

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

May 9, 2009

Ripon Public Library

Schools Present: Marquette University High School, Bradley Tech, Rufus King, Appleton East, Brookfield East, West Bend, Madison Memorial, Janesville Parker, Golda Mier, Merrill, Mukwonago, Neenah, Sheboygan North, Hortonville, LaCrosse Central, Ronald Regan, Kimberly, Slinger and Laura Maly representing WHFSA

President Bill Batterman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Officers and Committee Reports

President

Bill Batterman introduced three different options for the Novice Evidence Packet. The suggestion was made to have a one-page summary of the packet to give to judges, so they are aware of the basic arguments. We can then include the rules in using the packet on the Novice level. Tournament directors can replicate this page and have it available at the tournament. A motion was made to add new text to the Standing Rules, Section B. The motion passes with a vote of 14-0-4. The text will read:

Section VII. Novice Policy Debate Argument Limits

Until a date determined by the Executive Committee, arguments in the novice division are restricted to those contained in the official novice evidence packet. Following that date, packet restrictions are removed but affirmatives remain limited to the plan texts specified in the novice evidence packet. In the event that an argument is presented from outside the novice evidence packet, the judge should not consider that argument in their decision, regardless of whether the issue is raised in the debate. If the affirmative team presents a plan that is not found in the novice evidence packet, they should receive a loss. Tournament directors should enforce these novice evidence packet restrictions.

President Elect

Nick Bubb presented information regarding dues and WSDT registration enforcement. Some schools have been negligent in paying their dues and fees on time. Schools who do not pay for local tournaments may also be barred from the State Tournament if the local tournament director has made attempts to procure the money. Schools that have not paid for two years do not have a vote at meetings. At the WSDT you must have a check or purchase order to compete.

The fall workshop and coaches' meeting will be split between two weekends for the 09-10 school year. Saturday, September 12th will be the coaches' meeting. Committee meetings will be in the morning and business meeting in the afternoon. The last weekend in September will be a Varsity tournament for those students and other students will

participate in the workshop in the morning and compete in stop-action debates in the afternoon.

Past President

Laura Maly presented that Jeff Holt from Sheboygan North will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Bill Batterman noted if anyone knows of a former coach who needs to be recognized in the Hall of Fame, please forward that name to the Executive Committee.

Secretary

Kristi Plamann thanked Doris Sexton for taking the Fall Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Fall Minutes. Motion passed with a voice vote.

Treasurer

Nick Bubb presented Eric VanErt's Treasurer's Report. There are a few unpaid bills from WSDT, but the bottom line looks healthy. He also noted the schools that need to pay dues and WSDT registration. Please pay those bills as soon as possible.

Tournament Practices & Procedures

Tim Scheffler presented his report from the WSDT. The tournament this past season was run with an independent director. Scheffler made every attempt to post those who qualified for WSDT on Wisconsin Forensics Daily. Tournament directors need to forward results as soon as possible. Costs for the tournament were contained well. There were few hired judges. He recommended that if the independent director wants to hire an assistant, that person should be paid a judging fee, instead of as Operations Director. Tim Dale, the independent director, sent a letter of suggested changes. Some of these will be addressed in New Business and others will be disregarded.

Some changes to the Public Forum judge ratio and qualification procedures will be presented in New Business.

Judging Standards & Ethics

Dan Hanson presented his report on the ethical complaints made this season. The Novice packet needs to be explained to judges more completely. This falls in the hands of coaches and tournament directors.

A proposal was made to the Standing Rules, Section II – Evidence Standards, to clean up the language about evidence citations, to Section III – Adjudicator Guidelines B to delete language about the identity of schools, E to remove language about a judge calling for evidence and M to remove language about “tag teaming.” A motion was made and seconded to separate each of these proposals individually. Passes on a voice vote.

- Section II – Evidence Standards – Language Change to A (Standards for Evidence Citations) – Motion made to accept and seconded. Passes on voice vote

- Section III – Adjudicator Guidelines – B – Deletion of language – Motioned and seconded – Passes on voice vote
- Section III – Adjudicator Guidelines – E – Deletion of language – Discussion was had about judge intervention in assessing evidence and when a judge can call evidence.
 - A motion was made to amend the section for read: E. The review of evidence by a judge is not allowed unless there is a dispute by the opposition regarding the meaning, context, or validity of the evidence, or suspicion by the judge of falsification. Motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.
- Section III – Adjudicator Guidelines – M – Deletion of language – Discussion was had about “tag teaming” on various levels of debate and what is enforceable by the Ethics committee. A motion was made and seconded to eliminate the language and leave it to judge’s discretion. Motion passed with a 12-2-3 vote.
- Motion made to re-alphabetize Sections II and III with the new changes.
- Section IV – Ethics and Grievance Procedure – A – Language addition – Passes with a voice vote.
- Section IV – Ethics and Grievance Procedure – C – Language addition – after discussion the proposal was rescinded.
- Section VI – Technology Use – A – Language deletion and addition – The additional language was modified. A motion was made and seconded. Passed on a voice vote.

New Coaches

Kari Strebiger presented a letter to go out to schools not already in the WDCA, inviting them to join and informing them of the coaches meeting and workshop. She’d like to send it at the end of this school year. She is looking for mentors who can share lesson plans, resources and meeting with the new coach over the course of the season. Please let her know if you’d like to be a mentor. She especially needs people in the southern part of the state.

Media & Communications

Jon Voss presented five objectives for his committee. The first looked at distributing and accessing the Novice Evidence Packet. Next year he would like to see the packet on wdca.org and WFD and hopefully avoid firewalls. The second objective would have tournament results posted more frequently and with more timeliness. The third objective has the WDCA informing local newspapers and school administrators of outstanding performances. There is a page Jon would like each coach to fill out and return to him with your local information (including the ability to opt out). The thought is to start with the winners of divisions. The fourth and fifth objectives look at adding more pictures to WFD (send them in if you or your students are taking pictures) and increasing discussion on WFD of proposals that will be addressed at the meetings.

Middle Level

Cheryl Bachtell noted that there are a few teams in the Milwaukee area who are looking into Middle Level debate, and everyone is communicating so they go to the same tournaments.

History

Jim Sauer has nothing new to report at this time.

Elections

President-Elect is Steve Finch.

Secretary is Brian DeVine.

Old Business

- Independent Tournament Director Clean-up – The Constitutional Bylaws change was presented to Article VIII – Tournament Practices and Procedures. This will be voted on at the Fall Meeting. Everyone agreed to the language. Both the Constitutional Bylaws change and Standing Rules change will be voted on at the Fall Meeting.
- Constitutional Bylaw Clean-up – Language was cleaned up to switch STOC to WSDT and the Secretary will be in charge of making changes to the handbook. The suggestion was made to add details about the Novice Topics committee and Handbook committee. These details will be added. These changes were presented and will be voted on at the Fall Meeting.
- WSDT Operation Change – Four options were presented for the WSDT. Discussion was had on the various options. Different college options were discussed and will be pursued for the 2010 tournament. Discussion was had about a Saturday/Sunday tournament. No one was opposed to competing on a Sunday, but it was noted that some schools may have a problem. Another e-mail will be sent out asking if there are any problems with a Sunday tournament for 2009.
 - Assuming a Saturday/Sunday tournament, a straw poll was taken to see who wanted to stay with three rounds or expand to six rounds. There was some division of opinion.

New Business

- WSDT Qualification Change – There is difficulty currently with running sanctioned tournaments because of a decrease in numbers. Changes to the Standing Rules would allow teams to qualify with two tournaments with winning records. It would eliminate four portions in the Standing Rules and add language to Article C, Section XII and Article C, Section VII. A motion was made and seconded to accept the language presented minus the substitution language. A motion was made and seconded to accept the language change to the Standing Rules. Motion passed with a voice vote.
- The calendar for 2009-2010 was discussed. Appleton West and Sheboygan North were added and WSDT was set for the Saturday/Sunday dates. Qualifiers for NFL and CFL will be added for the Fall Meeting.

- A proposal was made to change the requirements for the JV division at WSDT. The motion was made to eliminate JV at the WSDT. The motion passed with a 12-0-3 vote.
- The definition of a Novice came into question. A motion was made to add to Article C, Section 13, A4 – A Novice is defined as a high school student debating his or her first resolution. Motion was seconded. Passes on a voice vote.
- There were too many Public Forum judges at the WSDT. The motion was made to reduce the ratio to one judge for one to two teams, two judges for three to four teams and three judges for five or more teams. Motion was made and seconded. Passes on a voice vote.
- The question was posed as to whether Varsity 4-person should have elimination rounds at WSDT. Discussion occurred. Then the question was posed if tie breaking procedures could be changed. TRPC will be looked at over the summer to see what tie-breaking procedures can be used and see if the old tie-breakers can be used. This will be presented in the Fall
- WFD is hosting a Brewer game on Saturday, May 30th. If interested, contact Nick Bubb.
- The NDCA has free resources online. www.debatecoaches.org is the website.
- Steve Sexton brought up the issue of LD judges not being fully utilized at the state tournament because of preferencing. The question is if the ratio should be decreased, as it was in Public Forum. The possibility of judge trades was brought forth. This is something to consider for the fall meeting.
- Ernest Chomicki has been speaking to schools without programs and trying to encourage more debate teams. He proposed that schools that are new and host a tournament, they would receive free entry into other tournaments. It may help with budget problems with new schools. People agreed that it is a good idea to pursue.
- Tim Ernst is retiring from coaching to pursue a graduate degree. Neenah is still looking for a coach at the moment.
- Nick Bubb noted that there are quite a few programs in the state looking for coaches, including SPASH and Cedarburg.
- Bill Batterman asked all the coaches to tell their seniors to come back and judge after graduation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Plamann