

FFL Meeting- Saturday, August 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 9:22 am

Attendees(13):

Alyssa Fiebrantz Awsare, NSU University School; Carol Cecil, Braddock; Staycee Lehrman, Coral Glades; Grant Chmielewski, Doctor Phillips; Benjamin Gaddis, Trinity Preparatory School; Flo Petit, Pompano Beach; Donald Whitaker, Inverness; Jacob Abraham, Stoneman Douglas; Jym Froelich, Pine View; Jose Denis, Nova Patrick Sammon, St. Thomas Aquinas; Richard Burns, Buchholz High School; Bo Lint, American Heritage-Palm Beach; Jen Burg, Lake Brantley HS; Nathan Johnston, Lake Highland; Sohail Jouya, Cypress Bay High School

New Additions for FFL

Google Group being created for FFL

Keeps everyone informed and communicating together

Everyone can opt in or opt out

Important Dates

FFL Membership Drive- September 1, 2022

Regional Quals – 2023 – Saturday – 2/4/23 – locations per Regional Director's Discretion

Varsity State – 2023 – Saturday/Sunday – 3/4 – 3/5/23

Novice State – 2023 – Saturday/Sunday – 4/22 – 4/23/23 (this date is subject to change based on the TOC – if TOC changes its date we will move to 4/15 – 4/16/23)

Middle School State – 2023 – TBD (depends on discussion during the meeting)

Other Important Dates/Religious Holidays

8/27/22 - SAT

10/4/22 – Yom Kippur

9/10/22 - ACT

10/22/22 - ACT

9/25/22 - Rosh Hashanah

11/5/22 - SAT

10/1/22 – SAT

12/3/22 – SAT

12/10/22 - ACT

2/11/23 - ACT

3/11/23 - SAT

4/15/23 - ACT

4/5/23 - Passover Begins

4/9/23 - Easter

Previous Agenda Business to be finished

1. Revamped Congress Manual – Ready For September 2022 – Paul Gaba, Wellington HS

Rationale: New manual produced and will be sent out to the membership for review and vote for the Spring meeting. Carol will send out including in the meeting minutes from today's meeting.

2. Congress Packet For NS/MS – Kate Hamm & Benjamin Gaddis – Ransom Everglades & Trinity Prep

Call for legislation will come out soon.
Dates set:
Volunteers will be sought out to help edit packet

New Agenda

Agenda Item #1: Creating an FFL Middle School (and possibly Elementary School) Division – Ryan Hubbard – American Heritage Broward (ties in with #3)

Aly- We will form a committee. Ask for volunteers, set parameters and make adjustments and then vote.
Carol-
Nathan- Plan to do independent of novice state?
Aly- Depends on the host this year. It may not be a sustainable model given trying to find a physical host for Novice

Carol- Some schools can't travel to Middle school without parents
Nathan and Bo- We can
Ben- It could be unique to Trinity and so I can work on that

Bo- Could we put novice along varsity?

Aly- Middle school could compete with 9th graders, but also still so big

Passage see below

3. Middle School Steering Committee – Aly Fiebrantz Awsare - NSU (tied in with #1)

Aly- Creating some virtual competitions throughout the year

Jacob- Plenty of MS throughout the state

Aly- We advertised and the turnout wasn't where it should be

Jacob- We should and could push to have them join as actual members

Grant- Do we have a sense of what pushed some one way or another?

Jacob- They are following the direction of the Broward Public Schools

Grant- Should we reach out?

Jacob- Some issues with private schools being accused of recruiting, so the Broward ASTs kicked them out.

Grant- Committee should consider regional tournaments

Carol- If creating a division we have to vote

On adding to MS Division to Bylaws- AYE (15), Nay (1) PASS

2. Agenda Item #2: FFL Fall Meeting Coach Workshops - American Heritage Broward

Carol- Fall training will occur and help new and old coaches

Aly- Love the concept, but worried about the obligations of hosting workshops

Ben- Not sure we have the bandwidth generally

Nathan- Probably more encourage at the regional level or the state level

Flo- Maybe every other year online as opposed to face to face

Carol- Getting to participate or be able to incentivize (workshop points)

Aly- Thespians has a great model of workshops of during their festival. Maybe we add to varsity and novice state meetings.

Jacob- Maybe even during novice states. Gives coaches more time.

Ben- New coaches zoom in the Fall, and then workshops at Novice

Grant- Cautious of codifying and moves away from discussions. If we put it at state then people may not drive if they do not qualify. Accessibility.

Jen- Talk with Beth Eskin, both camps (FCDI) had training with coaches invited and food and board being provided.

Carol- FCDI camps were for those coaches and not necessarily everybody

Flo- What is the intent for this to be on the agenda?

Carol- (From memory) There are a lot of turnovers, new coaches etc. Educate those who want to participate. Give assistance and support for FFL coaches. Do they know rules, and training judges.

Ben- I think we want need to have something for new folks in fall, and then returning folks in the spring.

Aly- No vote, but set intention to have experimental workshops

Carol- Not a voting issue

Resolved- Experimental sessions will be provided in the spring

No dissent, resolution passes

Carol- We will put together a few topics, have folks vote, and then provide a few workshops in the spring.

NDCA has new coach membership program

4. Sweepstakes – Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU

Aly- Revamp sweepstakes. Current formulas heavily weigh some events over others and do not recognize the new events. Small schools, what is being allocated, and for what?

Nathan- Redefine what constitutes small school sweepstakes. Look at total entries from schools from Varsity state and then figure out a percentage. If schools in the bottom quartile have five or less it would be good data.

Messing with calculations is good. A school can have a lot of entries, but even if they do well they won't be considered.

We should acknowledge a student's top two entries in each event.

Jason- We should come up with some proposals and then vote on those? Need to calculate, but need to have a new system. Look at others.

Nathan- Don't mind the current calculation, just need to see how we can expand or make it more fair

Aly- Debate is the top two entries period. Doesn't take into consideration all of the events so is not a team award. Often goes to the small school with a single entry that wins an event. Is that a small school champion? Or should it be a school with semi-finalists across speech event?

Grant- Agreed with Aly and Nathan, put together options, then put out to vote for larger membership base. Given implications, it should be sent out.

Carol- The way fall is set up, only those at Fall get to vote as to what items go to membership. We can have Aly and Nathan

Ben- Is it just the top two in across the category or the event?

Aly- Yes, so we would move to top two per each event

Jacob- I am in favor of this. But is this per genre or whole team?

Nathan- It would be about finding out what quartile you are in

Jacob- Small school overall or per event.

On redefining sweepstakes verbiage to include counting the top two in each event and not just category, with verbiage to be produced to membership before the spring committee. Aye (16), Nay (0) PASS

5. Revamp Executive Board Responsibilities - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU

[Rationale/Description](#)

Aly- Started with the goal to ease the responsibilities of members such as the President and to more accurately define the executive board roles. FFL E-Board Jobs document was shown to membership in attendance

Nathan- Doesn't look like we need to really discuss these

Carol- Changing checking account information and duties to add Grant as new treasurer.

**On editing the responsibilities of the E-Board for the by-laws.
Aye (16), Nay (0)- PASS**

6. Regional Directors – Regional directors will get to select one of two tiebreakers to be used at regional tournaments. – Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep

Nathan- Doesn't change much but gives regional directors more power to determine tiebreakers at regional tournaments.

Some schools bring a ton of entries, but some do not. If only using Opp wins for the tiebreaker, a larger school with a 3-2 won't be able to compete against themselves.

An attempt to control for instances in which there is not enough competitive diversity

Ben- When does the director have to make these decisions? Does this give the director too much power?

Nathan- I think we could definitely add verbiage that it is approved, or put out after registration. I don't think it will be too much power

Carol- Already part of RD requirement to report, not hard to add

Aly- Def won't change at the state tournament. Not totally convinced. There may be more team diversity. Old tie-breaker order assumed whole points etc. Options would need to be provided.

Richard- Could have an appearance that Region Directors are making decisions that

favor their schools. Wondering if there is some formula that could be put together.
Jacob- Nathan's request to defer final approval to the exec board covers that.
Bo- I agree, that the old system would not be feasible but what is the second option?
Aly- Goes back to a variation of speaks on top, etc.
Aly- No impropriety.

On addition to by-laws: Regional directors may select one of two tiebreakers depending on their regional tournament needs. Decisions will be approved by the E-Board before the tournament begins.

Option A- Current set-up

Obtion B- Speaker points, Opp wins, etc

Defaults to the state level.

Aye (15) Abst(1) Nay (1)- PASS

7. Hosting Guidelines – Carol Cecil – Braddock

Carol- I will create some materials for teams to help them with hosting

8. The formula for unused state qualifier spots. - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep

Determined by the number of qualifiers a region has.

If an entry doesn't match the number of qualifiers in a region, then that event qual would be passed to others.

Nathan- If a slot is not used by a region it could be given to a region that needs it and could give a region that is smaller, but doesn't necessarily get the quals.

Determined the number of qualifiers your region has.

Would be for each event. If we only got 6/7 entries. We would offer up spots to other regions.

Capped at the first two alternates.

Aly-Caveat is that unused slots would not go to the biggest regions. We have already allotted for these entries so is a great model.

Carol- It May be unpopular, but Hurricane already takes up the majority. Some feel that Region 6 already has too many competitors.

Patrick- If some smaller regions don't fulfill quotas, I worry. Everyone should be able to participate. Is there anything about a regional qualifier not being able to fulfill their spots to have another qualifier?

Carol- No. It's too quick of a turnaround and our Bylaws maintain the qualification

procedures. Region 6 could be a huge problem.

Patrick- There are a lot of regions and a lot of qualifiers. The more students included the better. Want to see more students across the board involved.

Aly- We can't create a rule that hurts or makes it unfair to a specific region. Region 6 has a lot of schools and is the 6th largest district in the country. Maybe no more than additional spots in an event. There should be a cap, but should just have a how many per entry.

Jacob- I think it makes sense to go by the largest region is precluded from the waiver system per chance. It's just a waiver system for unclaimed slots. The practicality of the waivers makes sense, and will probably not be passed up.

Aly- While we want to incentivize other counties, we don't want to de-incentivize large counties. Both are unfair.

Bo- First, if there are regions of the same size we need to work on how to determine which region gets those calls. Further, if a small region gets the first waiver, do they keep getting the first choice?

Aly- This seems to be after alternates are exhausted.

Nathan- If a region doesn't have the alternates, they then move the waiver up to the next region that needs it.

Bo- So Region 1 would get dibs before any other?

Nathan- So the alternates would have to already be on

Carol- So region 1 didn't have a lot of competitors, so there were only 3 or 4 duos, but they could only get two. So they might get more of these spots.

Ben- Maybe we add verbiage about creating a cap post regional qual determination?

Nathan- This is as much about balancing the events, but also balancing the judge pool. So I would like the verbiage to be that. No region can get more than two additional spots in any given event.

Carol- Before voting, we demo or test-drive the waivers. Some may not be convinced.

On adding a formula for creating a waiver system to pass unused slots to smaller regional qualifiers to maintain tournament diversity, and balance, and to encourage.

EXEC BOARD WILL PILOT FOR SPRING

9. Decrease prelims & pattern speech - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare - NSU

Aly- Voted for 6 prelims and was always in a debate context. Didn't consider speech and multiple events.

Carol- We bring kids to the tournament and speech kids are

Grant- Debate needs 6 prelims, net positive. We need to pattern to address it.

Carol- We can move quicker if we had access to rooms

Ben- I have already done this work. It is not only feasible
Aly- We should put this on the ballot and then as an E-Board give the speech tab the latitude to break.
Ben- I'd like to see us pilot flights.
Nathan- I'd like to see us do 5 prelims and a partial quarter.
Aly- Let's amend to vote and pilot it for this year.
Nathan-

For the 2023 FFL Varsity State tournament FFL will pilot the following rule change: decrease speech prelims to 5 rounds, add 2 patterns of speech and add partial quarters for all events that have 36 or more entries.
Aye(15), Nay (1)

10. WSD all schools get 2 entries at quals (9th grade supp – will not apply to WSD – schools will not be able to use 9th grade supp for a 3rd WSD entry) - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland

Nathan- More people should be encouraged to participate
Aly- Sounds good lets put it on the ballot

To include verbiage to add to the ballot that every school can have two World Schools Teams at regional quals with any combination of 9-12th graders.
AYE(15), Nay (1)

11. Remove Regional Constraints for prelims - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU

Aly- Bylaws protect regions in terms of judging as well as competition for preliminary rounds. Allows better opportunity for true power matching.
Nathan- Caused issues
Bo- A 3-1 hit a 1-3 due to constraints
Nathan- Had to break brackets.
Jacob- Judges too?
Nathan- In prelims judge restrictions would go, but in out-rounds, we may keep.
Sohail- I consider Opp Wins problematic so we may want to protect regional constraints for the first two rounds.

On adding the removal of regional constraints for prelims to the ballot.
Aye() Nay()
WITHDRAWN BY AUTHOR

12. Increase Varsity State to 42 qualifiers per event (an increase of 6 from the original 36) - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep

Nathan- If now distributing unused events quals around would be extra helpful. Also would increase diversity in events. More students competing is never a bad thing. The state has grown, and we probably should too.

Carol- We've had difficulties filling events to capacity.

Nathan- In a world where we are redistributing quals we could fill events this year.

Carol- Could we see how the waiver goes and then?

Jacob- Could we vote with the stipulation that if the rooms don't exist for the first year, we just don't do it?

Nathan- Going back to 36 would be very bad.

Aly- Add caveat that each year the exec board could move from 42 to 36.

Carol- We are upping the number of rooms. So we have to figure out how extra entries would be figured into the formula.

Jacob- Could we use the waiver system to add the 6 slots?

Nathan-

Ben- Concerned with rooms, and especially the flights. I think we need to figure out a room situation before we increase slots.

Carol- Having more space would be good, but worried about the issue.

Nathan- I am pro waiting on this conversation. I can wait a year if we try the waiver.

Aly- Gives flexibility with that to exec board being an issue?

Patrick- We leave at 36, shelve this, and gauge the outcome of program growth. A lot of factors have changed and altered.

Let's see how 2023 goes.

Tabled for a year.

Sohail Jouya- Is there a practice of hosting that it should rotate through out the years. But Cypress Bay would like to host.

Carol- We have some other names who have been requested, but we don't mind looking again.

Jose- NOVA does have a bid into host.

Jacob Abraham motion to adjourn

Grant second.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:58 am.