

# Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

## Minutes

May 20, 2017

Vilas Hall, UW-Madison

**Voting Schools represented:** Mukwonago, Madison Memorial, Rufus King, Madison East, Janesville Parker, West Bend, Brookfield East, North Division, Appleton East, SPASH, La Crosse Central, Marquette, Madison West

Fort Atkinson was also represented, as were our hosts from UW-Madison.

The meeting was called to order by President Miloran Robinson at 9:12 a.m.

### Secretary

Brian Devine explained that the changes made to standing rules at the fall meeting were all updated in time for preparations for the state tournament. He moved approval of the fall meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded. It **passed by voice vote**.

Brian then asked for discussion on the calendar for next fall. Considerable discussion took place. The following was tentatively agreed upon:

September 9	Fall meeting
September 16	Marquette Hilltopper
September 23	UW-Madison
September 30	Rufus King
October 6-7	Golda Meir
October 13-14	La Crosse Central
October 21	Brookfield East
October 28	Open MDL
November 4	West Bend
November 10-11	Badgerland
November 18	Madison East
December 1-2	Appleton East

December 9	Fort Atkinson
December 16	North Division
January 6	NSDA Qualifier
January 13	CFL Qualifier
January 20-21	WSDT at West Bend

John Knetzger moved to approve the calendar, and the motion was seconded. After some additional discussion, the question was called, and **the calendar was approved without objection.**

### **Our Hosts**

Miloran thanked UW-Madison for hosting, and we received their welcome and their invitation to work with them to build a closer relationship between the university and the organization.

### **Treasurer**

Tim Scheffler distributed a finance summary, showing a current balance of \$10,136.59. He reported that he working with the IRS to establish our nonprofit status. He reported that the state tournament came in under budget. He projected a cost of \$900 to send Stephanie King to represent us at the topic selection in Orlando. Doris Sexton moved to pay the expenses, and the motion was seconded. **It was agreed to with no objection.**

In response to a question from Doris, Tim responded that two schools have not paid fines from the tournament and that these charges will be added to their fees for this year.

### **Past President**

Nick Bubb reported that there were three scholarship applicants, so all of them received \$500 scholarships. He encouraged coaches to have their students apply. He recommended that guidelines for scholarships be established, featuring a preference for one winner from each debate format.

Nick announced the presentation of Hall of Fame membership to SPASH coach Joe Klopotok for last year and Brian Devine for this year.

Nick was thanked for his service to the organization.

## **Elections**

President Elect Matt Cekanor asked for nominations for Secretary. John Knetzger nominated Brian Devine, who accepted. John moved to close nominations, and it was seconded. **Brian Devine was elected Secretary by voice vote.**

Matt nominated Kedrick Stumbris for President Elect, who accepted. Miranda Ehrlich nominated Ben Hamburger, but he declined. John nominated Steve Sexton, but he declined. John moved to close nominations, and it was seconded. **Kedrick Stumbris was elected President Elect by voice vote.**

## **President**

Miloran thanked everyone for their support during her term as President.

## **TPP**

John shared a report with the membership. He explained that the state tournament was successful and explained some of the issues that did come up.

## **New Coaches**

Steve Goetsch was not present. Miloran announced the appointment of Miranda Ehrlich to be the new chair, with Stephanie helping her.

## **Novice Packet**

Miranda indicated there will be a couple meetings this summer to plan the novice packet, using less difficult material than the NDCA material. She will get more information out to us.

Joe pointed out that obvious plan texts have not been used in the novice packet. Miranda took this under advisement. There was additional discussion about how the packet can be a more effective and educational tool for novices. Suggestions included making the packet bigger, adding material to the packet as the season progresses, or requiring disclosure in a wiki before tournaments once restrictions are lifted.

## **Judging Standards and Ethics**

Miloran noted that Mike Traas is retiring and that the new President will be choosing a new chair.

## **Old Business**

There being no old business, Miloran relinquished the chair, and the chair was assumed by our new President, Matt Cekanor.

## New Business

Matt referred us to the constitutional amendment that John has introduced to require advance submission of rule changes. The amendment is being introduced now and will be voted on at the fall meeting.

Revise Section II—STANDING RULES to read:

“Procedural guidelines outside of these Bylaws are Standing Rules. Standing Rules can be amended by a simple majority at one meeting, provided the rule change is submitted in writing to the President no later than two weeks before a business or special meeting. The President shall publish all submitted proposals on the WDCA Website, via email, and by another appropriate means. Rule changes not submitted by the deadline may be discussed but not voted upon.”

John spoke to the importance of time for reflection and discussion prior to rule changes.

John then presented his TPP proposals:

John moved the adoption of his Proposal 1 to add to the standing rules:

### 330.20(3) Judging Obligations

A. The WSDT Invitation will list judging obligations. Schools not fulfilling their judging obligations will **may** be forced to reduce their entries until judging obligations are met.

B. Paradigm definition: A paradigm statement's purpose is to provide debaters with information regarding a judge's preferences for style, argumentation, speed, etc., their debating/judging background and other pertinent information. As such, it must be specific to the division and style of debate a judge is entered in.

C. In a manner and by a deadline prescribed by the WSDT director, judges in preferenced divisions (LD and VCX) must submit a paradigm for the division in which they will be judging. Failure to submit a paradigm by the deadline may result in the hiring school's inability to preference judges in that division, at the discretion of the WSDT director. The WSDT director may require a judge/coach to edit a paradigm which does not meet the definition in (B) above.

D. Within two hours of the posted start time for the round **preliminary rounds, or two hours and fifteen minutes for elimination rounds**, the judge must submit his/her ballot and conclude any comments given to the debaters pursuant to the Adjudicator Guidelines. Schools whose judges do not abide by this rule are subject to a fine of \$15. A judge may be removed from the judging pool for repeated violations, following the procedures in the adjudicator guidelines.

The motion was seconded. John spoke to the rationale behind this proposal.

Amanda brought up the idea of changing part D to allow two hours and fifteen minutes and to institute a warning prior to assessing a fine. Dan Hansen suggested changing part A from “will” to “may,” and John accepted this as a friendly amendment.

There was further discussion regarding finding good judges.

Amanda moved to amend D to read: "Within two hours of the posted start time for preliminary rounds, or two hours and fifteen minutes for elimination rounds, the judge must.....", and it was seconded. John accepted this as a friendly amendment.

There was discussion on logistics for this. John called the previous question, and **proposal 1 was adopted by voice vote.**

John moved the adoption of his Proposal 2 to add to the standing rules:

#### 330.30(3) Judging Obligations

A. The WSDT Invitation will list judging obligations. Schools not fulfilling their judging obligations will **may** be forced to reduce their entries until judging obligations are met.

B. Paradigm definition: A paradigm statement's purpose is to provide debaters with information regarding a judge's preferences for style, argumentation, speed, etc., their debating/judging background and other pertinent information. As such, it must be specific to the division and style of debate a judge is entered in.

C. In a manner and by a deadline prescribed by the WSDT director, judges must submit a paradigm for the division in which they are judging. Failure to submit a paradigm by the deadline may result in the hiring school's inability to preference judges in that division at the discretion of the WSDT director. The WSDT director may require a judge/coach to edit a paradigm when it does not meet the definition of a paradigm.

The motion was seconded. He accepted a friendly amendment from Stephanie to change "will" to "may." **Proposal 2 was adopted by voice vote.**

John moved the adoption of his Proposal 3 to add to the standing rules:

#### 330.40(3) Judging Obligations

The WSDT Invitation will list judging obligations. Schools not fulfilling their judging obligations will **may** be forced to reduce their entries until judging obligations are met.

The motion was seconded. He accepted the same friendly amendment to change "will" to "may." **Proposal 3 was adopted by voice vote.**

John moved the adoption of his Proposal 4 to add to the standing rules:

#### 340.10(3) Judging Obligations

A. The WSDT Invitation will list judging obligations. Schools not fulfilling their judging obligations will **may** be forced to reduce their entries until judging obligations are met.

B. Within two hours of the posted start time for ~~the round~~ **preliminary rounds, or two hours and fifteen minutes for elimination rounds**, the judge must submit his/her ballot and conclude any comments given to the debaters pursuant to the Adjudicator Guidelines. Schools whose judges do not abide by this rule are subject to a fine of \$15. A judge may be removed from the judging pool for repeated violations, following the procedures in the adjudicator guidelines.

The motion was seconded. He made two amendments: to change “will” to “may” and to make the corresponding changes as to proposal 1. **Proposal 4 was adopted by voice vote.**

John moved the adoption of his Proposal 5 to add to the standing rules:

310.30 Fees

(3) The school of a judge missing a preliminary round assignment may be fined \$35. The school of a judge missing an elimination round may be fined \$50. A school whose judge is late for a round may be fined \$15. All fines are at the discretion of the WSDT Director.

The motion was seconded. John explained what occurred with the Reagan coach reneging on his judge commitment during elim rounds. Only an extraordinary effort by Mike Traas allowed the panels to exist. There were additional questions for John about the process used in these situations, and he addressed all these questions. **Proposal 5 was adopted by voice vote.**

Ernest Chomicki’s proposal dealing with judge cell phones had been submitted online, but Ernest was not here to address it. John moved to refer the proposal to the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee, and the motion was seconded. **The motion to refer to committee passed by a voice vote.**

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine  
WDCA Secretary