

Spring Meeting – CFL
May 22, 2004

In Attendance: Dean Rhoads – Trinity; Jason Wysong – Trinity; Kathi Wells – Winter Springs; Rob Carraway – Lake Brantley; Pat Fallan – Colonial; Darcy Butrimas – Trinity; George Clemens – Lake Highland

- I. Call to Order: Dean Rhoads, NFCFL President, at 1:00 pm
- II. Update on Nationals 2007 Bid – Kathi Wells
(Went over bid packet and arrangements that have already been made. Presentation will be made next week at nationals for approval.)
- III. Treasury Report – Rob Carraway
Explained that beginning balance (from end of year balance) is slightly different due to Executive Council expenses over the summer.)
Money for Nationals bid will be reimbursed by the National League once we have been approved by the National League.
Approved Unanimously
- IV. Set 2004 – 2005 Calendar
Jason Wysong – The National and State Calendar is very tight so there are not many alternatives for CFL qualifiers and not many schools able to host. (Winter Spring and Lake Brantley are already hosting FFL state tournaments.)

Tournament Request

- i. Cypress Creek – November
 - ii. Eastside – February or Grand Finals
 - iii. No other requests. We need more volunteers.
- Pat Fallan – Suggestion – Can we possibly look at later starting times for tournaments since we get out so early now. It will make morning driving much better. We discussed pros and cons. People may leave early before awards more often.
 - Experiment with new time October and November tournaments to see if it will work. Then re-evaluate the situation to see if we wish to continue. – Moved by Pat Fallan. Seconded and passed unanimously.
 - Pat Fallan – Suggestion – Due to higher cost of meals, raise the amount of fees for meals. After discussion - \$6 for lunch (\$7 for dinner will remain). Hosts will submit financial information to the league no later than 30 days after the tournament. 8 – 0 - approved

- V. Amendments to Constitution and By Laws
 1. Codify the long-standing tradition of dropping the worst preliminary round in speech events at Grand Finals

- i. “Each contestant’s lowest (worst) ballot (rank and corresponding points) from the preliminary rounds shall be dropped from the results. – Bylaw 28.1.c and 281.d. – approved
2. Require all debate judges (TD & LD) to complete online judging preference forms

Insert the following new section (would be section 3) into bylaw 31:

“Any judge assigned to the Policy Debate or Lincoln Douglas Debate pool must complete a judge philosophy form. The League shall use the Florida Forensic League online judge philosophy system. The deadline for a debate judge to complete a philosophy form will be Noon on the Thursday prior to that judge’s first tournament of the year. Judges need only submit a philosophy once each competition year. The First Vice-President shall compare the list of judges against the philosophies on the Florida Forensic League website. Any judge that has not completed a philosophy by the deadline will fill one out by hand at tournament registration and present it to the debaters prior to the start of any round to which he/she is assigned.”

Approved

3. Increase the number of entries per event from 4 to 6 for prelim tourneys and at Grand Finals

Presented by Darcy Butrimas –

Negative – Judge issue. This may make it very difficult to place judges even when a team has to bring large numbers of judges.

Those judges will continue to sit because they can not judge any sections. Carraway – possible solution – if maxed in an event – may move some judge requirements to other sections. For example, if maxed in IE than bring Debate judge instead.

Jason – Compromise – Remain with four entries per event but with six extra entries that can be placed in any event with no more than 6 entries in any one event. Also, each school applying to the league shall have its own building and principal, thus clarifying which schools qualify for 9th grade centers and which do not.. 6 - 2 – approved

4. Establish novice-only tournaments (3-4).

See Darcy Butrimas handout for the text of this proposal.

Issue with adding more events that the Officers would have to be involved in according to the constitution and legal issues.

Discussion of forming a tri-county format that uses other resources to run this.

Issue of transporting students – need parents to drive.

Withdrawn.

5. Drop the requirement that students must compete in the specific event in which they wish to compete at Grand Finals.
See Darcy Butrimas handout.
Discussed about how will affect small schools. Compromise with entries above solves some of this.
Withdrawn.
6. Change the judge rule at Grand Finals so that any qualified judge may be used, eliminating the current rule which says that judges must have judged at least once at a CFL prelim tourney in the school year where they wish to judge at Grand Finals.
Still qualified judges needed. Some judges who have been to nationals tournaments that didn't judge at CFL could not judge at Grand Finals.
Coaches should provide data about their judges; use the same type of form that FFL used this year.

Move to coach honor system for Grand Finals qualified judges.
Coach will submit a judge profile card on judges qualified in the pool they will be judging in.
Vote – 8 – 0 – approved
7. Clarify the guidelines about what constitutes disqualifiable materials in extemporaneous files.
Darcy Butrimas handout.
There was a long discussion about the best way to handle these problems.
Solution -
The Executive Officers will write a set of guidelines for what is allowed or is not allowed in extemporaneous files. These guidelines will include what is a disqualifying offense or a lower level of offense that will result in other penalties. The guidelines will be published by September 15th of each year.
Vote – 8 – 0 – approved.
8. Clarify and enforce the rule allowing a school to claim a ninth grade center.
Rule of ninth grade center from Nationals. Has own administration, own building, etc.
What is really ninth grade center? What is importance of this rule?
Difficulties in documenting and coaching placing students in the wrong school. Discussed in conjunction with entry number
Voted together – with number 3. See item 3 for proposal wording.
9. Alter debate pairing rules to deal with small fields at tournaments.

Whenever the Executive Committee determines that the number of entries in a debate event are insufficient to produce appropriate computer pairings for all rounds of competition, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to take any necessary steps to create a suitable pairing, including pairing rounds manually using team cards. In these cases, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to modify the conventional standards used to pair debate rounds. The Executive Committee must, however, follow these guidelines:

1. The Executive Committee will first discard the “side constraint equalization” guideline, such that teams may end up with an unequal number of affirmative and negative rounds.
2. If # 1 above does not produce sufficient pairings, the Executive Committee will next discard the principle that two teams should not debate each other more than once during the preliminary rounds. However, if a team is paired against another team for a second time during preliminary rounds, the teams must debate on the opposite sides that they debated on in the first meeting. Note that this restriction does not apply to elimination rounds at Grand Finals.
3. If # 2 above does not produce a pairing, the Executive Committee will next discard the guideline that teams from the same school may not debate each other. In these cases, a neutral judge will be assigned to the round.

Dean – at preliminary tournaments – must debate. This is best for educational purposes. However, due to there being more at stake for Grand Finals, coach over allowed should be allowed.

But it can cause competition within teams that may cause problem within teams.

George - Compromise – Take option #1 and #2 as is. In option #3 - Two teams from same school may hit. Coach overs are allowed but the higher seed advances. In case of coach over, the speaker points and ranks are averaged.

Vote – 8 – 0 – approved.

10. Allow participation in Public Forum Debate to count as one of the two required qualifying tournaments for Grand Finals.

Wysong Notes - Amend bylaw 15 as follows:

~~Fed Turner Debate~~ *Public Forum Debate* will be offered as an extra event at all NFCFL preliminary tournaments that have available rooms. This event will be governed by NFL rules. The Executive Committee shall publish those rules on the NFCFL website. ~~Only two entries per school shall be allowed in this event.~~ Participation in this event will ~~not~~ count toward Grand Final qualification for ~~either~~ contestants ~~or~~ and judges, *but each contestant may count Public Forum participation only once, regardless of the number of tournaments the contestant attends in Public*

Forum. The judge requirement for ~~Ted Turner Debate~~ *Public Forum Debate* is one judge per two entries or fraction thereof.

Voted – 8 – 0 - approved

11. Speech Tie Breakers

Amend bylaw 21 as follows:

Cumulative ranks followed by cumulative rating, reciprocals, *cumulative adjusted rating (the highest and lowest rating will be discarded)* and judges' preferences (in that order) will be used as the method of determining placement in all regular-season tournaments in categories where those criteria apply. In debate events the sequence shall be win/loss record, cumulative ranks, cumulative speakers points, dropping of high/low speaker points, opponent's record and results of head-to-head debate. These procedures shall also apply to the post-prelim determinations at the Grand Final Tournament. Student Congress shall follow the League's Student Congress Manual.

Voted – 8 – 0 - approved

12. Beth Eskin – Repetitive congress bills. Bills should not be used one year to the next.

A school can not use the same bill in two consecutive school years. Objections must be made by the coach prior to registration. The bill will be pulled but will not affect the one bill rule per school.

Vote – 8 – 0 - approved

13. Rob – Some schools must bring lots of IE judges that can not be used .

We should waive some of those judges if the school agrees to bring qualified Policy judges instead. This will help the tab room with the the Policy Debate judge shortage.

Proposal: If a school must bring 5 or more IE judges, the school may drop two IE judges and replace them with 1 policy Judge. No school may reduce IE judges to less than one.

Approved Vote – 6 – 0 (Clemens had to leave.)

There being not further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Wells
NFCFL Secretary