

SCHOLASTIC BOWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 2, 2012

The IHSA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Ken Dentino, coach, Maple Park (Kaneland); Brendan Aydt, coach, Toledo (Cumberland); Martin Kelley, coach, St. Ignatius College Prep (Chicago); Linda Greene, coach, Rockford Auburn H.S.; Pat Drew, Principal, Carlinville H.S.; Jay Winter, coach, Greenville H.S. Others in attendance: Ron McGraw, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Rob Grierson, Coordinator of Officials, Skokie, IL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Item Rule Book – 4-C-1 (also 4-B-6)**

Recommendation: Change any reference relative to Prompting from “May” to “Must”

Rationale: This change will alert moderators to the expectation that prompting for additional clarification of ambiguous answers is *always required* whether or not the question set indicates that prompting should occur to clarify certain answers.

Motion-Linda Greene

Second-Marty Kelley

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

2. **Item – Terms and Conditions VIII-M-6 and VIII-M-11 and Rule Book Section 4-E and subparts (also affects Rules 4-A-2d and 4-A-4e)**

Recommendation: Change the current format used to write and answer Bonus Questions

~~VIII-M-6 Succeeding parts of bonus questions (parts 2 and 3) must never reveal the answer to previous parts of the same bonus question (i.e. the answer to bonus part #1 cannot be contained in the question that is bonus part #3)~~ Bonus parts will be read, and rebounded if necessary, one part at a time. As such, succeeding parts of bonus questions (parts 2 and 3) may reveal, or refer back to, the answer to previous parts of the same bonus question.

VIII-M-11 For computational bonus questions, ~~the preferred order of the parts is from most challenging to easiest~~ each part should be answerable by a competent player within 10 seconds. While the bonus parts should be in some way related, having all parts use the same exact formula, pattern, or algorithm is discouraged.

4-E-1. Bonus questions:

4-E-1a. Will be read only if a toss-up question is answered correctly. The team in control will be the team of the player who answered the toss-up question correctly, and will have the first chance to answer each part.

4-E-1b. Must be read one part at a time. That is, the lead-in and first part of the bonus will be read, and the team in control will have an opportunity to confer and provide an answer. If the controlling team has not provided a correct answer (or chooses to pass), the other team (rebounding team) will have an opportunity to answer. The second part of the bonus is then read, and the controlling team will have the first opportunity to answer. The third part will then be read and answered in the same way.

4-E-2. Players may take notes or begin writing or calculating before the moderator is done reading, and they may begin communicating as soon as the bonus begins to be read.

Looking at a teammate's written material during the reading of a bonus is permitted (Rule 4-A-3d).

4-E-3. Timing and reading bonus questions

4-E-3a. The team in control of the bonus will have up to ten (10) seconds to provide an answer for each part of the bonus question. The ten second period starts when the moderator has completed reading that part of the bonus question.

4-E-3b. If the team in control has not answered after eight (8) seconds, the moderator will tell the controlling team "answer, please."

4-E-3c. If the controlling team fails to provide an answer in ten (10) seconds, the moderator will alert the rebounding team that it may answer, and begin timing three (3) seconds. The moderator will not warn the rebounding team to answer.

4-E-3d. If the rebounding team has not started to answer correctly in three (3) seconds, the moderator will read the correct answer, and proceed to the next part of the bonus.

4-E-3e. The bonus question will not be repeated, unless, in the moderator's opinion, the question may not have been understood because of moderator error, wording error, or an environmental condition in the room.

4-E-3f. When a bonus is complete, the moderator will announce the number of points earned by each team before proceeding with the match.

4-E-4. Answering a bonus

4-E-4a. Players may stand up and huddle with other players on their team while conferring.

4-E-4b. The captain of the team may choose to tell the moderator to "pass" instead of providing an answer. If this is the controlling team, the moderator should treat this as giving an incorrect answer, and immediately recognize the rebounding team and begin timing three (3) seconds. If this is the rebounding team, the moderator should provide the correct answer and proceed with the match.

4-E-4c. Teams may answer before the moderator is done reading the bonus lead-in or a particular part. If the answer is correct (or the team "passes"), the moderator will inform the teams that the answer is incorrect, and will continue reading the lead-in (if not completed) or bonus part for the rebounding team, and start timing three (3) seconds when completed.

4-E-4d It is recommended that the captain give the answer for the team or clearly indicate who will give the answer. The moderator, however, will take the first answer unambiguously directed at him or her. If conflicting answers are directed at the moderator, the captain will be asked to choose the team's answer. The determination of whether an answer was directed at the moderator is unprotestable.

4-E-4e There is no penalty if players continue conferring while a player is answering. There is no penalty if players continue writing or holding implements while conferring or answering.

Rationale: These changes will improve the flow of IHSA Scholastic Bowl matches, save time, and be consistent with other state formats, college formats and national tournament formats. In general, the committee believes this will improve the game in Illinois.

Motion-Linda Greene

Second-Jay Winter

Motion Passed 6-1

Approved By Consent

3. **Item Rule Book – Section 3-A-3 and 4-D-9 Scoring Toss-Up Questions**

Recommendation: Change the value of Toss-Up Questions from fifteen (15) points to ten (10) points

Rationale: This makes the value of Toss-Up questions the same as the printed value in most question sets sold commercially as well as thousands of archived questions sets available for free on websites for practice. It makes scoring easier since all scores will be multiples of ten, and it restores the exciting possibility that a tied match will continue for more than one tie-breaker question.

Motion – Jay Winter

Second – Ken Dentino

Motion Passed 5-1-1

Approved By Consent

4. **Item VIII-O Terms and Conditions - Question Distribution List (also affects VIII-M-3)**

Recommendation: Modify the current question distribution list in the area of Literature/Language Arts (eliminate Language Arts).

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 5/5

A. 2/2 US Literature

B. 1/1 Mythology

C. 2/2 Drawn from a mix of;

British Literature, other European Literature, World Literature from a variety of cultures and time periods, and not requiring all subcategories to be represented equally or at all.

VIII-M-3 Multiple-choice toss-up ~~and bonus~~ questions will not be permitted ~~except in the case of vocabulary (analogy) toss-up questions. For such multiple-choice questions, any verbal response that indicates one of the choices will be acceptable.~~ Multiple-choice bonus questions will not be permitted except in the case where the setup enumerates a list of potential word-choice answers (in order to limit the range of possible answers) and there is not a one-for-one matching correspondence between the choices and the bonus parts.

Rationale: Most of the non-literary topics in language arts are no longer being covered much in high schools, and it is increasingly difficult to find competent writers to write pyramidal questions on those topics. These topics are not being seen in questions written for regular season tournaments, so for many players, seeing questions on them becomes a “state series” only event, and is not worth their time to prepare for. This change eliminates the previous exception for multiple-choice toss-ups which was for vocabulary/analogy, a sub-topic of Language Arts.

Motion-Linda Greene

Second-Rob Grierson

Passed 4-3

No Action Taken

5. **Item Rule Book – 4-B1b (and 4-B1c, 4-D-1, 4-D-1c, 4-D-1d) – “Blurt Rule”**

Recommendation: Change the procedure, and eliminate the penalty, for blurted answers

If a player after triggering the lockout system and gaining possession but before being recognized by the moderator, blurts out the answer; the moderator will accept the answer with no penalty and remind the player to wait to be recognized.

Rationale: A player gains no advantage by giving an answer before being recognized by the moderator, so no penalty should be necessary. Players should only be penalized for actions which allow their team to gain an unfair advantage. This penalty also puts pressure on the moderator to recognize players quickly and forces the moderator to make a judgment call as to whether the player started to answer before he/she was recognized.

Motion- Brendan Aydt

Second- Jay Winter

Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

6. Item Rule Book – 4-I-1b and 4-I-1e – Appeal procedures

Recommendation:

Modify the two sections of the rule book addressing the topic of appeal procedures.

4-I-1b – An appeal regarding a question must be made before the beginning of the next question asked, be it toss-up or bonus part.

4-I-1e - No more than ten (10) minutes shall be allowed for any appeal from start to decision.

Rationale: The change to 4-I-1b allows an appeal to be initiated after any bonus part, which is a necessary change because bonus parts will now be read one at a time. The change to 4-I-1e modifies the three-minute time limit which will give moderators enough time to make informed decisions, but still allows a moderator to make a decision in a reasonable amount of time. Despite the advances in technology, some school buildings may be in areas that do not receive mobile internet and thus quick access to information may be impeded and/or unavailable in three minutes.

Motion – Jay Winter

Second – Ken Dentino

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

7. Item Rule Book – 4-C-1a

Recommendation: Add rule 4-C-1a

Players may answer with a first initial instead of a first name, and/or a middle initial instead of a middle name, and be ruled correct, even if the printed answer requires a first and/or middle name, provided no ambiguity remains.

Rationale: This is common practice at many local and national academic tournaments.

Motion – Rob Grierson

Second – Marty Kelley

Motion Passed – 7-0

Approved By Consent

8. Item Rule Book – 4-C-1d and 4-C-1e

Recommendation: Allow the following abbreviations to be used when answering.

4-C-1d - Trig Functions: Players may use the abbreviated pronunciations “sin”, “cos”, and so on, as acceptable replacements for the full pronunciation of “sine”, “cosine”, and so on.

4-C-1e - Logarithms: Players may say “log” instead of “natural log” as part of an otherwise correct answer, and have the answer ruled as correct, without prompting on this wording issue.

Rationale: This is common practice at many local and national academic tournaments.

Motion – Rob Grierson

Second – Brendan Aydt

Motion Passed – 7-0

Approved By Consent

9. **Item Rule Book – 4-A-3i**

Recommendation: Add the rule 4-A-3i to allow the following 4-A-3i. Visual or auditory cues such as saying the word “buzz”, indicating that the player wishes to trigger the lockout system but is unable to do so due to a lockout system malfunction or failure to reset.

Rationale: This is already the practice but it is not mentioned in the rules.

Motion – Brendan Aydt Second – Jay Winter Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

10. **Item Rule Book – 4-B-7**

Recommendation: Allow a player the opportunity to spell the answer when the moderator feels it appropriate to provide clarification to the player’s answer.

4-B-7 Add: If a player gives an answer, and the moderator cannot determine if the player is giving the correct answer or a closely pronounced incorrect answer (e.g. Manet or Monet), the moderator should ask the player to spell his/her answer. Even if the player misspells the answer, as long as the moderator is convinced that the correct answer was being given over the incorrect one, the answer should be ruled correct.

Rationale: This codifies a common practice. Regional differences in the way teachers pronounce terms, as well as colloquial and ethnic differences in players’ speech patterns, make it good practice to ask players to spell dubiously pronounced answers so that the moderator has enough information to judge whether the player “knows” the answer.

Motion – Jay Winter Second – Brendan Aydt Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

11. **Item Rule Book – 4-C-1c Sports Team Names**

Recommendation: Allow the following change to rule 4-C-1c regarding Sports Team Names

4-C-1c Sports Team Names: If a question asks for a sports team, ~~and does not specifically ask for both nickname and geographic location, and if the printed answer requires both nickname and geographic location, the player should be prompted if s/he leaves off one or the other~~ either the team name or the geographic location will be acceptable, unless differentiation is needed (i.e. Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox, “Chicago” would need to be prompted).

Rationale: This is common practice at many local and national academic tournaments.

Motion – Jay Winter Second – Brendan Aydt Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

12. **Item Rule Book – 4-D-4**

Recommendation: To edit 4-D-4 as follows

4-D-4 If a player triggers the lockout system during the reading of a toss-up question, and his/her answer is ruled incorrect, the moderator will resume the reading of the question at a natural point in the question's wording that is no later than the point at which the player incorrectly answered. Any player on the team that did not answer incorrectly may ring in to answer the question at any point during the continuation of the question or during the usual ten (10)-second period after.

Rationale: This clarifies how much of an interrupted question needs to be repeated for the other team; it also makes the rule conform to the new procedure for blurted answers.

Motion – Brendan Aydt

Second – Linda Greene

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

13. **Item Term and Condition VIII-R-1**

Recommendation: Modify T&C VIII-R-1 as follows

Regional and Sectional Managers may allow the moderators to view the questions starting one (1) week prior to the round of competition and to bring their findings to the Moderators' Meeting. Regional and Sectional moderators may communicate with each other for purposes of reviewing the questions as soon as they are able to.

Rationale: Review of the questions by individual moderators a week prior to events has been allowed for many years with no security problems occurring. This change codifies the already common practice of moderators around the state communicating with each other for the purpose of catching serious mistakes and disseminating an errata sheet statewide. The same fixes can then be applied at all moderator meetings statewide.

Motion – Rob Grierson

Second – Marty Kelley

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

14. **Item Term and Conditions VIII-M-10**

Recommendation: Modify VIII-M-10 as follows

VIII-M-10 For ~~non-computational~~ all bonus questions, the preferred style for each part is straightforward or single-clue, with brevity a consideration. This guideline is not intended to stifle creativity, limit necessary information, or require that all bonus parts be easy. ~~Like a home run in baseball, sweeping all parts of a bonus should be rare; answering at least one part should be common.~~ Each bonus should be constructed with one easy part, one moderately difficult part, and one difficult part.

Rationale: This will provide writers the guidelines necessary to construct bonus questions that are consistent with most national and invitational format tournaments. Teams which achieve at a high level will sweep more bonus questions, while teams that are not as competitive at least have a chance of getting 20 out of the possible 30 points (and thus outscore the other team 30-10 or tie it 20-20 for the entire toss-up/bonus sequence).

Motion – Jay Winter

Second – Brendan Aydt

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

15. **Item Term and Condition VIII-L-3 (other T&C's affected V-B-2e, VIII-E)**

Recommendation: Modify VIII-L-3 as follows

VIII-L-3 **Number of players:** Five (5) team players must start the match. Failure to start the match with five (5) team players will cause the team to forfeit. However, fewer than five (5) team players may continue in the day's competition if there are extenuating circumstances.

Rationale: This change clarifies that a team may continue with less than 5 players through the entire day's competition and not just the match in which this situation became necessary.

Motion – Brendan Aydt

Second – Marty Kelley

Motion Passed 7-0

Approved By Consent

16. **Item Rule 3-E-1**

Recommendation: To drop the allowable 30 second time out provided for each half in rule 3-E-1. This motion was defeated by a vote of 2 – 4 – 1.

17. **Item Term and Condition VIII-O Question Distribution**

Recommendation: Modify the question distribution under the category of Fine Arts as seen below.

FINE ARTS 3/3 [no change in number]

A. 1/2 or 2/1 Visual Arts, composed of:

a. at least 1/1 2-D Art [change *History of Art* to 2-D Art]

b. no more than 1/1 3-D art and architecture [change Theory and Technique to 3-D art and architecture]

B. 1/2 or 2/1 Music, composed of:

a. at least 1/1 Classical Music and Opera

b. no more than 1/1 drawn from other Music, including Jazz, Theory, Composers of the Modern Era before 1970, not requiring all sub-categories to be represented equally or at all. [delete *Musical Theatre* and *Performers in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*; add before 1970 to Composers of the Modern Era]

C. Total = 1/1 question from Aa, 1/1 question from Ba, and 1/1 question from any of Aa, Ab, Ba, Bb

This motion was defeated by a vote of 2 – 5.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Modify the rules in section 4-H-1 in the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Rule Book to reflect the changes that have been proposed relative to Section 4-E (Bonus Question Format) and Moderator Error.
2. Consult with the Head Moderator the morning of the State Final to determine if a brief coaches meeting is necessary or appropriate to explain any unusual situations pertaining to the day's competition that they should be aware of. If such a meeting is deemed necessary, announce the meeting to coaches during the Opening Ceremony.
3. The topic of adding a 3rd class to scholastic bowl was discussed. Ron McGraw pointed out that IHSA Scholastic Bowl is not eligible to be considered for an additional class by the rules defined in IHSA Policy #20. Because IHSA Scholastic Bowl is a team bracketed activity, it would take the participation of a minimum of 600 schools participating in order for the IHSA Board of Directors to consider adopting a change in classes. Because IHSA Scholastic Bowl is a team bracketed sport it is not possible to go to three classes, it would only be eligible to move to four

classes (if it met the participation level of 600 schools). Note: Soccer is a team bracketed sport that has three classes. This is because this sport had three classes before the IHSA Policy was adjusted. Because it was already at three classes prior to the change in policy, it was allowed to remain as a three class system.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The committee discussed at great length the definition of an IHSA Scholastic Bowl Match.
2. The committee discussed the current status of the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Case Book. The committee is aware that the book is in need of editing in order to continue to be a useful document to coaches and officials. It was suggested that perhaps the Coaches Association would be helpful in bringing this important document up to date with rule changes made over the past couple of years. Ron McGraw informed the committee that until the Case Book is appropriately edited, he would not post the document to the IHSA website.