Accessibility Audit: Utah Olympic Oval website
Executive Summary

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Sean Hayden Anthony

INTRODUCTION

An accessibility audit of the Utah Olympic Oval website was performed in order to determine compliance with established accessibility standards, best practices, and legal requirements. Three representative pages were assessed: the Oval home page, the Public Skating page and the Memberships/Annual Passes page. The audit entailed assessment of the four POUR principles along with a set of modified Web Content Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) standards. Additionally, each violation was analyzed with respect to severity, frequency, and legal compliance.

In total, the audit revealed 14 individual WCAG violations/failures, of which 9 were deemed to be critical and 5 were deemed to be moderate in severity. In the summary below, some violations that are technically separate have been grouped together if they entail similar principles and functionality.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Critical Issues:

1) Critical Issue: The site contains multiple instances of insufficient use of alt text (i.e., where non-text content, such as images, does not have a proper text alternative), preventing people who can't fully see or hear content from being able to understand it.

> **Recommendation:** Alternative text (alt text) must be incorporated into the site code for all non-text content in order to help people who have difficulty perceiving visual content. Assistive technology can then read this text aloud,

present it visually, or convert it to braille.

2) Critical Issue: While there is closed captioning for the Olympic Legacy Foundation video appearing on the home page, there is no audio description to accompany the visual content, making the content inaccessible for users with certain types of visual impairments.

> **Recommendation:** An audio description must be provided for the video in order to augment the audio portion of the video. This description should provide information about important content in the video that is not described or spoken in the main audio track.

3) Critical Issue: Color alone is frequently utilized to indicate changes of state for links. Color should not be the only way of distinguishing information, as not all users (particularly those with visual impairments) see color or see color in the same way.

> **Recommendation:** Links or buttons that use color alone to indicate changes in state need to use means other than just color to convey meaning. So, for example, current links that merely change color upon hover must have another visual cue added, such as underlines, bold or italics, or other focus indicators (like visible focus outlines).

4) Critical Issue: Insufficient contrast between text and background is a problem throughout the site, particularly when color changes are used for state distinctions (e.g., when the "Explore" text links are highlighted in orange upon hover). The issue with contrast ratios is also true for certain non-text components (e.g., the boxes overlapping the main carousel that, upon hover, can be distinguished from the background only by a slightly darker drop shadow and an insufficient orange bar at the top of the frame).

> **Recommendation:** A sufficient contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 must be provided between current text and background, excepting large scale text (at least 18 point or 14 point bold) and images of large-scale text, which can be 3:1. For example, the current orange used for text links provides far too low of a contrast ratio (1.97:1 in some cases). Similarly, the contrast issues with other meaningful, non-text, visual information (like the aforementioned boxes for primary offerings) need to

be remedied by achieving a ratio of at least 3:1 against the background.

5) Critical Issue: Important page functionality is not operable via keyboard only, involving focusable elements that are not reachable (e.g., the sub-menus for the main menu), missing visible focus indicators (e.g., the "Activities at Utah Olympic Oval section"), and confusing navigational redundancies (e.g., repeated navigation loops for the boxes overlapping the main carousel). This makes the site unwieldy and partially unnavigable for users who are only able to use a keyboard.

> **Recommendation:** Ensure that any pointer actions have an equivalent for keyboard only so that everything can be done with a keyboard. Also ensure that keyboard users know which elements have keyboard focus via the proper use of visible focus indicators (i.e., the focus is easily noticeable against the background).

6) Critical Issue: Descriptive names or context explaining the purpose of each link are not provided for all links (e.g. the social media icons at the top of the page and places where "Explore" is the link text without a more descriptive name or context).

> **Recommendation:** Descriptive names or context for all links (e.g., the "Explore" link) must be provided so that users with visual and/or cognitive disabilities can navigate more easily and fully understand what each link will do.

7) Critical Issue: Components like the social media icons and the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation logo in the footer do not have discernible text, thus not meeting the criteria that all user interface components (e.g., links, buttons, form fields, etc.) need to provide programmatically determinable information about their name and role. This ensures compatibility with assistive technologies like screen readers.

> **Recommendation:** Ensure that all these user interface components provide programmatically determinable information about their name and role. This can be achieved by using descriptive text or ARIA labels to provide a clear name and semantic HTML or ARIA roles to define the purpose of elements.

Moderate Issues:

1) Moderate Issue: The prominent auto-rotating carousel images at the top of the page cannot be stopped or paused from rotating, which presents an issue to some users with cognitive disabilities who may be distracted and unable to concentrate when faced with continuously moving elements.

> **Recommendation:** Include a visible pause/play button in the carousel, adding labels and instructions to make controls accessible, or reconsider the design of the carousel (including whether one should be utilized at all). If kept, the carousel also should not start automatically (i.e, should be static by default).

2) Moderate Issue: There is no "skip to content" link on the site, which provides an easily accessible link (usually the first focusable element) for users to jump directly to the main content of the page, bypassing navigation menus or other repetitive elements and improving the usability of the site for keyboard and assistive technology users.

> **Recommendation:** Place a skip to content link as the first interactive element in the HTML structure of each page. This placement ensures that it is immediately available for keyboard and screen reader users, improving accessibility and usability. While the skip link can be visually hidden by default for aesthetic reasons, it must become visible when it receives focus (this is typically achieved using CSS).

3) Moderate Issue: The site does not have alternative ways to find content, (e.g., table of contents, site map or search), which is especially helpful for users with cognitive disabilities, vision impairments, or those relying on assistive technologies.

> **Recommendation:** Include a search function on the site in a prominent and conventional location (e.g., the top right of the home page) to make it easy for users to search for needed content (and would result in a "curb cut effect" impacting all users). Also include a link to a site map in the footer (a convention and expected location for this kind of resource).

4) Moderate Issue: Pop-up windows are utilized for the site's Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions in the footer and the launching of these windows causes a change in context that can confuse users relying on assistive technology, particularly if they are

not announced properly. Users with cognitive impairments also might not understand what has happened or how to properly close the pop-up window.

> **Recommendation:** Inform users by clearly labeling links or button that open pop-ups, use ARIA attributes to define the role (role="dialog") to ensure that screen readers can announce them, and provide clear and accessible ways to close the pop-ups (the current low contrast X is not sufficient).

CONCLUSION

It's readily apparent that the Utah Olympic Oval site falls short of compliance in a host of critical areas, many of which should immediately be addressed as they greatly impair the user experience of those users utilizing assistive technology. It should also be noted that the site may expose the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation to potential legal compliance issues with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act Title III and the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA). See the WEB Accessibility Assessment spreadsheet for details.