

**MSDL Board Meeting Minutes**  
September 18, 2023 @ 7:30 PM  
ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by the president, Amanda Parker

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Scott Caron, Lindsay Donovan, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Ryan Julian, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Janet Novak, Amanda Parker, Mike Plunkett, Tammie Ruda, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler.

**1. Equity Initiatives Recommendations (Scott - discussion continued from 8/29)**

- [Considerations for the MSDL Board](#)
- [BIC Development and Implementation Guide](#)
- [Recommended Tournament Checklist](#)

At the start of the conversation, Amanda suggested that we allocate a finite amount of time to this agenda item so that we can address other agenda items tonight. She will let us know when we reach that point and we will pick up where we left off at the next meeting.

We continued examining the proposed BIC Development and Implementation Guide that we started considering during the previous board meeting. The document was adapted from NSDA materials and we agreed that it may be more comprehensive than we need on the local level.

After substantial discussion, we decided it might be best to reframe the document around our community standards with the goal of facilitating discussion, mediating if necessary. Our goal is to educate people to be better community members. We would like to steer clear of discussion of sanctions and of behavior that violates state and local laws. Our participation agreement already requires head coaches and school administrators sign that they will take on responsibility for any necessary disciplinary action.

At the core of our discussion is the question, "How do we define our process?" What does the beginning, middle and end of the process look like?

After a little over an hour, we moved on to agenda item #2.

When we left off, we were talking about the role of coaches in this process.

Amanda & Scott will connect to see if they can take the work that has already been done and realign it around the concept of community standards with a focus on what the next questions are for the next meeting.

## **2. Novice Tournament planning (Amanda - discussion continued from 8/29)**

### Speech Judge Training

Lisa & Jim are not available to do this this year.

Chris Sheldon will run a judge training. We talked about how to publicize this event.

### Schedule

Joyce, Joe, Josh & Amanda have met with the folks from Thayer (Justin) already to discuss tournament logistics. At the moment, they are waiting on a room list. Until we know how many rooms are available, we won't know if we can single-flight any of the debate rounds. We would like to be able to offer 3 debate rounds + a debate exhibition round. To run the 3 double-flighted rounds, they really need 6 hours. Plus, they'd like time for the exhibition. It was suggested that maybe we could run two exhibition rounds - one in Flight A and one in Flight B of round 3, with longer flights in the last time slot to cut down on the overall time teams are at the tournament.

We also want to make sure the day feels like a cohesive tournament with a clean ending.

We talked about maybe handing out the "I survived the novice tournament" buttons on stage at the end of the tournament - and using that time as a teaching opportunity for how awards ceremonies work.

Once they have room numbers, Amanda will work to tweak the schedule to best accommodate the needs of all events.

8:30 am - judge meetings

### Exhibition Round Planning

- Chris would like to pass that off since he'll be doing the judge training
- PJ will coordinate the debate exhibition round

### Congress

- Joe is looking for experienced congress folks to help as judges and be in a demo round

### Group Discussion

- Mark & Greg will do an exhibition round for round 1

#### Buttons

- Current button count: 356, planning to order 1000 so we have stock for a few years.

#### Extemp

- Lisa will send out the document for question writing.
- Joyce will prepare the extemp questions for the tournament because Lisa won't be there.

#### Entry Fees

\$8 per student/\$16 per team event

### **3. Rules documents review (Amanda)**

- Tabled until next meeting

### **4. Changing entry fees for States? (Amanda)**

- General agreement that we'll need to raise fees for States to cover increased fees for using Tabroom.com and increased prices of trophies. We will talk about exactly how much to charge at a meeting later in the season.

### **5. Extemp Committee Members (Lisa)** - just need names of people who will help out

Chris (no Jan/Feb), Joe, Joyce, PJ, Lindsay, and Lisa volunteered at the meeting. Lisa will reach out to the other folks who have participated in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 via Zoom