

**VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 29, 2008**

MINUTES

Present: Holly Frazier, Veverlyn Lee, Jamie Scharff, Brenda Tester, John Barnes, Marilyn Williford and Lisa Giles (ex-officio)
Absent: Shawn Pickrell (commissioner)

The meeting was called to order. Minutes from the 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Giles requested an extension of service obligations from July to December so that committee members would be in place for the start of the next school year. There were no objections.

CALENDAR REVIEW

The previously adopted 2008-09 through 2009-10 calendars were reviewed. The 2010-11 and 2011-12 proposed calendars, which recommends the state tournament be held on the last Saturday in February (and prior region and district deadlines separated at two week intervals) were reviewed.

William and Mary's preference to host our event during their spring break (generally the first Saturday in March) to avoid facilities scheduling conflicts was discussed. Committee prefers to keep event on last Saturday of February when the university is open, because (1) the first Saturday in March is a standing SAT date, (2) the cafeteria in the University Center is operational and more convenient for lunch, and (3) the atmosphere of the university is much livelier and attractive when students are present. Committee recommends keeping the event on the final Saturday in February and exploring other more centrally located venues (JMU, VCU, U of R) if necessary.

RULES CLINICS

The 2007 rules clinics were reviewed and committee agrees that it is a positive step in the direction of uniting Scholastic Bowl and bringing the event to the level of other VHSL activities and athletics. For balance among VHSL sports and activities and to keep coaches in the loop as rules change, mandatory annual clinics will be proposed to take effect for all coaches beginning 2009-10 school year. For 2008-09, coaches who did not attend in 2007-08 are required to attend or face the \$50 fine and rules exam penalty. Rules exam will be established by committee members and Giles will assign areas of concentration to committee to avoid duplication of questions.

Barnes noted that (particularly experienced) coaches want more substantive information exchange at rules clinics, which would be a better use of their time and scheduling rules clinics in conjunction with other events to make coach travel more feasible was requested. Giles will oblige on a regional basis and emphasized the need for region or school division to organize such an event. Giles also recommended establishing a coaches association to mimic those established for athletics (VIAAA, VHSCA) and activities (VASDDC, VAJTA) for support, establishing an invitational series and/or professional development opportunities for coaches.

The developing 2008 rules clinic schedule was reviewed with Pickrell, Marian Suter and Giles serving as clinicians once again. Giles also discussed the potential of online rules clinics as a near-future possibility.

SPORTSMANSHIP REVIEW

Sportsmanship rules were reviewed. There were no reported violations. *See Items from Commissioner.*

LEGISLATION REVIEW

The committee reviewed the following legislation supported by 75% of coaches and passed during the 2007-08 school year that will take effect during the 2008-09 school year:

126-9-2 Toss-up Rounds ...Once the quizmaster finishes reading the question, a team member must activate the equipment within ~~40 seconds~~ the designated time. Otherwise, time will be called, and the quizmaster will give the correct answer and...

126-9-7 Questions Directed to Teams ...If a team fails to answer a directed question ~~after 40 seconds~~ within the designated time, or answers incorrectly, the question will go to the opposing team. Ten points will be awarded to the team with the correct answer.

Questions will be alternated between teams, with the first question given to team A and the second question being given to team B, etc. If a team fails to answer a directed question ~~after 40 seconds~~ within the designated time, or answers incorrectly, the opposing team will be asked by the quizmaster to give an immediate answer without having the question reread.

Note: *All math tossups will remain 10 seconds. Questions 5A/5B in the directed round will be 20 second computation questions and questions 10A/10B will be 30-second computation questions. Questions shall also be written with prefaces to the length of the computation time.*

REVIEW OF FORMS, MANUAL

Committee recommended the following changes to the Scholastic Bowl Entry Form: (1) group coach's information together, (2) provide space for additional coaches and (3) add "list additional names on back" for teams with numbers above 10.

Committee recommended the following change to Scholastic Bowl Manual page 24, item 6: "You will be responsible for keeping track of the score, although you will not necessarily by the official scorekeeper."

Committee will provide updated information on invitational tournaments, question providers as they become available.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONER

Effective immediately, Pickrell will no longer write regular season questions and will provide only one district set, one regional set and one state set. As a result, committee recognizes the need to stress sportsmanship more than ever to help avoid leaking questions from district to district or region to region and highly recommends tournament directors of districts and regions using Pickrell-written questions to use them only on a designated day (to be announced by Giles in the 2008-09 Scholastic Bowl Manual). Coaches should stress with students that they are not to discuss questions, even in casual conversation, until after the event deadline.

Pickrell is working with NAQT to assist locales with obtaining questions for their regular seasons and will provide information when it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

Giles discussed the VHSL web redesign to be implemented beginning fall 2008. Coaches should look for a whole new public face in addition to a user name and password protected area that will allow coaches to organize and communicate with each other and with the VHSL in a more efficient manner.

Giles discussed holding award ceremonies in final round rooms immediately after championship round to capitalize on excitement (with Giles, Pickrell and Don Darnton presiding with Group Coordinators assisting). Committee agreed.

Giles discussed need to extend morning rounds by 10 minutes and afternoon rounds by five minutes to accommodate longer, pyramidal questions.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Barnes proposed changing tournament format from double elimination to round robin. A round robin format would not require more question writing from Pickrell or a longer tournament day, but it would require all-day staffing of officials. It may also change coaching strategies and may result in "running up

the score” to provide cushion in case of ties in other matches. Committee discussed “mercy rules” in other activities and tabled further discussion of such until/unless confronted with said issues.

Committee supports the Barnes proposal (as does commissioner in absentia) and recommends tie-breakers be established as follows:

- 1st tie-breaker – number of wins
- 2nd tie-breaker – cumulative points over all matches
- 3rd tie-breaker – head-to-head

This tie-breaking format is in line with tie-breaking procedures in other VHSL activities.

Barnes will write a proposal addressing both sides of the issues to be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and then presented to coaches at rules clinics in the fall. Coaches will be polled on their preference, and if favorable, legislation can be submitted to the Executive Committee in Dec/Mar or Mar/May for approval and implementation in 2009-10.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.