

**SWSC MATHLETES
SPRING COACHES MEETING
Thursday, February 9th, 2006
Lincoln-Way East High School**

ATTENDANCE (according to sign-in):

Andrew	Eric Johnson, Deb Eiermann
Bolingbrook	Julie Berg
Bradley-Bourbonnais	Mark Hampton
Homewood-Flossmoor	Kim Griffin, Steve Tobin
Joliet	Dan Spradley
Lincoln-Way Central	Holly Misener
Lincoln-Way East	Jim Aiu, Jeff Keller
Lockport	Gail Mitchell, Julie Pekar
Sandburg	Sharleen Smith
Stagg	Mark Lyons
Statistician	Ricky Perez

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Jim Aiu. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve September 2005 Minutes

The only thing noted was that in our discussion in the fall we talked about having Division I and Division II, and the results after SWSC V that were posted on the website referred to “Blue Division” and “Red Division”. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lincoln-Way Central. Motion was seconded by Sandburg. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

All-Conference Team

A reminder was made that each school is granted 12 nominations for “all-conference”. It is to be just a general nomination rather than specific for competition A, competition B, etc. Please e-mail your school’s nominations to Jim by March 1st. We are not sure what will appear on the certificates for SWSC, so please be sure to include both the name and grade of each student you nominate for all-conference.

Coaches Meetings During Contest/ Communication Between Hosts

It seems to be going well having the 7:45 meeting at each contest. However, there has been a lack of communication between hosts. Since we decided last spring/fall to eliminate the 4:00 meetings in the week following each competition, this communication is of utmost importance.

It was suggested that the 2 schools hosting the same competition need to set up (in advance) a way that they can communicate with each other. They can exchange phone #s (cell phone, math office phone, etc) and/or e-mail addresses. Perhaps it is a good idea to just call each other after the 7:45 coaches meeting to discuss any issues, or just to check in that everything is fine. Coaches need to plan this communication in advance with the school that will host on the same night.

Updates from Question Writer & Statistician

Minimal updates were mentioned. The main comment from Ricky was that SWSC is not sure why the ribbons were not delivered in time for the conference meet. They will be mailed to Ricky – 200 ribbons

have been ordered to ensure plenty for ties, etc. Ricky will then distribute to the appropriate schools. Host schools from SWSC V please remember to let Ricky know the results from your location so she knows which ribbons to send where.

2006-2007 Master Schedule

Note: half-day workshops (coaches meetings) will both be on **Tuesday** next year. No problems were found with the proposed schedule for next year. (This is a first!) Motion to approve the schedule was made by Sandburg and seconded by Lockport. All were in favor and the schedule was approved.

Contest Scoresheets

It has been discovered that on several occasions judges have counted all 6 scores, rather than only the top 5 scores. Scores need to be checked and point totals should be double-checked by coaches to ensure accuracy. It has been suggested that we use a generic score sheet listing the schools, a place for the top 5 scores, and the sum total. This score sheet can then be included with each packet of questions to be sure that judges correctly enter the scores of each team. This score sheet method will also help at conference to quickly identify ties, etc.

Oral Competition references

Obviously there is a copyright issue with the way we are photocopying and distributing the oral references. After this year, schools will be expected to purchase their own copy of the text for their use as an oral reference. It is anticipated that this cost will be approximately \$200 every three years (per school). Some coaches mentioned that most of these texts can be found online at sites such as Amazon.com (new and used) at significantly reduced rates. For this year, we have distributed copies, however beginning next year this will no longer happen.

2008-2009 Oral Restrictions

We could not discuss the oral restrictions since the oral references have not been chosen yet.

2008-2009 Written Restrictions

Some coaches have questioned the difference between the “equations of lines” competition and the “linear functions” competition. Really there isn’t much of a difference aside from the fact that one is in the “ $y =$ ” format, and one is in the “ $f(x)$ ” format. For 2008-2009 this repetition will be eliminated by making one topic a “graphing lines” competition.

Remember, written competition questions are now going to be either “no-calculator” (none at all), or “calculator” (non-TI-89, “conference-approved”). Since it is not as easily distinguished in the past (all fresh/soph tests were no graphing calculator allowed, and all jr/sr test were graphing calculator allowed), Ricky will have a GREEN folder indicating “calculator is allowed” and a RED folder indicating “no calculator” to hold the questions for written competitions. This is one thing to mention to judges as you remind them of their responsibilities.

“Conference-graphing calculator” means a conference-approved calculator. (Essentially, non-TI-89, etc.)
Any place that a scientific calculator is mentioned was a mistake and will be omitted.

Someone brought up the question of why this change in calculators was made in the first place. Jim explained that the original rationale was that either you always allow a graphing calculator or you make kids go out and buy a scientific calculator for math team. We want to avoid making kids buy an

additional calculator for math team. So that is why it was originally decided to switch to either graphing calculator or no calculator at all.

In looking through some of the topics that are now “no calculator” some coaches voiced concern over whether or not a calculator should be allowed for “Series & Sequences”. It is now listed on the 2008-2009 restrictions as being a “non-calculator” topic. Some coaches felt this will affect the way they currently teach the topic. Jim said he will write the questions however we decide we want them. In general, concerns were noted about junior/senior competitions where students have always been “used to” being able to use calculators and now sometimes they won’t be able to. A suggestion was made to wait a year of the new “calculator” and “no calculator” distinctions and see how it goes. We decided to table the issue and revisit it next spring, as these questions do not have to be finalized before then.

Note: Jim will send out a link of the “ACT-approved” calculators in case any coaches are unsure of a less-common (non-TI) model that may not be allowed. A coach mentioned a student of his who was using a Casio that had similar capabilities (i.e. computer algebra system) of the TI-89 but most teachers/coaches/judges are unaware since it is not commonly seen.

Students requiring a foreign-language dictionary during competition

This issue was brought up since at least one school has a student that needs to have the assistance of a foreign-language dictionary/translator while competing. There is no set procedure/protocol for this. It was questioned if we could make an addition to the manual regarding this matter. Once more, we decided to table the issue and revisit it in the fall.

Tie-Breaking Procedures

As suggested by Jim, in the event that a vote is taken by all coaches and results in a tie, the President will not count his/her vote. This standard will continue as the “presidency” rotates throughout the schools.

SWSC V tie-breaking procedures will be added to the manual. One specific issue was if there is a tie for first place in group (since there is no 6th score to use as a tie-breaker). All of these details will appear in the manual in the near future.

Inappropriate Judge’s Comments

As mentioned in the past, once again coaches have noticed bad comments from judges on their students papers from oral competitions. If this occurs, you should email the school whose judge said the inappropriate comment, so the coach will be able to speak to the judge about the problem to prevent it from happening again in the future.

Mandatory Judge’s Meeting

A suggestion was made to have a mandatory judges meeting at the start of each competition. This will ensure that all judges are accounted for, all questions have been distributed to the appropriate judges, and that all judges are aware of the rules for judging. (Especially orals judges – making appropriate comments, and written judges – only counting the top 5 scores.)

This meeting will likely be at 6:15 before the competition begins. It will be a mandatory meeting for all judges. It will be run by the host school (or the host’s designee). We will need a basic checklist of things to go over with the judges (as the judges instruction sheet seems a bit wordy at times and important things might get skipped as judges skim through the instructions). Jim will come up with a basic checklist to look at in the fall.

A motion was made to approve having a mandatory judges meeting by Andrew, and seconded by Stagg. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Comments

For written/calc/group instructions – one will go in each folder (one of each in the appropriate folder). Each competition room will have 3 separate folders with 3 separate instruction sheets. We will continue to have only 2 copies of the blue answer sheet (one per judge) in each room.

Congratulations to Shar (of Sandburg) as she graduates and completes her last season of being a Mathletes coach. Best of luck to her in the future.

Jim commented that on behalf of Ricky and himself, he would like to extend a big thank-you to all of the SWSC coaches for making it a great first year since the SICA split. The transition has not been so smooth with the other conferences and Jim and Ricky are quite grateful to be a part of SWSC. Similar comments were reciprocated to Jim and Ricky for all of their efforts and great work.

A motion was made to adjourn by Sandburg and seconded by Bradley. Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berg
Bolingbrook HS