

Minutes of the 2020-21 Speech, Drama & Debate Advisory Committee April 14, 2021

The IHSA Speech, Drama & Debate [Advisory Committee](#) met via a virtual conference call on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Committee members present were IHSA Division 1, Conor Cameron, Chicago (Solorio Academy); IHSA Division 2, Christina Cooper, Gurnee (Warren); IHSA Division 3, Marie Wojdelski, Harvey (Thornton); IHSA Division 5, Brian Rohman, Normal (University); IHSA Division 6, Ken Carter, Chatham (Glenwood); IHSA Division 7, Tina Mondino, Harrisburg. Jan Heiteen, Individual Events State Final Manager; Brenda Moreno and Martin Zacharia, Debate State Final Co-Managers; Tom Witting, State Final Drama Manager; Justin Matkovich, ICTA Representative; and Ben Stewart, SpeechWire, were also in attendance. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Susie Knoblauch conducted the meeting.

SPEECH: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None

STATE SPEECH: [INDIVIDUAL EVENTS](#) DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The Committee heard an update from Jan Heiteen, IHSA Speech State Final Manager
2. Jan Heiteen recognized and applauded the judges that volunteered their time to adjudicate the 1st ever IHSA Virtual Speech State Series. 25 judges covered over 80 rounds at the Speech State Final and countless other judges donated their time for regionals and sectionals. The committee would like to acknowledge and thank the Speech State Final judges Jodi Davis, Kawone Harris, Frank Tourangeau, Chuck Dribin, Gloria Kijewski, Eric Long, Dave Morgan, Kathy Phillips, Tina Winings, Judy Santacaterina, Kevin Helmick, Mike Jacobson, Bill Deloriea, Dana Trunnell, Stacy Dressler-Brown, Eric Solecki, Josh Green, Matt Swan, Carrie Verner, Alice Eysenbach, Megan Koch, Lauren Morgan, Bryan Asbury, and Jennifer Keith for their generosity to IHSA speech.
3. Jan Heiteen noted that over 50 coaches and volunteers served on subcommittees to make the IHSA Virtual Speech State Final a reality. Subcommittee members were: Logistics - Stan Austin and Adam Jenkins; Equity - Elighie Wilson and Cheryl Frazier; Technology - Douglas McArthur, Dennis Brumirski, Geoff Epperson, Ed Jodlowski, Joe Hoyt, Sarah Ilie, and Tina Mondino; Judging - Kevin Martin, Brad Ablin, Scott Pyle, Paul Woods and Kate Szczudlo; Judge Training and Balloting - Ellie Marvin and Kim Gwizdala; Accessibility - TJ Fontana, Greg Solomon, Mark Simon, Ken Carter, Dave DeMarzo, Marie Wodjelski; Limited Prep Events - Brian Rohman, Chris Wilbur, Brigitte DeMarzo, Naz Ahmed, Prince Lowe, Teresa Noe, and Christina Cooper; Duets - Justin Matkovich, Andrea Gustafson, Stacy Brooks, Jeremy Lin and Brett Blair; PIR - Hunter Evans, Janine Stroemer, Laura Hilger, Chris Blum, and Tina Winings; Publications - Shannon Maney and Nicole Hendricks; COVID-19 FAQs - Bill Fleming; Tabulation - Chuck Cavazos, Katie Giegler and Ben Stewart; Awards - John Knight, Hunter Evans, Laurie Pillen, Lisa Stout and Tim Connors. Many of these members served on multiple committees as well as hosting the virtual events as a regional and sectional manager. The committee would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their contributions.

4. In light of conducting virtual speech competitions this year due to the pandemic, the committee reviewed processes and procedure that were used in the 2021 state series to evaluate systems in place and reflect if any changes need to be made moving forward. Future subcommittees will discuss and explore some of these changes focusing on 1) use of electronic ballots, 2) use of computers/internet in limited prep event (Radio Speaking and Extemporaneous Speaking), 3) electronic delivery of prep material, and 4) timing procedures.

5. The advisory committee reviewed an editorial revision to add the tie break process for PIR at regionals and sectionals.

6. The advisory committee recommended that the publications committee examine the expansion of Poetry channel.

7. The advisory committee recommended providing clarification of the regional/sectional speech time schedule in the Rules Book.

8. The advisory committee discussed the use of rubrics in speech and recommended no action.

9. The advisory committee discussed that state final venue for 2022.

10. Jan Heiteen recommended conducting two speech sessions (IHSA rules updates & publications) at the ICTA fall conference.

11. Jan Heiteen acknowledged and thanked the IHSA, IHSA BOD, Susie Knoblauch and Carol Carr for their continued support, especially this year pivoting to virtual events.

DEBATE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None

STATE DEBATE DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The Debate State Final Managers Martin Zacharia (Niles West High School) and Brenda Moreno (Fremd High School) provided a report of the 2021 Virtual Debate State Final. The State Final Managers commended their tab room staff for running seamless virtual events. Martin Zacharia at Nile West was recognized and thanked for serving as the virtual tournament host.

2. The committee discussed the successes of Virtual Debate Tournaments.

3. The committee recommended that the Debate State Final return to ISU the 3rd weekend in March for in person competition.

4. The committee recommended moving forward with online registration rather than in person registration the Thursday of the State Final for the 2022 tournament.

5. The committee discussed the use of the online tournament management and scoring program tabroom.com and recommended continuing with that platform.

6. Knoblauch discussed [IHSA Policy #14](#) and examined ways to increase participation and/or combine the Speech and Debate State Finals. This year debate had 246 event entries involving over 500 competitors and judges virtually.

DRAMA TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None

STATE DRAMA DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. State Final Manager, Tom Witting, Reavis High School, provided an update of the Virtual Drama State Series. Reavis High School served as the virtual host and was commended for their exemplary job in hosting the event at no cost to the Association.

2. Knoblauch recommended coordinating a committee to develop the recommendations for the Group Interpretation standardized pieces for the 2021-22 season.

3. Knoblauch recommended developing a subcommittee to create the rules and requirements of the added event, "Musical Theatre Review". This new event will be in a festival format. Concern was expressed that the new event should not take away from Contest Play or Group Interpretation entries but rather complement the competition and incorporate new entries.

4. Knoblauch reviewed the newly added Short Film category.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Ben Stewart, SpeechWire, was commended on his successes this year implementing virtual formats for IHSA Speech and Drama.

2. Justin Matkovich gave an update on the September ICTA Conference – Two IHSA sessions will be presented.

3. Knoblauch reviewed the NFHS Awards:

[Heart of the Arts](#)

[Outstanding Speech, Drama & Debate Educator Awards](#) for Coaches/Directors.

Nominations for these awards can be directed to Knoblauch.

4. Knoblauch shared information regarding the [NFHS Debate Topic Selection](#) meeting.

5. Knoblauch shared the following resources:

[NFHS Speech, Debate & Theatre Directors & Adjudicators](#)

[Return to Speech and Debate Guidance](#)

6. Knoblauch acknowledged and thanked the following outgoing committee members for their service on the [advisory committee](#) and for their support of the IHSA:

Conor Cameron - [IHSA Division 1](#) - Debate Coach, Solorio Academy, Chicago

Christina Cooper - [IHSA Division 2](#) - Speech Coach, Gurnee (Warren)

Tina Mondino - [IHSA Division 7](#) - Speech Coach, Harrisburg