

**VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

MINUTES

Present: John Barnes, Karen Coston, Brenda Tester, Patricia Vandever, Marilyn Williford, Alex Zachwieja, Lisa Giles (VHSL ex-officio) and Shawn Pickrell (commissioner)

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m., introductions were made and the minutes from the April 29, 2008 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

CALENDAR REVIEW

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 calendars were reviewed. The 2011-12 and 2012-13 calendars were approved.

RULES CLINICS

The 2008 locations and attendance numbers along with the 2009 draft schedule and attendance policy were reviewed. Shawn Pickrell's resignation and Marian Suter's travel schedule leaves room for two new clinicians. Marilyn Williford recommended Bradford "Biff" Andrews of Suffolk. Holly Frazier would be another if she has retired. The 2008 clinic survey (73% of coaches in favor of changing state format to round robin) was reviewed.

SPORTSMANSHIP REVIEW

No violations were reported.

LEGISLATION REVIEW

Changes to rules 30-5-1 and 27-13-12, which are already in effect, were reviewed.

REVIEW OF FORMS/DOCUMENTS

No changes to the tournament registration form were recommended. Shawn Pickrell volunteered to draw up a step-by-step guide for organizing a match, which may be added to the manual. Committee also recommended an line interpretation change in the Quizmaster's Official Introduction as follows: "If the team to whom the question was directed answers incorrectly, the opposing team must begin its answer immediately within the remainder of the designated time or immediately if the buzzer has sounded."

2009 TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The additional time added to rounds to accommodate longer questions worked well, as did the award ceremonies being held in final round rooms. The unexpected accommodation for this year's hearing impaired student was discussed, and the committee agreed that future manuals should include a statement that reflects the desire of the VHSL to accommodate on a case-by-case basis, but recommended requiring advanced notice at the start of the season to be forwarded with team registration along with student's IEP.

CHRISTOPHER WREN DEBRIEFING

The CWA debriefing meeting yielded several recommendations for changes to the official score sheet, most of which were approved by the committee.

The committee in turn made the following recommendations of the CWA: (1) to remind officials that they are in charge of the match, and to keep coaches' interference to an absolute minimum if there are challenges, (2) when possible and if there is no microphone, position contestants closer to quizmaster so they can hear better, (3) remind officials that when spelling is requested (but not required), it need not be exact, just close enough to know that the student knows the answer, and (4) consider the possibility of providing one laptop per match (12) or three (one per Group) so that researching an answer can be expedited.

SCHOLASTIC BOWL AND THE LARGER QUIZ BOWL COMMUNITY

Committee member John Barnes led a discussion on the importance of VHSL teams embracing other leagues and getting practice outside of the VHSL district, regional and state series.

ROUND ROBIN PROPOSAL

The committee discussed changing the state match format from double elimination to round robin and discussed various formats of the round robin, ultimately deciding to support the initial proposal as presented to the coaching

body in the fall of 2008 whereby number of matches won determines the win. In case of a tie, the first tie-breaker will be handled by total number of points. The second tie-breaker would be head-to-head. The CWA presented concerns (via e-mail) to this proposal with regard to facilities, volunteers, food and awards, but felt that the change could be accommodated. Regular legislation could be submitted fall 2009 and if approved, changes would go into effect during the 2010-11 season.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONER SHAWN PICKRELL

Commissioner suggested a rule change whereby an incorrect tossup interrupt would not be re-read in its entirety, but from the beginning of the sentence in which the interruption occurred. Committee supports.

Committee did not support commissioner's request for a 30-second time out.

Commissioner recommends HSAPQ as future question provider. HSAPQ would want to (1) remove math computation questions from tossups, (2) place three math computation questions in each directed set, (3) merge vocabulary and grammar in the English distribution, and (4) reduce pop culture and religion and increase fine art and mythology in miscellany. Committee supports, but final decision lies with new commissioner and Lisa Giles.

NEW BUSINESS

Shawn Pickrell has resigned effective end of 2008-09 season, and Marian Suter will resign as Group Coordinator after the end of the 2009-10 season.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.