BCFL Fall 2022 Coach Meeting

August 24, 2022, 7:00 PM

Virtual

**In attendance:** Terri Dimka, Rachel Campbell, Steven Sprouse, Aimee Sann, Kelli Midgley, Michelle Dacey, Peter Susko, Michael Stromberg, Stan Day, Zachary Paradise, Patrick Daniels, Teresa Needer, John Bagileo, Mimi Cukier, Deb Hamilton, Vivian Pao, Antonio MacMillon, Jessica Nichols, Rus VanWestervelt, Tom Wheeler, Camila Vasquez, Brian Shouse, Emma Cathy Smith, Patrick Seay, Steve Moss

**The current directors are:**

Steven Sprouse: Diocesan Director

Teresa Needer: Tournament Director

Michelle Dacey: Assistant Director Speech

Peter Susko: Assistant Director Policy

Brian Shouse: Assistant Director PF

Rachel Campbell: Assistant Director Student Congress

Kelli Midgley: Assistant Director LD

After some introductions and sharing of news, Steven Sprouse opened the meeting right into the agenda:

**Budget/dues/data cards:** The budget was displayed and summarized. Expenses will be greater this year due to Tabroom.com charges that began last year and returning to in-person tournaments with all their related expenses. Each school’s dues will remain $250. Dues and the NCFL Data cards must be submitted by mid-November to Aimee Sann, the BCFL Secretary/Treasurer. The budget, invoice, and data card will be emailed to all on our coach email distribution list.

The coach information will be updated, and an updated spreadsheet will be sent to all schools. Aimee also pointed out that the email distribution list will be updated and reminded everyone that the list is for coaches, including former coaches. Others will be removed.

**Student Congress schedule dates**. There will be four virtual tournaments and four in-person Student Congress sessions before Finals. After some discussion, it was decided to have Congress Finals virtual.

SC 1 -- Wednesday, ~~October 5~~, virtual Updated: This is a holiday (Yom Kippur)

Date for SC 1 – Wednesday, Sept 28th (pending approval SC director)

SC 3 and 4—Saturday, November 19 at BCFL 3, AM and PM sessions

SC 5: Wednesday, December 14virtual

SC 6 and 7: Saturday, January 21 at BCFL 5, AM and PM sessions

SC 8: Wednesday, February 8 (virtual)

Congress Finals – Wednesday, ~~March 22~~ (virtual) This is a holiday (Ramadan)

Date for Finals—Wednesday March 15 (pending approval of SC director)

**BCFL Tournament Schedule:**

**BCFL** 1—October 8, Calvert Hall

**BCFL** 2—October 29, Baltimore City College (pending follow up from coach)

We need a new date or new host for BCFL 2

**BCFL** 3—November 19—Arundel

**BCFL** 4—December 17—Notre Dame Preparatory

**BCFL** 5—January 21—River Hill

**BCFL** 6—February 11 (preferred) or 2/25: Towson (pending follow up from coach). Maryvale and Catholic High will co-host by providing food and volunteers

**Snow date\* (virtual)**: March 4th

\*If we need to use the Snow date, it will be a virtual tournament with all synchronous events (no videos). Some students may be opting for multiple events in hopes of qualifying in many of them for Metros. This is likely to result in a much longer virtual tournament. A discussion on how this would impact students resulted in a proposal to defer for the board to decide after BCFL 3. The proposal passed.

**Metros**—March 25, Calvert Hall

1. **Public Forum speaker points and speaker awards**

In the NCFL, Public Forum teams earn team total speaker scores rather than individual speaker scores. A By-Law change was made at our June 2021 meeting to have judges give individual speaker points. This was put into practice for the 2021-22 season. Expected benefits included additional recognition through speaker awards, additional data to determine ranks for Metros, incentivize judges to justify scores, indicate to coaches correct weaknesses and possibly change pairings. A possible disadvantage to this included the possibility of competition between partners, and should this become an issue, we might have to revisit this practice.

A discussion followed about using ½ points. It came out that judges do not need to have a 3–4-point range, an artificially wide range, in the speaker scores. Some debaters can earn the same points in a round, as long as the winning team has a higher total. In theory, three of the four debaters could have the same points. Also, using ½ points would become problematic if

Tabroom.com is not set up this way at the start of the tournament, and with the math when doing calculations for Metros.

1. **Returning to in-person tournaments**

**Discussion about masking protocols for tournaments-**

* Currently none of the participating schools have reported any mask requirements.
* Some schools have not announced yet if they will require masks when large groups are gathered indoors.
* It is unlikely that there will be a state-wide mask mandate
* For any given tournament, our policy needs to be that of the school with the most conservative policy. If one school or district is reimposing a mandatory mask mandate, we do as well for its duration. No school should be restricted from competing due to mask mandates.
* Tournament invitations will include expectations that anyone who is symptomatic does not attend a competition so that communicable diseases are not spread. Coaches need to reinforce this with their team.
* Masks will be provided at tournaments for anyone who needs one. Coaches should ask students to bring masks should a situation arise when it is needed.
* Tab staff and the ballot table staff plans to mask
* Students should not be penalized for leaving a speech round after competing (not watching the other speakers), as per the NCFL Nationals policy in DC in the spring. They should not be penalized for wearing a mask while performing.
* Observers are only allowed with the permission of all the others in the room.
* There should be a “masked only” space at each tournament, apart from the large gathering in Cafeterias, for those who need it.
* We will not be testing students for Covid.
* We don’t want masking question to derail or rattle anyone.
* We may offer to view awards via Zoom.

1. **New business**:

* Aimee spoke about a different aspect of in-person tournaments. As a result of talks with her school about hosting, there was as discussion that, just as schools screen or vet visitors and volunteers in their building, we as coaches ought to be vetting our judges as they are interacting with youth.
* Steve will be attending the Diocesan Directors meeting at the end of September. If any coach has thoughts to share about any of their policies, please send them along to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Sann

BCFL Secretary/Treasurer