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:
     - Should judges be allowed to see a shared research folder?
     - Should the rule be removed altogether?
     - 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
     - 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’)
     - Options discussed:
       - Eliminate community judges altogether
       - Just use in final rounds
       - Better assignment of judges
   - Also discussed general hiring procedure of judges
     - Only had 17 hired judges, requested 18
     - Issue seems to be judges accepting, then backing out of contracts
     - We want a fair hiring protocol, and we want to respect voting preferences
   - Saturday Tournament Schedule
     - Currently there is little time for competitors to eat lunch on Saturday – QF announcement for PF / LD is slotted early, and runs late
     - We want everyone present for the announcements, awards process. QF announcement seems to be the best time to hold that.
     - 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:
  - Membership Renewal – most are expiring this year
  - Coach of the Year / Distinguished Service Awards
  - MDTA Cup year-end
  - Thank yous
  - Grants for next year
  - Big Two Items:
    - Membership Rolls DJ will manage
    - State Judge Balloting Cort will manage
  - Katie will help with awards
- Other upcoming items:
  - Review articles / rules All
  - Confirm taxes are submitted Cort will prepare
  - 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?
  - 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 Seem 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
  - Sections appear to be fine, no need to shuffle at this point
  - Policy may be in trouble going forward
- Current format appears unsustainable
  - Issues
    - Scheduling / managing judges is difficult
    - Single tournament site is difficult as numbers grow
  - 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
     o 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
     o 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)
     o Last check written to cover MDTA Subsidy for MDTA Jamboree
     o Higher than anticipated cost for subsidy + trophies
     o Consider for next year: subsidy OR trophies, not both.
     o 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

- 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