

**Minutes of the 2012-13 IHSA Speech Advisory Committee
April 10, 2013**

The IHSA Speech Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: John Gonczy –IE Coach, Chicago (Marist) Division 1; Mark Maranto, IE Coach, , Glenview (Glenbrook South), Division 2; Tom Witting, Activities Director, IE & Drama/GI Coach, Division 3; Laurie Pille-IE & Drama/GI Coach, Rochelle, Division 4; Lance Thurman - Principal, Stanford (Olympia), Division 5; Kenny Knox – IE Coach, London Mills (Spoon River Valley), Division 6; and Amy McQuiggan, IE Coach, Granite City, Division 7. Lainee McGraw, State Final Debate Manager, Orland Park (Sandburg); Pat Wozny, State Final Drama/GI Manager; Jan Heiteen, State Final IE Manager; and Carol Harms, Belleville (East), ICTA Representative were also in attendance. Ben Stewart reported on Speechwire. Susie Knoblauch, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, conducted the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Debate

1. Item VIII-B-4-c- Lincoln-Douglas Debate Competition

Recommendation: Eliminate 4-c which states that “Judges shall not reveal decisions to anyone prior to the announcement of results by the contest manager.”

Rationale: To align with 6-c- which states “Judges are not prohibited from oral critiques and/or disclosure of their decision to the debaters.”

Approved

2. Item VIII-D-3-a- Public Forum Debate Timing Schedule

Recommendation: Change the following:

“Final Focus- Second Speaker- Team A- 2 minutes”

“Final Focus- Second Speaker- Team B- 2 minutes”

Rationale: At least 4 years ago, the final focus went from 1 minute to 2 minutes and needs to be reflected in the terms and conditions.

Approved

3. Item VIII-D-4-5- Public Forum Rules of Competition

Recommendation: Reword to the following:

“Final Focus Speeches should present voting issues to the judge.”

Rationale: This was changed at least 4 years ago and needs to be reflected in the terms and conditions.

Approved

4. Item VIII-D-5- Public Forum Matching of Teams and Drawing Procedures

Recommendation: Eliminate “It will be attempted to allow each team to debate each side of the questions three (3) times in the preliminary rounds.”

Rationale: This has never been true of Public Forum (it is of LD). Because of the coin flip, we have no control over how many times each team will debate each side of the question; therefore, that section should be eliminated.

Approved

5. Item VIII-D-8-e- Public Forum Judging

Recommendation: Eliminate “On the ballot, the judges should rank each debater 1-4 (No Ties).” Leave “The judge should rate each speaker on a scale of 11-30. The judge needs to write a brief reason for his/her decision.”

Rationale: We do not rank in Public Forum- we only give speaker points (ranks are only give in Policy).

Approved

6. Item VIII-C-Congressional Debate Competition Rules

Recommendation: Revise the Congressional Debate Competition Rules to read as follows:

Item VIII-C- Congressional Debate Competition Rules

1. Definition:

Congressional Debate is a simulated congressional activity (debate) modeled after the State or National Congress. Participants research and write bills and/or resolutions that

will be debated on the floor of the congressional debate, utilizing the tools of deliberative decision-making such as Parliamentary Procedure and group communication skills.

2. Debate Subject (Legislation):

- a. After preliminary entries are received, each school will be assigned to write legislation (bill or resolution) for two of the following areas: foreign affairs, economics, and public welfare. A school should submit one piece of legislation for each area assigned. Schools entered in Congressional Debate will be notified in December to which legislative committees they have been assigned. They may only write for assigned committees. Appropriate legislation must be submitted by January 30. Legislation must follow the IHSA Standard Legislation Template that will be provided in December. All legislation approved for Congressional Debate by the IHSA will be available to schools online in a downloadable file.
- b. Only legislation sent from the head coach's e-mail address will be accepted.
- c. Only one piece of legislation from each school will be considered for the Preliminary Sessions. Only one piece of legislation from each school will be considered for the Elimination Sessions (Semis and Finals).
- d. If a school only submits one piece of legislation, and it is chosen for debate, it will be placed in the Prelims, the Semis, or the Finals, and it will not be debated in more than one session.
- e. If a school submits two pieces of legislation, one or both may be chosen. If both are chosen, only one will be placed in the Prelims (to be debated for only one session), and the other will be placed in the Semis or Finals.
- f. All identifying school and student information will be taken off of the Semis and Finals Legislation.
- g. All legislation assigned to the Prelims, Semis, and Finals will be announced shortly after the January 30 deadline.
- h. A Best Legislation award (overall – of all chambers combined) will be issued after votes are tallied in the Preliminary Sessions.

3. State Final Time Schedule:

- a. Sessions will begin at the posted times. Debate will not wait for any late participants.
- b. Preliminary Sessions may not end early.
 - 1) Semi-final Session: The session will end immediately (prior to the posted end time) when everyone who wishes to speak twice has done so.
 - 2) Final Session: The session will end immediately (prior to the posted end time) when everyone who wishes to speak twice has done so.

4. Procedures in Preliminary Chambers:

- a. Committee Sessions:
 - 1) Committee Sessions shall be comprised of a committee of the entire chamber (a Committee of the Whole – all registered participants) deciding upon the agenda (the order in which legislation will be debated) for the Preliminary Session.

- 2) This Committee of the Whole will meet prior to Session I to set the agenda (selection of bills and the order they will be debated). The agenda must alternate through legislative committees (100s, then 200s, then 300s)
- 3) Discussions within the committee will be restricted to the issue of debate-ability. (“Is the bill controversial, timely, and well written?” “Are there substantial pro and con arguments concerning the bill?”) The merits of the idea contained within a bill should not be discussed within the committee meeting.
- 4) The bills on the prioritized docket will be considered in the order recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

b. Apportionment: One (1) entry per school will be assigned to a chamber.

c. Order of Events:

- 1) Two judges will be assigned to each chamber. The committee will prepare a seating chart for each chamber.
- 2) At the beginning of each session, judges will conduct an election for a Presiding Officer (P.O.) for that session.
- 3) A preliminary session’s time will begin once the Presiding Officer has been elected and all of the judges assigned to the chamber by the tab room are present.
- 4) There is no time limit for debate on each piece of legislation.
- 5) Debate on each bill will begin with the Presiding Officer’s request for a three-minute authorship speech to be given by the actual author. His or her name must be on the legislation in order to qualify as the author. If the author is not present in the chamber, the Presiding Officer will call for a sponsorship speech. A sponsorship speech is a 3 minute speech supporting the intent of the bill and can be given by anyone in the chamber regardless of their school’s affiliation. Preference will not be given to a member of the author’s school. Following the delivery of the authorship or sponsorship, the Presiding Officer will ask for a speech in opposition to the bill. This speech, and all speeches thereafter, will be three minutes long. This alternating process of three-minute speeches will continue until the bill is placed upon the table, the bill is passed/failed after previous question is called, or time expires within the session. Should a session terminate while a bill is still being debated, previous question will be called and an immediate vote will take place.
- 6) Following each speech, a two-minute question and answer period will be held. The questioning period will consist of one question asked per person to the speaker. No cross-debate shall be allowed during the questioning period of the preliminary chambers. The time clock will run continuously for the question and answer period.
- 7) Precedence, in regard to speaking order, will reset at the end of each preliminary session.
- 8) Legislation that is debated in one preliminary session may not be debated in another preliminary session of that same chamber.

d. General Rules

- 1) A participant may not speak on both sides of the same legislation or that debater will earn a zero for the second speech given in opposition to the first speech on the same legislation.
- 2) Voting on all matters in the preliminary sessions will be one vote per person.
- 3) Abstentions shall not be counted in voting totals.
- 4) The members of a chamber may not suspend any IHSA Congressional Debate rules.

e. Judge Rules:

- 1) Judges will be responsible for evaluating the participants' speeches for content, logic, evidence, rebuttal, extension, structure, delivery, and their response to questions. Both judges will judge all speeches. In the event that a judge scores a student from his/her own school, that score will not be tabulated and the other judge's score will count twice.
- 2) No participation or ethos score will be adjudicated or awarded in any session of IHSA Congressional Debate. Participation and ethos ought to be considered, in conjunction with debating and speaking abilities when determining nominations and rankings.
- 3) The judges, acting in concert, shall be the ultimate authorities on parliamentary procedure and fairness in recognizing speakers. They shall have the power and the responsibility to correct and/or overturn a decision of the Presiding Officer if it violates procedure or fairness.
- 4) At the end of every session, each judge will nominate two speakers (not the Presiding Officer), not from his/her own school, to be considered for advancement to semis. Judges must not confer when making nominations.
- 5) Judges will score the presiding officer twice during each session (once per each $\frac{1}{2}$ of the session). Scores will count as two speeches.
- 6) Judges, of the third preliminary session, will conduct an election for best legislation within that preliminary chamber. Each debater in the chamber will be allowed one vote. The winning legislation must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the legislation that received the lowest vote total will be dropped from consideration and voting will be repeated until there is a clear majority. In the instance that more than one piece of legislation is tied for the lowest vote total, eliminate all legislation that has the lowest vote total before re-voting. Judges will report the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Legislation from their chamber. Tab will use these tallies to calculate which piece of legislation won across all ten Preliminary Chambers. That legislation will win IHSA Best Legislation.
- 7) Judges, of the third preliminary session, will conduct elections for best Presiding Officer.
Each debater in the chamber will be allowed one vote. The winning candidate must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the candidate who received the lowest vote total

will be dropped from consideration and voting will be repeated until there is a clear majority.

5. Procedures regarding the Elimination Rounds:

a. Semi-final Congress

1) Eligibility for the Semifinal Session will be determined in the following manner at the end of Preliminary Session 3: The high point speaker (ties will not be broken, any debater with the highest total in their chamber will advance), any debater with at least one judge nomination, and the winning presiding officer from the chamber will advance.

2) Four Semi-final chambers will be established.

a) Three coaches will be assigned to judge each Semi-final chamber.

b) Coaches will be assigned to preside over the Semi-final chambers.

c) During this session, Direct Questioning will be used. This questioning will consist of two 30-second time periods that will total 1 minute. The Presiding Officer will call on both questioners at the same time; then, the first questioner will engage in cross-debate with the speaker. When 30 seconds expire, the Presiding Officer will tap the gavel, and the first questioner and the speaker will immediately stop speaking; the second questioner will rise and immediately engage in cross-debate with the speaker for 30 seconds.

d) Four participants from each of the Semi-final chambers will advance to the Final Session (Super Congress).

e) Each judge will complete a preferential ballot, which ranks the top eight speakers. Everyone else not ranked will receive a ranking of 9. The lowest ranking (1st) is the best ranking. When ranking, judges ought to consider speeches for content, logic, evidence, rebuttal, extension, structure, delivery, and their response to questions, as well as participation, ethos, and quality of questions asked. Both judges will judge all speeches.

f) The top four students who receive the lowest numerical rankings on the preferential ballot will advance. Ties will be broken following this specific order:

1 Judge Preference

2 Speech Points

3 Student Preferential ballot

3) A random number generator will determine precedence in the Semi-final Session.

4) Each participant will have an opportunity to give two speeches. A Debater in the Semi-Final Session may not give more than two speeches. The session will end immediately when everyone who wishes to speak twice has done so.

5) No authorships will be given during Semis.

b. Final Congress (Super Congress)

1) Sixteen participants will advance to the Final Congress.

2) Five coaches will be assigned to judge the Final Session. Each judge will evaluate all speeches.

3) A coach will be assigned to preside over the Final Session.

4) Each judge will complete a preferential ballot, which ranks the top eight speakers. Everyone else not ranked will receive a ranking of 9. The lowest ranking (1st) is the best ranking. When ranking, judges ought to consider speeches for content, logic, evidence, rebuttal, extension, structure, delivery, and their response to questions, as well as participation, ethos, and quality of questions asked.

5) To determine final awards, each of the five judges will complete a preferential ballot where they rank half of the chamber. The State Champion and Runner-up will be decided based upon who has the lowest numerical rankings on this preferential ballot. Ties will be broken by the following criteria in this specific order:

1 Judge Preference

2 Redistribution of the preferential ballots between tied debaters

6) A random number generator will determine precedence in the Final Session.

7) Each participant will have an opportunity to give two speeches. A Debater in the Final Session is not permitted to give more than two speeches. The session will end immediately when everyone who wishes to speak twice has done so.

8) No authorships will be given during Finals.

6. The use of computers, tablets, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc. are allowed in rounds of Congressional Debate. Connectivity, wireless or otherwise, to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Apple, Microsoft, Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition.

Rationale: This is the current practice used in the National Forensic League which is the standard used in the Debate circuit for Illinois Debate teams.

Approved

DEBATE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Discussed the conflicts of the Debate State Final date with the availability of the state final venue – Illinois Wesleyan’s spring break
2. Reviewed and supported recommended terms and condition changes that reflect the National Forensic League format in Congress/Policy/LD and Public Forum Debate
3. The committee reviewed the Public Forum final that was recorded on www.ihsa.tv/andrew. The goal for next year is to video highlight all 4 debate events online

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

II. Individual Events

1. Item VIII- Event Rules Extemporaneous Speaking (Pull-out section)

Recommendation: Clarifying Laptop use in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Presentation: (Add the following in parenthesis in the T & C’s after cell phones or smart phones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at IHSA tournaments.) See Laptop Use in Extemporaneous Speaking document in Rules Book/online.

Rationale: To clarify the rules of laptop use in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Approved

2. Item VIII-E-4 – Special Rules and Limitations (re-number the remaining items)

Recommendation: The penalty for accessing the internet or using a contraband device for Extemporaneous Speaking will be disqualification from the tournament.

Rationale: To clarify that the penalty will be disqualification and not that the contestant’s ranking in the round be changed to last.

Approved

3. Item VIII-E-9 – Alternate Qualifier Advancement

Recommendation: Reword the rule to the following:

- a. In the event a qualified student is, for any reason, unable to advance to the succeeding contest, and provided the IHSA Office is notified by the principal of the qualifier’s school at least one day prior to the succeeding contest, the highest-placing contestant from the qualifier’s last qualifying contest in the same event

- that has not yet been offered the opportunity to advance shall be designated as the alternate(s), their coach shall be notified, and they shall be permitted to advance.
- b. Any alternate qualifier(s) shall be treated from that point forward as qualified contestants, and if they are, for any reason, unable to advance to the succeeding contest, the process shall be repeated with the next highest-placing contestant until an alternate qualifier who is able to advance is found, all contestants at the qualifier's last qualifying contest have been offered the chance to advance, or it is now less than one day before the succeeding contest.
 - c. If a contestant is involved in a tie in a final round that was broken by judges' preference for the purposes of sweepstakes tabulation would become an alternate qualifier, all other contestants involved in the tie that was broken by judges' preference must also be treated as alternate qualifiers.
 - d. The IHSA Office may, at its discretion, permit alternate qualifier advancement less than one day prior to the succeeding contest, but there is no requirement to do so.
 - e. In any situation where the student that is unable to advance would have advanced in a position other than the last qualifying place, the places of qualifying student who placed below them but who will advance to the succeeding contest will be adjusted up one place for the purposes of scheduling the succeeding contest so that no places are skipped.

Rationale: The current rule does not precisely reflect tournament practice, in which should a 5th place student going from Regional to Sectional or a 4th place student going from Sectional to State be unavailable, an opportunity is afforded to the next student down in the final placements at the previous level to compete at the next level. So, if the 2nd place Prose Reader drops after Regionals, and the 5th place student is unable to compete at Sectionals, the 6th place student is offered the opportunity. There is no specific portion of the rules right now that permits this. The new wording attempts to address this along with adjusting the seeding for the purposes of scheduling if the drop happens somewhere other than the last qualifying position. The current language also does not rule on a situation in which you need to advance an alternate qualifier who was part of a tie that could be broken on judges' preference for sweepstakes, but that should *not* be broken for advancement, even alternate qualifier advancement.

Approved

4. Item VI-G-2 and 3 – Performance Order

Recommendation: Performance order in each event shall be made by the IHSA Office.

Rationale: To match the wording for Sectional and State. For years, a formula has been used to generate performance orders at Sectionals. While it has random elements, it is based on placement at the Regional tournament to balance the overall “strength” of preliminary round sections at the sectional tournament.

Approved

5. Item VIII-Event Rules- Radio Speaking- Material

Recommendation: Reword the following passage:

“No new articles or items may be added except transition sentences, introductions and conclusions” to the following:

“No new content may be added except transition sentences, introductions and conclusions. Contestants may enter the preparation room with pre-prepared outside content as long as it is limited exclusively to transition sentences, introductions, or conclusions. Contestants may prepare content for their newscast in the preparation room before their preparation begins as long as the content that they prepare is limited exclusively to transition sentences, introductions, or conclusions.”

Rationale: A question came up during the state series about whether Radio Speaking contestant could carry introduction, conclusion, and transitional content into the preparation room with them, whether written on a folder, printed on a sheet of paper, or otherwise pre-prepared, and use it in their newscast. This will clarify the rules to avoid confusion.

Approved

6. Item VIII-E-7- Use of Inappropriate Material

Recommendation: Change the third sentence to read:

“In either case, judges shall explain their opinions and actions in written critiques, and the judge/contest manager shall forward a copy of the critiques to the IHSA Office.”

Add this sentence after that:

“Contest officials shall submit a Special Report to the IHSA.”

Rationale: By the contest officials submitting a Special Report the administrator of the offending school will be notified of the inappropriate material.

Approved

7. Performance in the Round- 6-b- Entry Limit

Recommendation: Reword to the following:

“Substitutions and/or additions for personnel may be made provided the IHSA office and the local contest manager are notified **in writing** at least one (1) day prior to the contest. Exceptions may be permitted only in cases of illness or other extenuating circumstances and provided the principal attests in writing that the substitute is eligible.” **Note: A student who competed in the Regional/Sectional Individual Events contest and does not advance in an individual event at any level cannot be substituted/added to a PIR cast. The penalty will be disqualification of a school is they violate this rule.**

Rationale: To clarify that the IHSA needs to be notified in writing for an addition/substitution and a student who competed in an Individual Event and did not advance to the next level cannot be added to a PIR cast for any reason.

Approved

8. Item VIII- Event Rules Radio-Presentation (Pull-out section)

Recommendation: Add the sentence that is highlighted to the end of this section: “Each competitor shall have the option of requesting a microphone check prior to beginning his or her performance. If requested, such an opportunity shall be granted. **Timing shall begin with the first word spoken by a competitor (not including the microphone check prior to the performance). A ‘countdown’ does not count as part of a microphone check and should not be used. All words spoken after timing begins will be considered to have gone out ‘on the air’ as part of the newscast.”**

Rationale: To better emulate live broadcasting, countdowns should not be used.

Approved

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. The committee reviewed the State Final Venue. Discussion covered concessions, parking and rooms. Efforts will be made to remind Civic Center staff that competition is in progress and avoid any extraneous noise.
2. Discussed adding the Laptop Use in Extemporaneous Speaking document into the Speech Rules Book as well as online. Reviewed the rules and clarified that internet access is not allowed. Retrieval does not mean drop box/cloud storage systems because internet access is prohibited. If a student violates the laptop use rule a penalty of disqualification was added.

3. The IE Manual for Managers & Host Checklist will be updated and explanations will be added for better standardization of rooms and consistency of rules at regional and sectional tournaments.
4. Discussed sending Radio/Impt. & Extemp. topics/materials electronically to host schools. The advantage of sending prep material electronically is that it allows for more current material. By sending the prep material electronically, the manager would be responsible for packaging the prompts. The disadvantage is that the host managers would have to package the topics which could be time consuming and could result in prompts being inadvertently packaged incorrectly. There was also concern about the confidentiality of the topics sent electronically. The group decided to continue with the practice of the IHSA providing all the prep material to the host managers via mail.
5. Discussed the practice of students bringing in prepared transitions, introductions and conclusions into their radio rounds (*See the new change in the Radio Speaking rule*). The committee also reviewed the practice of using count downs prior to beginning the radio newscast. To better emulate live broadcasting, countdowns should not be used.
6. The committee recommended developing clear instructions to guide prep room monitors in Radio, Extemp. & Impt. as well as recommendations for the necessary equipment/room set up for radio speaking.
7. Discussed a plan to educate coaches/students on the best practices in addressing situations/concerns during the state series (timing issues, room set up, etc...)
8. The committee recommended using online rules videos to present new changes and interpretations to coaches.
9. The committees disused at length the practice of adding students to PIR casts that were eliminated from regional & sectional level competition. This was a practice that was inconsistent across the state and a rule change was recommended for further clarification to the PIR terms and conditions.
10. The committee reviewed the substitution/addition policy and the process for advancing alternate winners.
11. Judging was discussed and the committee reviewed a recommendation to have two judges in Regional prelims. This was table for further discussion and review, especially looking at the financial implication this would have on a tournament.
12. Ben Stewart gave an update regarding SpeechWire. The IHSA will continue to work with SpeechWire with the next stage focusing on the “*certification*” of all speech: IE judges into the IHSA/SpeechWire database. It was discussed to make this database available for the invitational season for coaches to hire judges and for judges to get experience and exposure prior to being recommended to judge in the post season.
13. An ad-hoc committee will meet to address clarifying the proof of publication rules especially focusing on poetry and studying the ways poets are publishing their work in public domains. This group will be charged with specifically defining the types of works that can be used in competing in the various genres (Interps/Prose/Poetry/Duets). “Other works” was deleted from the *Material* section of the Rules Book to eliminate confusion that “*any*” type of literature is allowed in any genre. Finally, this group will clarify and provide example of allowable cuttings and use of multiple characters.
14. A recommendation to add Duo Interp in place of HDA & DDA was discussed. After some discussion there was not enough unified support to recommend this change, however it was recommended to survey coaches to gauge interest.

15. The committee recommended clarifying the “*physical limitations*” in interp. events like Poetry.
16. The committee discussed a recommendation in detail concerning “*Inappropriate Material*”. After detailed examples were presented and the rule change was reviewed, the committee recommended addressing the concerns of inappropriate material through “Special Reports”.

Special Reports are already in place at the IHSA for use of inappropriate behavior and rules violations in sports. This framework will be established in activities and will include a process where a coach or judge can log into the IHSA website (Schools Center) and file a Special Report which in turn is sent to the school’s administrator. The schools administration must then report to the IHSA and a plan of action will be taken to make the necessary corrective measures to ensure that all material presented is in compliance with the educational context of interscholastic speech competitions. On the same note, Sport A Winning Attitude (SAWA) reports will be available to acknowledge schools/competitors who display exemplary behavior/sportsmanship.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

III. Drama/Group Interpretation

1. Item VIII-C-4- Drama Time Limit

Recommendation: The time limit for Drama is 40 minutes. In Drama, if a timer’s watch reads 40:30.00 or less, it is not considered a time violation. For each full 30 seconds of overtime, the contestants’ ranking from each judge will be lowered by one ranking. If both timers’ watches confirm that a performance ran more than 40:30.01 minutes from the initial cue to the final performance element, the play shall be penalized one (1) rank per judge for each thirty (30) seconds of overtime. For example at 40:30.01, a performance is lowered one ranking from each judge. At 41:00.01, the performance would be lowered two rankings from each judge. This reduction is mandatory and will be administered by the contest management. The other performances’ rankings will not be affected. At the State Final Contest only, no penalty will be assessed until one (1) minute beyond the specified time limit. For example, In Drama, if a timer’s watch reads 41:00.00 or less, it is not considered a time violation. For each full 30 seconds of overtime, the contestants’ ranking from each judge will be lowered by one ranking. For example if both timers’ watches read at 41:00.01, a performance is lowered one ranking from each judge. At 41:30.01, the performance would be lowered two rankings from each judge. This reduction is mandatory and will be administered by the contest management. The other performances’ rankings will not be affected.

Rationale: The rule as stated has been questioned and misinterpreted. The restatement clarifies and avoids confusion.

Approved

2. Item VIII-D-4- Group Interpretation Time Limit

Recommendation: The time limit for group Interpretation is 30 minutes. In Group Interpretation, if a timer's watch reads 30:30.00 or less, it is not considered a time violation. For each full 30 seconds of overtime, the contestants' ranking from each judge will be lowered by one ranking. If both timers' watches confirm that a performance ran more than 30:30.01 minutes from the initial cue to the final performance element, the performance shall be penalized. For example at 30:30.01, a performance is lowered one ranking from each judge. At 31:00.01, the performance would be lowered two rankings from each judge. This reduction is mandatory and will be administered by the contest management. The other performances' rankings will not be affected.

Rationale: The rule as stated has been questioned and misinterpreted. The restatement clarifies and avoids confusion.

Approved

3. Item VIII-D-5 (renumber to make this number 5) – Time Limit for Unload, Setup, Strike, and Reload

Recommendation: Make this paragraph #5 and renumber accordingly. "Groups will be allowed five (5) minutes to move their set from the backstage entrance to the strike line. Set pieces are only allowed behind the designated strike line as determined by the contest management. Any group exceeding this time limit shall automatically be dropped one (1) rank per judge per 30 seconds overtime. **The time limit for Group Interpretation Set & Strike is a total combined 5 minutes. Group Interpretation setup and takedown must be done in 5 minutes total. For setup, once the director requests the clock to be stopped, it cannot be restarted.**

Rationale: This rule clarification is made to insure that the contest may run efficiently. Directors sometimes stall the set-up which can back up an already tight schedule.

Approved

4. Item VIII-D-6c- Group Interpretation Focus

Recommendation: Focus should be primarily off-stage. **On-stage focus should be used sparingly and with purpose** although mixed focus (a combination of off-stage and on-stage focus) is allowed.

Rationale: Focus is one of the main elements of Group Interpretation. Off stage focus differentiates a Group Interpretation from a Dramatic Play. Off stage focus needs to be stressed to keep the event the way it was intended.

Approved

5. Item VIII-D-6-g

Recommendation: Replace the last sentence of the section with the following: “Group Interpretation sets should be universal, able to be used for any show. **Explicit sets are prohibited;** painting with specific designs is included in this definition. (For example, if the show being performed is about a man-eating plant, the set could not be painted with vines.)”

Rationale: This rule needs clarification to avoid any liberties being taken with the rules. The universal rule prohibits sets from becoming too specific and levels the playing ground for the event.

Approved

6. Item X-C- All Contest Casts/Tech Crews Awards

Recommendation: Add Tech Crews to the All Contest Casts Awards

1. Judges at Sectional contests shall each nominate individual students for All-Contest Cast consideration in both the drama and group interpretation events. There shall be no maximum on any judge nominations. At the sectional contest, any student whose name is contained on at least **three (3)** ballots shall be named to the All-Contest Cast for his or her particular event.
2. At the State Final, judges in each event shall nominate a minimum of ten (10) students for All-State Cast consideration. There is no maximum on any judges’ nominations. Any student whose name appears on a minimum of **four (4)** nomination ballots shall be named to the All-State Cast.
3. Judges at the Sectional contests shall nominate individual students for excellence in running lights or sound for the All-Contest Lighting/Sound Award in Drama. There shall be no maximum on any judge nominations. At the Sectional contest, any student whose name is contained on at least three (3) ballots shall be named to the All-Contest Lighting/Sound Tech Award.
4. Judges at the State contests shall each nominate individual students for excellence in running lights or sound for All-Contest Lighting/Sound Tech in Drama. There shall be no maximum on any judge nominations. At the state contest, any student whose name is contained on at least four (4) ballots shall be named to the All-Contest Lighting/Sound Tech Award.

Rationale: The Technical students of lighting and sound are expected to run these vital aspects of the performance of a play on totally new equipment each

time the play performs. Directors are not allowed to place hands on any equipment, thus the students are responsible for the excellence of the show. These students should be rewarded as the actors are for their outstanding performance. The students would receive the same type of medal as the actor.

Approved

7. Item X – Technical Performance Award

Recommendation: Pilot a Technical Performance Award as follows:

TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE AWARD

This award is being piloted this year to recognize the fine technical crews who conduct the “pre-show” that make this contest possible. The criteria for the award is based on the conditions in which the technical crew and directors unload the set and place in storage, set up the scenery and technical elements, and strike and reload in the allotted times.

The processes will be viewed and evaluated by university personnel and the IHSA Theatre Manager. They will be looking for the following qualities:

Teamwork in a timely manner

Efficiency in setting up with accuracy

Congenial relationship with each other and the theatre personnel

Harmonious in respecting the safety of each other and the facility

Awards will be given based on the size of the set. Categories will be determined and each category will be given recognition. (When possible the awards will be given to Small, Medium, Large. When size determination is not possible, it will be given to the three most effective set-ups, keeping in mind that size does not determine excellence.)

Rationale: The students who work behind the scenes in Drama need to be recognized. One only has to view a 20 minute set-up time to realize the cooperative teamwork, caution, careful planning and practice it takes to realize the set-up of a contest play. Equally important is the safety of these students in the “performance” of a potentially dangerous task. The award was piloted with certificates this year. It was obvious that the students were aware of the chance of recognition for their set-ups. The University staff and the IHSA staff noticed the politeness and gratitude of students during set up times. The recognition was well

received at the awards assembly. It was a pleasure to watch the technical students come to the state for the award and the applause.

The staff at the University and the IHSA staff that is ALREADY working in the theatre handled the winning sets. No judge costs are needed. Three smaller plaques would be the only cost of the award.

Approved

DRAMA/ GROUP INTERPRETATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Reviewed and forwarded a recommendation for a limited prep – Readers Theatre Event.
2. Reviewed and forwarded a recommendation clarifying the time limit procedures in Drama and GI.
3. Reviewed and forwarded a recommendation to limit the GI set & strike time to a combined total of 5 minutes with a penalty assessed for overtime violations.
4. Reviewed clarification of Group Interp stage focus.
5. Reviewed examples of Group Interp sets and supported a recommended rule change that prohibited explicit sets.
6. Supported a recommendation to add to the “All-State Cast” recognition for “All-State Tech.”.
7. Reviewed an update on recognizing “Technical Excellence”. Cooperatively with UIS/Sangamon Auditorium staff, schools were recognized for technical excellence in small, medium and large sets. The committee forwarded a recommendation to provide awards to the top three schools that are recognized for their set design, lighting, and sound work.
8. State final manager Pat Wozny briefed the IHSA on the addition of a new event into the IHSA Drama/GI State Finals. It was determined that the addition of a Limited Tech Ensemble Acting event will be tabled until a litmus test can be conducted to measure interest.