

SAB Meeting Notes  
March Merriness (Needham) Tournament 3/21/10

This week's SAB Meeting was spent primarily explaining the rules and ideas for how we will run SAB in the future. We hope that things will run much more smoothly from now on. Here are the other main points that we talked about:

1. To make two new events- Original Composition and Improv. The students have expressed their want for these events to be made official by the MFL. When we asked the 30+ students who were there what they thought, at least 90% agreed that they would participate in these events if they were made official by the MFL. For improv, the students agree that it would be a single person event, combining the ideas of freeze and team improv to come up with one “relaxing and enjoyable” event. We will be asking what exactly they want in terms of rules during the next meeting. As for original writing, some students felt like they aren't able to really try the “perfect piece”. They are around creativity 24/7 because of this league, but rarely get to express their own ideas. Original Composition would allow them to act out their own stories. Again, support for this event was overwhelming.
2. Have individual maps accessible to each judge and or coach- Although all schools have tried to put up enough signs to direct students and parents to their rooms, it's just too hard to find everything at times. The kids agree that having individual maps where sections of the school are marked will make things run much more efficiently.
3. Some students have noticed that judge's ballots have been misprinted- Apparently, PFD judges at Needham were confused about the Final Focus time frame; the ballot said 1 minute while the students said 2. This kind of problem also happened with the Student's Revenge ballots.
4. Finding better locations for postings- This has been brought up before. Students feel like the tournaments would be more efficient etc. if we could find a better place (or multiple places) for postings. Apparently some kids have trouble getting to them (and getting out of the crowd).
5. Notifying Judges in advance- This problem is two fold. First of all, many competitors would like to see a repeat of the judge training that happened in the first round of the Newton South tournament (shadowing another judge 1<sup>st</sup> round). Also, we suggest that an email be sent to every coach the day before a tournament. This letter would remind them to explain to any new judges how to judge certain events. For example, when judges find out what their first round is, their coach can briefly explain what to do. This will hopefully help judges not feel so nervous while judging, and will hopefully help avoid certain mistakes from first time judges.

Thanks to everyone who has received these emails so far. Thanks especially to Sarah Donnelly for talking to the kids yesterday. We'll see you all at states!

-Justin Kieran and Russell Oliver: SAB Co Presidents.