

August 5, 2011

Dear Speech and Debate Colleagues,

The Fall Meeting of the Georgia Forensics Coaches Association will be held Saturday, August 27th, at Grady High School in Atlanta. The meeting is open to all Georgia coaches, be they new to the activity or are seasoned coaches. The meeting itself will be broken down into two sections. The morning portion of the meeting will focus on State Tournament rules and procedures and smoothing out any irregularities. I feel the tournaments went well, and we have a strong template to work from as we go forward. Here are some items from the tournaments to be thinking of as we head in to the meeting. Feel free to add any items to the discussion by contacting Jeff Miller, GFCA Secretary, at jmill126@gmail.com.

Meeting location:

Henry W. Grady High School
929 Charles Allen Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Meeting Contact Person:

Mario Herrera
404.242.2297 (cell phone)

Parking:

Please use the Eighth Street Parking lot, NOT the parking lot by the Stadium. The parking lot is located between Charles Allen Dr. and Monroe Dr., across from Grady HS. It has a black iron rod gate around it.

Where to go when at Grady:

Directly across the street from the Eighth Street parking lot and just slightly to the right as you are looking at the school are two doors to the cafeteria. Enter those doors. Signs will then point you to the meeting room.

Who can attend?

The meeting is directed toward teachers/coaches who have competitive speech and debate teams in Georgia, regardless of level of experience.

What should I bring?

Writing utensil/paper/computer to take notes, questions, ideas, lunch money, and water bottles.

Dress attire-

Informal! Feel free to wear jeans or shorts, flip-flops, etc. Be comfortable!

**Please note: Tentative Dates for State-
February 3-4, Novice/JV State, location TBD**

March 9-10, Varsity State, location TBD

**Georgia Forensics Coaches Association
Fall Meeting
August 27, 2011
AGENDA**

9:00am- Welcome

9:15am- 12:15pm- State Tournament Discussion

12:15pm-1:30pm- Lunch on your own. There are numerous restaurants within walking distance of Grady HS. This is a great time to relax and get to know each other as well as discuss ideas and challenges within our activity.

1:40pm- 4:00pm- Coaching Workshops and Idea Exchange

This portion of the program is geared toward all levels of coaching and will discuss different opportunities for program, explanation of GFCA events, ideas for the classroom, addressing specific needs in a variety of different programs (rural, suburban and urban) and working together as a community in a somewhat restrictive and challenging time in education. Coaches from around the state are asked to bring ideas to the meeting. To streamline this process, please consider the following:

- 1) If you would like to present information (and you know you want to), just send Mario and email.**
- 2) Bring copies of the materials you would like to share with other coaches. If you would like them copied for you, send Mario an email by August 25th with the material and it will be printed for you.**
- 3) If you have specific questions or needs, please send requests to Mario Herrera (rioherreira@gmail.com) or Jeff Miller (jmill126@gmail.com).**
- 4) If you would like to use projection equipment for a PowerPoint or videos and the like, make sure you let us know ahead of time.**

Sweepstakes formula- does it serve the needs of our community? Are three sweepstakes (one for debate, one for speech, one overall) redundant and unnecessary?

Hall of Fame adjustments- Should we only vote in odd years with induction in even years?

Area Tournaments- Do they serve the original purpose of promoting speech and debate in all areas of the state? Should they be re-vamped? If so, how?

Russell Foundation funds- What is the most effective way to utilize these funds? How can this money help defer costs for schools?

Out-round formulas- Specific guidelines are necessary for the tournament.

Bid to host State tournaments- a template should be created that includes all necessary aspects of the tournaments: hotels, food accessibility and cost, rooms,

contact information, etc. Also, the fact that the tournament was split (Policy Debate and all other events) was a scheduling issue. Should events be split in the future?

A special thanks to Adam Smiley for providing the items above.

Mavericks at State- Should they be allowed to compete at the State tournaments? Should they be eligible for speaker awards?

Wiki for judges- Should we create a Georgia wiki for judges? Use one already utilized by the circuit? If so, should it be all debates?

Areas-

Area Coordinators- Should the roles of area coordinators be codified? If so, what should those roles be?

At-Large bids- Are the procedures on this point clear? If not, what needs to be clarified?

Minimum Speaker Points- Should a rule of this nature exist? If so, should it be in all events?

No shows/drop low- If an IE/Duo is a “no show” in a preliminary round, and since low score is dropped to determine advancement to out-rounds, should this dropped low apply to no-shows? If not, how should it be tabulated?

Judge requirements- Just like invitational tournaments, judges in late out-rounds were difficult to find and place due to constraints and lack of judges. What is the most effective way to solve this dilemma?

Novice/JV Tournament- Should students who qualify for the Varsity State Tournament be ineligible for the Novice/JV Tournament even though they are 1st or 2nd year competitors?

Qualification Process- Is this process effective? What can be done to clarify the process?

Student Congress- I am appointing a committee to give recommendations to the supervisory committee regarding adding Student Congress as an event. I have spoken to two of the coaches and am waiting to here back from the third. Details soon to follow.

Official State Tournament Rules- The State Tournament section of our bylaws are still unofficial. If I remember correctly, the main point of contention centered on use of electronic devices and Internet usage while at tournaments. We should define exactly what that point of conflict is and come to a consensus as an organization. Anyone would like to start conversation on this matter (or on any matter) should feel free to do so using the listserv).

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Mario Herrera
President
Georgia Forensics Coaches Association