

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 8, 2018

Brookfield Central High School

Voting schools represented: La Crosse Central, Middleton, North Division, Rufus King, Janesville Parker, West Bend, Brookfield East, Brookfield Central, Golda Meir, Fort Atkinson, Appleton East, Reagan, Madison East, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Bradley Tech

The meeting was called to order by President Kedrick Stumbris at 9:19 a.m.

President

Kedrick invited those interested in serving on the scholarship committee to see him.

Past President

Matt Cekanor was unable to be with us.

President Elect

Ben Hamburger told us that he would get back to us regarding plans for the spring meeting.

Secretary

Brian Devine moved to adopt the spring meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded. **The motion was adopted by voice vote.**

There were no changes to the schedule. Miranda Ehrlich clarified that the Madison invitational will be held on the UW-Madison campus.

The location of the open MDL meet has not yet been decided.

Treasurer

Miloran Robinson was to arrive later during the meeting, so this report was postponed.

Novice Packet

Miranda announced that the packet would be made available by the end of next week. She expressed thanks to all those who worked on the packet this year.

New Coaches

Stephanie announced interest from Westosha, a new coach from Cedarburg, a new assistant coach at Reagan, and several vacancies.

Media/Communications

David Umstot reported that the membership form, scholarship form, and tournament schedule have all been updated on the web site. Doris Sexton requested that a fax number for Miloran be included on the membership form, and David said he would follow up on this.

Kedrick apologized for some of his emails not going through to the coaches' list and indicated that the matter had been resolved.

TPP

The state tournament will be at West Bend. John Knetzger reported that he will try to get one or more blocks of rooms to save schools some money. He mentioned that Doris is already working on setting up the food for state. He announced that invitational hosts must get their qualifiers posted by the week after their tournament or risk losing their weekend for the next year.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Stephanie explained that judge training will occur this year. It will be done as a PowerPoint with a Google Forms quiz. The focus is on the requirements and procedures for judging. All new judges will need to go through this, as well as judges who have valid complaints lodged against them. In response to a question from Dan Hansen, John said this should be ready to go by October.

New Business

John moved adoption of the following change:

CURRENT

330.20(2)(A), During a time announced by the WSDT Director, all coaches must telephone or register in person to verify their entries, judges, and preferences/strikes. Those who fail comply may be given a loss in round 1 as penalty.

PROPOSED

310.30 (4), During a time announced by the WSDT Director, all coaches must telephone, or register in person online to verify their entries, judges, and preferences/strikes. Those who fail to comply may be given a \$35 fine as a consequence.

and the motion was seconded. He explained that the current policy on this is unclear. This proposed policy replaces a team loss with a \$35 fine. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

John moved this proposal:

Current:

330.20(1)(C), 330.10(1)(B), 330.40(1)(B), and 340.10(1)(C).

The current rule allows schools to enter up to 2 unqualified teams in each division by having a .500 record at 2 tournaments.

Proposed; Strike that rule, renumbering as required

and the motion was seconded. There was then discussion. The question was called. **The motion was defeated by voice vote.**

Ben moved adoption of this:

Previous Language

(3) A USB drive is the only approved method of file sharing permitted by the WDCA. Wireless communication between teams and/or judges is not an approved practice.

New Language

(3) Wireless communication to file share with individuals in the round is acceptable between teams and/or judges. Other use of wireless communication shall be considered a violation of 240.10 Technology Use Guidelines. Violations of this rule will be treated with the same methods outlined in 240.10.1

and the motion was seconded. Stephanie explained previously only USB drives could be used for file sharing. The rule change would allow other methods such as email changes to be used for file sharing. In response to a question from Ben, Stephanie explained that this does allow internet access for the purposes of communication only with people participating in that round. Discussion then focused on how this would work, and various questions from coaches were answered. John then also pointed out there might be a problem with judges getting to see evidence before it is even read. Stephanie pointed out that it would make it easier for judges to note when cards are clipped. More discussion occurred surrounding the effect this change would have on judge behavior in the round. **The motion passed 8-2.**

Ben moved to adopt this:

New Language

B. Tournament hosts are not responsible for, or required to, provide electronic resources during the tournament. Tournament hosts are expected to provide information about connectivity access at the tournament site in their invitation.

and the motion was seconded. Stephanie went through the language and explained how it would work. A few clarifying questions were asked and discussed. Ben withdrew his motion after discussion revealed that we could all simply agree to make this our practice.

Doris moved to adopt this:

Tournament Director Compensation

(2) Tournament Director

A. The responsibilities of the Tournament Director shall include: recording and verifying all qualifiers and entrants; coordinating and distributing all tournament information, including judge preference statements; making tab room assignments; covering tab room workers' judging assignments; coordinating and conducting the awards ceremony; publishing results; obtaining and organizing a qualified and adequate judge pool for preliminary and elimination rounds; screening judge qualifications (experience, years out, number of rounds, etc) and making adjustments to individual assignments where necessary;

B. The Tournament Director shall receive compensation no less than three hundred and fifty dollars upon completion of the State Tournament.

and it was seconded. Doris brought up that this minimum amount should match what the WFCA pays their tournament director. She amended her motion to read "compensation of five hundred dollars plus expenses necessary for the state tournament to run upon completion..." **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Stephanie indicated that a policy topic poll would be sent out for coaches. Later, there will be another vote between the top two choices. She also will get information about some awards out to coaches.

Stephanie told us that it is likely that in a future year, the choices for topics may be limited to international actor resolutions. She mentioned some of the concerns that had been raised as far as research burdens on low-budget schools. She encouraged coaches who had thoughts about these matters to communicate with her. There was some discussion about how this could play out.

Stephanie also reminded us that there would be a single November-December PF topic for this year. She said there was also discussion in the NSDA about changing a number of features of PF round structure (removal of grand crossfire, increasing prep time, requiring pro to speak first, etc). Stephanie will email coaches information about this along with a link to a website where comments can be made.

Dan asked Kedrick if he would direct the Judging Standards and Ethics committee to communicate our new norms, as tournaments are beginning.

Maceon Downer expressed concern about behaviors he witnessed last season from debaters who spoke of debaters from his school in demeaning ways to other debaters and to judges. He asked coaches to speak with their students about this kind of behavior. Many coaches spoke supportively about these thoughts and encouraged that any such behavior be reported to the offending students' coaches or to the tournament director.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine
WDCA Secretary