

BCFL Fall Coach Meeting (Virtual)
August 25, 2020, 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Steven Sprouse, Aimee Sann, Michelle Dacey, Emily Mandile, Teresa Needer, Peter Susko, Joe Scheide, Cayman Giordano, Steve Moss, Stan Day, Kelli Midgley, Michelle Flynn, Eloise and Chris Valencia, Teresa Dimka, Jody Zepp, Daniel Jacoby, Dylan Valente of Wilde Lake, Jk Chann of Westminster, Hui Jiang, Charles Donovan, John Bagileo, Rachel Campbell, Patrick Seay, Patrick Daniels, Sandy Skordalos, Zachary Paradise of Westminster, Deb Hamilton

1. **Welcome** by Diocesan Director Steven Sprouse

The meeting opened at 6 PM. Steven welcomed everyone and invited us to share some good news from over the summer.

2. **Budget:** Dues will be \$250, due on November 1. The NCFL Data card should be sent with your payment. It can also be sent as an email attachment. Please be sure your school sends these to the correct address this year—you are responsible for updating your school office's BCFL information. The invoice and data card will be sent after the meeting.

Some schools felt that the amount allocated towards awards could be reduced. If a school is awarded trophies that they do not plan to give out or display, Aimee can return these to the vendor for a credit. Aimee also pointed out that the NCFL Diocesan Director expenses for Nationals should not be \$0. We agreed that the dues rebate for hosting can be reduced.

3. **Virtual competition platform:** the committee to investigate our options for hosting tournaments online met a few times over the summer. They decided that the NSDA Campus platform would be the most cost effective, easiest to run (it integrates with our current tabulation platform), and most secure. Here is a link to the options that the committee explored:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FJ0K0oAaMxDtqDHy4IMdMwWcpmy7XSljQ4BTyeNMGo/edit#gid=0>

Here is a link to more information on the NSDA Campus:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/nsda-campus/>

Here are some outcomes of our discussion:

- Shared in the chat was a direct quote from the NSDA, which offers some considerations as we move forward on this: *“Some features your tournament may need that are not currently part of NSDA Campus include event management and tournament setup support, event insurance, the ability to brand the space for your*

tournament, evidence sharing, automated Extemp draw, event recording, on-call technology and tournament administration support, the ability to control screen view at the tournament level (and therefore offer split-screen Duo), and breakout rooms.”
 As a league, we will have to carefully consider procedures and rules for online BCFLs no matter which platform is used and in all events.

- We formed a committee to discuss how to address adaptations pertaining to speech events. All coaches are welcome to attend the committee meetings. The committee’s members are Michelle Dacey (chair), Kelli Midgley, Amber Phelps, Teresa Dimka, Aimee Sann, Charles Donovan, Patrick Seay
- For Student Congress, it was noted that transportation issues for mid-week sessions will not be an issue this year, so this is a good opportunity to participate. Student Congress will only be on Wednesday’s this year.
- We discussed the merits of asynchronous competition when possible:
 - Students who have been put in positions of working to support their families can still compete
 - Synchronous rounds may have lots of glitches that can be avoided using asynchronous.
 - Synchronous should be used for Extemp and debates. The NSDA Campus is for all the synchronous rounds. Tabroom.com is for the asynchronous rounds.
- Student Congress can be hosted virtually on Zoom.
- We need to be strict about judge obligations.
- The virtual setting means transportation issues will not affect attendance of competitors or judges.
- We need to consider whether to pare down on Impromptu and Children’s Lit entries, whether by not offering or offering as the only event entered for the student competing in them as we did for BCFL 4 in Impromptu last year.

4. Competition Schedules for BCFLs and Student Congress:

Competition	Date	School
BCFL 0* and Congress 0** Test Tournament *Policy debate conflict due to Georgetown, but Peter can run a morning test round of policy **Park School will provide Zoom room for Congress)	Sept 26 -- online	A Google doc will be shared to begin a sign up process with the intention of all schools entering team captains to test the process and share with their teams. Judges will be needed. No double entries! Look for an email about this later.
BCFL 1	October 10	Online
BCFL 2	November 21	Online

BCFL 3	December 19	Online
BCFL 4	January 23	Online
BCFL 5	February 13	tbd
BCFL 6	February 27	tbd
Metros	March 20	tbd
NSDA qualifiers	February 20	

Student Congress: Joe will get an assistant-- practice tournament on Sept 26 (can be newbies)	all on Wednesdays this year
SC1 October 7	
SC2 November 18	
SC3 December 9	
SC 4 January 20	
SC5 February 10	
SC6 February 24	
Finals March 17	

After the discussion of the competition platform, we revisited the budget discussion and voted to accept it with the modifications mentioned earlier. Due to the nature of the pandemic, we recognize we may have to adjust during the year.

5. **Event rule changes:** Public forum rule changes: JV became a permanent division at the last meeting. The time allotted to summary speeches and prep time that was instituted last year on a trial basis may be addressed at the Diocesan Directors meeting on Sept. 25.

The two-tournament rule for eligibility for Metros in partnered events has been on a trial basis these past two years. There have been no issues. Emily stated that we should make it permanent, but we did not vote.

A concern was raised about the use of internet access that was used on a trial basis for some events last year in the NCFL. It was noted that students with multiple devices would have an advantage in rounds should this trial become a permanent change.

6. No new business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aimee Sann