

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association Minutes

September 13th, 2025

Online Meeting

Voting schools represented: Homestead, Brookfield East, Edgewood Fort Atkinson, Janesville Parker, La Crosse Central, Lomira, Sheboygan South, Marquette, Madison West, Regan, Rufus King, SPLASH, West Bend, Vel Phillips Memorial.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by WDCA President Chris Roe.

David Henning announced the death of John Voss(a former coach), and we observed a moment of silence for him.

Reports

Secretary

Justin Flynn indicated the spring minutes had been posted. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. **The motion carried.**

The calendar was shared and will be brought up in new business.

Treasurer

Dan Hansen shares where we are with money and that we have 2400+ in the account.

He brought up concerns with sustaining funds. Dan brought up his/ WDCA executive board solutions to keep state costs down, with hospitality. Overall we need to recruit more members, to keep finances trending up.

President-Elect

David H. brought up his experience going to NSDA. Overlooking a recommendation to keep ballots open until 9pm at night so judges can finish notes like at NSDA.

President

Chris thanked the executive board for helping him out this year as president, and had nothing new to report.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Stephanie King talked about the National Policy Meeting, and her experience with that. Focusing on DEI and liability issues. She also talked about creating a judge poll list to help recruit judges for tournaments.

TPP

John Knetzger stated we will have a state tournament.

The group talked in further detail about scaling judges' food back, to better budget funds available.

John talked about security and locations security, and possibly bringing about a code breaker system.

Stephanie elaborated on CFLS and security issues.

Media and Communications

David Umstot has nothing new to report.

Novice Packet

Stephanie stated the packet is up for novice policy.

New Coaches

Dan has no new news report.

DEI

Chris gave discussion on DEI Chair Vacancy then called for action an Election for DEI Chair.

Jack Steele and John talked about the DEI email and how it is set up and why it is set up the way it is, regarding Google Admin.

Jack was nominated and elected as DEI chair.

State Tournament

John talked about how hopefully we will be in the auditorium again for awards at state.

John talked about hired judges and field reporting issues.

John reminded the group about posting results from their tournaments a week after the tournament is completed.

Scott talked about waving novice legs, The executive board will also adjust legs accordingly to numbers.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Judge Participation

Sephine explained:

This is a revision from Dan Hansen's Spring 2025 rules submission related to the judge certification process for judges without the minimum amount of experience.

This wording is more fitting of the practices we are exercising as a JSE committee. There will also be additional reminders to coaches that this information can be openly found on the website.

300.23 Judge Participation.

3. The WSDT Director and/or JSE committee shall be responsible for maintaining a list of certified judges judges who have completed the certification requirements and publishing that list by the WSDT entry registration deadline.

The rule was called and motioned and passed with unanimous consent

DEI Language Changes

Stephine explained the rule, the outline and rule change below.

At the Spring 2025 meeting, there were concerns expressed by multiple coaches surrounding potential ramifications to their teams and/or employment due to the DEI language found in the WDCA Constitution and WDCA Standing Rules. This proposal is

an attempt to retain the process which has been extremely beneficial to students and adults over the last few years, while also hearing those concerns and (hopefully) prevent backlash from having DEI explicitly utilized within the WDCA documentation. If there are ideas on alternative wording/phrasings, or if those concerns are no longer felt by WDCA coaches, I am happy to revise or pull back this proposal.

As this involved a constitutional change, it is submitted to the Fall 2025 meeting for discussion and will be formally voted on in Spring 2026.

Constitutional Changes

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

The WDCA shall have the following standing committees: Executive, Judging Standards and Ethics, Media Communications, New Coaches/Novice Packet/Middle School, Tournament Practices and Procedures/Handbook, and Belonging Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Section VI Belonging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Belonging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the WDCA election process, and any WDCA coach and/or judge who wishes to join the committee. The committee shall provide resources to sanctioned tournaments on best practices to ensure that the WDCA Harassment and Discrimination equity and harassment Policy is upheld. The Chairperson, with consent of the WSDT Director and WDCA President, shall appoint Belonging Ombudsmen Equity Advocates for the WSDT.

David H. thinks this is a great idea

Chris talks about his work and his DEI chairs thoughts,

The outcome is for this to be a special meeting on this at a later date.

Fall Calendar

The calendar was reviewed

We now have an open date on November 8th, and the WDCA will be emailing members about this opening.

The following calendar was presented

Date	Location	Live/Online
September		
13	Fall Meeting	
20		
27	Rufus King	
October		
4	La Crosse	online
11	Neenah	
18	Fort Atkinson	
25	West Bend	

November		
1	Reagan	
8	Open	
14-15	Badgerland	
22	Brookfield East	
29	Thanksgiving	
December		
6	Marquette	
13	Whitefish Bay	
20		
27		
January		
3	End of Break (Madison West)	

10	MCFL Qualifier/Last Chance	
17-18	Wisconsin State Debate Tournament In West Bend, WI	
24	NSDA Southern District Qualifiers *not sanctioned	
31	Mlk is 1/19*	

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Voting overview

DEI chair

Jack Steele was nominated and elected as DEI chair with unanimous consent.

300.23 Judge Participation.

Was called and motioned and passed with unanimous consent

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES DEI Language Changes

Will be addressed in a later special meeting