

FGCCFL Coaches' Meeting Minutes

11/9/24 Robinson High School

Introduction of all schools/check-in: Academy, Admiral Farragut, Armwood, Carrollwood, Gibbs, Osceola, Plant, Robinson, Sarasota, SMA, Southeast, Strawberry Crest

Present Board Members: Paul Jannereth, VP; Doug Evans, Secretary; Dr. Terri St John, President Emeritus; Excused: Jym Froelich, President, (illness)

Treasurer's Report: Account Balance \$21,000.00

Used for scholarships - \$500; NCFL fees. Comments on spending to lower carryover made by Nickerson and Strate. Increase scholarships. Lower registration fees. Terri requested any ideas for ways to spend be sent to her or Jym. Funds: Looking into more opportunities and scholarships with excess funds

Best Practices: Have judges and students check in with you (coach) before you register the full team. Lots of dropped judges morning of comp makes re-pairing very difficult, causes delays. 6 drops today.

New Business:

National Circuit Readiness:

We stick to emails to communicate with each other so that we are not talking through parents. Not to undermine coaches with what they are doing nor making it mandatory, but encouraging and supporting each other with optional scrimmages sounds like a good idea. Robinson hosting/coordinating, does not seem to be officially through our league.

More support – district/league wise in prepping for national events

National circuit tournaments start with new topics so maybe more scrimmage?

Question of parent involvement brought up by Jannereth, so that coaches can maintain their own calendar. Coaches planning scrimmages agree to only message coaches to include and plan these scrimmages (Request from Hunter Sexton, Robinson)

Invoicing:

Moving to paying after instead of paying before. Maybe preventing future registration when the balance is still not cleared. Easier to coordinate and deal with fines and fees once a tournament has occurred so that teachers are not paying out of pocket for tournaments as well as not needing to cover for students' mistakes. Most seemed in favor. Jannereth discussed payments and moved that we pay post-tournament. To create a singular form of payment if fines are added. To save Treasurer time, rather than having to deposit pre and post-tournament. Discussion invoice post tournament pros/cons caring a balance, etc. A majority agreed that this will be done on the premise that schools not paying cannot register or will have to 'pay to play' ahead of time. **Votes – majority in favor of post-tournament invoicing**

Coach Packet:

New coaches getting help in a unified and clarified packet, updated for modern tournaments and expectations of hosting tournaments and everything else. Fees for schools, drop fee, hosting expectations, basic rules for each event, Annmarie point person with google drive, judge packet More help for new coaches – new coach packet. Including how to host, fees, expectations... Terri moved for Anne-Marie to create such a packet – immediately seconded by multiple. Melissa agreed to help. Thank you again to Melissa G Robinson for judge packet – great resource for all! Has been updated by Paul and Kendall and is available to all for; teams, parents/judges and coaches!

Debate judge preference:

Sure, but just January and if it works, Grand Finals as it will be towards the national championship and because the beginning of the year is too chaotic to try

5th round LD/PF and 4th round CX:

4th policy definitely for CX when possible

What about IE where they cannot get as many points with fewer rounds. Benefit some vs benefit none. The time between rounds could also be helpful for debaters to tweak cases and arguments. See how November goes as it is a 5-round tournament, we still want to make sure that tournament ends at the same time. **8 in favor 6 opposed**

[Note from Tournament Coordinator: Based on November, running five rounds can be accomplished within the schedule but puts an excessive burden on judges. Have readjusted the schedule for four rounds, well-spaced, which can accommodate double-flighting if needed.]

Final Rounds in smaller debate divisions:

Treat final rounds of smaller debate divisions as elimination rounds. Can we do the same for IE? Snaking IE. Please have all judges pilot judge preferences at tournaments 5 and 6. Request to start at 6 and Grand not 5 b/c Dec is quickly after Thanksgiving. Coaches need to ask parents to publish paradigms to make this work. Majority agreed to pilot in Jan. Jannereth will publish info on paradigms. 5th Round – **8 to 6 vote for piloting a 5th round today**. Pros -allowing students more opportunities for practice/points. Cons – more ways to possibly running long. Final Rounds – using a elimination/seeding method piloted and will continue to be used. Debate ensued - Where there are not enough teams final rounds would be used for best seeds. **All in favor**. Terri will ask Josh if ‘snaking’ can be done this way for IE

[Note from Tournament Coordinator: IE Round 4 is already snaked off of previous results in events with multiple sections.]

Novice Debate division:

Should we have novice LD and PF. Can we bring more students for novice and varsity?. Logistics difficult with classrooms and hosting? What are the minimums before collapse? Maybe an LD only event in the future? Novice towards the beginning instead of end? Problem with amounts of

teams (could we have double spots for novice and varsity). Problem could be with logistics for hosts Many questions raised – **request to table for this year.**

INF and POI at January/December:

More events for NSDA, practice before NSDA, similar to OO but with props, looking at only January, maybe impromptu as a quick addition for IE. Majority agreed to offer in January if possible? Melissa requested addition of impromptu – well taken more info needed (might be good for 5th round) Minimal in favor- much discussion – tabled for now.

Middle School:

Novice and middle school championship, defining novice, nationals have middle school, number of entries. Are they invited to all? They cannot go to Grand Finals, and they can go to Novice Championships. Wait for nationals, tabled but moving towards no, making a middle school league with vetting for older students. Outside middle schools that are not already connected to the high school, need to be vetted by high school. Limited to schools that are high schools that also have a middle school would be possible.

Novice definition – needs to be changed because middle school points are retained. **All in favor** – novice defined as ‘first-year’ speech and debate competitor in high school. Novice Division: Needs to change probably, Novice would be first year competing in high school regardless of points or grade level. **Tabled**

Grand Finals:

Saturday 2/8/24 @ Wharton has volunteered. Will be a longer tournament

Attire:

Congress and debate need to dress professionally, and girls’ dresses being too short. Dress shorts not a part of it. Sometimes newness or turnover of coaches, not getting to put eyes on your own students until the tournament. How to dress presentation in New Coach/coach email from Annmarie.

Maybe move towards official dress code, who enforces it as it must come from coaches? Students will be sent home/fees for drops? Burden from the league. Warning system? discussed overwhelming disregard students wearing shorts/short dresses, etc. Consequences? Handbook/rules the League? Jannereth brought up issues with ‘policing’ who will do it? What are consequences – suggested ‘guidelines’ from League Many in favor but request for coaches to be aware and watch their own students.

Annemarie volunteered to share her girls dress code ppt, asked for help from others for boys, will consult Guidelines might be better/more appropriate, making sure to reinforce to judges not to dock points. – Cathy Strate, Southeast

Vacancies:

We should have full executive community Second VP and Treasurer. Starting into this year to learn the position: anyone interested in helping for the rest of this year would be great. All League District positions open at the end of this year – Please volunteer!

By-laws:

2018 is the last time it was updated and needed to update offices and positions and roles of the different parts of the executive committee. April 5th or 12th. 4 hours max. If you don't like the bylaws, then you need to be a part of the voice. A committee will be created to draft new By-laws, all input is welcome. It will take approximately 1-2 meetings 2-4 hours to create. Time dedication is minimal compared to others and vitally needed to continue the League. Great meeting turnout and request for more input and participation from all.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by
Doug Evans, Secretary