

Summary of the Speech, Debate, & Theatre Advisory Committee Meeting with Board Action

May 3, 2023

1. **Recommend:** That all schedules be removed from the MSHSAA Speech, Debate, and Theatre State Championship program. Further, officially establish 7:00 a.m. on the date of competition to be when Debate and/or Speech schedules be released.

* 2. **Recommend:** Developing a sub-committee to streamline the state tournament scheduling procedures and improve tournament efficiencies due to enhanced availability to technology.

*** 3. **Recommend:** Establishing a guideline that addresses disqualification at both the District and State Tournaments when a disqualification occurs before the elimination rounds in Speech and/or Debate events have been posted. If the disqualification occurred after the elimination rounds have been posted, then the forfeit rule would be enacted. Regardless of when a disqualification occurs, prior ranks and records would not be adjusted.

4. **Recommend:** Modifying I.6 on page 54 of the State Tournament section of the MSHSAA SDT Manual to read “Judges shall provide complete written comments on all ballots in order to make the experience educational. A clear reason for decision is required on all ballots.”

5. **Recommend:** Modifying I.1.d on page 54 of the State Tournament section of the MSHSAA SDT Manual to read “All directors who have students entered in debate events are required to be available to judge one round beyond the elimination of their schools’ debaters at both the District and State Tournaments. ~~At least one judge on each panel shall be a school judge.~~”

* 6. **Recommend:** The elimination of requirements for schools to provide timekeepers for the District and State Tournament.

*** 7. **Recommend:** Including a point of emphasis in the Online Rules Review encouraging coaches to review the differences between Duo Interpretation and Duet Acting.

8. **Recommend:** A list of 30 questions shall be written for both US and International Extemporaneous Speaking events at both the District and State Tournament. The questions should be randomly sorted into three sets of 10 questions, with each set being used in one round of competition.

9. **Recommend:** Adjusting the Debate prep time language outlined on pages 19, 21, and 23 of the SDT Manual to read “The prep time will officially end when the files are shared with an opponent.”

* 10. **Recommend:** Debate schedules be redeveloped at District and State Championships when a vacancy occurs as a result of an emergency, illness, injury, and/or disqualification prior to the first round. If a vacancy occurs after the first round of Debate has started, the forfeit rule shall be invoked. This will replace C.1 on page 52.

*** 11. **Recommend:** Modifying F.7 on page 21 of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate section in the MSHSAA SDT Manual to read, “No “plan”~~ned~~ arguments should be presented by either Debater.”

*** 12. **Recommend:** Including a point of emphasis in the Online Rules Review that clarifies that MSHSAA rules/regulations must be adhered to throughout the entire season for events that MSHSAA schools participate in.

13. **Recommend:** Modifying letter F of Appendix E in the MSHSAA SDT Manual to read “Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use a computer have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence planned to be read in a speech prior to the speech for inspection by opponent and/or judge (any evidence added or removed from the speech can be edited after the speech) or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be

printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.”

14. **Recommend:** Eliminating the following statements concerning Non-Internet connected computers from the following segments of the MSHSAA SDT Manual.

Page 7 Ethics guideline 8:

~~Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc. shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, server outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants; i.e., Palm, Treo, Blackberry, etc.~~

Page 9 Electronic Devices C.3:

~~Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc. shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, server outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants.~~

Page 22 Lincoln-Douglas Debate H:

~~Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc. shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants. For additional details pertinent to internet access, refer to Appendix E.~~

Page 24 Public Forum Debate I:

~~Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc. shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants. For additional details pertinent to internet access, refer to Appendix E.~~

15. **Recommend:** The MSHSAA staff explore the possibility of producing video/audio technology recordings of each event at the State Championships during the final rounds and display those videos/audio recordings on the MSHSAA website for educational purposes.

*** 16. **Recommend:** The Middle School Advisory Committee review and consider making a recommendation to the Board of Directors to place an item on the annual ballot that changes the maximum allowable contests permitted under By-Law 4.3.3 from the current 5 to permit 10 junior high interscholastic SDT meets, festivals, and/or Tournaments in a school year. By-Law 4.3.1 providing individual contests limits would remain in place.

*** 17. **Recommend:** The Board of Directors place an item on the annual questionnaire that requires a school and an individual student to compete in a minimum of one Speech and Debate competition during the regular season in order to be eligible for the District and State Tournament.

*** 18. **Recommend:** Modifying guideline K on page 25 of the One Act Play section and letter H.1 pf page 42 to read “The host school should be prepared to provide a qualified sound and light technician to operate/assist with the board, if requested, at the District and State Tournaments. Students and coaches/directors approved on the MSHSAA Roster of Coaches/Directors from each performing school have the obligation to advise/operate both lighting and sound technical aspects of the performance during both the District and State Tournaments.”

*** 19. **Recommend:** The Board of Directors place an item on the annual questionnaire that the membership could consider whether the current umbrella activity of Speech, Debate, and Theatre could be split into two separate activities – 1) Speech/Debate and 2) Theatre, with separate registrations, by-laws, Manuals and Rules, Advisory

Committees, Seasons (may be concurrent), Classification, and Districts and State series, etc. This recommendation would become effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

*** 20. **Recommend:** The Board of Directors place an item on the annual questionnaire whereby the membership could consider utilizing the MSHSAA Classification system outlined in the MSHSAA Handbook.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM:

21. **Recommend:** The MSHSAA staff look into moving the Theatre Championships to Wednesday, April 17th and Thursday, April 18th for the 2023-2024 school year.

- * Denied
- ** Tabled for further study
- *** Approved as amended
- **** No action necessary
- All others approved