

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 12, 2009
West Bend High School

Schools represented: West Bend, La Crosse Central, Appleton East, Kimberly, Appleton West, Brookfield East, Neenah, Neenah M.S., Mukwonago, Golda Meir, Madison Memorial, Sheboygan North, Janesville Parker, Bradley Tech, Ripon, Appleton North, Marquette, Rufus King

Laura Maly and Rolland Faas were present, representing WHSFA.

President Nick Bubb called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Officers and Committee Reports

President-elect

Steve Finch announced the upcoming workshop and varsity meet at Marquette University. Handouts explaining the event were available for everyone. The workshop is geared toward new debaters, debaters with experience, and judges. LD, PF, and policy debate will all be addressed. Nick Bubb added that lunch has to be pre-ordered and also urged coaches to help with running the meet or teach workshop sessions. The judge training will include observation of an actual round in the varsity meet.

Past President

In the absence of Bill Batterman, Jon Voss presented the Hall of Fame induction for Jeff Holt, former Sheboygan North debate coach.

Nick Bubb announced on Bill's behalf that scholarship nominations are due to Bill by November 1, and that Coach of the Year and Hall of Fame nominations can also be submitted to Bill or to Nick.

President

Nick Bubb announced that the state tournament would follow a Saturday-Sunday format this year, as approved by last spring's meeting. A survey will later be taken to get feedback.

Nick announced that CDs of the novice evidence packet are available, and it can also be downloaded from the WDCA web site.

Nick indicated that he has had some positive conversations with staff members at UW-Madison, leading him to conclude that it might be possible to have the state tournament there in January of a future year. Nick pointed out that there are strategic advantages to Madison as a tournament site, including a large number of available judges.

Nick reminded the membership that next year's topic selection meeting is in Chicago and that NFL has put in a bid to host the following year's meeting at Ripon. Nick offered WDCA's help should NFL win the bid.

Coaches need to vote for next year's topic by October 16. The ballot is to be returned to Nick.

A number of schools have not paid their dues from last year, and only two schools have paid so far this year. No school which has not paid past and current dues will be permitted to participate in this year's state tournament. At the minimum, by the time of the state tournament, written verification that a check has been ordered must be presented.

Nick announced the appointment of Ernest Chomicki of Bradley Tech and Steve Gargo of Appleton West/North to be co-chairs of the New Coaches Committee.

Secretary

A motion was made and seconded to approve the spring meeting minutes. The motion **passed by a voice vote**.

Treasurer

In the absence of Eric Van Ert, Nick reiterated the importance of having dues paid by the time of the state tournament.

The secretary will email the membership to try to get all dues paid.

Tournament Practices and Procedures

Tim Scheffler proposed that LD prep time be increased to 4 minutes to match NFL rules.

Tim presented a proposal to allow an MDL or other local non-WDCA-sanctioned meet to count as one leg of a state qualification.

Tim presented a proposal to increase the number of novice/middle school rounds from three to four.

Tim presented a proposal to change the tie-breaking procedure for V4 to: wins, head-to-head, high-low ranks, high-low points, total ranks, total points, double high-low ranks, double high-low points, opposition wins, random variable.

Tim reminded the membership that there is no JV division at the state tournament any more, and that novices must be debating their first high school resolution.

Tim indicated that Joy of Tournaments will be used for registration for state.

Tim reiterated the enforcement of the rule that dues be paid for any school to participate at the state tournament.

Tim indicated that the judge ratio for PF and possibly LD might be reduced if double flighting is used with the new Saturday-Sunday schedule.

Tim presented a qualification change: The debater must be part of a team (or solo in LD) achieving a winning record at two tournaments OR if no full team is qualified that way, a single entry in novice and in PF, two entries in LD, and either one V4 or two VSS teams would be allowed if each debater has at least a .500 record at two meets in their event, OR a single entry in V4 or two VSS entries are permitted to any school with a paid WHSFA membership.

Tim explained that call-in would be required Friday night to verify entries, and that check-in will be on Saturday morning, with rounds starting at 9:00 a.m. Awards for middle school and novice will be Saturday afternoon. V4 and VSS would continue

Sunday morning, with the awards after the conclusion of V4, with any additional rounds of LD, PF, and VSS following.

Mike Traas asked about having a Friday night early registration for schools wishing to register early. Tim responded that he would look into it.

In response to a question from Steve Sexton, Tim clarified that the winning record requirement for qualification refers to prelim rounds only.

All new items will be brought up under New Business.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Dan Hansen emphasized that judges need to be informed about the rules for the use of the novice packet. Namely, that until November 1, arguments are restricted to those in the packet. Also, that the exact plan text is required, and that this requirement does not expire on November 1.

Dan announced that a judge "cheat sheet" will be made available to tournament directors.

Dan indicated that procedures for addressing suspicion of evidence falsification will be clarified.

New Coaches

No report today

Media and Communications

Jon Voss reiterated that the novice evidence packet is available both on the CD and for download on the web site. He indicated that there would be an effort to get the packet out a little earlier next year.

Jon announced that the WDCA would begin contacting local newspapers whenever schools from that locality win at meets. He asked coaches to get such contact information to him.

Jon requested that pictures be made available to put on Wisconsin Forensics Daily.

Middle School

Cheryl Bachtell announced that there are five middle schools participating this year.

History

Jim Sauer was thanked for his years of service. Doris Sexton is now the History Chair.

Old Business

Nick Bubb presented the changes to Article C of the standing rules:

▪Amend Section II, A to read: "The Wisconsin State Debate Tournament will be run by a three-person committee consisting of an independent Tournament Director to be approved by the Executive Committee with consultation from the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association; the Host; and the Operations Director who will be the chair of the Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee. The Tournament Director may name members of the Executive Committee, members of the Tournament Practices and

Procedures Committee, or former WDCA/WHSFA coaches to assist in running the state tournament. Individuals named to the state Tournament Committee should be published two weeks prior to the tournament and will be approved by the Executive Committee.”

▪Amend Section II, B to read: “The responsibilities of the Tournament Director shall include: making tab room assignments; covering tab room workers’ judging assignments; coordinating and conducting the awards ceremony; publishing results; running the computer operations; securing a computer program to do adequate and independent scheduling of rounds and judges in the two and four speaker divisions; obtaining and organizing a qualified and adequate judge pool for preliminary and elimination rounds; coordinating and centralizing all postings; coordinating all results; maintaining a round by round ‘paper trail,’ and disk backup of parings and results, etc.”

▪Amend Section II, D to read: “The responsibilities of the Operations Director shall include: ordering awards, recording and verifying all qualifiers and entrants; coordinating and mailing all tournament information, forms, judge qualification/strike forms; assisting with the judging pool; assembling a panel for elimination rounds; screening judge qualifications (experience, years out, etc.) for appropriate pools, etc.”

The standing rule changes were **adopted unanimously**.

Nick proposed the following change to the Constitutional Bylaws:

▪Amend Article VI, Section VIII to read: “The Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, ~~and two members appointed by the chair, one of which~~ who serves as Operations Director of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament. The committee also consists of the independent state Tournament Director and another member appointed by the President. A fourth member of the committee might be the Tournament Host, as selected by the Executive Board. The committee shall research tournament practices and procedures and be responsible for providing support to members on tournament operations. ~~The committee chair shall direct the WDCA State Tournament of Champions, with the assistance of the Executive Committee. The committee shall assist the independent state Tournament Director in the administration of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.~~

The revision was **approved unanimously**.

Nick reviewed the season schedule. Mike Traas asked that Kimberly be added as a host on October 23 and 24.

New Business

It was moved and seconded to allow, on a one-year trial basis, that a winning record at a single non-sanctioned local or conference tournament or series of tournaments with a minimum of three rounds of competition may count towards one of the two winning performances required for state qualification and minimum participation rules. Notice of the event must be provided to the TPP chair prior to the event, with the format of the tournament and the likely participating schools. After the event, a complete copy of the results must be submitted to the TPP chair. If either condition is not met, the event may not be used for state qualification. **Passed by voice vote.**

Tim Scheffler added that if any coach has a trophy shop that might be interested in bidding on the trophy job for the state tournament, they should contact him for more information.

It was **approved by voice vote** to increase LD prep time to 4 minutes.

It was **approved by voice vote** to increase the number of rounds for novice and middle school at the state tournament from three to four.

Steve Gargo inquired whether invitational meets would begin having four rounds for novice and middle school. Discussion resulted in no agreement on this. Nick Bubb pointed out that reserving the four-round format for state might preserve the special status of the state tournament, but that hosts of invitationals would have discretion to make their own decisions on this.

It was moved and seconded to approve the change in tie-breaking procedures for V4: wins, head-to-head, high-low ranks, high-low points, total ranks, total points, double high-low ranks, double high-low points, opposition wins, random variable. **Passed by voice vote.**

Dan Hansen proposed changes to the adjudicator guidelines (Article B, Section III of the standing rules):

- In the second sentence of Section III, F, change “shall” to “should.” **Passed by voice vote.**

- Amend Section III, G to read: “A judge shall fill out the ballot completely. Comments for individual speakers and [a] written justification...”

Passed by voice vote.

- Replace the current wording of Section III, J with: “Judges and observers in rounds shall not disclose specific information, flows or evidence pertaining to any other teams in the tournament without the permission of the involved team(s).”

Considerable discussion occurred. **Passed by voice vote.**

Mike Traas inquired about the official status of computer use in rounds. Dan responded that computers can be used for flowing and for communication between partners. It is not permitted to have any communication outside the room. Evidence may be read off a computer, but a paper copy must still be available should the other team request to see it. There is no difference in this rule for any division.

Doris Sexton raised the issue of the possible lack of parity between LD and PF in the backdoor qualification process. (A single entry is allowed for PF, but two LD and two VSS). Tim Scheffler pointed out that very few schools use the backdoor method (last year it was used to qualify one LD, two novice, and one varsity). Nick Bubb explained that the reasoning when this was made the policy had to do with the old sweepstakes procedure which no longer applies. It was determined that the status quo would be maintained for this year, and it can be examined at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine
WDCA Secretary