

**IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, May 31, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m., Bloomington**

Committee Chair: Jack Small; Moderator, Anthony Gullo; Principal, Chris Forman, Atwood-Hammond; Coach, John Barrett, Pleasant Plains; Coach, Kristin Strey, Rockford Marshall; Coach, Lynn Hasselbring, Cissna Park; Not in Attendance, Coach, Mike Jones, Normal Metcalf; Coach, Pam Evans, Hume-Shiloh

The IESA Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee, in its in-person meeting on May 31, 2024, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their June 6, 2024 meeting:

**Recommendation #1**

**Current:** Scholastic Bowl does not recognize coaches or individuals who have grown the activity of Scholastic Bowl.

**Proposed:** Recognize three individuals, two coaches, and one individual each year at the IESA Celebration of Excellence. We will recognize a Class A and AA coach as well as an individual who actively promotes the activity of Scholastic Bowl outside of coaching.

**Rationale:** The committee feels that coaches and persons who have helped grow IESA Scholastic Bowl deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments.

**Board Action:** **Approved**

**Recommendation #2**

**Current:** The IESA does not allow coaches to moderate their regular season matches.

**Proposed:** Coaches will be allowed to moderate regular season matches. It is recommended that schools contact their opponent ahead of their match, informing them that they will moderate their match. Coaches do have the option at halftime to switch rolls and moderate the second half of the match.

**Rationale:** Schools are concerned about the added cost of requiring them to hire moderators and are having difficulty in finding moderators for regular season matches.

**By-Law:2.126**

**T & C: XI**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

**Recommendation #3**

**Current:** The Scholastic Bowl Rule Book and Terms and Conditions do not state who is responsible for providing questions for regular season matches.

**Proposed:** The Home team will provide the questions for all regular season matches. If more than two matches are going to be played, the home team will communicate with their opponent to bring a question set.

**Rationale:** There has been much confusion on who is responsible for providing questions for regular season matches.

**Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: 1.1.A2 Addition**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

#### **Recommendation #4**

**Current:** During regular season matches, schools purchase questions that contain three toss-up tiebreaker questions. The first team to answer two questions correctly wins the match.

**Proposed:** Before a match begins, coaches can agree to use one sudden death toss-up question or use the current three questions provided in the question packet.

**Rationale:** Some coaches have expressed frustration that three questions are oftentimes not enough to break the tie, leaving them with no extra questions to break the tie.

**Scholastic Bowl Rule Book:** Rule 5.3.4a Addition

**Board Action:** **Approved**

#### **Recommendation #5**

**Current:** Art. 1 Bonus questions shall consist of four parts. a. All bonus questions must be read completely and can not be preempted. b. A maximum of 30 seconds conference time will be permitted for each question. c. Both teams should confer during this time. (Any member of a team awarded the bonus may ask for the question to be repeated.) d. Once the team to whom the bonus question was awarded indicates its readiness to answer, all discussion and writing will cease. d1. Following the calling of time, teams will have 3-seconds to pass papers to the captain, as judged by the moderator. d2. The answer must be started within three seconds after the individual has been verbally recognized by the moderator. e. Only one person may answer for their team.

**Proposed:** If the wrong team buzzes in during the opposing team's conferring time, they will be given a warning by the moderator. If they buzz in again during the conferring time, they will lose the opportunity to rebound any remaining parts of the bonus.

**Rationale:** This type of disruption by the team not answering the bonus is disruptive to the team conferring on the bonus.

**Scholastic Bowl Rule Book:** 5.2.1f Addition

**Board Action:** **Approved**

#### **Recommendation #6**

**Current: Rule 1.6.4-** If more than two teams have equal records in any pool or tournament, a tiebreaker series round shall be held with rematches between those teams in the order of the initial tournament schedule. Only one moderator will be assigned for all tiebreaker matches. a. Each tied team must play the others again who have equal records. b. Only special tiebreaker toss-up questions will be used. c. Each match will consist of 5 toss-up questions from 5 academic categories (all questions must be read). If there is a tie, after the 5 toss-up questions during a tiebreaker match, a sudden death toss-up question will be asked to determine a winner. c2. In case of a tie, after the initial tiebreaker procedure between all three teams (equal number of wins and losses), repeat the tiebreaker round again between all three teams. c3. If after the tie breaker round, two of the three teams have an equal number of wins and losses, those two teams will play a one question (sudden death) toss-up match. d. At the conclusion of the tiebreaker round, the team with the best tiebreaker record will advance. e. If at the end of the tiebreaker round all teams are still tied (equal number of wins and losses), the team with the most tiebreaker round total points shall be the pool or tournament winner. f. If a pool or tournament winner still can not be determined, repeat this process between the teams with equal tiebreaker total points until a winner is decided. g. If at the end of the tiebreaker round there is a tie for runner-up, the team with the most tiebreaker points will advance to the consolation match or be declared the second place finisher in sectional play. g2. If a

tie still exists in total team tiebreaker points, the match between the two teams in regular pool play will determine the winner. (Consolation only)

**Proposed:** If more than two teams have equal records in any pool or tournament, other than that which is described in Art. 2, then the team with the highest total number of points in all matches combined throughout the competition shall finish as the pool winner. If two teams have the same number of points combined, the winner of the match between the two teams will break the tie.

**Rationale:** At the State Tournament, if there is a tie to determine the pool runner-up (consolation), this is the format used to determine the pool runner-up. Changing the Pool Tiebreaker to this format will save 30-45 minutes at a Regional, Sectional, and State competition.

**Scholastic Bowl Rule Book:** 1.6.4 New

**Board Action:** **Approved**

### **Recommendation #7**

**Current: Rule 3.2.2.d2** - Recognize the player by name whose lockout light is lit. d2. If a player on either team answers before being recognized by the moderator, that team that blurted the answer is given five (5) points for a correct answer and the bonus question. If the answer is incorrect the toss-up question would then be rebounded to the opponent. **Rule 5.1.f** - If a player, after triggering the lockout system and gaining possession but before being recognized by the moderator, blurts out the answer, the only penalty is that a correct answer will be worth five (5) points instead of ten (10) points. The accompanying bonus will then be awarded to the team who blurted the answer. An incorrect answer will be ruled as incorrect with no penalty and the toss-up rebounded to the opponent.

**Proposed: Rule 3.2.2.d2** - Recognize the player by name (*or in some fashion*) whose lockout light is lit. d2. If a player on either team answers before being recognized by the moderator, that team that blurted the answer is given five (5) points for a correct answer and the bonus question. If the answer is incorrect the toss-up question would then be rebounded to the opponent. **Rule 5.1.f** - If a player, after triggering the lockout system and gaining possession but before being recognized by the moderator by name (*or in some fashion*), blurts out the answer, the only penalty is that a correct answer will be worth five (5) points instead of ten (10) points. The accompanying bonus will then be awarded to the team who blurted the answer. An incorrect answer will be ruled as incorrect with no penalty and the toss-up rebounded to the opponent.

**Scholastic Bowl Rule Book:** Rules 3.2.2.d2 and 5.1.f

**Board Action:** **Approved**

### **Recommendation #8**

**Current: Rule 3.2.2.g1** - g. Questions g1. All answers provided must be assumed to be correct unless there are exceptions noted.

**Proposed:** While answers should be assumed to be correct, It doesn't make sense to go with a written answer that is clearly wrong. If both teams' coaches agree that the answer is wrong, that answer may be overturned. If both coaches don't agree the answer is wrong, then the written answer must be the required answer.

**Rationale:** Questions are written and edited by humans, so it is a mistake to assume that they will always be correct. The rules should reward students who give correct answers. It makes sense to require evidence or

consensus to overturn the answers provided in the packet, but it does not make sense to go with the packet right or wrong.

Scholastic Bowl Rule Book: 3.2.2g1  
Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation #9

**Current: 5.4.7** - Articles are not required, but if they are given, then the article must be correct.  
**Proposed:** Leading articles are not required, but if they are given, then the article must be correct.  
**Rationale:** While it is common to leave off leading articles when discussing a book or movie, it is not common to leave off other articles. For example, somebody would not say “Night of Living Dead” when discussing *Night of the Living Dead*.

Scholastic Bowl Rulebook: 5.4.7  
Board Action: **Approved**

**Discussion Topics**  
Deferring parts of a bonus question  
Post-season starting earlier in April  
Single elimination for regionals and sectionals as opposed to pool play.  
Allowing hosts to charge admission at the regional and sectional levels.  
Minimum number of players to start a match

**Points of Emphasis 24-25**  
Sportsmanship  
Bonus procedures  
Change to pool play tiebreaker  
Communication Rules

Draw 2025 State Pairings

**CLASS A**

|        | Sectionals |
|--------|------------|
| Pool A | D, F, A, E |
| Pool B | B, C, G, H |

**CLASS AA**

|        | Sectionals |
|--------|------------|
| Pool A | F, H, B, C |
| Pool B | A, D, G, E |

Next Meeting – Friday, May 30, 2025