

MFEA 2008 – April 3, 4 and 5 – Billings Hotel, Billings.
Annual Montana Forensics Educators Association Spring Conference

Thursday, April 03, 2008

A, BC Meeting with MHSA representatives

Trudi Downer opened meeting.

Discussion: Reuniting ABC

Dwayne Walker, AD at Hardin High School – will talk about what happened at the January MHSA meeting.

Dwayne: I have a history that goes way back with S/D. This is 1st year on MHSA board. I want to listen to see what the discussion is.

Trudi: Doug has hand-outs on the proposals. There was a committee to solve the problem. There was no compromise so there was no solution. MHSA solved it for us & split A & BC.

There are 2 proposals for reunification of A & BC: purpose to increase the level of competition on both levels. Trudi gave background of history of progression. 8 to state was a solution but made state unwieldy & didn't solve the equity problem. MHSA says that we cannot have more than 24 competitors in each event.

Trudi Downer, Laurel, and Bonnie Ortner, Huntley Project, presented a proposal to re-unify ABC by forming 3 Divisions.

Proposed Divisions:

North	South	East
Class A Schools:		
Big Fork	Anaconda	Billings Central
Browning	Beaverhead (Dillon)	Dawson (Glendive)
Columbia Falls	Belgrade	Hardin
Frenchtown	Butte Central	Havre
Libby	Corvallis	Laurel
Polson	Hamilton	Lewistown
Ronan	Livingston	Miles City
Whitefish	Stevensville	Sidney
Class BC Schools:		
Belt	Belfry	Baker/Plevna
Chester/Joplin/Inverness	Broadwater (Townsend)	Carter County (Ekalaka)
Choteau	Columbus	Circle
Conrad	Ennis	Colstrip
Cut Bank	Gardiner	Culbertson
Denton	Jefferson (Boulder)	Fairview
Dutton/Brady/Power	Joliet	Forsyth
Fairfield	Manhattan	Froid/Medicine Lake
Fort Benton	Red Lodge	Garfield County (Jordan)
Geraldine	Sheridan	Glasgow/Hinsdale/Nashua
Great Falls Central	Shields Valley (Clyde Park)	Harlem
Highwood	Sweetgrass County (Big Timber)	Huntley Project (Worden)
Hobson/Stanford	Three Forks/Manhattan	Malta
Lincoln County (Eureka)	Twin Bridges	Plenty Coups (Pryor)
Missoula Loyola	West Yellowstone	Plentywood
North Star	White Sulphur Springs	Poplar
Shelby	Whitehall	Powder River (Broadus)
Simms		Roundup
		Scobey
		Shepherd
		Winnett
		Wolf Point

1. State will rotate among the Divisions. The Division will be responsible for finding a site for the tournament and will assist the host school in setting up and running the tournament.
2. 9th and 10th place finishers at Divisional Tournaments will be the alternates. Alternate slots will not be filled after Wednesday at 4:00.

- Each Division will send the top eight (8) competitors to State. The number of competitors at State will still be twenty-four (24) in each event as is currently the number at Class A State. The 3-section pairing from current BC State can be adapted to cover 24 competitors.

Rationale:

- This proposal will decrease the number of Divisions from seven to three. This will increase the number of school available to host invitational tournaments during the season. It also decreases the number of State tournaments to two (2).
- Number of A schools is even and number of BC schools are as even as geographically possible.
- This will decrease the number of classrooms needed to host State allowing smaller schools the opportunity to host the State Meet.
- This will increase the caliber of competition for berths at State.
- The proposal only impacts the Divisional and State meets. Scheduling of Invitational tournaments is the duty of the Divisions.
- Allows Divisions to send 8 to State for increased opportunity within a Division, but does not increase the total number earning berths to the State Meet.

Trudi explained & showed proposed map on screen. This has 8 A schools in each division & a balance of BC schools

Mike Christensen presented a proposal of 4 divisions.

For A and BC Interim Committees from Mike Christiansen, Columbia Falls

Resolution speaking to the issue of Reunifying Class A and B-C Divisional and State Tournaments beginning 2009-2010: I've attached a proposed division of programs into Western, Northern, Southern and Eastern Divisions. If each Divisional Tournament Director were to send you the numbers from Divisionals for B-C, remembering I gave Doug the Class A numbers already, we'd be able to address the proposed Divisions based on the number of participants from each school more intelligently. Keep in mind, my division of programs is a starting point for discussion only.

Western

Bigfork (A)
Corvallis (A)
Columbia Falls (A)
Frenchtown (A)
Hamilton/Victor (A)
Libby (A)
Lincoln (Eureka) (B)
Missoula Loyola (B)
Polson (A)
Ronan (A)
Stevensville (A)
Whitefish (A)

Northern

Belt (C)
Browning (A)
Chester/J-I (C)
Choteau (B)
Conrad (B)
Cut Bank (B)
Denton (C)
Dutton/Brady/Power (C)
Fairfield (B)
Fergus (A)
Fort Benton (B)
Geraldine (C)
Great Falls Central (C)
Harlem (B)
Havre (A)
Highwood ©
Hobson/Stanford (C)
Malta (B)
North Star (Rudyard) (C)
Shelby (B)
Simms (C)
Winnett (C)

Southern

Anaconda (A)
Beaverhead (Dillon) (A)
Belfry (C)
Belgrade (A)
Broadwater (Townsend) (B)
Butte Central (A)
Columbus (B)
Ennis (C)
Gardiner (C)
Jefferson (Boulder) (B)
Joliet (C)
Manhattan (B)
Park (Livingston) (A)
Sheridan (C)
Shields Valley (Clyde Park) (C)
Sweetgrass (Big Timber) (B)
Three Forks/Manhattan (B)
Twin Bridges (C)
West Yellowstone (C)
White Sulphur Springs (C)
Whitehall (B)

Eastern

Baker/Plevna (B)
Billings Central (A)
Carter Co (Ekalaka) (C)
Circle (C)
Colstrip (B)
Culbertson (C)
Custer Co. (Miles City) (A)
Dawson Co. (Glendive) (A)
Fairview (C)
Forsyth (B)
Froid/Medicine Lake (C)
Garfield (Jordan) (C)
Glasgow/Hinsdale/Nashua (B)
Hardin (A)
Huntley Project (B)
Laurel (A)
Plenty Coup (Pryor) (C)
Plentywood (B)
Poplar (B)
Powder River (Broadus) (B)
Roundup (B)
Scobey (C)
Shepherd (B)
Sidney (A)
Wolf Point (B)

Mike C: Doesn't understand the limit of 24 instead of 32

This proposal is based on numbers coming out of divisionals for the last 3-4 years. With this you don't have school crossing mountains in January for a divisional 1 day meet.

In a year or 2 you will be coming back & talking about the problems of the travel needed in a 3-division proposal.

Reasons: Western div & numbers: had many A schools & they beat each other up. & we have Matt. We can get around that. We also had the fortune of competing against of the best AA schools & learning from them. It helps improve our program. Small school numbers in west is based on the large number of students, comparable to the student numbers in other divisions.

When presenting proposal to MHSA we need to give them some reasoning about the welfare of our students traveling on buses in winter.

Trudi: State is not to be bigger than 24. It had to do with accommodations.

Matt: the numbers of schools is deceptive but the quality is good. It used to be that the southern division was overloaded but if we tweaked it the numbers could be balanced.

When looking at schools, yes the numbers in individual schools vary, but this seemed more equitable

There are slots at both states there are slots that are not filled by combining this will create better competition & kids will step up to the plate.

When 1st started in 01 there was a problem with schools being able to host state. Heard that there was a proposal of limiting it to 4 to state & would make the competition stiffer. But need to think about it before we go back to what the problem was before.

Mark: 8 to state means 3 divisions or 6 to state with 4 divisions- these are merged ideas. Do miss the competition of BC.

There's no reason the expos from Gardener can't beat an expos from an A school.

Doug: historical record – bringing alternates to state creating excess numbers for hotels etc.

April- Simms. Last year when we had to split, my kid won state but said not really the best because the A wasn't there. For unifying. Declining numbers is a problem. Saw double entry as a proposal I'd be interested in that to help.

Trudy stated that there is a cut off for so that alternate would not come in

Mark: at state rounds of 6 & more time to compete as opposed to 8 at divisionals crammed into 1 day, why not use the time at state to have 8 in a round.

Mike: appreciates that it is inconvenience for many traveling: with reunifying with 32 would not be watering down the competition. Could live with 24 just give us back the BCs. What I found was more younger competitors have made it to state.

Bonnie: would love to have 32 at state, but MHSA says no. But with 24 to state Huntley Project could host. Would open up more schools to be willing to host state.

The only thing we have to decide is that there is going to 3 or 4 divisions.

Allison: I understand that 3 divisions open up schools but not towns. The issue of traveling safely to divisionals why I support 4 divisions rather than 3.

Bonnie: there are schools who understand about the travel: talk to Matt & Judy. Our town happened to have enough hotels to host.

24 is 24

Trudi: If we do 3 divisions – we can use BC schematics: If we do 4 divisions we can use the A schematics

It will not happen this year. We have to present our proposal, then MHSA will make the decisions.

Straw vote: split evenly between 2 choices.

Eastern divisions still hazardous driving & distances are has 2x the distance & the school. We don't have the mountains but we do have windy conditions that are just as dangerous.

Doug: geographically the east is still a lot of travel no matter what.

Shelly Fisher-Libby: It is dangerous going over Marias Pass traveling at night.

Tara-Whitefish- The mountain pass is still a bad memory for our school.

Froid- we don't have the passes but we do have the black ice & 500 miles.

Dwayne: understanding traveling issues.

Trudi: **formal count for straw poll: 17 for 3 & 30 for 4.**

SUMMARY: Unanimous decision on reunifying A and BC, and majority vote for 4 Divisions.

April Gilstrap- Simms- I know everyone has to travel but it has to be only for divisionals. For invitationals will invite schools from other divisions.

Charlotte Hanson- Shelby: April has a point. We have to travel. We will run an administrative wall for divisionals & go over passes. Don't think people will buy it if we look at ignoring the geography divisions.

Mike: question for Dwayne, ultimately it is MHSA that makes the decision ultimately as to what schools are in which division they compete. Move that we move on to other business.

Dwayne: interesting that everyone gets a vote in something. Schools have a vote, like in football, but not individual coaches.

Trudi: did ask about the geography barrier, & they said there was no problem.

Bonnie: out of curiosity how do we stand by school, rather than as individuals?

Trudi: we are unified as to uniting ABC. We have already made a straw poll that we go back by 4 divisions.

Our constitutions says that we vote as dues paying members & don't feel the need to change

Mark: I'm from the East & no matter what, the East looks the same on both maps. You feel our pain, no sense on inflicting it on the rest of you.

Trudi: We are going to move on:

Mike C: I'd like to revisit the issue of coaches judging at tournaments in events where they have students competing. I'd like the issue to be raised when the A and BC coaches meet and have it brought to the full body via that route.

On Page 23, Section C. Judges under (5) Amend last sentence to read, (High school coaches may be used to judge, but only in events where they do not have individuals competing that day.) I will judge drama because we don't have a drama program.

Ming-Billings C: after an evaluation, I don't tell kids what their score are but coaches do the best critiques it's better than "good job".

For people with no background in education: perception of impropriety- when you have coaches judging you have a perception of impropriety. You can loose your license if you do it in law.

Shepherd-- we are not the only MHSA activity that uses coaches to judge –ex: track high jump. I simply cannot get that many judges in a tournament. Think we are over legislating this. May be it is what we try as best practices.

Mike: clarification: can't judge any event in a round where we have a student. We can make it official.

Read language of proposal: On Page 23, Section C. Judges under (5) Amend last sentence to read, (High school coaches may be used to judge, but only in events where they do not have individuals competing that day.)

Maxine- that's how we already do it in the East let's make it a rule in the book for consistency.

There is no original in the rule book.

Lyla Dumke: moves that we accept Mike's proposal so that it is uniform across the state. 2nd. Clarification: are we saying that if my kid didn't make it to finals, then I would not be able to judge finals? Yes.

Mike: if this is voted down here I will not present it to the full body. AA have an ability to persuade some of us that it will lead us into the abyss. However, the AA feel that if it is passed just for ABC their ADs will make it mandatory to follow the rule.

Call for the question: 46-8 motion carried.

Phil Engledrum: Ronan- could we put in "whenever possible"

Trudi: you can put it in as amendment when it comes before the body because we have already voted on it.

Trudi- Jana Wolery has graciously served as the Treasurer of MFEA to complete her two year commitment even though she has not served as an active coach this past season. Her work has been very valuable to the Association. I, therefore, move that all 2008 MFEA meeting expenses for Jana Wolery be paid by MFEA & 2nd. Motion carried.

Mike C- I propose that MHSA mechanize the preparation of the state tournament. With a web based computer program creating the school registrations, tab sheets, postings, and event cover sheets for preliminary rounds, we would significantly reduce the work required to host the state tournament as well as insure a high degree of accuracy and alignment with the rules. This would allow the state tournament director to focus on acquiring judges and other logistics instead of the immense amount of paperwork required to produce these items by hand.

The computer program would require divisional results to be typed in by each divisional chair providing name, school, and placing for each competitor in each event in a specific data gathering format. The state tournament director would enter room numbers for each event. Based on this submitted information, the program would then create:

- 1) codes for each competitor,
- 2) each school's registration including students' names, codes, and events(which provides a cross check for the information submitted by the divisional chair),
- 3) the tab sheets listing by event, the students' names, codes and schools,
- 4) the postings with room numbers and codes following the matrix in the rule book,
- 5) event cover sheets for preliminary rounds listing room numbers and competitor codes in same order as postings,
- 6) postings and event cover sheets for semis and finals with room numbers but no codes printed,
- 7) final placing sheets for each event with no names printed.

The rules for balancing rounds and replacing students with alternates can be written into the program. For drops, the tournament director would just enter the code of the alternate and the code of the student they are replacing.

I believe the cost of the program I am suggesting would be around \$2000 and it could be used every year with just updates for schools adding or deleting speech/drama programs. The program would have the list of schools by division and class. This program would work and should be done whether classes A,B, and C rejoin for state tournaments or not. A committee could be formed to produce the requirements and check the results prior to next year's state tournament.

Tara- This program would take divisional data & create registration to go out to the schools for verification. It's a matter of building it from scratch for this coming year & make it web-based. This program doesn't yet exist, but there was this guy at state who said that if you could get the resources or approval. (Her son is a computer program specialist). He has already started program this in for us for state this year, but didn't get it all done because of time.

Proposal is that we approach MHSA to get backing to create this program to be used for state next year.

Bonnie: caution- simple stroke entered could make this go out of whack.

Tara - this program would generate a registration to be checked by the coach for accuracy most of the mistakes were from the coaches & division chairs than from computer.

Mark: talked about the amount of time & mistakes at the nth hour.

Tara: he programmed the rules for balancing when there were less than the full amount of competitors.

I am a math teacher: agree with program in 2 hours you can generate the information & email it out by Monday to all coaches & it would be easier to correct any errors before we get to state.

IT specialist: how extensively has this been tested?

Tara: It hasn't to the full extent, but we want to work on it this year in time for state next year.

Dwayne: from my stand point it is worth doing because we do for all other events.

Havre: I'm looking at all of this discussion & all of the people who have hosted a state tournament are saying yes, we need this.

Moved & 2nd to present this proposal to whole body. Motion carried.

Matt Stergios: Motion: At ABC divisionals any event/events with only 1 section raw scores will be used in preliminary rounds. Explained with example from Extemp. 2nd. Motion carried.

Allison D: Columbia Falls would like to propose a raise in the State Registration Fee to \$7 and provide that up to \$3 per registrant go to the host coaches as a stipend for putting the State Tournament on. That stipend could amount to nearly \$1500 and be divided among the coaches at the host school.

Dwayne: I don't think that one is going to fly because it is in line with what is happening in other event. No other coach gets paid a stipend to host a tournament in other events.

Rachel: regardless of raising the fee. I don't see a precedent. We get stuck with a music festival without a stipend. It is just as much paper work & work.

CFalls: withdrew motion.

Dwayne: Can we back up to the 4 division thing? I want to talk about trophy thing.

Trudi: it will still be the same as it is now.

Chuck Carroll: I (We) make the following motion: That the maximum time that anyone may serve on any committee shall not exceed 4 years. Commencing immediately if any committee has anyone with four or more years longevity, they must resign their position on that committee. If any committee has more than one person with four or more years longevity then the individual with the most seniority shall resign this year and the same in subsequent years until no committee has anyone with more than 4 years of service. Anyone wishing to stay on a committee longer than their four year term must have the motion ratified by a 2/3 majority of the MFEA members present. Anyone wishing to be on the Rules Committee must have been a coach and member of MFEA for a minimum of 10 years. Deviations from this rule may be made by a majority vote of 2/3 of the members present.

Doug: how do we decide committee members? The committee members are selected from the respective divisions each year. We already have this built in the way we do it now.

Daren- Harden: any time you take away my power to vote, no matter how many years I've been on a committee, no matter. I don't want anyone else deciding what my decision is going to be.

Doug moves to not support this motion. 2nd. Motion failed. ABC caucus will not support this motion.

As scholarship committee rep we would like to propose a way to perpetuate the scholarship fund

Trudi: This could go to that committee & then bring the proposal to the body out of the scholarship committee. We will break into the A & BC caucuses after a brief break.

Class A- Interim

Mike proposed that at the State Tournament, if there are 18 or less competitors in any given event, the number of sections would be reduced to 3 instead of 4. Semis and finals would remain the same.

Reason: so that you wouldn't have just 3 mimes in each section, the scores were better representation. Move to accept proposal & 2nd. Motion carried.

Mike: state tournament report. Timing rule saved a great deal.

Trudi: remember that if you have proposal they have to go the committee in question & passed in committee before being brought to the body.

Doug: MHSA has stated that there has to be a rotation for State tournaments. The rotation is: Southwest, Central, East, Northwest. We need to announce that Central & South has switched rotation: Central will host in 2009 & Corvallis in 2010. Even if A & BC reunite, Corvallis will go ahead & bid to host.

Trudi: We can have coaches in the same area help with the hosting of the meet; like helping with calling judges etc.

Trudi: I move that the Judge's Training Guide developed by MFEA in the past be updated and posted on the MHSA site to provide a consistent guide to training judges at Meets. I further moved that a committee be set to oversee the Guide.

Rationale: The MFEA Committee committed a huge amount of time to develop the guide; it should be readily available to all coaches. Chuck Carroll of Billings Central has agreed to coordinate the update. Each committee will be asked to look at the guide in their event areas and provide comments to assist in the update. The book has been used widely, but each coach has been doing his/her own updates so the consistency is suspect. If a committee is in charge of the book and it is posted, then the consistency will be guaranteed.

There will be a proposal that the judges' handbook is available on the website so that all coaches draw on this for consistent judge's training. It will need to be updated continuously. I will have each committee look at the judge's handbook.

MHSA want to be a team with us. Jo Austin said that the more we provide for her the more she will be willing to post on the site for us.

Dee: list of current email list of coaches hosting tournaments.
Calendar discussion.
Adjourned. 9:21.

MFEA - General Session- Friday, April 4, 2008 – 9:00 am

Trudi Downer, President opened meeting & welcomed everyone
Committee member lists were corrected. Those standing in for a member need to indicate that they are an interim member of the committee.
Schedule for committee meetings was reviewed. Each committee chair will be given a packet with an agenda, a copy of the Judges' handbook for review & update; copies of the judge's ballot for each event, to be reviewed & corrections made as necessary.
Reminder that any motion to come before the body must be presented in committee and approved before it can be presented to the body, unless there is a 3/5 majority.

Recess for Committee Meetings.

General Session- Friday, April 4, 2008 – 4:20 pm

Trudi: called meeting to order. We are behind schedule because committee meetings ran late. We need to adjust the schedule for Saturday morning as there is a lot of business to cover. The MHSA would like to meet with the officers in the afternoon.
Financial committee will meet at 7:00 am and the General meeting will be at 8:00 am not 9:00.

Class A State Tournament Report – Mike Christensen

Columbia Falls hosted. 22 teams competed (Park & Anaconda not present)
Did not have a full slate of numbers in many events. There were some timing issues. Things went fairly well.

Speech	Drama
1st Columbia Falls 127	1st Polson 64
2nd Whitefish 92	2nd Corvallis 58
3rd Billings Central 72	3rd Belgrade 48

MOTION: Mike moved to accept State Class A report. 2nd. Motion carried.

Class AA State Tournament Report – Libby Brunell

Missoula hosted State. There was 1 protest on timing & was resolved.
Results: Bozeman 1st; Flathead 2nd; Sentinel 3rd.
MOTION: Libby moved to accept State Class AA report. 2nd. Motion carried.

AA Interim Report – Libby Brunell

There were no proposals come out of the AA meeting.
Unanimously passed to pay Jana's expenses as treasurer. Voted against term limits.
AA ADs didn't support going to 3-day tournaments..
Public Forum debate passed at the AD meeting & by MHSA
There was a discussion about debate ethics.
Nothing new on the meet schedule. We invite any school to join NFL.
MOTION: Libby moved to accept AA Interim report. 2nd. Motion carried.

A & BC joint meeting Report- Trudi Downer

Main discussion was about reuniting ABC. Two proposals presented – one for 3 divisions and one for four. After much discussion, an official straw vote was done: **17 for 3 & 30 for 4.**

Mike Christensen moved that coaches should not be judging at tournaments in events where they have students competing. After much discussion, the vote was 46-8; motion carried.

Trudi moved that all 2008 MFEA meeting expenses for Jana Wolery be paid by MFEA Motion carried.

Mike C. proposed that MHSA computerize the preparation of the state tournament. Discussion.
Motion carried.

Matt Stergios: Motion: At ABC Divisionals any event/events with only 1 section, raw scores will be used in preliminary rounds.
Motion carried.

Proposal to raise the State registration fee to provide a stipend for putting on the State Tournament. After discussion, motion was withdrawn.

Chuck Carroll proposed a term limit for committee members. Motion failed.

A Interim Report- Trudi Downer

Mike Christensen- CFalls: Proposed that at the State Tournament, if there are 18 or less competitors in any given event, the number of sections would be reduced to 3 instead of 4. Semis and finals would remain the same. Motion carried.

Doug: MHSA has stated that there has to be a rotation for State tournaments. The rotation is: Southwest, Central, East, Northwest. We need to announce that Central & South has switched rotation: Central will host in 2009 & Corvallis in 2010. Even if A & BC reunite, Corvallis will bid to host in 2010.

Trudi moved that the Judge's Training Guide be updated and posted on the MHSA site and further moved that a committee be set to oversee the Guide. Motion carried.

MOTION: Trudi moved to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried.

Class BC State Tournament Report- Bonnie Ortner

State was hosted at Huntley Project.

Class B Speech Loyola Forsyth Whitehall	Class B Drama Red Lodge Baker Three Forks
Class C Speech Gardiner Simms Great Falls Central	Class C Drama Gardiner Simms Denton

There were a lot of protests. Some judge issues. Everyone had good time, food.

MOTION: Bonnie moved to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried.

BC Interim Report- Bonnie Ortner

BC State will be in Missoula. Went through lost & found. No other business.

MOTION: Bonnie moved to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried.

Trudi: Judges' guide meeting will be at 5:30 her. Chuck Carroll will chair this meeting. Anyone who would like to help with this committee may do so. All committee chairs need to get their report on the guide to him before the meeting. This is a starting piece. MHSA is on board with this and will get it on line. Chuck will coordinate this project and it will be updated as changes occur.

Banquet will be at 7:00 next door. So committees can continue to use this room.

Nomination committee will reconvene at 8:00 am.

Coach of the Year and Hall of Fame:

- **AA Coach of the Year: Jim Bennett, Missoula Sentinel**
- **A Speech Coach of the Year: Mike Christensen, Columbia Falls**
- **A Drama Coach of the Year: Shelly Fischer, Libby**
- **B Speech Coach of the Year: Matt Stergios, Loyola – 25 Consecutive State Championships!**
- **B Drama Coach of the Year: Kari Blaylock, Sweet Grass**
- **C Speech Coach of the Year: Christine Cote, Gardiner**
- **C Drama Coach of the Year: tie: April Gilstrap, Simms and Randi Roerick, Sheridan**

- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Lyn Riley of Gardiner, presented by Trudi Downer and Fritzie Walker.**

General Session – Saturday, April 5, 2008

Trudi called meeting to order at 8:10 & welcomed everyone back.

Trudi: motion passed through the A & BC committees: Moved to pay Jana Wolery her expenses as treasurer. 2nd. Rational: She has stayed on as treasurer to complete her 2 year term even though she is no longer working as a coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Jana Wolery

Thanked the body to make it possible for her to finish her term.

The Finance committee discussed:

1. The request by the scholarship committee to set up a separate account for the scholarship account.
2. Raising the dues by \$5 to go to the scholarship fund.
3. Also to set a late fee if dues not paid by Dec. 1

Read financial report.

Move to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Jana moved to raise coaches' dues to \$20. 2nd.

Discussion: If we raise our dues then our public schools are paying for our scholarship fund.

Bonnie: Clarification, if we raise the dues, but the committee decides how the money is spent?

Lila - Belgrade. Our dues are really low compared to other organization & we pay our dues out of our budget.

Other coaches pay their own dues.

No further discussion. Motion carried

MOTION: Jana moved to assess a late fee of \$5 if dues are not paid by Dec 1, which would total to \$25.00.

Discussion: if someone pays a late fee, where does it go?

Trudi: it would go into the general fund.

Jana: it would be too complicated to do track it & separate the late fee from the dues into separate accounts. Question called.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Jana moved to set up separate account, whether savings or cd, wherever we could get the most interest. 2nd.

Discussion

Trudi: scholarship committee asked for \$1000 start up money. This would be used to set up the account.

Darren Means-Harden. If we are given \$1000 would be a minimum balance, then any scholarship funds also get moved into to this account.

This is just a starting point.

Trudi: the new treasurer will work with Jana to help with set this up. Then policies will be developed on how to handle this.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules committee report - Doug McConnaha, Chair.

Rules Committee:

Doug McConnaha	Charlotte Hansen	Greg Adkins
Mike Christensen	Steven Hamilton	LouAnn Foley
Tim Leeds	Rosemary Weber	Tom Cabbage
Trudi Downer		

Doug McConnaha elected chairman unanimously, group compiled a contact list.

Review of 2007-2008

Class A State:

8 Timer violations in first day of State; 2 timer violations Day 2. The purpose of using a timer is to verify the time limit of the piece, and the purpose of having the students time themselves puts the burden of proof on the competitor. Each violation was handled in the same way: the timing procedure violation was ruled as an "inability to verify the time."

Policy Debate – Time violation – no stipulation for violations in Debate – goes to Debate Committee

Class AA

A duo Interp team went overtime in finals. The judges marked them last. Their coach came to the tournament director and asked for a change (and not to mark the Duo Team OT). The TD talked to the judges and all said that the Duo Team's beeper did go off, but the Duo Team finished speaking. Initially the TD reversed the overtime decision, which then prompted a formal protest from another coach. Upon review of the protest, the TD reversed her decision, and upheld the overtime ruling based on the rulebook.

Class BC

HOI - question about 1 student competing in place of another student. This was investigated and found to be false. Issue was dropped.

SOI - complaints about a contestant's feet moving. This was investigated and discovered that the feet were moving, but it was between pieces - issue dropped.

Hum Duo - A piece is being changed for each round - (being changed to match the contestants surroundings, room and audience members they are competing in front of). A warning was issued and the students were observed the rest of the tournament.

HOI - Contestant was observed (by a coach) with her hands off the binder/notebook. Her hands were used to make definite gestures twice during the presentation. The student was disqualified.

Issues During Season:

Clarified Impromptu prep timing – will be added to rules, ballot

Debate pairing clarification – adjusting bracket – sent to debate committee

Mime Signs – what on sign – sent to Drama Committee

ABC Matrix (21) needs to be corrected as housekeeping

Agenda Items:

Maxine Morgan, Carter County (Ekalaka), proposed a time limit on how many minutes a drama piece could have singing in it. Sent to the Drama Committee.

Trudi Downer, Laurel: MHSA and School Administrators are seeking a definition of the Forensics Season and also seek in some way to shorten the season. Move to change Section II, D, 1 on page 4 of the Forensic and Drama Booklet to read: "Practice for interschool speech and drama competitions shall begin October 1. Competition for interschool speech and drama shall extend from November 1 and ..." Rationale: Speech, Drama and Debate does not currently define when practice can begin as all other activities do. This definition shortens the season by one month. Discussion: AA already have meets scheduled in October, proposal limits the number of meets below what is currently allowed in the rules, need for clarifying a practice start date for MHSA, current rules already allow coach to work with one entry at a time out of season, but must wait until October to do team practices.

Motion withdrawn, substitute motion: "Practice and competition for interschool speech and drama shall extend from the first weekend of October and. . ."

Substitute motion passed with no objection.

Doug McConnaha, Corvallis, withdraws previous agenda item of allowing double entry. No discussion.

Michael Christensen, Columbia Falls, proposes on Pg 247 B. Timing Procedures. f. "If the timer goes off or shows 0:00 time on the face, the contestant is overtime and shall be placed last in the round."

Much discussion. Setting timer 1 second over already gives a student a grace time or leeway. Some timers can show 0:00 without beeping. Question called. Motion passed: 8 -2

Housekeeping:

Page 23, 7 will be removed. Motion by Mike Christiansen, second pass.

Page 25 "21" is wrong should be 4566 Mike Christiansen move, second, pass.

Chuck Carroll, Billings Central, proposed that in the event of a time piece malfunctioning or being damaged, that the judge would determine whether that contestant actually went over time. Discussion. Opens a loophole, puts timing on judge instead of student, current rule enforces consistency. Question called. Motion fails: 2-8

New Business:

Divisional Tournament registration – 10 days out – should we allow changes? Need clarification. Discussion on need to standardize Divisional registration for all schools. Final draft of 10 day rule will be presented to the body for a vote. Passed.

Bonnie Ortner: Allow Divisional and State to charge up to \$10.00 for drops and entries. Page 27, 31. Second. Discussion. Question called. Motion fails: 1-9

Housekeeping:

Kari Blaylock – Exchange round 4 pairings with round 5 on page 36 or fix to correct problem. Pass

Bonnie Ortner – p. 36 switch E2 and E6 to make pairing correct. Pass

Motion: Tom Cabbage, page 7, F, 11. End ban on protests in out rounds. Second; Question called.

Motion passes: 9-1

Charlotte Hanson – VII, A p 26, add 6. No one can enter students for Divisional knowing they can't compete at State. Second. Discussion. Penalizes other students – bad sportsmanship. How do we enforce? Is Division solely to qualify for State? Move to amend motion to go under Ethics on page 8. Amendment passes. Motion as amended passes with no objection.

Point of information: Clarify DQ versus warning? Discussion. Doug explained Rules protocol. Split brought new dimensions. We are growing. Coaches need to know the rules; it's part of the job.

Mark Elison – Reminder that students should not initiate protests!

Tim Leeds – Reminder that false protest can lead to DQ of protester.

Housekeeping: In Memorized events: 4. d. needs to read: Wikipedia and other “**wiki**” sources may only be used as supplementary sources.

Adjourn.

Moved & 2nd to accept committee report. Motion carried

MOTION: Doug moved to change Section II, D, I on p. 4 of the Forensic and Drama Booklet to read: “*Practice* and meet for interschool speech and drama competition shall begin the first week-end in October. ‘Practice & competition’ for substituting the word “season”. 2nd. Discussion.

Bonnie : should strike the word ‘meet’

Greg: don't like this proposal. It is setting it up, so that if you have an October meet, you can't prepare if you set season practice at Oct. 1. There are schools that start speech in august with speech classes.

Bonnie: is the class as part of the curriculum? There are schools who offer drama or speech classes

Ryan: Hardin: if you start practice on the 1st week of October

Libby: MHSA wants us to get away from specific days rather ‘1st week in Oct...’

Lyla Beard-Belgrade: could we change the wording to state this?

Trudi: you would have to have an amendment to the motion.

Steven Hamilton- 3forks: Rule #2 covers that. Individual practice starts....

Chuck Carroll- Billings Central: so now we open the book & it says ‘the first day of practice is...’

We need to have a start date just like all of the other activities.

Bonnie: it is in the book.

Trudi: we haven't had specific language to that effect.

Jane Morisset- Hardin: when does the week-end start?

Trudi: if you want to have a different or specific change, make an amendment.

Lyla Beard: Move to amend motion to change wording to ‘1st week of Oct.’ instead of ‘1st week-end of October’. 2nd. Discussion on amendment

Doug: it avoids us starting on some bizarre day if Oct. 1 is on a Saturday or Sunday

Question: Motion to end debate: passed.

Amendment carried.

Question: on motion as amended. Discussion. passed.

D1 p. 4 will read ‘shall extend from the 1st week in October...’ motion carried.

MOTION: (timer issue) Mike Christensen moves to add f. to page 22: Timing procedures #3 f: “If the time goes off, *or the face of the clock shows 00:00*, the contestant is overtime and shall be placed last in the round.” 2nd. Discussion: none. Question: in favor of ending debate on motion.

Motion carries.

MOTION: Housekeeping: Matrix fix to do addition correctly. 2nd. Discussion closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: (10 day rule registration for divisional) Mike Chris. Page 27, new A 5 (renumber the rest). “In the event of a duo drama or debate partner dropping after the 10-day deadline, the remaining partner will be allowed to change to an IE drama or speech event, provided that doing so does not create extra sections of the event.” (The intent is to allow a student the opportunity to finish the season and perhaps qualify for state rather than being unduly punished for losing a partner.)”

Bonnie: you said “unless it adds another section”

Mike: yes because if 2 days before the tournament it may cause undue challenges to add another room/judge.

Matt: I would probably just make it work.

Mike: I think I would want to make it work

Chuck: It's not just adding another section; it is also a matter affecting the numbers in the rounds.

Motion carried.

MOTION: p 36 (pairing issue) see wording in rules committees. 2nd. No discussion. Motion carried.

MOTION: p36 top of page. (see rules report). 2nd No discussion. Motion carried.

MOTION: (from Tom Cubbage) to ban protests in out rounds. P 7. 1 f 11.

Tom: move to delete this from the rule book. We don't follow it anyway. 2nd. Discussion. This passed in committee 9-1.

Question: to close debate. Passed. Motion carried.

MOTION: from Charlotte Hanson: add to ethics, page 8: add #10 no one can add a student if they know that they will not compete at state.

Bonnie: opposed because, while qualifying for state is the be all & end all, but it is an opportunity for the kids to wrap up the season

Mark: against: the Divisional meet is an important competition. There is trophy that the team can bring home; you should allow a team to bring the best. There is a process in place to fill the slot who cannot go if qualify.

Motion to close debate. Passed. Motion fails.

MOTION: Housekeeping: under memorized event: 'Wikipedia & other wiki sources'. 2nd. No discussion. Motion carries.

Leftover motions from Fri. night:

MOTION: Mike C. moves: page 23 section c: #5 amend last sentence, but only if they do not have an individual in the event on that day." 2nd. Rationale: to prevent a coach from impacting the outcome.

James: we worked on using more coaches as judges this year. We did not encounter problems.

Darren Means: I would like to make an amendment to add "unless all other avenues have been exhausted." 2nd. We have gone to meets, & they are looking for judges, & you have someone who has not made to finals.

Chuck: we ask our judges if you find you know a student & feel you cannot be impartial, please do not judge. We coach everything. I can't be used as a judge because I have students in most every event.

Luanne:

Sandra A: Whitefish: this came up because of the perception of impropriety. I am a lawyer. As a coach we come with our prejudices, would like to see coaches not judges if they have a kid in the event, but they will influence the outcome, whether or not they realize it.

LouAnne: agree with the thought but we wouldn't have enough to judge, especially out rounds.

James: would speak against the motion. The coaches we have judge in events they don't necessarily coach. We are most competitive against each other in most events. We can be reasonable if some one says they do not feel comfortable judging in this event.

Mike: this does not exclude the AA meets, many coaches in AA coach students in just a couple of events & are available to judge in events they don't coach.

Sandra: However in the ABC coaches coach all events. Have heard parents & competitors, talk about outcomes. It is the appearance of impropriety.

Trudi: re-stated amendment

Darren: 'until all other options have been exhausted.' This allows us to still have the option of using a coach.

Tom: I would vote against the amendment. Because we already do that as a practice. Question: debate is closed. Voting on the amendment. Motion failed.

Original motion

Cindy Clap CMR: we want a speech coach to judge in speech events. Motion to amend that this be for ABC only. Discussion on amendment:

Chris: I beg that the folks from the ABC that stood in support of this that you also speak to this amendment

Kim Wells: Townsend: we are going down the same road that we went down last year. The AA don't want it & it is not realistic for the BC either.

Bonnie: We are already doing this in ABC. I understand that people putting on the meet don't do the leg work, then are relying on coaches to judge,

Allison: it comes up every year in Interp, with philosophy of Interp varies, & the only available judge is a coach who has a different philosophy, then they are up against a coaching prejudice.

Linda Mills-Belgrade: call question; 2nd. Debate closed. Motion on amendment failed.

Question on main motion: debate closed.

Main motion: Mike reread motion: tied: Trudi voted in favor. Division called. Libby helped count. 38-40 motion fails.

MOTION: Tara Norick moves that MHSA mechanize the preparation of the state tournament. With a web based computer program creating the school registrations, tab sheets, postings, and event cover sheets for preliminary rounds, we would significantly reduce the work required to host the state tournament as well as insure a high degree of accuracy and alignment with the rules. 2nd. Rationale: This would allow the state tournament director to focus on acquiring judges and other logistics instead of the immense amount of paperwork required to produce these items by hand. The idea is to work with MHSA to work on develop computer program for running. No discussion. Motion carries.

MOTION: Tara Nordick moved that the at the State Tournament, if there are 18 or less competitors in any given event, the number of sections would be reduced to 3 instead of 4. Semis and finals would remain the same. 2nd. Bonnie: friendly amendment to change wording to ‘fewer.’ Passed.
Motion carried.

From BC Interim:

MOTION: Matt Stergios: motion on p. 26 A: Entries add #6 on page 27: *At ABC Divisionals any event/events with only 1 section raw scores will be used in preliminary rounds.* 2nd. Rationale: Example: there was only 1 section in Extemp & by using exponents an 8th placed ended up beating 5th placer because of the outcome in finals.

April -Simms: spoke in support. We had same situation with mime.

Clarification: exponents are used if there are uneven sections

Janie Morissette- Hardin: point of clarification: it would be better under logistic. B

Darren Means- Harden: even in the A, like in the mime, we do get those issues. It belongs in the ABC not just BC.

Motion carried.

DRAMA COMMITTEE- Shelley Fisher, Chair

1st item of business: select chair. Shelley Fisher was unanimously selected Chairperson

Comments & concerns from 2007-08 Season: ...’Season too short.’

Janis J-Polson coach was concerned about drama students not having the lines memorized during performance & using script while performing. Item was tabled until later on the agenda.

Maxine M – Carter County, brought up the first item of business which entailed a lot of discussion regarding limiting singing during drama competition to 1 ½ minutes for Duo and 1 minute for Solo acting categories. Her proposal “because some schools hold that drama competitions are about *acting*, and should not become music competitions nor extensions of a school’s music department, and in the interest of fairness for maintaining the purity of the competition.” Moved to add: 9. Singing by competitors will be limited to not more than 1 ½ minutes for duo performances under A. Humorous and Serious Duo Acting and B. Humorous and Serious Solo Acting – 9. Singing by competitors will be limited to not more than 1 minute for solo performance; D Classical Theater add 11. Singing by competitors will be limited to not more than 1 ½ minutes for classical performances.

Discussion regarding how and who will keep track of the actual time, as well as not having a Musical Theater category, should we add this component and debated if this is drama.

Doug was opposed to having this proposal passed: “ as coaches we ask our kids to push themselves to doing the best they can and foresees this as **an unenforceable rule.**”

John M- Shepherd stated his kids performed a piece from High School Musical entailing singing during the performance and felt that students not be limited to what they can do and selection of piece they chose to do, as most of the kids enjoyed and could relate to the current movie, but he felt it was not that big of an issue, as they (competitors) did not make it out of divisional bracket.

Darren M – Harden inquired if it is a judge’s decision and responsibility to time and keep track. This would be placing a heavy burden on the judges.

Motion to end discussion and the vote to NOT send to the floor was unanimously passed.

April G- Simms presented 1st proposal to change the term ‘stage lighting’ to ‘*lighting effects*’, page 20, A.3, Pg 21 B.3, Pg 22 D6 “no use may be made of special stage lighting” to “*no use may be made of lighting effects.*” She felt this meant & understood spotlights, flashlight candles, lighters, Christmas lights, etc. so clarification is necessary. Can they use them as a prop without having them lighted? Yes. 2nd. Motion passed to present to the large body assembly.

Doug brought up the time limit on page 20, V.1 12-minute limit for duo events be changed to ten (10) minutes for duo performances. A lengthy discussion followed with comments ranging from it being like cutting down debate times, and that there needed to be ample time to develop characters and tier interaction. Lyla Beard remarked that debate was a different category that is timed, and that as a judge, sitting though 12 minute performances was mind-numbing. Janis M. from Hardin commented that at the Thespians, the time includes set up and take-down time, but the emphasis is on acting and not props. It was suggested that the duos start earlier like Extemp to even out the rounds, and the tournament directors should even out the round timing. A former duo competitor said t pushes the limit if any thing goes wrong during the performance. Charlotte commented we don’t need to have 8 in a round during invitationals. Brian remarked that cutting a classical piece is a chore. Doug said that you’re not cutting a play, but working a scene. Bonnie said in hum duo, if you allow 8 minutes for text that allows for audience response and they shouldn’t go overtime. Virginia brought up the fact that the problem is getting worse, that judges are expecting a “mini-play”. We should be stressing characters and interaction and get away form doing a play. Sharon (Glasgow) sees the kids doing exactly like real actors. Charlotte suggested they have too many props and that we should limit the set-up time. Lance state we would only be saving 12 minutes and not really saving that much time. Lyla said “Wow me without props and costumes.” She didn’t

see character development. Darren said that limitation can be bad for humorous. It was a 3-3 vote to send to the assembly with Shelley voting to send to the body for discussion.

April Gilstrap brought up the pantomime posters on page 21, V.2 that states "no other words besides the brief written title shall be on the poster. This includes pictures." A lengthy debate ensued regarding posters that told the story to the judge rather than the student miming the story. April's recommendation was to standardize the posters by making them all the same size with black on white, for example. Some people stated that if they were not allowed to use pictures that they would find other ways to make their signs stand out, by using fabric or other decorative options. The discussion then arose about 2 different types of mime, modern and classical; those do not wear black & white, or do not use music. Kari Blalock stated that music also creates character. The motion was unanimously denied to bring to general assembly.

April G's last proposal is to change the ballot for Classical Duo which has conflicting terms. On page 22 it states "published literature" but the ballot states "dramatic literature". This is a housekeeping item that it was unanimously agreed to carry it to the general assembly.

Janis Jette, Polson, addressed that drama event should be memorized like MPA and OO. The issue became a matter of substituting students at the last minute for Divisionals and state and how would this be enforced? This was determined to be coaches' discretion and will not be brought to the general assembly.

The committee then had to move to the corner to allow debate to have their meeting. Virginia presented ideas for shaking things up in the drama program. She proposed new categories, changing old categories. She rattled on forever. The vote was on alternating Mime Duo and Classical Solo one year with Mime Solo and Classical Duo the next year. This was unanimously approved to bring to the general assembly.

The recommendation was made that once the judge turns in the ballot that the person at the table will check for any impropriety in the ballot so that it may be dealt with immediately or the judge may be requested to stay for questions from the tabbing room. This was unanimously approved to bring to the general assembly.

Move to accept the report. 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: p. 20 A3, p. 21 etc.... no use may be made of lighting effects: 2nd.

Asked for clarifications: you can use a flashlight can't be on & thank you the part about the candles; I wouldn't want a candle lit in my school. Motion carried.

MOTION: Shelley moved that the 12 minute time limit for duos be changed to 10 minutes. 2nd. Discussion.

Doug: it standardizes our events, helps with scheduling tournaments, and prevents judges from sitting through long sessions.

AA have duo Interp & if you haven't seen it rocks.

Bonnie: against: 1st it was a split vote in committee. I am opposed many reason. When you look at cover sheet, you may end up with shorter duos. You don't need to legislate it down. If are going to cut it down to 10 then I have to coach to 8 minutes to allow for audience reactions. You only save 15 minutes overall.

Motion fails.

MOTION: change wording on classical duo ballot p 22 D1. so that it reads 'published lit.' 2nd. No discussion. Motion carried.

MOTION: April proposal: alternate years: mime & duo classical and duo mime & solo classical. 2nd. It would give students have an opportunity to try some new events. It might get more students interested or excited. We've been discussing this for years to find a way to incorporation of duo mime.

Trudi: point of order do you have a plan?

Janie M. Hardin: Is this something to be tried at an individual meet or we destined to offer every event?

John L. Glasgow: thinking about my 3 mimes I had this year, I think it might work a different way, I might lose mimes if they had to be a partner. Opposed to bouncing back & forth in the events. I encourage trying at an invitational.

Bonnie: mime is an issue, duo could go to solo, we have already eliminated an option of classical solo.

Doug: it think great idea, because the 2 smallest event at state is mime & classical. It gives the committee a year to write the rule.

Mary T- Poplar: oppose, coming from a family of mimes, we are starting to get our mimes going. I think it will go against our efforts to build mimes.

Ryan S.-Hardin: oppose, working with younger members, you are working for consistency don't lose what we already have going.

Virginia Compton; Dillon: back when we put in classical theater no one wanted to do it. We used to have a lot of good mimes, now I can't get anyone in mime. Every so often you have to shake things up.

Question called: debate ended.

Motion carried: 26-22

MOTION: Procedure: add check off on ballot so that the one who collects ballots does an overtime check. 2nd.

Bonnie Ortner-Huntley Project: assign coaches to the OT check at judges table. This may be a moot point because we passed the 00:00 rules.

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Discussion on intros: Proposal to limit the introduction to code. author, title, year if necessary.

Bonnie: this is to avoid intros that include this is my character, his blood type etc.

Janie Morrisset: there are some pieces that need a setting up for the mood tone or whatever.

John- 3 forks: if it's within your time who cares?

Ryan S. Harden: against, you are ruining your story through the. intro. Let the kids do it.

Virginia: the drama committee wanted to get back to the Acting. Get away from doing plays little plays. If a student does a monologue & doesn't set it up with the entire play then they lose because the judge is saying I didn't get what the play was about.

Darren- Harden: this is more of a judge training issue. Comes up all the time with judges who don't follow the rules. It doesn't go to what the kids should do or not do. If the kids take ½ their time on intro the judge makes the decisions.

Chuck: have they already started their timer? If they haven't started their time then it should have been called on rules.

Debate closed: motion failed.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Becky Christensen -Billing Sky view

Finance committee took care of a lot of business. Thank you!

\$150 to the top 3 & \$100 to the rest. We would like to award more. There are no strings attach to the money to spend as they see fit. They are wonderful kids.

2007-2008 Scholarships were awarded in January to:

Joshua Henning-Flathead

Paul Stergios – Missoula Loyola

Michelle Harris – Billings Skyview

Kate Whittle – Shepherd

Business: ask treasurer to set up separate account for scholarship funds.

~\$1,000 from general MFEA funds to scholarship as 'seed' money

~Tweaked application with some clarifications for next year – due March 1, 2009.

~Read & reviewed applications – Janet will be sending out notifications to recipients

~ways to increase available funds:

- Theresa will prepare a letter of request of \$\$ for community groups and individuals.
- Add \$1 to state registration per competitor @ each state meet
- Raise dues by \$2 (starting 2008-09)
- Add a line for donation to the dues bill
- Today, split the 50/50 pool at the end of the meeting w/ the scholarship

Motion for each or as a group. 2nd (for each if needed)

Would entertain ideas of ways to make more money.

Move to accept report. 2nd motion carried.

Irene: is it clear on the web site as to the rules for the scholarship?

Yes it is.

Go to MHSa web site then to SDD Site then to scholarship link.

Handbook for judge's training: Chuck Carroll:

Thank you to the people who helped review the judge's manual. A lot of work was done.

The purpose of this committee is how to make a commonality of the many versions of the book so that there is consistency across the state. It was developed a few years ago. Goal is to put on the website within the next few weeks so that you have the opportunity to make comments or corrections.

While this is a guideline, it is not gospel. If it doesn't apply to you, you can omit it. You can't add to it or change it.

Move to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Chuck moved to make this a permanent standing committee from an ad hoc committee.

Tom: if this becomes a committee would we go ahead.

Doug: this would have to be a constitutional change.

Trudi: this is a proposal for a constitutional change

Tom: this doesn't need to be a constitutional change. Keep it as an ad hoc committee.

Bonnie: how about having the existing committees' job to update the judge's training manual instead of making a constitutional change

Darren: I think that it should be permanent so that there is consistency

Bonnie: this is not a legislative issue; it is a recommendation.

Mark E. Billings C: we have continual issues with judges. It is not to necessarily change rules, but we are looking at how to change train the judges. Rather than put the onus on the committees to not to create the rule but also how to train the judges.

Doug: procedural

Lyla: if we have a permanent committee, then suggested changes to the guide can be taking into account the changes in rules from all committees

Bonnie: judge's training handbook committee: could be a compilation of all.

Adam: Bozeman: issue of requiring the use it. We discussed in committee. These are the instructions we had developed in the past. But it would address those coaches, at their tournament, giving instructions that are different than the standard.

Tom: I liked the process we used this year, in the committees go through the judges' instructions, then given the recommendations to the ad hoc committee

Doug: clarification from the committee, is this official handbook? Do I have to use it or can I change it? Handbook is only offered as a guideline, not required.

Chuck: Bonnie took it from the website & changed it to use with the judges because it would be a very useful tool. Dee in the West did it as well.

Matt: withdraw 2nd & motion withdrawn.

MOTION: moved to make the Judges' handbook committee an ad hoc committee.

Bonnie: friendly amendment "after it has gone through each committee". Yes. 2nd passed.

Thank you to the committee for their hard work

DEBATE COMMITTEE: James Maxwell - Bozeman

Meeting was quite long & forced some other committees to the hall. Sorry about that. Longest discussion on timing issues.

1. Re-elected James Maxwell as chair.

2. Voted to adopt NFL 2008-09 Policy resolution: pg.8 1- the United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.

3. Housekeeping: p. 28 E Pairing procedures:

1a 2 (c) & 1a 3 (c) change to: *Avoid pairing teams from the same school if possible, but do not move competitors from respective win/loss brackets except to meet rule (b) above.*

Pg. 28 1 (a) 2 (d) & 1 (a) 3 (d) – change to: *protect sides, but only if this can be done within each win/loss bracket.*

4. pg. 9 B – style of debate: 1 new (f); also 2 new (d): *Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a kitchen timer with minutes and seconds and an audible alarm.*

New (g) & new (e): *prior to each speech, each speaker will show their timer to the judge.*

5. Addition to F- Challenges on pg. 13; new 6: *In instances of time procedure abuse:*

(a) *The tournament director will give a loss with no additional penalty.*

(b) *The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching, but will apply to all subsequent pairings.*

6. Discussed ethics. Was productive. No code of ethics developed yet. Could we put this on the website so that it can be laid out & codified so that it can be used for instruction for coaches, especially new coaches? It is not to be used to generate protests. No motion necessary just look for it.

A list of ethical issues in debate will be posted on the MHS A site for discussion.

Move to accept report of debate committee 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: move to accept the current National topic for the MHS A topic for next year. 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Housekeeping p. 28 & 29 p. 28 E Pairing procedures:

1a 2 (c) & 1a 3 (c) change to: *Avoid pairing teams from the same school if possible, but do not move competitors from respective win/loss brackets except to meet rule (b) above.*

Pg. 28 1 (a) 2 (d) & 1 (a) 3 (d) – change to: *protect sides, but only if this can be done within each win/loss bracket.* 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mike C. moved that we adopt the NFL LD ballot to replace the MHS A ballot currently used now with 2 changes: title & change prep time to match the current rule. 2nd. Discussion

Mike: I think that when you get 10 debate coaches to agree on anything I think you should pass this motion.

Would that change the rule about the minimum 15 points? This would go away for LD.

Trudi: we have it built in with MHS A to use up the current ballots before starting to use new ballots. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mark Ellison moved to add on pg. 9 B – style of debate: 1 new (f); also 2 new (d): *Each debater or team will time each portion of the debate, timing down using a kitchen timer with minutes and second and an audible alarm with time set to 1 second over allowed time.*

New (g) & new (e): *prior to each speech, each speaker will show their timer to the judge.*

. 2nd.

Rational: in all other events there are strict adherence to time & severe penalty placing overtime to bottom of round. In debate, it is inconsistent, there is no penalty, no timing. People have talked way over allowed time with no penalty.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Mark moved to add to F- Challenges on pg. 13; new 6: *In instances of time procedure abuse: (a) The tournament director will give a loss with no additional penalty.*

(b) The change in any debate decision based on the violation of this rule will not be retroactive for the purposes of power matching, but will apply to all subsequent pairings. 2nd. Rationale: this is now #6 under challenges. Debate gets heated, don't want to get a competitor to say 'oh I went over time, I lose the round'; it will go through a challenge procedure. It is a potential method to assess a penalty if there is a definite abuse of the time limits.

Kari Blalock: I worry about the word abuse.

Mark: this is part of the challenge process: a 10 sec violation wouldn't be an automatic loss.

Cindy: worried about there are no drop rounds in debate.

Adam: this comes back to ethics. It's not going to be, the wording in challenge, to guard against a beep & you're out. The rules committee sets the precedence if it goes to rules committee. Right now we will operate on the 'we're reasonable people' premise.

Tom: in all events, time limits, there are already procedures. Afraid that we will have an ambiguous language, I would go to the tournament director & it doesn't go to the rules committee. Think we should just leave the way it is.

John: BC coach said that guidelines need to be in the rules for those who know nothing about debate. It is also growing pains. 'Have we solved the timing issues?'

Matt: has there ever been a disqualification from timing issue? No. But it may.

Charlotte: there has never been a consequence because there has been nothing in rule book.

April: because it is not in the book, there is nothing on how to deal with this. So that those that don't have debate experience can have a guideline.

Question: debate closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: moved to accept the packet for Public Forum & all of the rules & paperwork. For AA only. 2nd. No discussion.

Motion carried.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE- Trudi for Ivanna Fritz who is in NY

1: been in contact with MHSA coaches' workshop.

2: fall meetings in respective divisions & format for training for new coaches

3. At MEA/MFT days continue to provide workshops.

Last year, we cut back on workshops & feed back was that they wanting more workshops. (listed offered workshop opportunities).

Trudi moved to accept report. 2nd motion carried. No formal motions from committee but we need people to volunteer to do workshops. Aug. 6th is the week-end for the coaches' workshops.

MEMORIZED COMMITTEE: Sabrina Holland- Butte Central

All members or interims present

Sabrina Holland elected chairperson

Comments & concerns:

- Oratory- Handing in of manuscripts to divisional & state tournament directors 10 days prior. Students performing a different speech? *No rules changes; remind coaches to be diligent.
- MPA – none
- Expos- discussion regarding visual aids being optional; no rule change. Discussion of live animals used as props.

Decision to make a motion: on page 16 of rule book, add "e" under #2: *no live animals may be uses as props*"

Housekeeping: changes in grammar/spelling made to MPA ballot cover; all 3 ballot covers changed to reflect the mime ballot (last sentence of explanation regarding audience)

Move to accept report. 2nd passed

MOTION: Sabrina moved to add to Expository: page 16 of rule book, add "e" under #2: *no live animals may be uses as props*". 2nd. Discussion. Example: bunny was used when talking about genetics.

Darren: would like to add a friendly amendment to include "dead animals"

Trudi: this was in the past because of a student using a dead animal that stunk.

Dee Hamilton- would dead animals include insects? I don't support this because it could exclude someone with an entomology display.

Or someone with a taxidermy example.

Darren: friendly amendment dropped.

Motion carried.

SHORT PREP COMMITTEE –Dee Hallock - Hamilton

Dee Hallock was nominated as chair & seconded. No other nominations offered. Dee was elected chair for this year.

Comments from this past season:

Comment that short prep speeches cannot be prepared speeches, especially Extemp. Suggested that there should be rules.

Kala asked how can you control for kids who practice speeches? This can't be legislated.

Note: there is already a rule in place that a prepared speech cannot be brought into prep room.

Tara: there was an issue about the questions for Divisionals & state. Topics sent in were sorted & chosen for state then Divisionals, which AA don't have, got the 'left over topics'. The questions were on more obscure topics and not as easily researched. Suggest that whoever does topics that 2 groups in the committee choose topics one group for Divisionals & 1 group for state topics.

Proposals:

Tara Norick-CFalls moved that: p 17 5a. be changed to read: "thirty minutes before speaking the contestant will draw by lot three specific speech *questions*, select *one question* and return the other two to the draw chair. The specific speech questions will have been chosen from *sources used by the NFHS. Links to NFHS sources will be provided on the MHSA web site.*

Motion 2nd. Rational: to align our publication list with the one used by the national. The topics sent out by MHSA now are drawn from this list. If coaches use these topics they are out of compliance with the current rules. Discussion: The current publications used by NFHS includes Newsweek, Time, Christian Science monitor, US News & World report, International Herald Tribune on line edition and the Economist. As the list is changed and/or updated over the years, the rule can still remain the same. These publications are available for free on line except for the Economist.

Discussion. Motion carried to bring to body.

Bonnie Ortner-Huntley Project: presented proposed change to timing rule: to 3c p.23: add: "with the exception of Impromptu & Extemporaneous, who will time up & from zero." 2nd. Discussion. Reasoning: coaches in tab rooms are not catching the under times and it is confusing.

This is the first year this change in timing procedure has been in effect. The students are just getting use to it. This was discussed at length last year.

It was suggested that coaches need to be taught to look at the time remaining to insure they are checking for under times as well as over time.

It was also suggested that tournament directors post a notice in tab room as to the minimum time remaining for the 3 minutes be posted.

Motion failed.

Reminder: Impromptu topics must not be political in nature.

Motion from the floor: Shelly Fisher – Libby proposed that the topics for all tournaments held in the State be chosen by the committee. Rational: the difficulty Dee had in collecting all of the used topics from the tournaments hosted during the season & some of the repeated topics. 2nd. Discussion.

Several members stated that as a tournament director they prefer to have the liberty to choose, especially seasonal topics. Motion failed.

Coaches/Tournament directors need remember to get topics submitted to the chair. There is a rule in place for coaches to send in topics within a week of their tournament.

Kala said that she would look into setting a work group on the MHSA web where coaches could send their used topics & allow coaches to check the site for used topics so as not to repeat a topic from an earlier meet. Motion made to set up the work group if possible. 2nd. Discussion.

Reminders for the timing issues & reminders about not using political topics could be posted there as well

If the work group were used who would have access? 1 designated coach per school, school would choose that coach.

How often would the used topics be flushed from the site? Annually.

House keeping motions:

Impromptu:

p. 16- #5: delete "and that time indicated to the contestant." Rationale: to match the self timing rule.

Extemp:

p. 17 F #1: delete entire paragraph. Adjust numbering of subsequent rules. Rational: no longer relevant to all other rules.

Change the change the word "topic" to *question*. Rationale: it is hard to avoid repeating a topic, such as the Iraq War, but can have several questions related to the topic but be different in nature. Motion carried.

p. 17 #3 a: change #of topics to read: “A total of ~~76~~ 72 *questions* 36 & 36 will be provided for Divisionals and ~~120~~ 96 *questions* (consisting of 48 national and 48 international *questions*)..... ~~Ten~~ twelve *questions* will be used each round. No *questions* may be repeated in any other round.

#3 f: change the word topic to *question*

#3 g: change the word topic to *question*

Motion to change: #3 h: change the word ‘proctor’ to *coaches*. Rational: parents or other volunteers may not be familiar with the rules governing preparation. 2nd. Discussion: if there are enough entries to have 3 sections there will be enough coaches available to be proctors. Motion carried.

p 17 #4: delete sentence: “A timer will clearly display the elapsed time to the speaker during his/her speech.” Rational: to align with the new timing rules.

p 17 #5 a: change the word topic to *question*. Delete the phrase: “from the group of 10 or 12 topics provided by the committee”

p 18 #5b: Delete.

The numbers under F. Extemporaneous will be adjusted according to the above changes.

All housekeeping motions were passed by committee.

Suggestion was made to have a checklist for tournament directors to remember:

- Post reminder to tabbing coaches about minimum times
- No prompts of political nature
- Send used topics within a week of tournament.

Judges’ Handbook

Reviewed the pages on the judges’ handbook and a few suggestions given to align with changes in rules.

Ballots

Reviewed & changes made to both ballots to align with current rules.

Moved to accept committee report. 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Tara Nordick p 17 5a. be changed to read: “thirty minutes before speaking the contestant will draw by lot three specific speech *questions*, select *one question* and return the other two to the draw chair. The specific speech questions will have been chosen from *sources used by the NFHS. Links to NFHS sources will be provided on the MHSA web site.*

Motion 2nd. Rationale: to align our publication list with the one used by the national. The topics sent out by MHSA now are drawn from this list. If coaches use these topics they are out of compliance with the current rules. Discussion: The current publications used by NFHS include: Newsweek, Time, Christian Science monitor, US News & World report, International Herald Tribune on line edition and the Economist. As the list is changed and/or updated over the years, the rule can still remain the same. These publications are available for free on line except for the Economist. 2nd. Discussion.

Tom C: friendly amendment add Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan. issues. Accepted.

Other concerns: The NHFS site is atrocious to get into the site.

Tara: we will not provide link the NHFS site but to the sources used.

Tom: like the rule book & open the book to the specific publications we can use.

Tara: We can add the current ones used to the rules book. Then this would be a house keeping issue each year.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Dee moved to change the word ‘topic’ to the word ‘*question*’. 2nd. Rationale: it is hard to avoid repeating a topic, such as the Iraq War, but can have several questions related to the topic but be different in nature. No discussion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Dee moved to changed the number of Extemp questions as follows: p. 17 #3 a: change #of topics to read: “A total of ~~76~~ 72 *questions* (consisting of 36 national & 36 international) will be provided for Divisionals and ~~120~~ 96 *questions* (consisting of 48 national and 48 international *questions*)... 2nd. Discussion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Dee moved to make all of the listed housekeeping changes for Impromptu & Extemp. (see Short Prep report). 2nd. Changes were repeated. Motion carried.

INTERP COMMITTEE REPORT: LouAnne Foley- chair

Discussed use of notebook to gesture or as a prop. Reviewed the ballot cover sheets & the judges’ hand book. There were no motions coming from the committee. Move to accept report. 2nd motion carried.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT: LouAnne Foley- chair

We had 3 of 4 qualified persons that we asked accepted. This is a 4 year commitment. The nominations need to come from class ABC. I would like to present Bonnie Ortner as vice-president for the next 2 years. Kari Blaylock as treasurer for the next 2 years..

Move to accept report.

Move to accept nomination committee report. 2nd. Motion carried.

New slate of officers:

Libby Brunell, Missoula Sentinel- President

Bonnie Ortner, Huntley Project- Vice-president

Kari Blaylock, Sweetgrass- Treasurer

Unanimously accepted

Immediately after this meeting we will meet with MHSA to go over procedure with the new officers.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE REPORT: Greg Adkins- chair

We are in the process of linking up our information on the website.

Lyn Riley was 30th individual inducted into the hall of fame. This is the best committee to be on because we get to celebrate.

History: we feel like we have nearly caught up with coaches who were coaching before we began.

Committee voted to honor 5 coaches posthumously who have passed on.

- Vince Kunda – Big Timber 1970's-80's
- Louise Nickey Broadwater, Belgrade 1960's-70's
- Father David Belfield- St. Leo's 1960's-70's
- Tom Richardson – Flathead 1940's-60's
- Axel Schmang – Havre 1980's-90's

Recommend that the place is usually in the area where the honoree lives. But since that is not necessary, recommend MFEA be held in Bozeman, March 26-28, 2009

Move to accept report. 2nd. Motion carried

MOTION: move to accept the 5 candidates for induction posthumously. 2nd carried.

MOTION: move the MFEA conference be held in Bozeman, March 26-28, 2009, date will be checked. 2nd. Rachel R.: may be run into someone's spring break but still give time to get our dates on the calendar.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Tom Cabbage made a motion from the floor (it was forgotten in the Debate committee report): Topics for Public Forum & LD debate: page 8: add; *public forum to every section where it says LD debate. III A, 2.d. The resolution change November 6th and January 1st. A 2b 2008-2009 season.* Rationale: 3 meets on 1st topic, 1 meet on 2nd topic & 3 on 3rd topic. This would balance it out.

Trudi: Since this was not brought up in committee we must have 3/5 majority of body. Passed unanimously to address motion. Motion 2nd.

Action on motion: motion carried

Schedule for meets next season reviewed.

Remember that ADs use this schedule to set their budgets. This should be a commitment.

Schedule looks good. Thank you for offering meets.

Kari B: need to thank Trudy for leading us for the last 2 year.

Trudi: thank you for the opportunity to do this. I wasn't sure I was even going to coach. I'm glad I've been a part of making some good changes.

April: I'm really scared because I'm looking at the schedule. Please invite us to your meets.

Thank you to Dee for the work on the minutes. The minutes are compiled and sent to the officers & screened for mistakes.

Trudi: I would like to introduce JoAnne Austin: she willing to serve & get the information out to you.

Libby & I will meet with her this summer to make a smooth transition.

Move to adjourn. Adjourned 12: 24. Congratulations to Jean Torsky for winning the drawing.