

In an effort to bring the WFCA Operating Bylaws into compliance with current common practices, or simply to bring awareness to policies forgotten or ignored, I propose the following changes to be presented at the 2014 Fall Membership Meeting:

I. Eliminate the late fee for schools who register after December 1.

Rationale: I don't believe that this policy is being enforced. As I read it, the policy has two levels of late fees which apply to schools, but not individuals. Is this still a worthy policy? If so, we should enforce it across the board.

I. FINANCIAL POLICIES *(page 11)*

A. Membership Dues shall be \$75 for school membership and \$10 for individual. ~~A \$25 late fee will be assessed for those who pay after December 1 and before February~~

~~1. After February 1, schools wishing to join the WFCA for the purpose of attending the State Tournament will be assessed an additional \$25 fee.~~

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT *(page 15)*

C. State Tournament Practices and Procedures

1. Entries

a. All participating schools must be a member of the WFCA as of February 1. ~~A \$25 late fee will be assessed to members who join after February 1.~~ At least one coach (or school-designated adult) from each school must be certified by the WFCA by attending at least one regional WFCA Training Session. A team without a certified coach will not be allowed to enter students in the State Tournament.

II. Correct/clarify the policy of eliminating entries with highest number of points

Rationale: As stated, this policy seems to go against the practice of utilizing the highest point earners for teams of more than 25 entries which is currently used in most tabulation software.

II. RECOMMENDED TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES *(page 12)*

D. Tournament Entries

1. Each school may submit a maximum of 25 entries as a team. No more than 4 entries are permitted in any tournament category. Each Duo Interpretation team, Play Acting group and Group Interpretive Reading is regarded as one entry. If there are over 25 entries, the tournament director will eliminate the entries earning the **highest lowest** number of points so that the team will only have 25 entries.

III. Eliminate specific penalties for team cancellations.

Rationale: Tournament directors should define their own terms & fees for late cancellation. The advent of tabulation software allows for scheduling changes to be made more easily, therefore some tournaments are more lenient. Conversely, some tournaments rely on specific volunteers or vendors for their food ordering, and can not be so lenient. Having a printed policy contrary to what works for tournaments causes confusion.

II. RECOMMENDED TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES *(page 13)*

A. Cancellations

1. ~~If a cancellation is necessary and is phoned in 72 hours before the tournament day, no fees will be charged against the canceling school. (This would mean Wednesday morning for a Saturday tournament.)~~ Tournament invitations should include a cancellation policy specifying team cancellation deadlines and any fees that may be incurred by teams cancelling outside the recommended deadlines.
2. ~~If a cancellation is phoned in 48 hours before the tournament, the canceling school will be charged the regular fees and billed for any additional costs incurred by the host school in replacing the judges canceled.~~ Tournament invitations should include a cancellation policy specifying judge obligations for teams cancelling outside the recommended deadlines.
3. ~~If a cancellation is phoned in less than 48 hours before the tournament, or is made on the day of the tournament, the canceling school will be charged the regular fee and must provide all judges originally scheduled.~~

4. ~~If a cancellation is caused by an act that is beyond human control, the tournament director may charge the actual costs of replacing judges. Every effort shall be made by the director of the tournament to utilize "stand-by" judges. The school which is forced to cancel will not be assessed the regular tournament fees.~~

IV. Replace “tournament manager” with “tournament director”

Rationale: Tournament manager and tournament director seem to be used interchangeably. As “tournament director” is more common, that should be the standard term for the person running a tournament. The following are offered as examples, though all instances of the use “tournament manager” should be changed to “tournament director,” even if not included here.

II. RECOMMENDED TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES *(pgs 13-14)*

H. Disqualification Procedures

2. If a judge, coach, or tournament official suspects that some infraction of the rules warrants disqualification, he/she shall bring the concern to the tournament ~~manager~~ director when returning the ballot immediately after the round in which the infraction allegedly occurred.
9. When a disqualification actually occurs, the tournament ~~manager~~ director shall re-tabulate points of speakers in the section in which the disqualification occurred. If the disqualification decision was made after the completion of all preliminary rounds, the tournament ~~manager~~ director must re-tabulate points of each section in which the disqualified speaker participated. The tabulation staff will eliminate **all** sweepstakes points earned by that speaker.

IV. STATE TOURNAMENT *(page 17)*

C. State Tournament Practices & Procedures

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V. Clarify that the Hall of Fame Award may be given to a current coach

Rationale: Following the 2013 Fall Membership meeting, the requirement to be a retired coach in order to receive the Hall of Fame Award was removed, but the word “former” still appears in our bylaws. To correct that oversight:

VI. AWARDS (*page 20*)

A. The Awards Committee shall be chaired...

2. THE HALL OF FAME AWARD is a special award presented to deserving ~~former~~ forensics coaches...

Respectfully submitted by Kirt Graves, Sheboygan North High School on August 22, 2014