

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
Debate, Drama and Forensics Advisory Committee
May 17, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Rich Follett, Todd Necessary, David Noland, Shelley Nowacek, Tina Tapp, William Waddell, [Lisa Giles, and Charlene Tiller]

Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Introductions were made, and the minutes from the May 12, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

VHSL/VASDDC CONFERENCE

The VASDDC Conference will be held at the DoubleTree Williamsburg on September 23-24.

THEATRE

Rules clinic survey results regarding timing were discussed, and no action was taken.

Committee discussed R.E. Lee-Staunton's grace period idea and requested (1) fall survey to propose "Shows must maintain a time under 35 minutes. There is a 1-minute grace period, where if a show does run over within this time period, they are not penalized provided they can still strike their set and clear the stage within the overall 45-minute time allotment. If the show is unable to do so, or the show reaches or exceeds 36 minutes, it will be disqualified from advancement."

Committee discussed creative performance that creates mood during untimed stage time and (2) requested interpretation be added to the 2016-17 Manual prohibiting this.

DEBATE

Legislation adopted for 2016-17 that prohibits use of Policy style in Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum was discussed. (3) Waddell will provide interpretation to add to Manual regarding what Policy style/technical jargon is.

Committee discussed appointment of Clerk Kalagian and Student Congress legislation submission confirmation.

Committee discussed Atlee's request for Student Congress ballot change to replace Overall Impact & Impression to Knowledge, Question & Answer. Committee instead recommended (4) eliminating the term Overall Impact & Impression as a separate category and adding Question & Answer to Evidence section.

Committee discussed Atlee's request to permit Internet use on all devices and supports change with caveat, (5) "The use of any electronic device for the purpose of text messaging, communicating outside of the round or performing any functions outside of research is strictly prohibited."

Committee discussed Smithfield's request to inform conference and regional tournament directors to encourage coaches from participating schools to provide judges and took no action.

Committee discussed Cosby's request to adapt Student Congress ballot into a rubric much like has been done for forensics. (6) Waddell will draft such ballot. Committee also recommended (7) adding prep time to L-D ballot.

Committee discussed Cosby's request to provide elaboration for Manual on bracketing and tournament structure. (8) Waddell will draft such elaboration.

Committee discussed Cosby's request to fine tune the Coach's Decision Rule. (9) Waddell will draft language.

Committee discussed Dominion's request to change presiding officer's evaluation from judges back to parliamentarian and did not support, but (10) requested Coach Gusman provide some guidelines that may be added to the Manual on how to evaluate a P.O.

FORENSICS

Legislation adopted for 2016-17 that approves select apps as sources, ad hoc Published Materials Committee recommendations, and adoption of new ballots were discussed. Suggestions to group like items and assign weight/points to the ballot were not supported.

Committee discussed Cosby's requests to eliminate entry caps, reconsider double entry, add a new event (duo improv), and modify impromptu ballot to include prep and performance times, and took no action.

Committee discussed establishing time minimums and did not support formal adoption, but recommended (11) adding a general guideline to Manual that "although there is no minimum time (for any category), the length of presentation may be a factor in judges' decisions."

Committee discussed shoulds and shalls in Handbook/Manual and recommended (12) several be changed.

Committee reviewed Tiller's report and (13) recommended stressing need for qualified judges at state in rules clinic, discussed the use of fabricated sources in extemp and (14) recommended polling on requirement to bring sources to presentation round, (15) recommended not waiting for published time to continue with rounds if tab is ready to post/move forward, (16) recommended updating the Manual by removing the statement that "students from the same school will not face each other in the first round" since that is no longer possible given new structure, and (17) updating Manual to indicate use of 5-3-1 points for sweeps at state instead of 7-5-3-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee discussed debate boycotts and potential for new site next year, and pending new alignment changes for 2017-18. Committee discussed need for two draft proposals on advancement for each activity given the 2017-18 re-alignment that eliminates conferences. (18) Noland/Tapp will work on forensics, Follett/Waddell on debate, and Necessary/Nowacek on theatre. Out-of-the-box thinking is encouraged, but strong consideration of treasury structures and budgets must be given! Drafts must be submitted to Giles by August 15.

Committee also recommended (19) permitting last minute drop/add substitutions in forensics and debate.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.