

Minnesota Debate Teachers Association
-Bylaws-
November 2009

Article I – Meetings

Section A: Two annual meetings of the Association shall be held; one in conjunction with the MSHSL State Debate Tournament and the other in conjunction with an autumn convention.

Section B: Two annual meetings of the Executive Board shall be held; one in conjunction with the MSHSL State Speech Tournament and the other in conjunction with an autumn convention. Additional meetings may be called by the president or upon request of three members of the board.

Article II – Quorum

Section A: At the annual meetings of the Association, a quorum shall consist of either a majority of the current membership in the Association or 25 members of the Association, whichever is smaller.

Section B: A majority of their members shall be a quorum for the Executive Board and committees.

Article III – Selection of Officers

Section A: The only officer elected by the membership shall be the President-Elect. The following procedure shall be used for this election:

1. A nomination committee shall be formed.
 - a. The President-Elect for the upcoming year shall serve as chairperson.
 - b. The chairperson shall choose two other members of the committee.
2. Each member of the committee shall submit one nominee to the chairperson. This process may be repeated as needed.
3. The three nominees shall be contacted to see if they will accept the nomination. Nominations shall be confirmed at the MSHSL State Debate Tournament general membership meeting of the Association.
4. A ballot shall be mailed to all members of the Association for voting.
5. A minimum of two nominees shall be on the ballot.
6. The President-Elect shall be elected by a majority of ballots cast within 30 days after the MSHSL State Debate Tournament general membership meeting of the Association.

Section B: The President-Elect shall automatically become President in the succeeding year. The term shall begin immediately following the annual meeting held in conjunction with the MSHSL State Debate Tournament.

Section C: The President shall appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association.

Article IV – Powers of Officers

Section A: President. The President shall preside over meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board, appoint the chairpersons and members of committees and shall be the executive officer of the Association. The President shall represent the Association before the public either personally or through delegates and shall perform all other functions usually attributed to this office. The President is authorized to spend up to \$35 on any one item without Executive Board approval.

Section B: President-Elect. The President-Elect shall serve as vice-president of the Association and shall be responsible for distribution of the official Association debate ballots. S/he shall work closely with one or more committees as the President may suggest. S/he shall become President at the expiration of one year or when the presidency becomes vacant.

Section C: Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall advise the Executive Board and assist the President at the latter's request.

Section D: Secretary. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Association and Executive Board, shall maintain official files and shall assist the President with Association correspondence.

Section E: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the Association and disburse them upon authorization by the Executive Board or President. S/he shall collect from the members their annual dues. S/he shall maintain a roll of the members. S/he shall keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, shall report to each meeting of the Executive Board and shall prepare an annual financial statement to members as directed by the Executive Board. S/he shall keep the President and Executive Board informed of the financial condition of the Association.

Section F: Terms and Succession.

1. The officers shall serve for ~~one~~ two years, and with the exception of the President and President-Elect, may serve again without an intervening term. [Approved by general membership, Fall 1996]

2. Whenever the offices of both President and President-Elect shall become vacant between elections, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall choose one of their members to serve as President pro tempore until the next meeting of the Association.

Article V – Power of the Executive Board

Section A: The Executive Board shall be responsible for the management of the Association, approve all expenditures, carry out policies and decisions approved at the meetings of the Association and annually distribute to the membership current, dated copies of the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies.

Section B: Terms and Succession of the Sectional Representatives. The Sectional Representatives shall be elected at the sectional coaches meetings at the sectional tournaments in the following manner:

1. Odd-numbered sections shall elect their representatives in the odd-numbered years.
2. Even-numbered sections shall elect their representatives in the even-numbered years.
3. The sectional representatives shall serve for two years and may be reelected without intervening terms.
4. Whenever the office of one or more of the sectional representatives shall become vacant between elections, the Executive Board shall choose one of the coaches in that section to serve as sectional representative until the next sectional coaches meeting.

Article V – Committees

Section A: Committees shall be established by the President or the Executive Board as the need arises. The tenure of appointed committees and the chairpersons shall coincide with that of the President and may be subject to reappointment.

Section B: Each committee shall choose a secretary who shall keep a continuing record of its activities. Chairpersons shall prepare an annual report summarizing objectives, program, gains and unreach goals, which the Executive Board shall distribute to the members and which shall become part of the continuing record of the Association.