.
- The club's athletes dominate **NorAm**, **Junior Nationals**, and **FIS events**, with multiple alumni achieving **World Cup podiums** and representing the United States at the highest levels of international competition.
- Many athletes who began their freestyle careers at Wasatch have gone on to become coaches and mentors, strengthening the next generation of U.S. freestyle talent.

Depth at Every Level

- Rosters span from U11 through FIS-level athletes, supported by one of the most experienced and respected coaching staffs in North America.
- Wasatch's focus on progression, technical precision, and athlete safety depends on **consistent access to the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool**, where athletes perfect the jumps, skills, and aerial awareness needed for safe on-snow competition.

Why This Matters for the Olympics

- With the **2030 and 2034 Winter Olympics** on the horizon (the latter hosted here in Utah), maintaining uninterrupted access to the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool is critical not only for Utah's athletes, but for **Team USA's Olympic competitiveness**.
- Interrupting this training infrastructure would undermine decades of investment in athlete development, coaching depth, and Olympic readiness.

Simply put, Wasatch Freestyle's success has elevated Utah's position on the global freestyle map — and, alongside PCSS and Revolution, it represents a statewide community of athletes whose training, safety, and future depend on continued access to the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool.

5. Where Things Stand Now

The amendment must pass the **Summit County Planning Commission** before reaching the **County Council**. As of October 2025, the Planning Commission has not advanced the proposal. Public input has been broadly supportive of UOP but opposed to large-scale changes and potential facility closures.

Given the developer’s statement that the pool can remain open, there is no factual basis for a total shutdown at this stage. Public concern remains about potential multi-season closure and lack of transparent justification for a shutdown. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for **November 25**.

6. Total Impact Statement: Consequences of a Pool Closure

The Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool at Utah Olympic Park (UOP) is far more than a training site for elite athletes—it is a core piece of Utah’s Olympic legacy infrastructure and an economic and community anchor for hundreds of people every summer. If the pool were to close for even one season, the ripple effects would be significant, extending through employment, sport development, tourism, and community engagement. A multi-season closure would have long-term and potentially irreversible impacts.

6.1 Impact on Employment and Local Economy

The pool supports a seasonal workforce of approximately 60 people, including lifeguards, safety personnel, paramedics, maintenance staff, coaches, and administrative employees. A closure would eliminate these jobs and reduce summer income opportunities in Summit County.

Secondary Economic Effects: UOP visitors and program participants spend money on lodging, dining, and recreation in Summit County. Based on typical summer attendance, a one-year closure could reduce local spending by hundreds of thousands of dollars in visitor revenue, not including indirect losses for nearby businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail stores.

6.2 Impact on Professional and Performance Programs

The **Flying Aces** acrobatic show — a signature UOP attraction — relies entirely on the pool. A shutdown would halt the show and eliminate one of Park City’s top summer tourism draws. Moreover, Wasatch Freestyle, PCSS, Revolution and U.S. Ski & Snowboard rely on the pool to maintain athlete progression and coach employment during summer months. A prolonged closure could force layoffs or push skilled coaches to relocate, causing a permanent talent drain from Utah.

6.3 Impact on Athlete Development and the Olympic Pipeline

The pool is a critical link in the U.S. freestyle skiing development chain. Every major American freestyle athlete including Olympians from Utah—uses water ramp training for skill progression and safety.

- A two-season closure could mean two full athlete cohorts lose their progression window.

- Younger athletes (ages 10–15) would face multi-year delays in skill development.
- Older athletes preparing for the 2030 and 2034 Winter Olympics could lose critical pre-Olympic training cycles.
- U.S. Ski & Snowboard and Project Gold programs would likely need to relocate training out of state, increasing costs and weakening Utah’s reputation as the U.S. training hub.
- Athlete families who relocated here would consider leaving Utah.
- Athletes/families who are considering relocating to Park City would need to delay or rethink this move.

Simply put, closing the pool severs the freestyle pipeline feeding the next two Olympic Games, including the 2034 Games that will take place here in Utah.

6.4 Impact on the Local and Recreational Community

The Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool is also a community resource, hosting:

- Public ramping and splash sessions for local families and youth
- Introductory camps for young athletes
- Adaptive and learn-to-fly programs
- Visiting athlete clinics and camps from around the country

These programs engage hundreds of local participants each year. A closure would eliminate one of the region’s only accessible summer water-based athletic facilities and deprive the public of a unique recreational experience that promotes safety, athleticism, and Olympic spirit.

6.5 Impact on Utah’s Olympic Legacy and Reputation

With Utah slated to host the **2034 Winter Olympics**, closing the pool sends a contradictory message about the state’s commitment to the Olympic movement and to keeping training facilities open and accessible to the public. The pool stands as a living symbol of the state’s investment in youth, sport, and excellence. Keeping it open affirms Utah’s role as steward of the Olympic legacy.

6.6 Conclusion

If the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool closes for one or more seasons, the impact will extend well beyond construction inconvenience—it will touch dozens of employees, hundreds of athletes, thousands of spectators, and the entire Park City community. The pool’s continued operation is vital for:

- Protecting local jobs and seasonal employment
- Preserving the Flying Aces and UOP visitor experience
- Retaining Utah’s best coaches and programs
- Sustaining America’s Olympic pipeline
- Maintaining the community’s shared sense of pride and identity

A closure of the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool is not just a local issue—it’s a setback for Utah’s Olympic legacy and the next generation of U.S. athletes.

7. Key Issues & Risks

- **Transparency:** Lack of communication from UOLF and misinformation have eroded public trust.
- **Equity of Access:** Without written guarantees, the US Ski Team, Wasatch Freestyle, Revolution Ski and Blade and other clubs could face exclusion from pool use – especially if there is limited access to the pool.
- **Community Impact:** Loss of recreational access and local employment.
- **Timeline Risk:** Construction delays could extend a “temporary” closure into multiple years.
- **Training Disruption:** Closing the pool would directly impact athlete development, including youth in the pipeline for the 2034 Olympics.

8. Our Position

We support responsible development that strengthens Utah Olympic Park and the surrounding community. However, we **oppose any plan** that includes extended closure of the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool. If maintenance work is required, it should be scheduled to allow at least partial summer operation. The facility’s continued use is non-negotiable for preserving Utah’s Olympic future.

9. Proposed Path Forward

1. **Include a carve-out** - Attach a Pool Access & Mitigation Exhibit to the Development Amendment that: (1) keeps the pool open during construction; (2) allows only minimal, safety-based closures with reasonable notice; (3) schedules heavy work outside peak May–September water-ramping where feasible; (4) requires monthly

status reports; and (5) ties permit issuance to compliance with the pool-access plan that provides access to all Utah freestyle clubs.

2. **Demand transparency** from UOLF and Summit County regarding timelines, design impacts, and operational plans.
 3. **Engage the community** — encourage parents, athletes, and residents to voice concerns directly to the Planning Commission and County Council.
 4. **Maintain visibility** through organized outreach, meetings, and social media presence.
 5. **Highlight** the direct connection between training continuity and Utah’s Olympic legacy.
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10. Talking Points for Parents & Athletes

- We support development and 2034 readiness, and we support our athletes. The hotel developer stated the pool can remain open during construction
- The pool is essential to athlete safety and progression.
- Closure disrupts Olympic development.
- Training continuity protects Utah’s Olympic pipeline.
- This is about community, legacy, and fairness — not politics.
- Every voice matters: letters, attendance, and posts make impact.
- Access must remain open to all Utah clubs including Wasatch Freestyle.

11. Sample Letters Sample Letter – Summit County Planning Commission

Subject: Protect Continued Access to the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool

Dear Summit County Planning Commission,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Park City community and supporter of Utah’s freestyle athletes. The Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool is one of the state’s most important Olympic legacy facilities — a place where youth athletes safely develop the skills that take them to national and international podiums.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to ensure that any Development Agreement amendment includes provisions that keep the pool open with equitable access for all Utah based freestyle clubs during hotel construction.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[City, State]

Sample Letter – Summit County Council

Subject: Preserve Access to the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool During Construction

Dear Summit County Council Members,\

As a parent and community supporter, I am deeply concerned about any plan that would close the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool for one or more seasons. This facility is the foundation of Utah's Olympic and community sport ecosystem.

Please ensure that any approval of the Development Agreement amendment includes a clear requirement that the pool remain open with equitable access for all Utah based freestyle clubs and community members during construction. Responsible development can and should coexist with continued access.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[City, State]

Sample Letter – Media Outreach

Subject: Community Rally to Protect Utah's Olympic Legacy

Dear [Editor/Producer Name],

The Park City community is mobilizing to preserve one of Utah's most iconic Olympic training facilities — the Spence Eccles Freestyle Pool — amid proposed development changes that could close it for multiple years.

Hundreds of athletes, families, and coaches rely on this facility each summer. We invite your coverage to help share the story and highlight the importance of preserving Utah's Olympic legacy.

Thank you for considering coverage.

[Your Name]
[Contact Info]

12. Appendices A–C: Contact Directory

Appendix A: Snyderville Basin Planning Commission

Chair: Tyann Mooney — tmooney@summitcountyutah.gov
Vice Chair: Makena Hawley — mhawley@summitcountyutah.gov
Commission Member: Eric Sagerman — esagerman@summitcountyutah.gov
Commission Member: Matthew Nagie — mnagie@summitcountyutah.gov
Commission Member: Heather Peteroy — hpeteroy@summitcountyutah.gov
Commission Member: Spencer Young — syoung@summitcountyutah.gov
Commission Member: Tim Jeffery — tjeffery@summitcountyutah.gov

Appendix B: Summit County Council

Chair: Tonja Hanson — thanson@summitcountyutah.gov
Vice Chair: Canice Harte — charte@summitcountyutah.gov
Council Member: Chris Robinson — crobinson@summitcountyutah.gov
Council Member: Roger Armstrong — ramstrong@summitcountyutah.gov
Council Member: Megan McKenna — mmckenna@summitcountyutah.gov

Appendix C: Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation / Utah Olympic Park Leadership & Board

- **Colin Hilton** – Chief Executive Officer | Phone: 435-658-4227 | Email: chilton@uolf.org
- **Jamie Kimball** – General Manager, Utah Olympic Park | Phone: 435-658-4226 | Email: jkimball@uolf.org
- **Lisa Bennion Rasmussen** – Chief Revenue Officer | Phone: 435-658-4225 | Email: lrasmussen@uolf.org
- **Calum Clark** – Chief Operating Officer | Phone: 435-658-4216 | Email: cclark@uolf.org
- **Karla Knox** – Chief Financial Officer | Phone: 435-658-4203 | Email: kknox@uolf.org •
Mallory Seidlitz – Board Liaison | Email: mseidlitz@uolf.org

UOLF / Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation — Board of Directors

- Natalie Gochmour — Board Chair [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Jim Olson — Vice Chair & Audit & Finance Committee Chair [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Molly Mazzolini — Nomination & Governance Committee Chair / Secretary [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Jeremey Andrus — President & CEO (board member) [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Spencer F. Eccles — CEO & Chairman, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Kailin Eskelson — President & CEO, Visit Salt Lake [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Jon Hawkins — State Representative (Utah) [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Chris Mazdzer — Athlete Representative / Olympian [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Courtland Nelson — Wasatch County Representative [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Wayne Niederhauser — State Homeless Coordinator, Office of Governor [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Nubia Peña — Former Director, Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Byron Russell — Founding Principal Partner, Byron Russell, LLC [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Janice Ugaki — President & Founder, Firmseek [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Chris Waddell — Athlete Representative / Paralympian [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Heather Watanabe — Athlete Representative / Olympian [Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation](#)
- Mike Cooper — Investment Advisor / David Eccles School of Business

Appendix D: Media Outlet Type / Reach Why It's Useful

		Very community-oriented, often covers
Park Record	Local newspaper for Park City & Summit County (Park Record)	local planning, development, and community issues.
		Covers county planning / government
KPCW	Local radio / news for Park City, Heber, Wasatch Back (KPCW)	issues; good for interviews or local public awareness.
	Online community news for Park	
TownLift	City & Summit County (TownLift , with digital news — good for timely stories. Park City News)	Has local readership and is more nimble
Park City Magazine	Local lifestyle / regional magazine (Park City Magazine)	Great for feature stories, human angle, interviews with athletes/coaches.
		Bigger reach, can draw attention from
The Salt	Regional newspaper broader Utah audience (especially for Lake Tribune)	Olympic / sports angle).
		Useful for broadcast exposure, visual
FOX 13 Utah	TV news coverage, wider audience impact.	

Tips for working with the Media

1. Lead with a story, not just facts.
Instead of sending “here’s our position,” pitch a story: an athlete whose season is endangered, a coach who may leave, or the community fight for access.
2. Offer visuals + access.
Invite reporters to visit the pool, meet with athletes, show the ramp operations. Photographs and video help.
3. Time your outreach.
Send pitches a few days before key dates (e.g. the planning meeting, public hearing) so they can plan coverage in advance.
4. Create a media kit.
Include: the briefing packet excerpt, key quotes (from parents, athletes, coaches), high-res photos (pool, athletes), contact list.

5. Use multiple channels.
Send to print, online, radio/TV. Follow up with calls or texts. Local media often rely on tips and community leads.
6. Tailor your pitch for audience.
 - Park Record / KPCW: local/impact, community focus
 - Tribune / FOX: tie into Olympic legacy, statewide interest
 - Magazines: human interest, athlete story, behind-scenes

Media Contacts — Park City / Summit County The

Park Record

- Don Rogers — Editor / Publisher
Email: drogers@parkrecord.com [Park Record+1](#)
- Toria Barnhart — Deputy Editor
Email: tbarnhart@parkrecord.com [Park Record](#)
- Jay Hamburger — Editorial Staff
Email: jhamburger@parkrecord.com [Park Record](#)
- Scott Iwasaki — Editorial Staff
Email: siwasaki@parkrecord.com [Park Record](#)
- Jack Singer — Editorial Staff
Email: jsinger@parkrecord.com [Park Record](#)
- Katie Hatzfeld — Editorial Staff
Email: khatzfeld@parkrecord.com [Park Record](#)

KPCW (Radio / Local News)

- Jennifer Dobner — Managing Editor Email: jdobner@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)
- Ashton Edwards — News Director Email: ashton@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)
- Juliana Allely — President & General Manager Email: juliana@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)
- Brooke Ahlberg — Underwriting Manager Email: brooke@kpcw.org [KPCW+1](#)
- Grace Doerfler — Reporter
Email: grace@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)
- Jon Burdick — Programming & Operations Director Email: john@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)

- Andrea Buchanan — Reporter
Email: andrea@kpcw.org [KPCW](#)