

**Minutes of the 2021-22 Speech, Drama & Debate Advisory Committee
April 6, 2022**

The IHSA Speech, Drama & Debate [Advisory Committee](#) met via a virtual conference call on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, beginning at 2:00 p.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 5, Coach Brian Rohman, Normal (University); IHSA Division 6, Coach 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; 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: IV Financial Arrangements D. E. F.

Entry fees increase to \$20.

For each event in which a school has entered participants in the contest, an event fee of ~~\$15.00~~ **\$20.00** dollars (per event) shall be paid...

Rationale: This would align the individual event fee with the Performance in the Round fee that is currently \$20.

Approved by Consent

2. Recommendation: Speech Event Summaries Prose Reading pullout section

Remove “Compilations are permissible” from the material section of the rules.

Material: Material must come from appropriate printed, published sources and must meet high standards for good literature. Material must come from prose literature. Sources of material include cuttings from novels, short stories, biographies, nonfiction, letters and diaries. The use of dramatic literature is not permitted. ~~Compilations are permissible.~~ Each contestant will prepare one (1) Prose Reading selection. Cuttings must contain less than 50% dialogue.

Rationale: Compilations are not a competitive norm nor does continuing to allow them does not have much utility in an era where short stories are plentiful from a variety of sources. Considering there is no minimum time on the event, a shorter story could work in competition as well and not need to be paired with additional stories.

Approved by Consent

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

1. The committee heard an update from Jan Heiteen, IHSA Speech State Final Manager

2. Timing procedures were discussed. For the 2022 season, timing procedure will follow the terms and conditions. Room chairs can serve as timers.
3. The committee discussed the elimination of the table in DDA and HDA. Sectional hosts in conjunction with the regionals will assist in providing appropriate tables at the IHSA State Final.
4. The committee reviewed combining HDA and DDA to Duets or adding Duo as an event in place of HDA and DDA. No action was taken at this time.
5. The committee discussed interest in combining Prose and Poetry into a Program of Oral Interp. (POI). No action was taken at this time.
6. The committee approved updating the [Laptop Usage in Extemporaneous Speaking](#) document to better reflect current practices.
7. The committee reviewed a report regarding suggested updates to Radio Speaking. A subcommittee will review this topic in more detail.
8. The committee reviewed a proposal addressing the use of audience in Special Occasion Speaking. This will be a point of emphasis for the 2022-23 season.
9. The committee expressed sadness and disappointment in not having programs. They expressed interest in having hard copies of the state final programs on site.
10. The committee discussed the need for a more diverse judging pool. Coaches are encouraged to have judges work invitational level competition so their names can be submitted to the state final committee to judge the finals.
11. The committee discussed interest in conducting a statewide survey to examine why programs are decreasing, what support do coaches need and should the state series structure be reviewed. 185 schools participated in the 2022 IHSA Speech State Series.
12. The committee discussed the topic of recruitment and retention of teams and suggested partnering with the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association to provide online education for coaches.
13. The committee acknowledged and thanked everyone for their contributions in hosting regionals, sectionals, and assisting with the state final as we transitioned back to in-person events. State final manager, Jan Heiteen, and the state final committee was thanked for their service.

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 2022 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.
3. The committee recommended moving forward with online registration rather than in person registration the Thursday of the State Final for the 2023 tournament.

4. The committee discussed the use of the online tournament management and scoring program NSDA and tabroom.com and recommended continuing with that platform.
5. The committee discussed the need to recruit and retain more debate judges.
6. The committee discussed reviewing fee increase in future years.
7. Martin will work on subcommittees that will update editorial revisions in the IHSA Debate Terms and Conditions.
8. Knoblauch discussed [IHSA Policy #14](#) and examined ways to increase participation and/or combine the State Finals.
9. Martin shared thoughts for mentoring and training programs for new debate coaches.

DRAMA TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation: VIII B 4 a - Group Interpretation Time Keeping

Set-up/Strike: Groups will be allowed two (2) minutes to move the universal set pieces into the best set-up position behind the strike line or outside the performance box as determined by the contest management. The time limit for Group Interpretation Set-up & Strike is a total combined 5 minutes. For setup, once the director requests the clock to be stopped, it cannot be restarted. Group Interpretation takedown must be done in the remaining time not used in set-up. Any group exceeding this time limit shall automatically be dropped one (1) rank per judge per 30-seconds overtime. Any universal set pieces not being used by a performing school will be placed in a designated storage area after set-up timing is completed by combined host/performing personnel - this will not be counted on official set-up timing.

Rationale: With the addition of standardized pieces, the timing language needs to reflect the time required to properly execute set-up/strike.

Approved by Consent

2. Recommendation: VIII B 6 - Group Interpretation Standards of Excellence

Standardized Group Interpretation pieces (boxes, platforms, ramps) shall be provided by the host and used by all competing schools. The performance space will be carpeted, or a temporary carpeted flooring will be in place (provided by host). Performers, including musicians, are prohibited from performing underneath set pieces. While set pieces may be moved to represent a new general location, they may not be arranged to suggest a specific location. (For example, boxes may not be piled on top of each, turned on their sides or held by actors to represent specific formations such as walls, columns, doorways, or specific large props such as a desk.) Smaller pieces may not be used as hand-props.

Rationale: Have the set language properly match the transition to standardized sets.

Approved by Consent

3. Recommendation: VIII. B 6 g - e

Group Interpretations (GI) shall be performed in a 20' x 20' space. When performing, all standardized GI pieces used must be placed inside the 20 x 20 performance space. Performers and musicians may perform outside of that space without penalty.

Rationale: To clarify to competing schools, host sites, and judges regarding the performance space dimensions and parameters of the performance space.

Approved by Consent

STATE DRAMA DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Maria Wojdelski (On behalf of State Final Manager, Tom Witting) provided an update of the Drama State Series. Oak Lawn Community High School served as the host and was commended for their exemplary job in conducting the event. Assistant Principal for Activities Marcus Wargin and the OLCHS staff provided amazing planning and leadership that directly contributed to an amazing event.

2. The committee heard a report that the use of standardized Group Interpretation pieces was successful.

3. The committee heard recommendations to editorially update the terms and conditions.

4. The committee reviewed feedback submitted by directors after the State Final.

5. The committee reviewed the 20 x 20 performance space in Group Interp.

6. The committee discussed providing schools with FAQ's and interpretations for further rule clarity.

7. The committee discussed the use of SpeechWire and ways to improve the All-Sectional/State cast listing. The IHSA will provide Sectional managers with standardized All-Sectional Certificates.

8. Rubrics were discussed.

9. The committee discussed the need for a more diverse judging pool. Directors are encouraged to submit potential judge recommendations in the fall to the IHSA.

10. Knoblauch reviewed the two newest Drama categories: Short Film and Musical Theatre Revue.

11. Knoblauch discussed [IHSA Policy #14](#) and examined ways to increase participation and/or combine the State Finals.

12. Knoblauch discussed partnering with Illinois High School Theatre Festival.

13. The committee discussed potential future State Final host sites.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Justin Matkovich presented an update on the September [ICTA](#) Conference – Two IHSA sessions will be presented. The conference will be held September 23-24 at the College of DuPage.

2. Ben Stewart, SpeechWire, was commended on his continued support of IHSA events.

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 Learn Course: [Adjudicating Speech and Debate](#) [Implicit Bias](#)
[Speech and Debate Event Management](#) [Theatre Safety](#) [Copyright and](#)

[Compliance](#) NFHS Resources: [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: Principal James Bryan - [IHSA Division 4](#) - Kewanee High School and Coach Brian Rohman - [IHSA Division 5](#) – Normal U-High Coach.