

Scholar Bowl Advisory Committee - Meeting Summary Held May 22, 2024

1. Recommend Rule J.1 and C.1a to be updated to read:

Current: J.1, If a player(s) on either team talks or consults during the reading or answering of a toss-up question, that player's team will forfeit that opportunity to answer the toss-up question.

Recommend: J.1: If a player(s) on either team talks or consults regarding question content or verbally communicates with teammates during the reading or answering of a toss-up question, that player's team will forfeit that opportunity to answer the toss-up question.

Current: C.1a, Toss-up questions are worth ten (10) points and may be answered by individuals only; no conferring, including looking at another player's paper, is allowed. If the answer is correct, that team receives ten (10) points and the opportunity to answer a bonus question.

Recommend: C.1.a: Toss-up questions are worth (10) points and may be answered by individuals only; no verbal conferring or looking at another player's paper is allowed. Nonverbal signaling not related to question content is allowed. If the answer is correct, that team receives ten (10) points and the opportunity to answer a bonus question.

Rationale

The clarification of language on consulting during toss-up questions.

There is a need to clarify what is allowed (or not allowed) in terms of non-verbal conferring between team members during tossups. Players will essentially use their hands or otherwise give their teammates an indication that they intend to buzz in on a given tossup while the question is being read - and thereby telling the other players not to buzz in. The language needs to be clarified that conferring on tossups can include nonverbal communication between teammates intended to indicate which player plans to buzz in or to discourage another player from buzzing in. Such nonverbal communication is prohibited and should be called out by moderators and that team would then be prohibited from answering the tossup.

* 2. Recommend an item be added to the annual ballot to amend By-Law 4.4.2 & 4.4.3 to change the definition of a contest and change the limits on participation for the season.

Current: Scholar Bowl Defined: Scholar Bowl shall be defined as competition between two or more schools which involves the answering of questions by team members "quiz bowl" style. The questions involved shall be eclectic in scope, involving all of the primary academic disciplines (math, science, literature, fine arts, social studies, etc.)

Current: Limits on Participation in Scholar Bowl: The options for contests permitted for each school team and each individual participant are shown below.

a. High School Contest Limitations: Scheduling options / contests allowed.

The options below are exclusive of any MSHSAA sponsored tournament series.

1. 20 duals and 2 Tournaments
2. 10 duals and 8 Tournaments
3. 0 duals and 14 Tournaments

b. Junior High School Contest Limitations:

1. 12 duals and 1 Tournament
2. 7 duals and 5 Tournaments
3. 0 duals and 11 Tournaments

Recommend: each high school team and each individual participant is limited to twenty contests.

Recommend each junior high school team and each individual participant is limited to twelve contests.

Recommend: Redefine the definition of a contest.

A contest is:

- A) a competition among two or more teams, started and completed within seven consecutive days with a champion named, or
- B) an event with two or more teams started and completed on one calendar date

Rationale

With the MSHSAA Scholar Bowl season being nearly 30 weeks long, a 14-tournament limit is prohibitive for teams wishing to attend all of the local events. This is extra impactful when the Quad tournament is considered, which currently takes up 4 of the 14 allowable events for teams. The rule is also punishing for teams who wish to attend JV / Novice events, as those then subsequently limit the number of premier varsity events that a school can attend.

- * Denied
- ** Tabled
- *** Approved as Amended
- **** No Action
- All Others Approved