

SCHOLASTIC BOWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2015

The IHSA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Stacy Kolack, Activities Director, New Trier H.S.; Gary Erickson, Coach, Seneca H.S.; Doug Happ, Coach, Paris H.S.; David Edwards, coach, Mt. Vernon; Jonathan Legendre, coach, Chicago (Latin); Brad Fischer, coach, Rockford (Keith Country Day). Others in attendance: Ron McGraw, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Kayode Adegoke, IHSA Special Projects Coordinator; Rob Grierson, Coordinator of Officials, Skokie, IL; Sharon Lorinskas, IHSSBCA.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. Item: II-D. (Dates and Times)

Currently reads: The Class A and AA State Final Tournament will be held on FRIDAY, March 20, 2015

Recommendation: The Class A and AA State Final Tournament will be held on SATURDAY, March 18, 2017 (Note: If approved this change will not be implemented until the 2016-2017 school year)

Rationale: Various academic conflicts exist in the current format in which Friday results in students missing school to travel to the state tournament. Saturday will allow for students to attend the state finals without missing school or compromising their coursework. If the date of the State Final Tournament can't be moved to Saturday of the 2016-2017 school year with its current venue, the committee concluded that an attempt to move the state finals entirely (possibly a high school or college in central Illinois) should be exercised.

Approved 5-2

Died for Lack of Motion

II. Item: VIII-P-8. (Tournament Rules, Breakdown of Questions at all levels of the IHSA State Final Series)

Currently reads: There will be no less than two (2) and no more than three (3) computational math toss-ups per round. There will be no more than one (1) computational science toss-up per round. All computational toss-up questions will be from either the math or science categories, and need not be multi-clue.

Note: There will be two (2) toss-up and two (2) bonus replacement questions for each level of competition.

Note: Questions should be prefaced by a mention of the major category only, with no specification of sub-category.

Recommendation: There will be no more than two (2) computational math toss-ups per round. All computational toss-up questions will be from the math category, and need not be multi-clue.

Note: There will be two (2) toss-up and two (2) bonus replacement questions for each level of competition.

Note: Questions should be prefaced by a mention of the major category only, with no specification of sub-category.

Rationale: Computation: There is widespread concern that computational tossups are not suitable for Scholastic Bowl competition. The primary factor in success at computational questions is not recall of knowledge (as it is for all other tossups), but the application of that knowledge. Tossups ask students to race against each other in a skill not otherwise judged in Scholastic Bowl; they are alien compared with the rest of the match. Bonus questions, by being removed from the head-to-head "race" and by allowing for teamwork, have a finer ability to ask for application of knowledge; therefore, computation in bonuses is far less problematic.

Approved 6-1

Approved

III. Item: VIII-O-8. (Tournament Rules, Categories and Sub-categories for Toss-up and Bonus Questions (X/Y = # of Tossups/Number of Bonuses))

Currently reads:

MATH 5/5

A. 4/4 Drawn from a mix of:

Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Calculus

B. 1/1 Drawn from other mathematics such as but not limited to: Number Theory, Probability, Statistics, Combinations, Topology, Set Theory and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

Recommendation:

MATH 5/5 4/4

4/4 Drawn from a mix of:

Algebra, Geometry, ~~Pre-Calculus~~, Trigonometry, ~~Analytic Geometry~~, Calculus, Probability, Statistics, and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

Rationale: The committee determined that Pre-Calculus is a repetitive topic already covered under advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, so it should be eliminated. The committee agreed that the other topics being eliminated are niche topics that receive very little attention at the high school level.

Approved 7-0

Approved

IV. Item: VIII-O. (Tournament Rules, Breakdown of Questions at all levels of the IHSA State Final Series)

Currently reads:

SCIENCE 5/5

A. 4/4 Drawn from a mix of:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

B. 1/1 Drawn from other sciences such as but not limited to:

a. Astronomy, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Health Science, Archaeology/Paleontology and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

MATH 5/5

A. 4/4 Drawn from a mix of:

Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Calculus

B. 1/1 Drawn from other mathematics such as but not limited to: Number Theory, Probability, Statistics, and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

SOCIAL STUDIES 5/5

A. 3/3 History, Drawn from a mix of:

US History, European History, World History from a variety of cultures, Ancient History

B. 2/2 Drawn from a mix of:

Geography, Current Events – within the past year, US Government, Comparative Government, Psychology, Sociology, Religion, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

Recommendation:

SCIENCE 4/4

A. 3/3 Drawn from a mix of:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

B. 1/1 Drawn from other sciences such as but not limited to:

a. Astronomy, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Health Science, Archaeology/Paleontology and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

MATH 5/5 4/4

4/4 Drawn from a mix of:

Algebra, Geometry, ~~Pre-Calculus~~, Trigonometry, ~~Analytic Geometry~~, Calculus, Probability, Statistics, and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7/7

A. 4/4 History, Drawn from a mix of:

US History, European History, World History from a variety of cultures, Ancient History

B: 1/0 or 0/1 Geography

C: 0/1 or 1/0 Religion

D: 2/2 Social Sciences, Drawn from a mix of:

Current Events, US Government, Comparative Government, Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

Rationale: The committee determined the current IHSA distribution differs greatly with the distribution used at many Illinois tournaments throughout the year; there is a noticeable shift in the balance between math, science, and social studies questions. Adjusting the IHSA distribution to account for that shift will provide a more consistent game for students.

Approved 5-1-1

Approved

V. Item: VIII- M-13. (Tournament Rules, Question Formats)

Currently reads: Questions should be pristine – writers may not re-use questions from previously written competition sets or practice sets. Word-for-word plagiarism from copyrighted sources or previously used question sets is not permitted. Writers may consult printed or online sources for facts or definitions to use in creating fresh questions. If a source is paraphrased or quoted verbatim, the source must be cited in a note or as part of the question; no citation is needed for information that is generally known or that can be found in many different sources. Short excerpts from primary sources such as literature, poetry, music, film, and other media are permitted, especially when the intent of the question is to identify the source, author, era, or other information for which the excerpt is a clue.

Recommendation: Questions should be pristine to all competing teams – writers may not re-use questions from previously written competition sets or practice sets heard by Illinois teams. Questions re-used from tournaments not heard by Illinois teams must not have been released publicly in practice sets and must not have been used in competition prior to the start of that academic year. Word-for-word plagiarism from copyrighted sources or previously used question sets is not permitted. Writers may consult printed or online sources for facts or definitions to use in creating fresh questions. If a source is paraphrased or quoted verbatim, the source must be cited in a note or as part of the question; no citation is needed for information that is generally known or that can be found in many different sources. Short excerpts from primary sources such as literature, poetry, music, film, and other media are permitted, especially when the intent of the question is to identify the source, author, era, or other information for which the excerpt is a clue.

Rationale: The spirit of this rule is to ensure that no player has the unfair advantage of having previously played the question. Almost all regular season question sets are played multiple times throughout the country throughout the school year, with the writers of the set geographically restricting which schools can use the set to make sure that no school plays the same tournament set twice. Therefore, a question that has been used for a tournament in California is still "pristine" to Illinois, so long as the questions are not available as practice material, and would still be acceptable for play in the State Series.

Approved 7-0. (Note: If approved, this change would take effect in the 2016-2017 school year)

Approved

VI. Rule 4-1 (Appeals to the Moderator)

Currently Reads:

When an appeal is made the moderator may:

4-I-6a Refuse to hear the appeal (on an appeal of correctness only).

4-I-7 The moderator may, but is not required to: [list of suggested steps]

Recommendation:

When an appeal is made the moderator may:

4-I-6a. Refuse to hear an appeal that appears to be frivolous, intimidating, or a delaying tactic.

4-I-7. In considering an appeal, the moderator must engage in due diligence, such as: [list of suggested steps]

Rationale: Long ago, no appeals to the moderator for any reason were permitted. Gradually, over the years, we have implemented appeals by coaches, allowed players to argue an appeal, allowed appeals to be initiated by players, and lengthened the maximum time for appeals. Accordingly, wording that allows moderators to refuse to hear appeals of correctness, and wording that allows moderators not to engage in due diligence, should be eliminated.

Approved 7-0

Approved

VII. Rule 3-D (Start of Match)

Proposed Addition

3-D-5 to read: Players must begin the match seated, and must remain seated during toss-ups. The only time players may stand up during a match is during a bonus (Rule 4-E-4a). If a student requires an accommodation they should approach the moderator prior to the match. A request form for approval of player accommodations is available on the IHSA website. (All requests for player accommodations must be approved by the IHSA office.)

Rationale: Even if a team's strategy is to have one or more players stand during bonus consultation, all players must remain seated during toss-ups. Not to do so could lead to unusual situations such as some players standing and others not; players or entire teams standing in front of their table; players or entire teams standing on their chairs, and so on.

Approved 7-0

Approved

VIII. Rule 3-C-2c (Moderators)

Currently reads: Verify that there is a working timepiece with digital seconds or sweep second in the room, and contact the local manager if this problem cannot be readily corrected.

Recommendation: Verify that there is a working timepiece with digital seconds or sweep second hand in the room, and contact the local manager if this problem cannot be readily corrected. While the moderator may quietly or visually count out three (3) seconds (Rule 4-B-1a), a timepiece must be used for all times greater than three (3) seconds (toss-ups, bonus parts, time outs, etc.)

Rationale: While the three (3) seconds can be left to the moderator's discretion, longer times must be standardized with a timepiece for consistency and fairness throughout the match.

Approved 7-0

Approved

IX. Rule 4-E-4c (Answering a Bonus)

Currently Reads: Teams may answer before the moderator is done reading the bonus lead-in or a particular part. If the answer is not correct (or the team “passes”), the moderator will inform the teams that the answer is incorrect, and will continue reading the lead-in (if not completed) or bonus part for the rebounding team, and start timing three (3) seconds when completed.

Recommendation: Teams may answer (or “pass”) before the moderator is done reading the bonus lead-in or a particular part. If the answer is correct, the moderator may immediately rule the answer correct, and/or prompt as appropriate, but the moderator must still read the balance of the lead-in (if not completed) or bonus part before reading the next part. If the answer is not correct (or the team “passes”), the moderator will inform the teams that the answer is incorrect, and will continue reading the lead-in (if not completed) or bonus part for the rebounding team, and start timing three (3) seconds when completed.

Rationale: Bonus parts often contain important information that is helpful (or necessary) for answering subsequent parts. Even if an early answer is correct, the part must be fully read.

Approved 7-0

Approved

X. Rule 6. (Simultaneous Matches with the Same Questions in Different Rooms/Venues)

Proposed addition to read:

The following addition of Section 6 in the 2015-2018 IHSA Scholastic Bowl Rule Book **will be implemented** during the IHSA State Series and is recommended to be practiced locally during season tournaments:

- 6-1.** Other than for bathroom breaks, all players on a team’s roster must remain in the same competition room as their team and coach, even if not expected to play in any given match – in particular, individual players are not allowed to enter other competition rooms. Only if an entire team has a “bye” may they observe in another competition room, as a group, with their coach.
- 6-2.** Once a pair of teams finishes a match and adjourns from their competition room, no player, coach, or fan from either of those teams may enter any other active competition room until the match in that room has also ended.
- 6-3.** No coach or substitute player is allowed to use any form of technology to communicate with any person in any other simultaneous active competition room, on-site or at another venue, until after matches in both rooms have ended. This includes listening to or watching the “live streaming” or “live blogging” of any other match using the same questions.
- 6-4.** As per Rule 4-A-8, communication between spectators and players is never allowed. Communication between spectators and coaches is not allowed during competition, except in an emergency, or when invited by the moderator to participate in an appeal as an expert.

Rationale: It is not possible to conduct simultaneous matches in lock-step fashion. Inevitably, some rooms fall behind others. These rules reduce the possibility that questions or answers will be shared between simultaneous competition rooms in order to gain an unfair advantage.

Approved 7-0

Approved

XI. Rule 4-C-2b. (Additional Correct Information)

Proposed addition to read:

4-C-2b: If a word in the required portion of an answer also appears within the portion of the question that has been read and heard, then the moderator may judge a player's answer without that word as correct, without prompting, except when exact titles of works are required, unless an answer given without that word makes no sense, or means something different.

Rationale: When a question contains wording such as 'what river ...' then players are correct to assume that answering "Potomac" is sufficient for "Potomac River" – even if the printed answer is Potomac River. But if a question asks 'what city ...' answering "Jefferson" for "Jefferson City" should be prompted. However, if a question asks 'what book ...' answering "of the Dead" for "Book of the Dead" is not the exact title, and should be ruled incorrect without prompting.

Approved 7-0

Approved

XII. IHSA Scholastic Bowl Case Book 4-B-8: Case #5

Proposed addition to read:

The moderator asks the following question:

"Give your answer in inches. What is the combined length of 2 feet and 2 yards?"

The printed answer is: 96 inches

Player 1 from Team X rings in after the question is completed and is properly recognized.

Player 1 states "8 feet"

The moderator properly states: "Incorrect"

Player 3 from Team Y rings in and is properly recognized.

Player 3 states: "96 inches"

The moderator properly states: "Correct"

The Coach of Team X claims that "8 feet" is mathematically equivalent to "96 inches" and should have been accepted as correct, or at the very least, prompted.

The Coach of Team X is incorrect. In this case, the specific form for the answer has already been read, and heard, by players. It is incumbent upon players to pay attention to any such constraints, often and typically given early in a question, and follow them in answering – even if the form or constraint is not repeated later in a possibly-long question. Similarly, if a question begins with "Give your answer as a decimal" or "Give your answer in slope-intercept form", answers not in the requested form should and

will be ruled incorrect, without prompting. Only in an instance where the desired form is not perfectly clear should the moderator prompt. While this situation typically occurs with Math questions, it could potentially occur in any category.

Approved 7-0

Approved

Other items of discussion: All of the agenda items listed below were discussed at length but resulted in no formal action being taken by the committee.

1. Season Limitation Proposals: We should briefly discuss the failed proposals from the last annual referendum. What, if anything, should be done to see those important changes go through this coming year?

-IHSA Assistant Executive Director Ron McGraw provided an update on the Fall Legislative Commission proposals and election results. The committee concurred that an attempt to re-submit the proposals with minor revisions is the best course of action. It will be the duty of the committee and other scholastic bowl officials to make sure that the purpose of the revised proposals are clearly articulated to others around the state so that it is clear what the intent of the season limitation is as it relates to scholastic bowl in Illinois.

2. Question Source: A person of interest received an invitation to write questions; does this mean the question source for the 2015-16 series has already been decided? Based on our talks at August's meeting, I was expecting to discuss this at next month's Ad Co meeting.

-This decision has been made for 15-16. We will be using the same method for procuring our state series question sets. NAQT was offered the opportunity to bid the question sets for 15-16 (which they did), but could not guarantee the questions be pristine as required by T&C's.)

3. Online Seeding Meetings: In the hopes of increasing participation and improving the quality of the seeds, I propose that we move to an online seeding process where coaches report the win/loss results and scores of each match.

Rationale: Attendance at my sectional's seeding meeting has been very low each of the last three years, and I hear from other coaches that the situation is similar state-wide. Coaches that don't attend the seeding meeting leave those that do in a very tough position -- attempting to rank teams on a record with no further context is incredibly difficult. Coaches that attend the meeting can explain who they've beaten and who they've lost to, but we don't currently have that for non-attending coaches.

-Committee discussed this item. No action taken.

4. Seeding, Continued: (If we move to an online seeding meeting), I propose that we rank the top 16 schools in each sectional, rather than the top 8.

Rationale: At present, it's not possible in many sectionals to tell who is 7th from who is 10th because you don't have anything more than a simple win-loss record for those teams. If we have game scores, this becomes feasible.

-Following discussion, this item was removed from the agenda by the submitter.

5. IHSA Scholastic Bowl Rule Book:

-A question was brought forward regarding rule 4-A-7c which is being reviewed for edit.