

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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, and PJ Wexler

1. Change the date of the novice tournament? - (Currently scheduled Oct 10)
Because schools are starting later this year, we postponed the Novice Tournament in order to give teams more time to get organized this fall.

NEW DATES

Debate & congress only - Sept. 26

Speech (no congress) only - October 10

Novice tournament on October 24

2. Ensuring online tournaments are on track and ready
For debate tournaments listed as MA/NY, Kaz & Josh will work with the NY folks. These tournaments will be posted online on Tabroom.com. They are technically NY tournaments that MA students are being invited to attend.

A number of board members have/will have watched the NSDL Campus training webinar for the online software prior to the first tournament.

Awards: Medals for all events. Specific event stickers for the backs & maybe tournament-specific mylar on the fronts. Greg will order the medals, the plate labels for each tournament. Greg will mail the appropriate plates to coaches following each tournament. Sue will work with Joyce to get Greg a count of how many medals to order to get us through January.

Tournament Names: Joyce is setting tournaments up and giving them unique names.

Invitations: It's time to put out the invitation for the September 25th tournament. In it, explain the registration process - including instructions for payment, divisions offered etc. Joyce will take care of October 10 and October 24. Josh & Sue will work together on September 26 and October 31.

Participation Agreement: Add in something about video.

"By signing this participation agreement you are acknowledging that students will be participating in speech & debate competitions online using a video platform hosted on the National Speech & Debate Association's private server.

You further acknowledge that during some parts of the tournament, such as the awards ceremony, students may be shown on screen as part of a live stream. Students will have the option to turn their cameras off during those times."

We also need an agreement signed by the parent of every student participating. The coaches will need to upload a form for each student each time they register.

Greg will run possible wording by a lawyer this week.

Judge Training: Put something together for judges to watch prior to judging. We also have the guide we created back in May for the State tournament.

Set Up: Indicate # rooms needed and pay NSDA for them at least 48 hours prior to tournament start. You can pay by credit card on the platform, PO, or check - but it must be in their hands at least 48 hours in advance. We can use the MSDL debit card.

Sweepstakes: Ongoing. Maybe something that draws on the four categories we have been recognizing at States? (Debate, Oratory, Interp, ?). Joyce will pull up the States invitation and clarify the 4 categories.

3. MSDL Insurance (Greg)

Greg has been in touch with an insurance agent and has received some information about purchasing liability insurance for the league. He will start filling out the forms and seek advice about coverage amounts etc.

4. Extemp third person rule (PJ)

Can we require that students stay and watch the next speaker in radio & extemp so that we can minimize the amount of time that a single student is alone in a "room" with a judge? (Last speaker watches first speaker in VX, NX and RB). We may need to ask students in other events not to leave a room unless they are sure there are at least two students remaining in a "room."

Also, an admin can 'pop' into a room at any time to check in.

5. MSDL adding Middle School PF division at tournaments (Josh)

There are folks in Massachusetts looking for an option for middle schoolers to find each other and debate, but we are not their solution. We are a high school league. They need to work with the middle school league to find ways to introduce debate at the middle school level.

6. Ballot wording (Kaz)

Kaz proposes adding this language:

"We are all influenced by implicit bias: the stereotypes that affect our decisions. When people judge, their implicit biases can negatively impact already marginalized and disenfranchised students. Before writing comments or making decisions, please reflect on any biases you have that may impact how you evaluate the students you judge. Please also remember that the quality of online performances may be impacted by circumstances beyond any student's control, so please avoid penalizing them for those circumstances."

This statement met with general approval.

Next full board meeting: Monday, September 21 at 7:00 via Zoom

Saying of the evening: "Tournaments are vacation."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/secretary