

Proposal to change Operating Bylaws related to the State Tournament to eliminate the membership deadline and to allow guest participation by non-member schools

Submitted by Scott Peterson, Eau Claire North

Background:

The current operating bylaws say that the State Tournament is a members-only event, and the membership deadline is February 1. For the 2020 and 2021 virtual State Tournaments, the executive board allowed non-member schools to participate so that there were opportunities for all students at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was reducing other options. Several non-member schools each year joined the tournament and were able to give their students expanded opportunities. This proposal allows the existing practices of the past two years to continue indefinitely.

In 2022, the pandemic may again alter the course of the competition season and the State Tournament, and this proposal provides more flexibility.

Also in 2022, the State Tournament will be in Eau Claire for the first time. This represents a new opportunity for northwestern Wisconsin schools to consider participating at WFCAs State. However, those schools may not have budgeted for additional dues and may want to make their decision much closer to the date of the tournament. When registration opens in March, it should be as easy as possible to submit entries to the State Tournament for schools that have not typically participated.

In the spirit of maximizing student opportunities and reducing obstacles for coaches and schools, the proposal allows for late-joining members and guest participation by non-member schools. Membership is strongly encouraged for all schools, especially schools that participate every year. It is hoped that most schools who enter the State Tournament will become members if not already. The WFCAs loss of dues from guest schools will have minimal impact, and in exchange there will be more entry fees, more judges, more participants, and stronger competition at the State Tournament.

Deletions (strikethrough) and additions (red):

IV STATE TOURNAMENT

C State Tournament Practices and Procedures

1 Entries

~~a All participating schools must be a member of the WFCAs as of February 1.~~ **Schools that are eligible for WFCAs membership but have not pledged dues shall be eligible to participate as guests. Guest schools are ineligible for sweepstakes trophies.**

e Any bona fide pupil in good standing and in regular attendance in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade of the ~~member~~ school shall be eligible to compete in events conducted by the WFCAs. Students will participate in only those programs sponsored by the school in which they are primarily enrolled and which have primary responsibility for their curricular programs.

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7 Awards

b Sweepstakes trophies will be presented to the top six Division 1, 2 and 3 **member** schools based on State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) school enrollment for that school year. Points will be given on the following basis:

Auxiliary proposal to state tournament procedure (not a bylaw change, but something for our standing rules)

State Tournament registration procedures will have an option to enroll schools as members. Schools will pledge to pay the current membership dues which will be added to the total fee invoice after the tournament. This enrollment will make the schools eligible for sweepstakes awards.