

Minutes of the 2022-23 Speech, Drama & Debate Advisory Committee
April 19, 2023

The IHSA Speech, Drama & Debate [Advisory Committee](#) met at the IHSA office at 10:00a.m. Committee members present were IHSA Division 1, Coach Maddie Morris, Chicago (DePaul College Prep); IHSA Division 2, Coach Naz Ahmed, Hoffman Estates (H.S.); IHSA Division 3, Activity Director Marie Wojdelski, Harvey (Thornton); IHSA Division 4, Principal Madeline Hawkins, Galena; IHSA Division 5, Coach/Director Tony Kortas, Danville (H.S.); IHSA Division 6, Coach/Director Ken Carter, Chatham (Glenwood); IHSA Division 7, Coach John Rickert, Waterloo (H.S.) Jan Heiteen, Individual Events State Final Manager; Martin Zacharia, Debate State Final Manager; Brenda Moreno, Assistant Debate State Final Manager; Tom Witting, Drama State Final 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

- 1. Recommendation: VI. E. Time Schedules: 2. State Final Time Schedule – Pilot for 1 year and review at next Advisory Committee meeting.**

2:00 Final Round: All Events

~~Finals 3:30 Final Round: Dramatic Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Duet Acting, Informative Speaking, Poetry Reading, Radio Speaking, Special Occasion Speaking.~~

~~6:00~~ 4:00 p.m. AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Rationale: To address concerns regarding the late ending of awards.

- 2. Recommendation: VI. E. Time Schedules 2. State Final Time Schedule – Page 3**

Saturday

7:45 <u>7:15</u>	Radio Prep Round II Sec A
8:00 <u>7:30</u>	Extemp Prep Round II Sec A
8:30 <u>8:00</u>	Preliminary Round II Section A
9:00 <u>8:45</u>	Radio Prep Round II Section B
9:15 <u>9:00</u>	Extemp Prep Round II Section B
9:45 <u>9:30</u>	Preliminary Round II Section B
10:15	Radio Prep for Round II Section C
10:30	Extemp Prep for Round II Section C
11:00	Preliminary Round II Section C

Rationale: This recommendation only affects the second day of the state final. The competition would begin at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. Friday's rounds are 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours) long. The 75-minute rounds on Saturday of the State Final are not balanced with Friday's time allotment and often feel rushed and run late. Final rounds would still begin at the same time.

STATE SPEECH: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The committee heard an update from Jan Heiteen, IHSA Speech State Final Manager, regarding the 2023 IHSA Speech: Individual Events State Series. Heiteen was recognized and thanked for serving as the tournament manager.
2. AI Chatbots were discussed – Recommended to add to the [Manual for Schools/Managers](#) Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) - The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT will be considered a form of plagiarism. Any participants' use of AI before, during, or after a tournament to generate a speech, MAY result in being ranked last, disqualified, or having their advancement revoked.
3. Recommended to add to the [Manual for Schools/Managers](#) – Use of electronic listening devices (headphones, iPods, noise-canceling devices, etc...) in extemporaneous speaking and radio speaking prep - While we do not have a rule on this subject and it's not addressed in the terms and conditions, by state association adoption this would be prohibited. Schools can make *Requests for Accommodations* if the use of an electronic listening device is need for an accommodations.
4. Discussed the use of cell phones for timing in extemporaneous Speaking and Radio Speaking. Recommended to add to [Manual for Schools/Managers](#) - While using a traditional stopwatch to time during Extemp and/or Radio Prep is preferred, the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, will be permitted during Prep for the purposes of timing. Reminder: Any student found to be communicating with anyone outside of the prep room will be subject to disqualification.
5. Discussed Extemporaneous Speaking - Recommended to add to [Manual for Schools/Managers](#) - No electronic devices, including cell phones, are allowed to leave the prep room in order to avoid distractions in the performance space.
6. Discussed Radio Speaking - Recommended to add to [Manual for Schools/Managers](#) - Speakers will be permitted to use their own timing device, including cell phones, to time during their performance. Regardless of device choice, the speaker will be solely responsible for the proper functioning of their personal timer. Any stopwatch malfunction or cell phone distraction, such as but not limited to, the phone going off, the student performer getting distracted by a push notification on their screen, the screen/timer blacking out during the performance, etc., are not reasons for protesting the results of the round or to give the student another opportunity to perform. As per the rules, there will be one timer in the room with the radio speaker to time and display timecards. The timer must use a traditional stopwatch and may NOT use a cell phone to time.
7. Reviewed Performance in the Round competition space and rules. Clarified the application of rule to PIR Section - VII.D.4.c: "The three performances in each section with the lowest cumulative rankings will advance to the finals along with any performance whose total of rankings is lower than the total of rankings for the third-place performance in the opposite preliminary group."
8. Discussed combining Humorous Duet Acting (HDA) and Dramatic Duet Acting (DDA) to Duets - Add Duo as an event - in place of HDA/DDA.

9. Reviewed Special Occasion Speaking (SOS)/Extemp. and Declamation event questions and clarifications.
10. Discussed and approved the creation of a pilot program for the use of digital sources such as “*The Moth*” in Prose Reading. Using the Poetry pilot as a model, materials will be available in the fall.
11. Monologues were discussed.
12. Reviewed the protocols and access of regional, sectional and state committee members and contest managers.
13. Discussed audience/spectator behavior during state final performances.
14. Reviewed the judge selection process.
15. Concerns were shared regarding the state final venue and discussion covered venue contracts and state final competition spaces such as colleges.

DEBATE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None

STATE DEBATE DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The Debate State Final Managers Martin Zacharia (Niles West High School) provided a report of the 2023 IHSA Debate State Finals at Illinois State University. The tab room staff was commended for their assistance in running the event. Martin Zacharia was recognized and thanked for serving as the tournament manager.
2. The committee recommended that the Debate State Final return to ISU the 3rd weekend in March for in person competition. If staying at ISU is not economically feasible, then a high school host site may need to be reviewed. Additionally, if the IHSA Board of Directions deletes the stand-alone state final, the debate committee would like to add the four debate events to the Speech: Individual Events State Final.
3. It was recommended to pilot an asynchronous event to the Debate State Final to increase participation. Brian Rohman will spearhead this project.
4. The committee discussed piloting the addition of a Po-Con Challenge used by the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) to encourage more schools to participate.
5. Judging was reviewed and the committee discussed the required releasing of decisions at the end of each round.
6. Martin and Brenda will work with subcommittees that will update editorial revisions in the IHSA Debate Terms and Conditions.
7. Brenda Moreno volunteered to take on the rule of outreach to work with schools to develop debate programming to increase debate participation.

DRAMA TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

None

STATE DRAMA DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Tom Witting provided an update of the Drama State Series. Tom was recognized and thanked for serving as the state final manager. Chatham Glenwood High School served as the State Final host and was commended for their exemplary job in conducting the event. Ken Carter and the entire school staff provided amazing planning and leadership that directly contributed to an amazing.
2. The committee reviewed a proposal that all contest plays provide a synopsis for judges.
3. The committee discussed a commitment to judge diversity.
4. Short Film Concerns/Suggestions were reviewed.
5. A timeline for Short Film Judging was outlined – Short Films should be submitted by March 1 - If there are more than 40 entries, 6 judges will split into two groups and will judge their entries by March 15. Once the scoring has taken place, the top 6 in Group A and Group B will then be shown at the IHSA Short Film Festival at the Drama State Final. If there are more than 60 entries, 9 judges split into three groups will judge their entries By March 15th. Once the scoring has taken place, the top 6 short films in Group A, B & C will then be shown at the IHSA Short Film Festival at the Drama State Final.
6. The committee supported a recommendation that at the IHSA Short Film Festival a Film Professor or Film Producer be involved in the Short Film oral discussion.
7. The committee approved an administrative recommendation that the Films shown at the State Final are announced early enough that schools can make travel arrangements to attend.
8. The committee approved an administrative recommendation that the critics' choice winner be announced at the on-site Short Film Festival.
9. The committee approved an administrative recommendation to use Speechwire for the submission and adjudication of the Short Films and Musical Theatre events.
10. The committee discussed future short film recognitions that could include all state actors, cinematographer, sound, and lighting to be awarded for Short Film and Musical Theater Review.
11. The committee approved an administrative recommendation that would permit schools the ability to purchase Division 1, 2, 3 medallions for Short Film and Musical Theatre Review.
12. The committee discussed adding categories to Musical Theatre Review – Solo, Duet, Small Group, Large Group, and Compilations.
13. The committee discussed the use of “Set” in Musical Theatre.
14. The committee reviewed general rule interpretations be added to the Musical Theatre Review category:
 - Accompanied live/recorded music
 - Dialogue from the show may be used to set up song presentations
 - Dialogue from the show may be used to tie songs together in compilations
 - Equity in the use of sound/microphones
15. The committee discussed the use of SpeechWire and ways to improve the All-Sectional/State cast listing.
16. The committee was updated on future drama State Final hosts. Sterling High School will host in 2024. Confirmed State Final host sites are needed for 2025 on.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Justin Matkovich presented an update on the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association - [ICTA](#). The conference will be held September 14, 15 & 16 at Heartland College in Normal. Several IHSA rules sessions and coaching & directing sessions will be presented.
2. Ben Stewart, SpeechWire, was commended for his continued support of IHSA events.
3. Knoblauch reviewed the NFHS Awards: NFHS [Heart of the Arts](#) - NFHS [Outstanding Speech, Drama & Debate Educator Awards](#) for Coaches/Directors. Nominations for these awards have been split into two categories - Speech and Drama and recommendations for nominations can be directed to Knoblauch.
4. Knoblauch shared information regarding the [NFHS Debate Topic Selection](#) meeting.
5. Knoblauch acknowledged and thanked the following outgoing committee members for their service on the [advisory committee](#) and for their support of the IHSA.