

BCFL Coach Meeting (Virtual)

June 10, 2021, 6:30 PM

Attendees:

Steven Sprouse, Aimee Sann, Michelle Dacey, Emily Mandile, Teresa Needer, Peter Susko, Cayman Giordano, Steve Moss, Stan Day, Kelli Midgley, Michelle Flynn, Rachel Campbell, Patrick Seay, Patrick Daniels, Zachary Paradise, Deb Hamilton, Hektor Thompson (Broadneck), Vivian Pao, Mimi Cukier.

Welcome by Diocesan Director Steven Sprouse

The BCFL had a great showing at the NCFLs this year! Fifteen of our schools had students who advanced to elimination rounds.

This was a year that forced us to learn a great deal, and we all appreciate everyone who worked along with us.

Assistant Director Reports

Student Congress: Joe Scheide: Student Congress had 6 qualifying tournaments, 44 participants from 7 schools (which was 2 more schools than last year), 3 students broke to semifinals at NCFLs, and one made it to Finals at NCFLs.

Policy: Pete Susko: Students competed from 5 schools (same as last year), there were JV rounds in ½ of our BCFLs, McDonogh had a break to elimination rounds at NCFLs.

LD: Cayman Giordano: Cayman presented a summary of the numbers in LD, JV LD, and Metros. This was a smaller season for LD, possibly due to technology barriers. Students could not enter in both LD and IM this year. Byes, power pairing, and judging quantity and quality were affected by more than ½ of the entries (and therefore judges) coming from one school. For giving students a better experience next year, Cayman recommended having other schools bring LD judges, allowing double entries, and allowing more late entries next year. Issue with late entries—would have allowed better experience and better debates for students. Four competitors from two schools broke to elimination rounds at NCFLs.

PF: Emily Mandile: There were 79 teams that competed this year, down from last year. 58 teams had the minimum of two tournaments. JV was smaller this year. This was possibly due to the technological challenges especially for partnered events. PF cleared 24 teams to Metros. Two teams broke to elimination rounds at NCFLs which was great! We had a good range of schools and no issues with judge shortages.

Speech: Michelle Dacey: Not typical year for sure! All events except Extemp and Impromptu were asynchronous for all of the BCFLs. However NCFLs were “live” for these which meant some adaptations for our students, especially for DUO. We had students in OO and OI break to eliminations rounds at NCFLs.

Tournament Director: Teresa Needer: We had a good year—we managed lots of tech hurdles and tracking down participants online. We can keep some of what we found as far as online ballots and

virtual tournaments. In-person tournaments are preferable.

Anyone who has not yet picked up awards, please contact Teresa.

Budget Report/Tabroom Update

We based our budget on having 28 schools. We had a total of 30 schools join this year. We did not have some anticipated expenses which left the ending balance at a comfortable amount for next year. There will be some new expenses. Steven explained how Tabroom.com will begin charging for use of the tournament software that we use. We expect the cost to be in the ballpark of \$1000 based on Steven's analysis of our numbers from the past 4 years. This is still less expensive than SpeechWire or Joy of Tournaments. There seems to be agreement from all that this is a good value and integrates well.

Proposed 2021-22 Event Calendar

Our competitions will depend on what school districts will do. None of our schools are able to schedule any in-person tournaments yet. Hopefully will have clarity by the August meeting.

We anticipate that the first three tournaments will be virtual, but we hope to be able to have in-person tournaments as soon as we can do so equitably. Calvert Hall, Centennial (January), and Arundel (November) might be able to host.

BCFL 1: October 2 (Virtual)

BCFL 2: October 30 (Virtual)

BCFL 3: November 13th (Virtual but if we can be in person, hopefully at Arundel)

BCFL 4: December 18th

BCFL 5: January 22nd—(If we can be in person, hopefully at Centennial)

BCFL 6: February 12

NSDA Chesapeake Districts is the 26-27th

Snow Date: March 5th (Virtual)

Metros: March 19th

Proposals:

1. PASSED by majority vote: That the snow make-up date should be an online tournament each year.

Discussion: If we do go back to in-person and then get snowed out but with sufficient notice for ordering NSDA Campus rooms, then we go right to online platform for it. We only use the snow date if we get a snowed out of an in-person tournament. A make-up tournament's rules would "mirror" the rules we

agree upon for the fall virtual tournaments. We are voting to do this permanently.

2. PASSES 9 – 3 with 3 abstentions, which is over 2/3 majority needed to make a By-Law change: Speaker points in PF should be assigned to each partner similar to policy debate.

Discussion: It was clarified that there will be no low point wins. It was mentioned that we could add speaker awards as we do with Policy. Concerns were brought up that there could be disunity and break up of team partners. Advantages, in addition to making tie-breaks easier, is that it is common and successful practice on the circuit, that judges can provide more useful and actionable feedback, and that we can allow decimals to allow the judges to make the points close (and we can adjust our unified point scale).

3. We should continue to use online balloting for in person tournaments if the Wi-Fi permits but coaches should be certain that their judges are linked in Tabroom for each tournament and ask where possible that they have a Wi-Fi connected device.

Discussion: Online balloting increases transparency because there are change logs in Tabroom.com. It eliminates the transferring from paper to tabulation. It seems to improve feedback as judges are more careful of what they write. All seemed in agreement after a few concerns were addressed.

4. We should look at gender neutral trophies at Metros.

Discussion: We will look at our options and costs over the summer.

6. Elections:

Diocesan Director—Steven Sprouse

Tournament Director—Teresa Needer

Secretary/Treasurer—Aimee Sann

LD Assistant Director—Kelli Midgley (Cayman will assist)

PF Assistant Director—Michelle Flynn (Emily will assist)

Student Congress Assistant Director—Rachel Campbell (Peter Imhoff will assist and Rachel will not have to be a parliamentarian at NCFLs)

7. Setting of Fall Meeting Date—August 24th (virtual) 6:30 PM

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 once Stan was made the host.

Respectfully submitted by

Aimee Sann