**Fall Meeting Minutes- 8.25.18**

1) Protest changes- Jamie Willis

4.38C removed, replaced by 4.4, unanimous vote.

4.38  Judges in all rounds will be determined by GFCA officers working in the Tabulation Room of the State Speech and Debate Tournament.  Judges may only be replaced by the Tab Room. Changes in judges without consent of the Tab Room may result in the round being re-run.  This rule is for all rounds of the State Speech and Debate Tournament.

        (a)    Judge conflicts should be brought to the immediate attention of a GFCA

officer.

(c)    Coaches may file a formal protest if a concern with a judge exists.  The protest must happen at the State Tournament and be in writing, given to a GFCA Executive Committee member.  At that point the Committee will meet to determine appropriate action if action is necessary.

Bylaw 4.4 would be a new section.

2) Public Forum changes at the national level – Richard Bracknell

- at the national level there is talk about rearranging speeches (i.e. getting rid of the neg block) and getting rid of crossfire

- the NSDA wants input on these proposed changes

- also some discussion of streamlining district tournaments and making them more user-friendly

- this year the NSDA is going to study this, decisions could be made by a vote/ or the Board but will happen soon

- Richard thought the conference was really well done, people should consider going

- next year it’s at Colorado College

- some discussion about possibly having a GA conference for new coaches

3) Judge Qualification Rule- Mario

- 7 judges at State last year would not have qualified under the new rule about 8 round experience

- Most judges meet the qualification

- 4 of the 7 who didn’t meet the 8 round minimum were hires

- We need to hire judges sooner to avoid judges not meeting the 8 round minimum

- pay needs to be better for hired judges

- Jeff: consider the rule only for policy judges, not other debate events

- consider asking tournament directors to plug the state tournament for hired judges

- we should make a spreadsheet for college directors (Emory, UGA, etc.) to fill out a google form

-Lauren: I will ask Robert if I can handle tournament judge hires. I will make a spreadsheet and send the Google Form out to policy coaches.

Vote on the amendment below: (goes in 4.38B and in the Constitution)

20 yes, 0 no, 4 abstain- it passes

In order to be eligible to judge Policy Debate at the Varsity State Tournament, individuals must have judged at least eight (8) rounds at the high school level in Policy Debate since June of the year before the state tournament.

In order to be eligible to judge Public Forum or Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the Varsity State Tournament, individuals must have judged at least (8) rounds at the high school level in that debate event in the two years before the state tournament.

Any debate judge not meeting these qualifications does not count toward a school's judging obligation and will be treated as a free strike. When entering debate judges for the Varsity State Tournament, coaches must list judge qualifications or the judge will not count toward a school's judging obligation and be treated as a free strike.

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MPJ- Public Forum and LD

14 yes, -0 no, 4 abstain

MPJ + 8 rounds/ 2 years for public forum and LD vote at State Tournament

4) State Tournament

- be aware of conflict with mock trial

- will be announced by Oct 15

- coaches should consider hosting the State tournament (either one)

- varsity state will use the jan/feb topics for PF/ LD; invitation needs to be very clear about which topic is being used

- motion passed unanimously to use the correct topic for PF/ LD based on new date of State tournament

- 90-100 rooms for varsity; 75-80 rooms for JV/ Novice

- Maggie: some people may have no building limitations, but judge limitations. People should apply anyways.

Advisory Board

* Exec board will get together to nominate and appoint people. Includes curriculum coordinator, trophies, etc.

Eligibility

* Maggie is going to write up an FAQ about eligibility questions
* Tournament directors have some autonomy over what divisions students are allowed to compete in (except state tournaments)

17, yes -0 nos , 2 abstain – revision below

1.18     Students in grade nine (9) and higher may participate on both the varsity and sub-varsity teams in forensics activities.

(a)       A student is no longer eligible for competition in any first-year/novice division once they have competed in any high school event at a GFCA-sanctioned tournament in a previous school year.

Listserv

Email me ([Ldonnen@gmail.com](mailto:Ldonnen@gmail.com)) if you want to be moved to the new GFCA listserv.

Annual Dues

Pay your dues. Discussion of raising dues. Discussion of ways to cut costs (trophies, etc.) Discussion of reducing quality/ cost of first year and second year state. Discussion of increasing hired judging fees. Need to look at spring meeting minutes to see what hired judging will cost. Dues reminder email should be sent out early.

Dues fees changes will be sent out soon. If you already paid your dues, there is a one year good faith amnesty.

Novice Packet- Maggie.

Start of Season

-          Open Borders Affirmative/Negative

-          High-Skilled Immigration Affirmative/Negative

-          Gender Asylum Affirmative/Negative (no topicality arguments- will be re-sent)

-          Wages DA

-          Overpopulation DA

-          Trump Base DA

October 1st (Starting at Grovetown)

-          Temporary CP

-          Advantage CPs vs. each of the three affs

-          Topicality (TBA)

January 1st (Starting at Jackson)

-          Capitalism Kritik

Rule changes (really just clarifications) below:

General Rules 1. Novice students may not modify the plan texts. 2. Novice students will be allowed to update arguments on their own so long as the content of the argument does not change. If any major argument becomes non-unique the GFCA Executive Committee will release a new argument to take its place. 3. Novice students may rearrange the organization of evidence and modify tags, underlining, and highlighting, but they may not add new arguments and/or change the content of the arguments in the packet. Students may also find new evidence to support existing packet arguments but not change the fundamental intent of the argument. In general, if an argument involves “one card from this file, and one card from that file,” etc., it is not allowed. 4. Novice students are limited to the list of theory arguments included in the packet files. 5. Novice students may not modify counterplan and Kritik alternative texts.