

Report of the Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee The committee conducted summer business via e-mail. The following were able to respond: Jodi Becker, Ed Falkner, Mark Kohl, Sue Luterbach, Chris Schoggen & Gary Wegner (chair). Ty Wesley has agreed to also continue to serve on the TPP Committee.

Most of the issues that the committee is currently dealing with need to be decided by the WFCFA membership. Below are some of the responses of the committee members. Hopefully, these can help focus any discussion of the issues:

1. **AUDIT:** *What form should the audit of the State Tournament results be now that it is computerized?*

- Do we think there have been problems?
- I am not sure. We need to meet and discuss the logistics of the computerized method we now use. Possibly we could check the tab sheets against the entries and do all which would be time consuming or just do at random checks.
- I do not feel I have the necessary background concerning issues that would call for an audit. I have not served in the capacity of head coach in the last five years and do not feel - I am not informed enough to make a recommendation concerning an audit.
- There was a suggestion brought up - maybe at the spring meeting - about bringing the TPP people from the outlying sites (high school, Rodman, etc.) to run the audit of the tournament. This could be done as semi-final rounds are happening, and the judges in the tab room could go into Great Hall and relax for the length of time it takes for the audit. Mike Traas may have to be there during this time to help with any computer complications. I would think that this would work well – at least we could try it.
- The bylaws mandate an audit. I suggest that a member of the TPP be present to review the scores of the top three teams in each division to ensure they were accurately entered by the Tab people.

2. **DOUBLE ENTRY AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT:** *What is your opinion regarding allowing double entries at the State Tournament?*

- I am opposed to double entry, though possible temporary doubling license might be granted to SMALL SCHOOLS for one or two team-building years.
- I was at the category committee meeting when the discussion was going on and I have mixed feelings. On paper it would be a good thing and fair to smaller schools but would larger schools also use it and only bring their most superior entries, thus winning in two categories and the smaller schools would still not have a chance. The larger membership needs to also discuss this. A survey should be sent out as so few attend the fall and spring meetings. I do not think this issue should be dictated by a few members.
- I do not support an initiative that would allow for double entering.
- As site coordinator for the state tournament - this scares me to no end. Because of the limited amount of space on campus, I don't think this is possible. I don't feel that Ripon College can handle a double-entered state tournament. We would have to do extra shuttle routes all day at a significant cost to WFCFA. The length of the tournament would be much longer, because of travel time for students. I think it would cause a lot of headaches for judges as well. I just don't see how it would work. I have also talked with Deano from Ripon, and he also does not see how this could work.
- I am opposed to double entering at state.

3. **JUDGES PAY:** *The issue has arisen where a school that pays judges more has hired a judge away from another school at a tournament. What, if anything, can the WFCFA do in such a situation?*

- Speak firmly to the criminals.
- I pay my judges nothing anyway. If they got hired, it would please me no end.
- I do not think it is our place to delve into the issue of judge hiring. If a coach has a problem with it, he/she should deal directly with the other coach. The TPP is not muscle for coaches unwilling to communicate with their peers. Besides, the pay given to judges is usually dictated by the school and is often times out of the decisions made by the coaches themselves.
- It is not the place of the WFCFA to intervene in issues involving the hiring and payment of judges.
- I don't think that we have any say in what districts pay their judges, but I do think a strong statement needs to be made that it is unethical to "steal" judges from another school at a tournament. I was shocked to hear that this was going on. I never would have thought to do anything like that.
- This is a matter for a judge to take up with the other coach as well as any judge for one's own school that would act in this way.

4. **RANKING:** *The Category Committee has recommended changing the grace period from 30 seconds to 15 seconds. This was followed by a discussion about the grace period language. "The present language states, 'not ranked first.' The suggested change would state 'reduced by one rank.' It was decided to refer the issue to the TPP Committee without a recommendation." This is based on a question that arose at the State Tournament that I included in the Spring Report: "Request a clarification of the rules regarding the meaning of "may not be ranked first in the round" for semi-finals and finals. Does this mean the student may not be ranked first by an individual judge but if then ranked second by all three judges he or she may be overall first?"*

- Yes, 15 seconds.

- Yes, clarify language, but I want to think about it.

- 15 seconds would be good because entrants are supposed to have their piece in a very specific time limit.

- May not be ranked first...I think this statement still works. It is simple and still judges have trouble with this concept or they do not even read the rules governing the categories. If it stated rank third or second or lowered one rank, they would have even more discussions about what is the correct thing to do. It seems to me that the TPP deals with judges who rank first when a clear violation of the time limit has been breeched, and not about ranking the contestant at any other rank.

- I support the status quo for matters dealing with time limits. It has taken several years to get compliance with the 30-second rule. Instituting a change to 15 seconds will bring about a great deal of inconsistency on this important matter.

- I believe that the grace period should change from 30 to 15 seconds with the wording of the penalty to be 'reduced by one rank'. I think this would clarify things, not only for the judges who give them a two and then they turn out winning, but also for the judges who bottom out a contestant who goes over. I think this is something we need to communicate to the coaches and students way in advance of the first tournament in a special email or mailing - because I think it is such a key issue. There are some students who want to push the limit, and they need to realize the penalty. The coaches must also train their judges on the difference. With this change I feel that the tournament may run even smoother, because of the fact that oratory and farrago are always running over because of this issue.

- I support going to 15 seconds.

5. **DISQUALIFICATION VS. CRITIQUEABLE:** *It has been suggested that we create a list of violations that will lead to a DQ versus those violations that are critiqueable and could affect ranking, etc. What are violations that are automatically disqualifying?*

- Very difficult. Rely on professionalism of judges.

- Very good question. No way to answer this fully without considering the core competency sought to be advanced within the individual category. Violating that core competency (for example, doing a Solo Humorous in a Solo Serious round) would be one thing to do.

- the same issue of creating a list of what is critiqueable vs. what is not came up (before). Our committee worked on it and received much flack. We ended up deciding it should be dealt with on an individual basis. What if something is not on the list, then it is allowable because it is not on the list. You are getting into dangerous territory if you create these lists.

- A specified list of critiqueable vs disqualifying infractions seems practical on the surface but has the potential of tying one's hands. I do not think that a one size fits all approach to such delicate issues is wise. Disqualification is best dealt with by a committee for discussion, interpretation and decision making..

- This one is very difficult for me, because I don't feel I have enough experience on the TPP committee to make this decision. I'm also too nice. My tournament is so early in the season, that it is usually my philosophy to warn them and not disqualify. So, I'm not the best person to ask this question.

- I agree that it could become a "definitive" list and thereby create more problems. If judges act correctly, it is the Tournament Director or TPP that disqualifies anyway.

6. **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS FEEDBACK FORM:** *It has been suggested that a form for tournament directors to provide feedback to the WFCAs be created. What is your opinion?*

- Good idea, but most TD's are exhausted after a tourney and may not get to it.?
 - Tournament Directors Feedback Form: This might be a good thing. We used to have a form to list and explain DQ's so we could have a file of problems for the State. Reality: most will not send in the form or they will feel that the form labels individual contestants if there was a violation and that the committee will be purposely out to tag that contestant. It would need to be strictly for data gathering and improvement of tournament procedures and it would have to be confidential as to school names. And how would knowing #dropped, attended, etc. help the next tournament director?
 - Feedback form could be quite useful. However, as a tournament host, I am completely exhausted by the time the event is completed. There are so many follow-up duties to tend to after the tournament, I would be very reluctant to add to that list of duties.
- I would look to the tournament directors to accept or not accept this form. They will be the ones to use it or not.
- I think the tournament feedback form that you have proposed is a good one. I do think that one thing that may make it easier is if we can put it on the website somehow where they can actually fill it out there. I still think we should send out a hard copy of it with the labels to tournament hosts, but if on the hard copy there is the website and how to get to the online version, I think that would be one way to make this a painless process. I also think we need to have a short paragraph on the exact purpose of the form and why it's important for them to fill it out.

Some of the information that could be included on a TDF:

- A. # of schools that attended.
- B. # of students who competed.
- C. # of drops on day of tournament.
- D. Category breakdown -- how many entries per category.
- E. Disqualifications ---- Reasons.
- F. Any issues with Judges?
- G. Did the tournament earn a profit, have a loss or break even?
- H. Who made up the TPP at the tournament?
- I. How many hired judges did the tournament provide?
- J. WFCAs Rules used -- any additional categories or use of other rules?
- K. Number of entries, broken down by category.
- L. Number powered in each category, and the score (or rationale) used to break.
- M. Whether complaints were made against judges, students, or schools and their disposition.
- N. Difficulties in the running of the tournament that might require rule changes.

7. **OTHER ISSUES:** *Are there any other issues that you believe we should address?*

- Method of determining team awards at state. (Should there be a small team category that is awarded as small teams are throughout the rest of the year, for the same reason it is done the rest of the year?)
- Should there be a limit on the number of entries at state, and if so, the method of determining team awards (if no limit, should top 25 be used, preselected varsity 25, OR-- and this is my idea--use all scores and determine an average of the entire team, and use averages to determine team awards).
- Should the team awards be realigned by number of entries rather than by size of school? (As is done the rest of the year.)
- I like the three levels of team awards. Those of us in smaller schools have a chance to receive recognition. I never say I came in 5th in the State, I say I came in fifth in the state in the Small team division. Being a third string school is okay as long as we get to say we did something.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary J. Wegner
Chair, Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee