

Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

SAB Tournament Meeting

1 March 2014

Shrewsbury High School

The meeting was called after the completion of final rounds by presidents, Joshua Carney and Dhanya Kumar.

I. Competitor Comments

- Having the same person judge a competitor in two different events is weird, and can lead to a comparative bias. (A fellow competitor mentioned that this is the cost of double entering.)
- New judges have trouble giving feedback on ballots, because they can't quite put their finger on the appropriate terms.
- At the middle school tournament, as well as judge training sessions, specific criteria comments should be provided on the ballot.
- A speech glossary should be given to every judge in order to ensure more effective feedback.

II. How the SAB should Address Judging Etiquette

- Make sure that the intolerance for texting in rounds applies to Judges just as much as it does to competitors.
- Students that witness misconduct in rounds should be able to anonymously report what they've seen to TAB.
- There should be a strike system. Example given, if an individual has been an inappropriate audience member they'll receive strike. If one more incident occurs, they can be penalized.
- The problem with an anonymous report, or a strike system, is dishonest report in order to achieve an unfair competitive advantage.
- There should be a specific clause within MSDL ballots pertaining to judging etiquette.
- The SAB should experiment with a trial system before asking the MSDL to implement any action.

- Signs should be posted around the competition venue reminding judges and competitors to not use their devices (other than for timing purposes) during rounds.
- The SAB should reevaluate their judging etiquette measures at the state tournament.
- The SAB should send out notices to league coaches, because messages are more impactful when they come from senior members of the team.
- Competitors need to enforce proper device etiquette while in the audience.

III. General suggestions for the SAB

- The SAB should create their own Twitter account.

The meeting was adjourned prior to the awards ceremony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Carney

SAB President