

MSDL Board Meeting
April 16, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Scott Caron, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, PJ Wexler and Keith West.

1. States (Are physical tournaments possible? Should we explore an online tournament?)

It seems unlikely that May or June will be possibilities for us to hold in-person tournament(s) and if we can't hold tournaments by August 1, it seems like it would be too late. Colleges will be starting up. Summer seems like an unlikely time for us to get a school building, too.

So . . . is it possible/feasible for us to do an on-line tournament?

Maybe we should wait a week until we see how the online TOC goes. The TOC is using the same platform that the NSDAs is going to be using. Is this an option for us? Or, would we want/need to use a different platform?

We talked about lots of logistical obstacles and issues:

JUDGES

PJ did the speech judge training this week for TOCs. (It's a YouTube training video.) He said it didn't seem too difficult. How about managing judges? What if one didn't show up? We would need to plan for all of the things that could go wrong.

We can use Google.docs for pre-recorded performances. (Greg explained how it works).

ROUNDS

What about making rounds "live" for people to watch? Would we want to require that competitors watch each other? Make it optional?

What about "live" events like GD, VX, IMP, debate, Congress? How do we run them "live"?

What about DUO and MULT? Maybe wild cards? Maybe option to do it remotely?

We would need to figure out a system of wild cards? Maybe open the tournament up for all seniors?

SCHEDULE

Can we run States over more than one day? It might make it possible to judge the rounds with fewer judges in speech. We could do it over the course of longer time. Ask judges to get "round 1 ranks" completed by a certain time. Or maybe rounds 1-3 on day one and then out-rounds another day.

If we run an on-line state tournament on a single weekend, we might be able to schedule events so that students could enter both debate and speech events. That would be hard in Congress +

another debate event. We will also need to consider what type of permission is necessary for use of video.

We will explore the double/triple entry at our next meeting.

When would we do this? Maybe Memorial Day weekend? (Gives us 3 days)? (No CFLs that weekend). It would be good to get it in before graduations and NSDAs.

Can we explore the possibility of using the TOC/NSDA platform? Greg will look into this.

We will revisit the situation next week, after we see how TOCs go before we make any final decisions about whether or not we can go forward with an on-line States tournament.

We agreed that if we run an on-line State tournament in May, we will plan to use the February PFD topic and the Jan/Feb LD topic.

2. Annual meeting (hold online or postpone until September)

We cannot put a calendar together by May 2. No one can commit to building use next year at this point in time. We don't know if there will be limits imposed by school districts about numbers of people allowed in a building. Will outside events even be allowed?

After a bit of discussion, we agreed to hold the annual meeting on May 2, 2020 via Zoom so we can discuss possible rules and bylaws changes before the summer.

We will have the May 2, 2020 Annual Meeting via Zoom. This meeting will only deal with bylaw and rules changes for 2020-2021.

Greg will send out a note to the league and call for agenda items.

3. Sanctioning for 2020-2021 Season

We need to make a friendly amendment to our rules changes to postpone the requirement that tournament sanctioning happens in the spring because no one can commit at this point.

We will postpone the calendar setting-meeting until the fall.

Next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn: West

2nd: Cohen

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Secretary/Clerk