

Meeting Minutes

(Agenda Items indicated in bold)

1. State Tournament Rules and Procedures – rules covering internet use by debaters

- Discussed need to rewrite the rule. Some questions brought up:
 - o Should judges be allowed to see a shared research folder?
 - o Should the rule be removed altogether?
 - o Should there be a specific carve out only for research sharing
- It seems clear that kids are using it to share evidence, it's a more open question as to whether judges should be included
- It also opens a potential for in-round coaching, we need to make this clear in the rule

2. State Tournament Tabroom – Review, discuss tabroom program, request changes

- Chris M. will discuss with Chris Palmer at the Debate TOC
- Hoping that the win / loss record feature will be available in the future
- We discussed having a separate scheduling program for the debate tournament; decided it would not be feasible. We want to keep working with Tabroom.
- Community Judges were discussed
 - o Issues discussed
 - It is increasingly difficult to have enough hired on time – getting to 6 was tough this year
 - It is increasingly difficult to have true “community” judges – most this year were old Policy debaters and had trouble with the PF format
 - It is also difficult to balance assignments so that teams do not see more community judges than hired judges in prelim rounds (some saw 4 judges, the rule was ‘no more than 2’)
 - o Options discussed:
 - Eliminate community judges altogether
 - Just use in final rounds
 - Better assignment of judges
- Also discussed general hiring procedure of judges
 - o Only had 17 hired judges, requested 18
 - o Issue seems to be judges accepting, then backing out of contracts
 - o We want a fair hiring protocol, and we want to respect voting preferences
- Saturday Tournament Schedule
 - o Currently there is little time for competitors to eat lunch on Saturday – QF announcement for PF / LD is slotted early, and runs late
 - o We want everyone present for the announcements, awards process. QF announcement seems to be the best time to hold that.
 - o Options discussed:
 - Move 5th rounds to Friday, and push announcement earlier on Saturday
 - Make QF announcements as available in each division
 - Update schedule to reflect the delay (push the announcement time to later on the schedule)
 - Start Policy (and potentially PF / LD) earlier
 - Move toward online balloting, make it an option to select at contract acceptance / at registration
 - Move Tab to be more centrally located.

3. MDTA Committee – Review Roles and Responsibilities

- We want to spread out responsibilities so that the President isn't doing everything
- Treasurer: Zach is the treasurer, has the checkbook and records
- Grant Process: Group will review, President makes decisions
- Awards: Challenge Cup / All State – DJ will still manage these
- State Judge Balloting – Cort is taking this on
- DJ has a month-to-month calendar, some upcoming items:
 - o Membership Renewal – most are expiring this year
 - Should it be a requirement to vote for awards? Policy changes? State judges?
 - o Coach of the Year / Distinguished Service Awards
 - o MDTA Cup year-end
 - o Thank yous
 - o Grants for next year
 - o Big Two Items:
 - Membership Rolls DJ will manage
 - State Judge Balloting Cort will manage
 - o Katie will help with awards
- Other upcoming items:
 - o Review articles / rules All
 - o Confirm taxes are submitted Cort will prepare
 - o Section Rep voting – should be done every two years

4. Program Grants – Review and make adjustments

- Process seems to be going well – any schools that we should reach out to?
 - o Avalon
- Currently have enough money in MDTA Foundation to support grants
- No issues currently
- Current procedure: withhold portion of grant until team competes at Sections Seems to be a good policy to continue going forward.

5. Policy Debate – Novice Packet Discussion

- Novice Packet limits the research available to novices in Policy Debate
- UDL has put the packet together in the past few years
- Some issues reported, but complaints are not consistent (issues re: reading level; content included)
- Agreed that MDTA does not want to reassert control over packet
- UDL does get feedback from debaters currently, issue seems to be getting other coaches involved.
- DJ volunteered to reach out to UDL to get information about upcoming meetings to disseminate to MDTA

6. Section Debate Tournament – continuing discussion re: format changes

- Entries year-over-year discussed. Overall Policy +3, LD -5. PF +5
 - o Sections appear to be fine, no need to shuffle at this point
 - o Policy may be in trouble going forward
- Current format appears unsustainable
 - o Issues
 - Scheduling / managing judges is difficult
 - Single tournament site is difficult as numbers grow
 - o Options:

- Go back to individual sections, each section manager will be responsible for hiring judges & running tournaments
 - Costs anticipated to increase
 - Not clear if all sections could be on the same day
 - Section reps would have to hire judges
 - Move to a Super Section Format
- 7. Congress – Discuss next steps re: State Tournament**
- MDTA leadership agrees to push to get Congress added to the State Tournament
 - Not anticipated to significantly expand the State Tournament
 - Items to resolve
 - Format will need to be agreed to:
 - Could do a supersection qualifier at MDTA JV/Novice State (top 24 advance)
 - This would allow competitors ~ 1 month to write / prepare research for legislation
 - Judging
 - Possibly a crossover PF / Congress Pool
 - Vote specifically for Congress State Judges
 - Explanation write-up DJ will do
 - Get on MSHSL Action-Item list Chris will do
- 8. Additional Discussion Items**
- MDTA Finances (Discussed in context of Item #4)
 - Last check written to cover MDTA Subsidy for MDTA Jamboree
 - Higher than anticipated cost for subsidy + trophies
 - Consider for next year: subsidy OR trophies, not both.
 - Anticipate higher than expected carryover to next year, but also had some higher-than expected fees, 1 fewer grant than previous years

MDTA Leadership Action Items

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| • Discuss Tabroom issues with Chris Palmer | Chris |
| • Get Congress State Tournament on MSHSL calendar | Chris |
| • Attempt Re-write of Internet Usage Rule | DJ |
| • Send Grant form to Chris M. | DJ |
| • Reach out to Jack Swede / UDL re: Novice Packet | DJ |
| • Write-up of Super-Section format for Congress | DJ |
| • File Taxes | Cort |
| • Re-write State Schedule, make available to all | All |
| • Review MDTA Rules / Articles | All |

Proposed General Membership Meeting

- Date: May 6th
- Place: Midlands

Proposed Agenda

1. Internet Usage – Policy, PF and LD
2. Discuss Judges at State
 - a. Community Judges in PF at State
 - b. Hiring protocols
3. Membership Renewal
 - a. Currently 54 of 57 memberships expire in September 2017
4. Sections Format
 - a. Need radical reform (e.g. Super Section Format) or
 - b. Return to old format