



**American Mock Trial Association**  
**Minutes of the 2008 Annual Board Meeting**  
**July 12-13, 2008**

I. Call to order

- A. Welcome and remarks – President Sara Zeigler and Past President Marcus Pohlmann.

**President Marcus Pohlmann gave thanks to the Board and received a gift from Past President Jim Wagoner. Dan Herron officially welcomed President Sara Zeigler in ceremonious fashion.**

**President Sara Zeigler then called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2008, with the following persons present:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Justin Bernstein, Jason Butler, Matthew Eslick, George Failla, Gonzalo Freixes, Frank Guliuzza, Alicia Hawley, Glen Halva-Neubauer, Dan Haughey, Dan Herron, Oscar Holt, Jim Houlihan, Barry Langford, Kris Lyons, David Nelmark, Mary Lynn Neuhaus, Marcus Pohlmann, Johnny Pryor, Don Racheter, John Rink, Jo Ann Scott, John Vile, Jim Wagoner, Johnathan Woodward, Sara Zeigler.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brad Bloch, Richard Calkins, David Cross, William Dwyer, Michael Johnson, Michael Kelly, Olu Orange, Faith O'Reilly, Ryan Seelau, and Felicia Stewart.

**GUESTS:** Neal Schuett, Derek Moorhead, Ruth Wagoner, Susan Ewing, Wayne Staton, Joshua Leckrone, Heather Creed, Tim Collins, Toby Heytens, Jennifer Satler, Keaton Carr

- B. Introductions – Members and Guests

**Members and Guests introduced themselves.**

- C. Format of Agenda – Secretary Gonzalo Freixes

*All Motions are referenced numerically by the initials of the AMTA Committee responsible for review (e.g. EC-2 or RTC-3). All motions submitted were referred to the corresponding AMTA Committee pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board in 2007. Following each Motion, highlighted in RED, is*

*the recommendation of the Committee to either Adopt or Reject the Motion (in some cases, with amendments). Some motions were submitted to the Board with No Recommendation and the Board is free to act on those motions.*

*Following the Agenda is a list of "Tabled Motions" that the reviewing AMTA committees voted to table. These motions will not appear on the regular agenda nor be considered by the Board for action. The Board may take up consideration of any tabled motion only upon the request of five (5) members of the Board, other than the author(s) of the motion. For the Board to consider or take action on the tabled motion, the Board must overturn the Committee's recommendation to table. A motion to overturn the Committee's recommendation to table must be passed by a majority vote of the Board.*

## II. Election of Board Members

- A. **EC-1:** Nomination and Motion by Neuhaus to elect David Nelmark as the President-Elect.

**Moved and seconded that David Nelmark be elected by acclamation. The motion passes unanimously.**

- B. **EC-2:** Motion by Pohlmann to elect Board Members.

**The following members were elected to the 2008-2009 AMTA Board:**

Justin Bernstein, Brad Bloch, Jason Butler, Richard Calkins, David Cross, William Dwyer, Matthew Eslick, George Failla, Gonzalo Freixes, Frank Guliuzza, Alicia Hawley, Glen Halva-Neubauer, Dan Haughey, Dan Herron, Oscar Holt, Jim Houlihan, Michael Kelly, Barry Langford, Kris Lyons, David Nelmark, Mary Lynn Neuhaus, Olu Orange, Faith O'Reilly, Marcus Pohlmann, Johnny Pryor, Don Racheter, John Rink, Jo Ann Scott, Ryan Seelau, Felicia Stewart, John Vile, Jim Wagoner, Johnathan Woodward, Sara Ziegler.

*NOTE: Roberta Flowers, Bill Ravenell and Katie Pridemore have tendered their resignations and did not appear on the list of Board Members.*

- C. **TABLED MOTIONS:** *The Executive Committee voted to table the nominations of all new Board members, until such time as the Strategic Planning Committee reports back to the Board on its work in developing criteria by which nominated candidates are to be evaluated by the EC (which serves as the nominating committee).*

**Moved and seconded for the Board to enter into Executive Session. Motion passes. The Board moves into Executive Session.**

**Request by Mary Lynn Neuhaus and five (5) other members to remove from Tabled Motions the Executive Committee's decision to table the**

**nominations of all new Board Members (see Section II-C above).  
Following a discussion, the motion remains tabled.**

**The Board resumes its regular session.**

III. Approval of Agenda.

**Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passes unanimously.**

IV. Approval of Mid-Year Minutes (attached)

**Moved and Seconded to approve the Mid-Year Minutes with amendments to the last sentence and a request that the minutes reflect a list of members participating. Motion passes**

V. Consent Calendar [*attached*]

A. Removal of Items from Consent Calendar

B. Approval of Consent Calendar

**Moved and Seconded that the Consent Calendar be amended to reflect the name of David Nelmark as President Elect. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Motion and Seconded that the Consent Calendar, as amended, be approved. Motion passes unanimously.**

**In light of his appointment as AMTA counsel, Dan Herron tenders his resignation from the Board.**

VI. Motions

A. Amendment of By-Laws and Governance Matters (*Reviewed by Executive Committee*):

1. **EC 3:** Motion by Bloch (with amendments suggested by the EC): In determining the implementation or “effective” date for Board actions, the Board should consider the financial implications of said action upon its members. Under normal circumstances, the Board should adopt an implementation timetable that allows sufficient time for member institutions to submit a budget that incorporates the significant additional costs incident to the new policy (approximately one academic year). This guideline shall not apply to regional and national site selection decisions, including the choice of dates upon which tournaments may be scheduled.

**Recommend Adoption, as amended.**

**Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

2. **EC4:** Motion by Zeigler to Amend the By-Laws, specifically to alter Section 5.01 in the following manner (additions appear in bold and are underlined; deletions are shown with a strike):

**ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 5.01. **Elected Officers.** The Board shall elect a President and President-elect who shall serve two-year, non–successive terms. The Past President will serve as a member of the Executive Committee. The President will appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer, a National Tournaments Committee Chair, a Regional Tournaments Committee Chair, an AMTA Tabulation Director, **a Rules Committee Chair** and a Development Officer. The Board of Directors must ratify the appointments in order for them to take effect. The Board of Directors may refuse to confirm a Presidential appointment and request that the President submit other nominees for consideration. These ~~ten~~ **nine** officers constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Administrative Assistant, appointed by the Board, will be an ex officio nonvoting member of the Executive Committee. **The President shall vote on Executive Committee matters only when necessary to break a tied vote.**

**Recommend Adoption.**

**Seconded. After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

3. **EC5:** Motion by Cross that AMTA shall purchase liability insurance for the organization and its officers and directors within 60 days of approval of this motion.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is required, as the motion was recommended by the Executive Committee. It is noted for the record that the approval of the motion does not necessarily reflect an endorsement of the rationale. After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

4. **EC6:** Motion by Lyons to post in clear language on the AMTA website the following statement:

Beginning with the 2008-2009 season, all member institutions should be aware that AMTA has adopted a unified national system. Said system will, by its nature, necessitate that teams competing at the National Championship Tournament will have to compete at both Regionals and an Opening Round Championship Site.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is required as this motion was recommended by the Executive Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

5. **EC7**: Motion by Zeigler to Amend the Rulebook as follows (additions appear in bold and are underlined):

**Rule 3.6 Student eligibility requirements.** Each team must be composed of undergraduate students enrolled at a member school. **The term “undergraduate student” includes students enrolled at an institution under the following conditions:**

**Full and part-time degree-seeking students at an institution, provided the student is not enrolled in coursework at another institution with a mock trial program.**

**Full and part-time degree-seeking students at an institution, provided the student is not enrolled as a full-time student at another institution with a mock trial program.**

**Students enrolled in targeted programs designed for working and/or non-traditional students, provided that the coursework is at the undergraduate level and permits the student to receive a degree or certification**

The following exceptions apply:

**a. Graduation within one hundred and twenty days of the tournament.** Students who graduated less than one hundred and twenty days before a tournament and have not matriculated in a graduate school may compete, if their member school permits such competition.

**b. Students working on additional undergraduate degrees.** Students with a baccalaureate degree who are enrolled in other baccalaureate programs but who are not seeking and have not earned a professional or graduate degree may continue to compete in mock trial competitions, if their school permits such participation.

**c. Members from more than one institution.** If prior permission of the Executive Committee is obtained in writing, a team may be composed of students from more than one institution. This exception is intended to accommodate new institutions that cannot generate sufficient participation to field a

team. It is not intended to allow institutions to combine teams for competitive purposes. If an institution has multiple campuses or “centers” that share registration and administrative functions, where the branches do not grant separate degrees, students at the branch campuses may participate on the same team as students from the main campus. Degree-granting branches are considered separate institutions.

**d. Total number of years.** Students will be allowed to participate in Regional, National and Championship Tournaments for no more than five academic years.

**e. Students on financial or medical leave: Students who have taken a leave from the institution for financial or medical reasons may compete in Regional, National or Championship tournaments for a maximum of one semester provided that they are in good academic standing with the institution. The program must produce a letter from an administrator other than the program’s Educator or Attorney-Coach certifying that the student is eligible under Part E.**

**f. Obligation to verify student status: The Educator-Coach or Primary Contact has an affirmative obligation to verify each competitor’s eligibility. Submission of a roster at a Regional, National or Championship competition constitutes certification that the status of each participant has been verified.**

**g. The Executive Committee is empowered to interpret these rules and grant exceptions when, in its judgment, extraordinary circumstances make an exception appropriate. Competitive advantage shall not be considered an “extraordinary circumstance.”**

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by Executive Committee (to add part “g”)**

No second is required as this motion was recommended by the Executive Committee.

Johnathan Woodward moves for the following amendment to Part 3.6. Seconded.

**The term “undergraduate student” shall not include a student who has not yet graduated from high school or a high school equivalent, even if that student is enrolled in course work in an undergraduate institution.**

After discussion, the Motion to amend fails (7-12).

Barry Langford moves for the following amendment to the Motion, in Part 3.6. **Seconded.**

Delete the following language: Full and part-time degree-seeking students at an institution, provided the student is not enrolled in coursework at another institution with a mock trial program.

Substitute the following language in lieu thereof: Full and part-time degree-seeking students at an institution, provided the student is not enrolled as a full-time student at another institution with a mock trial program.

Barry Langford's Motion to amend passes.

After discussion, the main Motion, as amended passes unanimously.

6. **EC8:** Motion by Zeigler to modify the Competition Response Committee as follows (additions are in bold and are underlined):

The Competition Response Committee is charged with responding to in-season questions and problems and with issuing timely rule interpretations during the season. All interpretations and rulings made by the CRC are effective only until the next annual Board meeting. The CRC will also receive and adjudicate Act of AMTA bid requests. **The CRC shall consist of the NTC Chair, the RTC Chair, the Tabulation Director, the Rules Committee Chair, the Case Committee co-chairs for the current case problem, the Ombudsperson and the President.**

The Competition Response Committee will be co-chaired by the NTC and RTC Chairs. The NTC Chair shall serve as Chair for the purpose of managing Act of AMTA bids.

**The CRC shall develop guidelines for in-season rule interpretations and the co-chairs shall report those guidelines to the Board of Directors at the midyear meeting.**

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by the Executive Committee (to add the last paragraph).**

**No second is required as this motion was recommended by the Executive Committee. The Motion passes unanimously.**

7. **EC9:** Motion by Zeigler to modify the rules governing invitational tournaments as follows:

Replace the existing rules 5.1-5.9 with the following:

AMTA hosts 24 regional tournaments, 6 intermediate national tournaments, 1 national championship tournament, 1 Division II tournament and 1 mediation tournament. These are the only AMTA-sanctioned and sponsored events. All other events not reflected above shall be deemed "Invitational Tournaments."

Rule 5.1 - AMTA will not host, organize, fund or endorse any invitational tournament. These tournaments are being exclusively hosted, organized and administered by the host programs and completely independent of AMTA

Rule 5.2 - AMTA Board Members may volunteer to help the hosts and/or organizers of an invitational tournament. However, said involvement is strictly voluntary and on their own accord and is in no way an endorsement or sanctioning of the tournament by AMTA.

Rule 5.3 - As an Invitational Tournament is not an AMTA sanctioned event, all rules and policies are subject to the host institutions discretion. All aspects of the tournament are at the discretion of host and shall not be made in consult with AMTA. The host school may determine all aspects of the tournament or event including: a) when the tournament is held, b) where the tournament is held, c) whether the tournament is open to all schools and programs, d) the time of rounds, e) the length of rounds, f) whether the AMTA case problem for that year is used, g) the number of rounds, and h) whether AMTA materials, rules, pairing and tabulation systems are used

Rule 5.4 - Hosts of Invitational Tournaments may request to advertise the tournament or event on the AMTA website. However, they must make that request in writing. Any such request in writing must indicate that host school, program or institution acknowledges that the AMTA is neither sponsoring, organizing or hosting the event.

Rule 5.5. - Hosts are strongly encouraged by AMTA to obtain general liability insurance for the event if they choose to host. Often times the tournament or event would be covered under the host institutions policies or may involve the purchase of an umbrella policy.

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by the Executive Committee (to add "and 1 mediation tournament" to the opening paragraph).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Executive Committee.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to amend the preamble to Rules 5.1 – 5.9. as follows:**

**Delete the following language: AMTA hosts 24 regional tournaments, 6 intermediate national tournaments, 1 national championship tournament, 1 Division II tournament and 1 mediation tournament.**

**Substitute in lieu thereof the following language: AMTA hosts regional tournaments, intermediate national tournaments, a national championship tournament, a Division II tournament and a mediation tournament.**

**After discussion, the Motion to amend passes.**

**Motion by Oscar Holt as follows:**

**Delete the following language: Rule 5.1 - AMTA will not host, organize, fund or endorse any invitational tournament.**

**Substitute in lieu thereof the following language: Rule 5.1 - AMTA does not host, organize, fund or endorse any invitational tournament.**

**After discussion, the Motion to amend passes.**

**After discussion, the main Motion, as amended, passes unanimously.**

8. **EC10**: Motion by Zeigler to Amend Rule 6.7 as follows (additions are in bold and underlined; deletions have a strike):

**Rule 6.7 Act of AMTA Bids.**

Any requests for Act of AMTA bids must be received via email by the National Tournament Committee **Competition Response Committee** Chair by noon (central time) on Tuesday following the completion of the tournament where the alleged error occurred, with the exception of Act of AMTA requests related to the last National Tournament which **Regional or National tournaments occurring on the last weekend of regional or national competition** which must be submitted by 4 pm (central time) the day after the tournament ends. **The Tabulation Director shall investigate the complaints and report to the CRC within two business days of the submission of the request.**

For Act of AMTA requests that relate to the last regional tournament or the last National tournament, the NTC **CRC** Chair may immediately issue an official ruling on the request upon obtaining support for

his/her recommendation from at least two other members of the ~~NTC~~  
**CRC**.

Two Act of AMTA Bids shall be reserved for the Championship tournament. These bids shall not be awarded until (at the earliest) the Monday after the last National tournament is concluded. If these bids are not awarded for Acts of AMTA, they shall be awarded on a wildcard basis to the teams that perform the best at the National Tournaments regardless of division. There will no longer be “wildcard” bids awarded to the Championship prior to the National Tournaments.

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by the Executive Committee (to substitute the language “Regional or National tournaments occurring on the last weekend of regional or national competition” for “the last National Tournament which”).**

**No second is required as this motion was recommended by the Executive Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

**B. Budget and Fiscal Matters (*reviewed and/or submitted by Budget Committee*):**

**1. Presentation of Treasurer’s Report.**

**Former Treasurer, Glen Halva-Neubauer presented the financial statements and proposed budget for AMTA.**

**Motion by Glen Halva-Neubauer to amend the Agenda to add the following Motion (also by Glen). Seconded.**

**That the Treasurer of AMTA is authorized by the Board to issue refunds.**

**After discussion, the Motion to Amend the Agenda, passes unanimously.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to amend the proposed Motion to reflect the following language. Seconded.**

**Beginning with the 2008-2009 season: At the direction of the Treasurer, the Executive Assistant of AMTA is authorized by the Board to take account of credits when registration fees are received and to issue checks for overpayments.**

**Motion to call the question passes unanimously.**

**After discussion, the Motion to amend passes unanimously.**

**After discussion, the main Motion, as amended, passes unanimously.**

2. **BC1:** Motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2009 budget (Halva-Neubauer)

**Motion to amend the agenda to defer this Motion to the end of the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

**The matter is recalled on the second day of the Annual Meeting. Motion of Gonzalo Freixes to go into Executive Session. Seconded. The Motion passes and the Board goes into Executive Session.**

**The Board resumes its regular session.**

**Motion by Johnny Pryor to Amend the Agenda to discuss elimination of the Hall of Fame Dinner at the National Championship Tournament. Seconded. The Motion passes unanimously.**

**Motion by Johnny Pryor to eliminate the requirement to hold the Hall of Fame Dinner at the National Championship Tournament and to incorporate the ceremony into the Awards Luncheon on the final day of the tournament. Seconded. The Motion passes unanimously.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to delete the \$ 600 line item for refurbishing the National Championship Trophy (to be funded by donations or existing AMTA funds) and to increase the host budget for the National Championship Tournament by \$ 600. Seconded. The Motion passes unanimously.**

**After discussion on the Motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, the Motion passes unanimously.**

3. **BC2:** Motion by Bloch to have the AMTA Mediation Board set its budget for all purposes, including the National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament, rather than have its budget dictated by the AMTA Board, Treasurer or Executive Committee.

**Recommend rejection.**

**Seconded.**

**Motion by Frank Guliuzza to table any motions listed on the agenda that have been recommended for rejection by the corresponding committee pursuant to AMTA's policy for tabling motions. Seconded.**

**After discussion, the Motion to Table passes.**

4. **BC3:** Motion by Bloch to split the AMTA registration fee for programs that register for both mock trial and mediation equally with half deposited in the AMTA Mediation account, while depositing the entire registration fee in the Mediation account for institutions that only do mediation and not mock trial.

**Recommend rejection.**

**Tabled pursuant to Frank Guliuzza's previous motion to table all motions recommended for rejection.**

C. National Tournament Matters (*Reviewed by the National Tournaments Committee*).

1. **NTC1:** Motion by Lyons to Amend Rule 4.2 to read:

**Rule 4.2 Postseason team awards.** Trophies will be awarded to each team that qualifies to the Championship Tournament from the Opening Round Sites. The trophies will be uniform in size and the plate on each trophy will indicate that said team is a qualifier to the Championship Tournament versus identifying a particular finish, e.g., 'first place', 'second place', and so on. Team trophies will be awarded for places 1-10 in each division of the Championship Tournament, w/ five honorable mention plaques. The announcement of team awards will begin (not end) with the presentation of honorable mention awards. A minimum record of 4-4 or its equivalent is required for Championship team award recognition.

**Recommend Adoption (language amended by National Tournaments Committee).**

**No second required given the recommendation from the Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes.**

2. **NTC2:** Motion by Lyons to Amend Rule 5.25 to read:

**Rule 5.25 Divisions.** The Championship Tournament will be run in two divisions. If two teams from a single member institution compete they will be assigned to the same division. The divisions for the National Championship tournaments will be drawn by hand, using the following parameters:

- Assign the Opening Round Championship winners between the two divisions equally

- Assign the two highest-placing programs from each super regional to different divisions
- Assign each champion from an Opening Round Championship site to a different division than the runner-up from the same Opening Round Championship site.
- Assign teams from a single program to the same division
- Divide the remaining top 20 teams in the nation between the divisions
- Randomly draw and assign the remaining teams between the divisions

**Recommend Adoption (unanimous).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by Nelmark to delete the third bullet and the change the words “super regional” to “opening round championship site”. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to amend passes.**

**After discussion, the main Motion, as amended, passes unanimously.**

3. **NTC3**: Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that:

National Tournaments shall be referred to as Opening Round Championship Sites.

**Recommend Adoption (unanimous).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. The Motion passes unanimously.**

4. **NTC4**: Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that:

For the purposes of awarding and announcing bids, all teams shall be treated as eligible. Nothing in this rule alters any cap that may be in place on the number of postseason bids that can be *accepted* by a particular program. Bids that are declined for any reason or which cannot be accepted due to a cap on the number of postseason teams from a program shall enter a national pool and be awarded in accordance with Open Bid procedures. All contrary rules shall be amended to conform with this rule.

**Recommend Adoption (unanimous).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. The Motion passes unanimously.**

5. **NTC5**: Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that:

Open Bids shall all be awarded on a national basis, i.e. no bids will be reserved for teams from a particular region.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes 10-8.**

6. **NTC6**: Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that:

Bids to the Championship Tournament shall be allocated to Opening Round Championship Sites on the basis of one bid for every 4.5 teams assigned to an Opening Round Championship Site (e.g. 5 bids at a 24-team site and 7 bids at a 32-team site). Notwithstanding the foregoing, every Opening Round Championship Site shall have a minimum of 5 bids to the Championship Tournament. Remaining bids not assigned and not needed for Acts of AMTA shall be awarded in accordance with open bid procedures.

**Recommend Adoption (language amended by National Tournaments Committee).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by Wagoner to replace the Motion with the following Substitute Motion. Seconded.**

**Each Opening Round Championship Site is awarded five (5) automatic bids and one (1) conditional bid. If no conditional bids are needed to resolve Acts of AMTA, then all conditional bids shall convert into bids to the National Championship Tournament. If any conditional bids are used to correct Acts of AMTA, the remaining conditional bids shall be allocated via open bid procedures.**

**The Substitute Motion passes unanimously.**

7. **NTC7**: Motion by Bernstein and Halva-Neubauer to Amend the Rules so that:

Beginning with the 2010 National Championship Tournament, each trial at the National Championship Tournament will include exactly three scoring judges and, thus, three blue ballots. If a fourth judge is available for a particular trial, one judge will preside but not score, and

the other three will score. If only three judges are available for a particular trial, all three will score the round but the presiding judge will not be given the responsibility of completing comment sheets. If fewer than three judges are available for a particular trial, coaches will fill the judging panel. Where possible, coaches will be used in trials that do not affect the determination of the Division champion. Where possible, Coaches will not be allowed to judge the Division in which their team is competing. At the end of the tournament, each team will have been scored by 12 different judges, thereby making a perfect record twelve wins and zero losses.

**Recommend Adoption (as amended by National Tournaments Committee to add the words “Where possible” to sentence disallowing Coaches from judging in their own Division).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by Jason Butler that the President create an Ad Hoc Committee on Judging and that this Motion be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee for consideration. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion passes.**

8. **NTC8:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to adjust the appropriate Rules so that the Reynoldson award is given to a single recipient from each of the winning programs.

**Recommend Adoption (unanimous).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by Jim Wagoner to Amend the Motion to change “a single recipient” to “up to two recipients”. After discussion, the Motion to Amend fails on a 9-10 vote (with the President breaking the tie vote).**

**Motion by Justin Bernstein for a Substitute Motion as follows:**

**“Motion to adjust the appropriate Rules so that a single plaque is given in recognition of the Reynoldson Award to each of the winning programs.” After discussion, the Substitute Motion passes unanimously.**

9. **NTC9:** Motion by Seelau to Amend the Rules to require the National Tournaments Committee (or whichever committee holds the relevant power in the future) to indicate what National Tournaments (i.e.

Opening Round Championship Sites) a given Regional Tournament is going to filter into by December 20.

**Recommend Adoption (As amended by the National Tournaments Committee to change “by Thanksgiving” to “by December 20”).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. The Motion passes unanimously.**

D. Rules & Sanctions (*Reviewed by the Rules/Sanctions Committee*):

1. **RS1**: Motion by Lyons to Amend Rule 7.1 to read:

Rule 7.1 Communication during a round. From the time a round begins until it ends, student participants may communicate only with other student participants, judges and tournament officials. If anyone else, including coaches and spectators, attempts to communicate with a student participant during a round, it is the duty of the student to terminate the communication. This prohibition shall include the requirement that all student participants turn the power off on all pagers, cell phones, wireless communication devices, or computers during a round. A round begins when the judges enter the room and ends when the blue scoring sheets are handed over to a tournament official.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by David Nelmark to Amend the Motion to add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph. Seconded.**

**“For non-trial related communications exceptions to this Rule may be granted by an AMTA representative. Normally, advance permission should be obtained.”**

**After discussion, the Motion to Amend passes unanimously.**

**Motion by Johnathan Woodward to add the following language after the words “student participants”, and before the word “judges” in the second sentence of the Motion:**

**“on the roster of a team competing in that specific trial.”**

**After discussion, the Amendment to the Motion passes.**

**After discussion, the main Motion, as amended, passes.**

2. **RS2:** Motion by Lyons to Amend Rule 7.13 to read:

Rule 7.13 Necessity of a timekeeper. Each party is expected to supply a timekeeper for each trial. The timekeeper is an officer of the court while keeping time during a round. Although it is preferable for a team to supply a timekeeper other than those who are serving as witnesses or attorneys, a team does not violate this rule by using its witnesses or a rostered team member of the team in that round as a timekeeper. A team does violate this rule by using a coach, another spectator, or a team member from the same institution, but who is not a member on the roster of the team competing in that round.

**No Committee Recommendation.**

**Seconded. After discussion, the Motion passes.**

3. **RS3:** Motion by Lyons to Authorize the National Tabulation Director, along with the Chairperson of the Rules Committee to amend and reform the AMTA rulebook, to reflect the changeover to a unified national system. Said new edition of the rulebook would not be final until affirmed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Any objections to the changes shall be made as agenda items at the midyear board meeting, to take place in the fall of 2008.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

4. **RS4:** Motion by Herron and Pohlmann to Amend the rules so that as far as is reasonably possible and utilizing due diligence, AMTA representatives shall utilize common sense and assign judges at regional and national tournaments with the following constraints:
- (1) when three judge panels are not available for the entire field, three judge panels shall be assigned to rounds from top-down, except in the first round, which shall be random;
  - (2) experienced mock trial judges, litigation attorneys, and other indicia of mock trial judging experience shall be assigned to rounds top-down, except in the first round, which shall be random;
  - (3) law students, recently graduated law students, mock trial coaches, non-lawyer judges shall be assigned only after those more "experienced" judges are assigned in the top-down manner, except in the first round, which shall be random;

- (4) in assigning rooms, AMTA Representatives should make every reasonable effort to assign the preferable rooms to the top rounds in the power pairings.

**No Committee Recommendation.**

**Seconded.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to Refer to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judging. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to Refer passes unanimously.**

5. **RS5:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to Amend the Rules such that:

At regional and national tournaments (opening-round events and the championship tournament), the following **guideline** should be adopted: Beginning in the second round, the top five trials should be staffed with seasoned litigators (those having 10 or more years of experience) who practice either as civil litigators (in civil case years) or as criminal defense attorneys or prosecutors (in criminal case years). AMTA Representatives are responsible for indicating the top trials to the person assigning the judges. The specialties of the attorneys should be determined through the use of a standardized judge card. **See Appendix A.**

**No Committee Recommendation.**

**Seconded.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to Refer to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judging. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to Refer passes unanimously.**

6. **RS6:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to establish the following guidelines for operating judges' meeting and judge selection:

(a) AMTA Representatives will both operate the judges' orientation meeting and also assign judges. No host can have any role in the assignment of judges.

(b) Judge assignments shall be guided by the following principles:

1. No alum from a school can judge their alma mater's team.
2. No husband and wife teams can judge together.
3. No requests to judge together will be honored.
4. Presiding judges should be those with the least experience.
5. If law students are used, they should always be paired with an attorney.

**Recommend Rejection.**

**Tabled pursuant to Frank Guliuzza's previous motion to table all motions recommended for rejection.**

7. **RS7:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to require that every judge announce themselves at the beginning of the trial and inform the court of the type of law that they practice.

**No recommendation.**

**Seconded.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to Refer to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judging. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to Refer passes unanimously.**

8. **RS8:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to Amend the Rules such that it is permitted to recruit laypersons to serve as scoring judges.

**Recommend Rejection.**

**Tabled pursuant to Frank Guliuzza's previous motion to table all motions recommended for rejection.**

9. **RS9:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to make judging instructions available on the Web site in audio format so that judges can burn them to a CD and play them on the way to the tournament.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by Don Racheter to Refer to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judging. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to Refer passes.**

**E. Tabulation Matters (Reviewed by Tabulation Committee):**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda to defer TC1 and TC2 to the second day of the Annual Board Meeting to be heard directly before Agenda Item VII (Committee Reports). Seconded. After discussion, the Motion to Defer passes unanimously.**

1. **TC1:** Motion by Nelmark to adjust the Rules such that pairings at Regional Tournaments and Opening Round Championship Sites (aka National Tournaments aka Super-Regionals) shall be done in the

following manner (while still complying with existing rules regarding side constraints and impermissible matches):

Round 1: Random Draw.

Round 2: High-High

Round 3: High-High

Round 4: High-Low within two brackets.

Bracket One is those teams eligible **in the running** to advance to the postseason and Bracket Two are those teams that are not eligible to advance to the postseason **or whose record already guarantees that they will advance to the postseason**. All teams that are within two ballots of the record of the team slated to receive the last bid heading into round 4 are in Bracket One (that is to say within two ballots of the 8th place team if the tournament has 8 bids), along with any additional teams needed to comply with side constraints. **For example, in an 8-bid tournament, if the 8th place team heading into Round 4 is 3-3, those teams that range between 5-1 and 1-5 will be in Bracket One; those higher or lower would be in Bracket Two. If Bracket One has an uneven number of teams, teams shall be bumped up from Bracket Two to even the field. When possible, ineligible teams will be bumped up rather than teams that are guaranteed to advance.** It is possible, but unlikely, that the entire field could be contained within a single bracket.

***Recommend Adoption, as amended by the Tabulation Committee (amended language of Tabulation Committee is highlighted in boldface).***

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. The moving party presented a substituted motion, consisting of the following:**

**TC1: Alternate Motion by Nelmark to adjust the Rules such that pairings at Regional Tournaments and Opening Round Championship Sites shall be done in the following manner (while still complying with existing rules regarding side constraints and impermissible matches):**

**Round 1: Random Draw.**

**Round 2: High-High**

**Round 3: High-High**

**Round 4: Paired according to the following procedures.**

- 1. Rank the Needs Plaintiff and Needs Defense teams as normal. The teams will ultimately be divided into a “Fighting for Spots Bracket” and a “Not Fighting for Spots Bracket.”**
- 2. Determine the record of the team that is in the last place that is slotted to receive a bid. (In 2008-09, this is the 8th place team at a regional tournament and the 6th place team at an Opening Round Championship Site.) This team is referred to as the “anchor team.”**
- 3. Determine all those teams that have records more than 2 ballots greater than the anchor team. These teams are deemed “already in,” meaning they are mathematically guaranteed to advance to the next level. These teams are removed and placed into the “Not-Fighting for Spots Bracket.” For example, if the anchor team has 3.5 ballots, teams that have won 6 ballots are deemed “already in.”**
- 4. Determine all those teams that have records more than 2 ballots fewer than the anchor team. These teams are deemed “already out,” meaning they are mathematically eliminated from advancing to the next level. These teams are removed and placed into the “Not-Fighting for Spots Bracket.”**
- 5. If the Needs Plaintiff and Needs Defense sides of the “Not Fighting for Spots Bracket” are uneven, additional teams shall be added to fill out this bracket, creating even numbers of Needs P and Needs D teams in each of the two brackets. The teams that are pulled down from the Fighting for Spots Bracket and added to the Not Fighting for Spots Bracket shall be the lowest ranked teams that are not yet in the bracket.**
- 6. After the two brackets are determined, they shall be paired High-Low.**
- 7. Resolve impermissibles using normal procedures, but do not invade brackets. If it is impossible to resolve impermissibles within one of the two brackets, the two brackets shall be combined into a single bracket.**
- 8. Teams in the Not Fighting for Spots Bracket are eligible for advancement if their ultimate record warrants advancement.**

**After discussion, the Substitute Motion passes.**

2. **TC2:** Motion by Nelmark to adjust the Rules such that pairings at the Championship Tournaments shall be done in the following manner (while still complying with existing rules regarding side constraints and impermissible matches):

Round 1: Random Draw.

Round 2: High-High

Round 3: High-High

Round 4: High-High

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. The Motion passes unanimously.**

3. **TC3:** Motion by Zeigler to modify the tabulation procedures to eliminate “Frank’s Rule.” The text of the rule appears below:

The first priority, when more than one comparison has the closest record difference is to ask which trade, if any, among the teams with identical record differences, will produce no new impermissible matches. If, for example in a second round pairing, P4 (1-1, +23) is unable to hit D5, then one must compare P4 with P3 and P5 and D5 with D4 and D6 to see which potential swap involves teams with the closest record. Assume P3 and P5 have identical records with P4 at 1-1. You notice that P3 is 1-1, +10 and P5 is 1-1, +22. It certainly makes sense to trade P4 and P5 inasmuch as they have the same record with but a single point difference (as is described below). However, you notice that P5 v. D5 will produce a same-school match whereas swapping P3 with P4 cleans up the original impermissible match and produces no further impermissible meetings. Make the trade swapping P3 with P4.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee. After discussion, the Motion passes**

4. **TC4:** Motion by Freixes (on behalf of R. Wagoner) to set sides in Round 3 as follows:

Round three pairings shall be done in accordance with the Tabulation Manual. **After the pairings are completed, the AMTA Representative(s) shall flip a coin. If the result is heads, all teams on the left side of the pairings shall be plaintiff/prosecution. If the result is tails, all teams on the left side of the pairings shall be defense.** .

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by Tabulation Committee  
(Committee amendments reflected in boldface type).**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**After discussion, the Motion passes.**

5. **TC5:** Motion by Hawley to Amend the Rules such that each witness **shall be given only a single score (on a 1 to 10 basis)** rather than separate scores for direct examination and cross examination.

**Recommend Adoption.**

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**After discussion, the Motion fails.**

6. **TC6:** Motion by Halva-Neubauer to Amend the Rules as follows (additions appear in bold and underlined; deletions have a strike):

Rule 4.3 Individual awards. **Ideally, 10 individual attorney and witness awards are given in each regional and opening round national tournament. However, a minimum of nine and a maximum of 12 individual attorney and witness awards shall be given at each regional and opening round national tournament. If in awarding the ninth winner, one must exceed the maximum of 12, the limited is exceeded rather than awarding a number smaller than nine.** A minimum of 10 individual attorney and witness awards shall be given in each regional and each division of a postseason tournament. Additional awards shall be given to students tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place. (6-05) ~~Ideally, the number of individual plaques awarded should be limited to ten per category. If, however, ties create the need for additional individual plaques, AMTA Representatives should contact the AMTA office within two weeks of the tournament, giving the name, address, and award needed. When distributing the available plaques at the tournament, AMTA Representatives should withhold plaques from students whose teams are advancing to a national tournament or those whose teams are coached by an AMTA board member. (6-97) Individual award winners at regional tournaments shall be designated All-Region Attorneys and Witnesses.~~ **while those winners at the opening round national tournament shall be designated Outstanding Attorneys and Witnesses.**

**Recommend Rejection.**

**Tabled pursuant to Frank Guliuzza's previous motion to table all motions recommended for rejection.**

**Motion by Johnathan Woodward to Amend the Agenda to consider unfinished business. Seconded. The Motion passes unanimously.**

VII. Unfinished/New Business

A. Human Resources Committee:

**The President requested nominations for the At Large Member of the Human Resources Committee. Jim Houlihan nominated himself and the Board approves his appointment unanimously.**

B. Reconsideration of NTC6:

**Motion by Marcus Pohlmann to reconsider NTC6 (Assignment of Bids to the ORCS). Seconded. The Motion to Reconsider passes unanimously.**

**Substitute Motion by Marcus Pohlmann to adopt the following language in lieu of NTC6. Seconded.**

**Each Opening Round Championship Site is awarded six (6) automatic bids. Act of AMTA bids, if necessary, may increase the 48-bid total. Consequently, National Championship hosts need to prepare a contingency for the possibility of hosting a 50-team tournament.**

**After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

C. Team Registration Fees

**Motion by Johnny Pryor to increase the 2009-2010 Team Registration Fees by \$ 25. Seconded.**

**Motion by George Failla to Amend the Motion to also increase the fee for the 2010 National Championship Tournament by \$ 25 per team. Seconded. The Motion passes. The Motion, as amended, passes.**

D. Removing Tabled Motions CC4, CC5, CC6 and CC7.

**Motion by Johnathan Woodward to Remove Tabled Motions CC4, CC5, CC6 and CC7 and have them considered by the Board. After discussion, the Motion passes.**

1. **CC4:** Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that: No photos, pre-made maps, or pre-made drawings of people, places, or things may be

used as demonstratives unless they have been provided with or are specifically permitted by the case materials. Nothing in this rule prevents a witness from creating a demonstrative illustration during the course of his or her examination. Lists, charts, graphs, phrases, etc. are not considered “drawings” for the purposes of this rule.

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**Motion by David Nelmark to Amend the Motion, to remove the phrase “places or things” and substitute the words “or places” in lieu thereof. Seconded. After discussion, the Motion passes.**

**Motion by Justin Bernstein to Amend the Motion to insert the word “particular” prior to the word “people”. Seconded. The Motion passes.**

**The main Motion, as amended, passes unanimously.**

2. **CC5:** Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that: Exhibits, documents in the case packet and demonstratives deemed allowable for use at pre-trial captains meeting pursuant to Rule 8.10 are not automatically admissible at the time of trial. Unless the admissibility of an item has been stipulated, materials remain subject to objection for grounds including, but not limited to, improper foundation.

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

3. **CC6:** Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that: Only those materials included in the case packet may be offered into evidence during trial. Other items may be used as demonstrative aids provided that they do not violate any other tournament rules or the Midlands Rules of Evidence.

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**The Motion passes unanimously.**

4. **CC7:** Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules so that: Where the sex of a party is not dictated by special rule, witness selection or the case materials, each party may designate the sex of their party or party’s representative during captains meetings. This rule only applies to named parties in the action or their representative or agent. It does not apply to non-party witnesses.

**No second is necessary as the Motion was recommended by the Committee.**

**After discussion, the Motion passes unanimously.**

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Mediation:

**John Rink reported on the actions of the Mediation Committee and the status of the National Mediation Tournament.**

B. Civil Case:

**Dan Haughey reported on the status of the Civil Case for the 2009-2010 season. The case involves a defamation action against a television station arising from the death of a college professor.**

C. Regional Tournaments Committee:

**Dan Herron reported on the actions of the Regional Tournaments Committee, including a review of changes in Regional Tournament Host Sites.**

IX. 2009 Annual Meeting

**The proposed sites for the 2009 Annual Meeting are: Washington, D.C. (from David Cross), Colorado (from Faith O'Reilly) and Irvine, CA (from Justin Bernstein).**

**Motion by Glen Halva-Neubauer to have the vote by secret ballot. Seconded. The Motion passes.**

**Motion by Gonzalo Freixes to delete Colorado from the site choices. Seconded. The Motion passes.**

**By majority vote, Irvine, California will be the site of the 2009 Annual Meeting.**

**Motion by Johnathan Woodward to have the Secretary poll the Board on preferred dates for the 2009 Annual Meeting by September 1. The Motion passes unanimously.**

X. Adjournment

**Motion by Frank Guliuzza to adjourn. Seconded. The Board expressed its gratitude to the meeting host and the Motion passes unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on Sunday, July 13, 2008.**

## Appendix A: Standardized Judge Card

**Please indicate your preference:**

- Presiding Judge – make rulings on evidentiary issues and keep trial moving toward completion; presiding judges do not score  
(One attorney per trial fills this role)
  
- Scoring Judge – score all aspects of trial; write comments about students' performances on ballot; score determines outcome of the round; sit in jury box  
(Two attorneys per trial fill this role)
  
- Commenting Judge – write comments regarding students' performance; commenting judges do not score; sit in jury box  
(One attorney per trial)
  
- No Preference

**Preference comments:**

**Additional information:**

I have practiced law for:

- less than one year
- more than 1 but less than 5 years
- more than 5 years but less than 10 years
- more than 10 years

This is my first time judging at this regional tournament:

- yes
- no

My area of practice is:

- Civil Litigator (plaintiff)
- Civil Litigator (defense)
- Prosecutor
- Criminal Defense Attorney
- Judge
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**American Mock Trial Association  
2008 Annual Board Meeting Agenda  
July 12-13, 2008**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**The Executive Committee recommends all Consent Calendar Motions for Adoption.**

**Con1:** Motion by Zeigler to create the position of "Web Manager." The Web Manager would serve as the liaison with the Web Master (currently Scott Ebling). The Web Manger receives all requests for postings on the web site, consults the Board as needed to approve postings and submits programming requests to the Web Master. The Web Manager is not responsible for tabulation-related postings (managed by the AMTA Tabulation Director), Case Committee postings (managed by the Case Committee) or Invitational listings (managed by the Administrative Assistant). The Web Manager may instruct the Administrative Assistant to post materials once they have been approved by the Web Manager.

**Con2:** Motion by Zeigler to create the position of "Counsel." AMTA's Counsel will provide legal representation to AMTA as needed and will be included in Executive Committee deliberations. Counsel will serve as the spokesperson for AMTA on legal matters and will be prohibited from articulating personal opinions on AMTA policies in any public context.

**Con3:** Motion by Zeigler to add the following to the consent calendar:

**AMTA Officers:**

Sara Zeigler, President  
David Nelmark, President-Elect  
Marcus Pohlmann, Past President  
Gonzalo Freixes, Secretary  
Ryan Seelau, Assistant Secretary  
Johnny Pryor, Treasurer  
Matthew Eslick, Assistant Treasurer

**Directors:**

Kristofer Lyons, AMTA Tabulation Director  
Brad Bloch, National Tabulation Director for Mediation

**Executive Committee (also serves as Nominating Committee):**

***See By-Laws for jurisdiction and duties***

Sara Zeigler (President)  
David Nelmark (President-Elect)  
Marcus Pohlmann (Past-President)  
Johnny Pryor (Treasurer)  
Gonzalo Freixes (Secretary)  
Mary Lynn Neuhaus (Development Director)  
Frank Guliuzza (National Tournaments Chair)  
Glen Halva-Neubauer (Regional Tournaments Chair)  
Kristofer Lyons (AMTA Tabulation Director)  
Jim Wagoner (Rules)

**Academics Committee:**

***To provide resources for AMTA members who wish to create mock trial courses and curricula, to conduct research on mock trial, and to serve as a liaison to academic institutions.***

Ruth Wagoner (Chair)  
Matt Eslick  
Mike Johnson  
Jo Ann Scott  
Felicia Stewart  
John Vile

**Audit Committee:**

Jim Wagoner (Chair)  
Jo Ann Scott  
Gina Vessels

**Budget Committee:**

***To prepare and monitor the budget***

Johnny Pryor (Chair)  
Matthew Eslick  
Gonzalo Freixes  
Glen Halva-Neubauer  
Sara Zeigler

**Case and Evidentiary:**

***Review case proposals and select the case for use in competition, offer clarifications as necessary, respond to queries regarding the case and make revisions as necessary***

**Civil Case Committee**

Dan Haughey (Chair)  
David Cross (Co-Chair)  
Justin Bernstein (Case posting)  
Gonzalo Freixes  
Tom Parker  
Don Racheter

John Vile  
Jim Wagoner  
Johnathan Woodward

**Criminal Case Committee:**

Jason Butler (Chair)  
Johnathan Woodward (Co-Chair)  
Justin Bernstein (Case posting)  
Brad Bloch  
Don Donelson  
Oscar Holt  
Casey McGinley  
Felicia Stewart  
Tom Parker

**Competition Response Committee:**

***To make timely, in-season rule interpretations, subject to Board review at the annual meeting. Note that individuals serve on the Committee by virtue of office and membership changes as the person holding the offices changes.***

AMTA Tabulation Director: Kristofer Lyons  
Chair, Rules Committee: Jim Wagoner  
Chairs, Case Committee :Dan Haughey and David Cross  
Ombudsperson, Barry Langford  
Chair, National Tournaments Committee (Frank Guliuzza)  
Chair, Regional Tournaments Committee (Glen Halva-Neubauer)  
President: Sara Zeigler

**Development Committee:**

***To raise money, build external relationships, and increase the number of schools participating***

Mary Lynn Neuhaus (Chair)  
Gonzalo Freixes  
Faith O'Reilly  
Don Donelson  
Brad Bloch  
Adam Detsky

**Divison II Implementation:**

Marcus Pohlmann, Chair  
Barry Langford  
Derek Morehead

**Human Resources Committee:**

Gonzalo Freixes, Secretary  
David, Nelmark, President-Elect  
\_\_\_\_\_, Member-at-large

**Mediation Committee:**

***To foster and develop mediation activities***

Ken Frank (Chair)  
Brad Bloch (Tabulation Director for Mediation)  
Dick Calkins  
Mary Lynn Neuhaus  
John Rink

**National Tournaments Committee:**

***To oversee post-season tournaments and the bid allocation structure***

Frank Guliuzza (Chair)  
Glen Halva-Neubauer  
Alicia Hawley  
Jim Houlihan  
David Nelmark  
Mary Lynn Neuhaus  
Faith O'Reilly  
Ryan Seelau  
Marcus Pohlmann  
Kristofer Lyons

**Regional Tournaments Committee:**

Glen Halva-Neubauer (Chair, Host management)  
Adam Detsky (Assignments)  
Kristofer Lyons (Assignments)  
Mike Kelly (power balance and feeder assignments)  
Jo Ann Scott (AMTA Reps)  
Georgie Weatherby  
Sara Zeigler

**Rules/Sanctions Committee:**

***To oversee and develop rules of competition, evidence and procedure***

Jim Wagoner (Chair)  
Jason Butler (Rules of Evidence Focus)  
Mike Kelly (Tournaments Rules/Rulebook focus)  
David Nelmark  
Felicia Stewart  
John Vile  
Jo Ann Scott  
Bill Dwyer  
Justin Bernstein

**Spirit of AMTA Committee:**

***To encourage professional behavior and coordinate the "Guest of Honor" process***

Jim Houlihan (Chair)  
Dick Calkins

John Rink

**Strategic Planning:**

Marcus Pohlmann (Chair)  
Glen Halva-Neubauer  
Sara Zeigler  
Jason Butler  
David Nelmark

**Tabulation Advisory Committee:**

***To assist the AMTA Tabulation Director in developing and implementing tabulation methods, oversee bid allocation structure***

Kristofer Lyons (Chair)  
Frank Guliuzza  
Alicia Hawley  
Mike Kelly  
David Nelmark  
Neal Schuett

**Historian:**

Brad Bloch

**Parliamentarian:**

Frank Guliuzza

**Ombudsperson:**

Barry Langford

**Web Site Manager:**

Matthew Eslick

**Web Site Manager for Case Posting and Case Announcements:**

Justin Bernstein

**Counsel:**

Dan Herron

**Con4:** Motion by Nelmark to Amend the Rules as follows (Additions appear in bold and are underlined; deletions have a strike):

**Rule 2.7 Number of teams that can be registered.** Institutions may register an unlimited number of teams for regional competition, but only two may compete in any single Regional Tournament. (06-07) Additional teams (above 2) will be assigned to a different regional. (6-07) **The Regional Tournaments Committee may waive the two-team per regional restriction for any program which is located more than 900 miles away from the second closest regional tournament to which that program's additional teams would be assigned.**

**Rule 2.12 Postseason bid acceptance procedures.** Bids to the National and Championship Tournaments will be posted along with an acceptance form (or a link to an online registration page) on the AMTA web site no later than the Tuesday following the last Regional. Teams that qualify for bids to the Championship and/or the National Tournaments must download the mandatory reservation form from the AMTA web site and follow the directions to complete and return by the specified deadline. Any team that does not complete and return its reservation form on time forfeits its slot. (6-98)

#### **I. Rule 4.40**

**b). All-Loss rule defined.** The All-Loss Rule requires that trial rounds be completed within three hours of the official “start time,” which is defined as the time the last judging panel arrives at its assigned room. To implement this rule a tournament official at each competition site shall take note of the start time. The tournament official shall immediately calculate the ~~Warning time and the All-Loss~~ time by adding 450 and 180 minutes respectively to the start time. The official shall post the ~~Warning and All-Loss times~~ time. It is the responsibility of the teams to ascertain the ~~Warning and All-Loss times~~ time. Teams involved in a round that passes the All-Loss time shall each have one ballot subtracted from their final total. The actual record of each team (before the penalty is imposed) shall be used for the purposes of pairing and tiebreakers. (06-07)

**1. Round defined.** A round begins when the judges enter the room and ends when the blue scoring sheets are submitted to a tournament official.

~~**2. Warning and All-Loss times explained.** The Warning time is the time all trials should be concluded. The All-Loss time is the time when the All-Loss penalty goes into effect. When the Warning time is reached, the two competing teams need to adjust their performance to assure that the trial is concluded and the ballots received before the All-Loss time is reached.~~

**Rule 5.16 Regional assignment criteria and procedures.** The Regional Tournaments Committee Chair, in consultation with the Regional Tournaments Committee, will assign every member institution to one or more Regional Tournaments. Assignment of schools to Regional Tournaments will be made after the close of registration, using the following criteria:

- (a) assigning schools to a location within three hours of driving distance (according to Mapquest) when possible (not necessarily the closest geographic region);
- (b) distributing power teams according to Bonus Bid rankings among the regions;
- ~~(c) implementing Board policy to equalize the number of teams at all Regionals—  
setting the ideal size of Regional Tournaments at 20 teams (6-99);~~

- ~~(d) accommodating requests from tournament hosts to limit the number of teams at their tournaments due to space availability, as long as this does not result in a Regional with less than 20 teams;~~
- ~~(e) honoring requests of schools who desire assignments to multiple Regional Tournaments and who make such requests in writing to the Regional Tournaments Committee Chair by October 15;~~
- ~~(f) assigning teams of AMTA Representatives in such a fashion as to ensure that teams of the AMTA Representatives are not competing on the same weekend as their AMTA Representative assignments;~~
- ~~(g) considering requests for specific dates made prior to the registration deadline;~~
- (e) assigning specific teams from a program (i.e. A team, B team, etc.) to better balance power among regionals;** and
- ~~(h) accommodating schools who wish to move outside their region only if doing so assists AMTA's Regional Tournaments Committee Chair in implementing criteria a-g.~~

**The Regional Tournaments Committee may dictate where a program's teams are assigned. Programs are expected to follow this designation and a failure to do so may result in sanctions under Chapter 9.**

Late registrations will be accepted, but assignments to Regional Tournaments will be made on a space-available basis. No one may overrule assignments of the Regional Tournaments Committee. **Teams may not "region shop."** If a team appears at a regional where it was not assigned, it will not be allowed to compete, except as the bye-buster team, and shall be ineligible for bids, trophies, individual awards, and all other forms of recognition. ~~(6-97) The Regional Tournaments Committee Chair will assign teams from schools that finish in the top ten in either division at the previous National Championship Tournament to different regional sites so far as is practicable given the number and location of Regional Tournaments. (6-99).~~ A minimum of six teams from at least three schools is required to hold a Regional provided that there is no other Regional Tournament scheduled within a six-hour drive. (6-98) Newer teams should have to travel the least. Teams may not move out of their assigned Regional Tournament *except under extraordinary circumstances AND with the permission of the Regional Tournaments Committee Chair.* (6-99)

**Rule 6.1 Special national tournament bid limitations.** Member institutions that were offered and have accepted only one bid for the Championship Tournament may qualify one additional team to a National Tournament.

~~A program may send teams to more than one National Tournament, but if a program directly qualifies a team to more than one National tournament, the Chair of the National Tournaments Committee shall determine to which National the program will send both teams. (06-07).~~

**Rule 6.2 Receipt and return of tournament bids.** Teams that qualify for bids to the Championship and/or the National Tournaments must download the

mandatory reservation form from the AMTA web site and follow the directions to complete and return by the specified deadline **(or register online by the specified deadline)**. Any team that does not complete and return its reservation form on-time forfeits **may forfeit** its slot.

~~**Rule 6.3 Bonus bids.** Where a program is key-ranked for Bonus Bid purposes, and where the program has teams assigned to more than one region, the AMTA Tabulation Director may allocate bids to any regional to which a program carrying bonus bids has been assigned.~~

**Rule 6.3 Bonus bid rankings.**

Bonus bids **bid rankings** will be compiled by taking the number of ballots won in the most recent National Championship Tournament multiplied by 5, the year previous shall be multiplied by 3, and two years previous should be multiplied by 1. The National Tournaments ballots won-count shall be worth half the weight as that respective year's National Championship Tournament.

Ties in the Bonus Bid Rankings shall be broken by eliminating the oldest year's points, with the team with the highest remaining total receiving the higher ranking. If the tie is still not broken, the second oldest year's points shall be eliminated. (06-07)

**Beginning in 2008-09, no bonus bids will be awarded to regionals.**

~~**Rule 6.4 National tournament bids: number and allocation.** There will be a total of at least 160 bids to the National and Championship Tournaments: 64 bids to the Championship Tournament and 48 or more bids to each of~~

**The number of teams assigned to each National Tournament and the designations of which regions feed into which Nationals shall be established by the National Tournaments Committee, in consultation with the Tabulation Director.**

~~**Rule 6.5 National tournament bid criteria.** Qualification for the Championship and the National Tournaments shall be based strictly on the order of finish in Regional Tournaments with the top finishing teams receiving bids to the Championship Tournament and the teams finishing immediately below them qualifying for National Tournaments subject to the limitations of any other applicable rules except under special resolutions of the Board of Directors.~~

Beginning in ~~06~~**08-07-09**, National Tournament bids shall be allocated **equally** to regions using each region's prior year postseason bid allocations as a baseline and re-distributing bids based on each region's previous year postseason winning percentage as follows: **all regions. Should the number of regionals not allow for equal distribution of the bids, each region shall receive the same number of bids and the remainder shall be handed out via the open bid process.**

~~There shall be 48 bids to each National Tournament (96 bids total). Three bids to the National Tournaments (combined) shall be reserved as Act of AMTA/Open Bids. Each region shall initially receive the same number of bids it was assigned in the prior year. Each newly created region shall initially receive 2 National Tournament bids. Note that if a region switches locations but a majority of its teams remain the same, it is not a “new” region. Regions which have no team in the prior year National pool shall be treated as new regions and will remain at the two National bid minimum.~~

~~The determination of whether a regional is “new” or is a “transplanted regional” from another site will be made by the Regional Tournaments Committee, considering the composition of the teams in the region and especially the presence or absence of teams that earned bids in the prior year. A regional in a pre-existing location may be deemed “new” if its composition and strength substantially changes. A pre-existing regional may also be deemed a “transplanted regional” if its composition and strength substantially changes making the field similar to a pre-existing regional in another location.~~

### *Calculating PPP*

~~The prior year National records of the teams competing in each regional are used to calculate each region’s “Projected Postseason Performance” (PPP). The maximum PPP is 8 (for 8 ballots) and the minimum is 0. Each region’s PPP is formed by calculating the average record for all of the teams in the region that participated in a National the previous year. If a region is awarded fewer Championship bids than it has teams that won bids directly to the prior year’s Championship (i.e., those teams that competed in the Championship, but not in a National), a number of teams equal to that difference shall also be added to the pool of teams in that region that competed in a prior year National. For the purposes of computing the region’s PPP, each of these teams shall be given a fictitious National record of 7 ballots. (6-07) These teams replace the previous season’s National qualifying teams with the lowest records, if their addition would result in a region having more postseason qualifiers than National bids initially assigned.~~

~~For the purposes of calculating a region’s PPP, any team which competed in the Championship Tournament, but not a National Tournament, will receive a “fictional 7” for the purposes of the National PPP ranking, unless that team is predicted to earn a Championship spot in the following season. (6-07)~~

~~When a region has more National bids than it has prior year National competitors, the lowest prior year competitor’s record shall be duplicated and halved to fill up the slot. So, if the lowest team remaining has a record of four, a record of two is added to fill a slot. If a second duplication is necessary, the record is halved again (from two to one in the example).~~

~~The Regional Tournaments Committee may dictate where the PPP credit for a program’s A & B teams end up. Programs are strongly encouraged to send their~~

~~A & B teams to the regions bearing these credits as it will help create the most balanced regionals. If a date conflict prevents an A or B team from following its designated assignment, the program should notify the Tabulation Director as soon as possible.~~

~~If the Regional Tournaments Committee chooses to dictate which regionals a program's A and B teams attends, the respective regions shall earn the PPP credit attributed to those A and B teams (rather than the average of the two team's results).~~

### *Redistributing Bids*

~~9 bids will be redistributed from regions with the lowest PPPs to regions with the highest PPPs. (If less bids are available for assignment to existing regionals than in prior years, it is possible that not all of these 9 bids will be re-assigned. In the unlikely event that extra bids are available after the 9 redistributions—likely due to the disbanding of an existing region—those bids shall be distributed in accordance with these after the 9 initial redistributions.)~~

~~Ties in PPP will be broken by comparing the lowest ranked team in each region's PPP analysis. The region whose team is ranked lower loses the tiebreaker. If the tie is not broken, the second lowest ranked teams will be considered, and so on. If the tie cannot be broken in this fashion the region whose city comes first in the alphabet wins the tiebreak in even numbered years and loses in odd years.~~

~~If two regions have identical PPPs and two teams' records are being compared to break the tie as to who gains or loses a bid, any actual record automatically wins over a duplicate record. If both teams have actual records, or both teams have duplicate records, the higher record prevails.~~

~~Under this system, no region shall fall below two National Tournament bids. Each region may only lose or gain a single bid through redistribution, unless the region is "short" bids when compared to the number of prior year National competitors or unless it has "extra" bids based on the same comparison. In such cases, a region may gain or lose the number of bids necessary so that its number of bids matches its number of prior year competitors, plus one additional bid.~~

~~A region may both gain and lose a bid through reallocation procedures. However, once a region both gains and loses a bid, it may no longer be considered for reallocation. If a region gains (or loses) multiple bids before it loses (or gains) a bid, it is possible to be involved in more than two reallocations.~~

### **There shall be 192 postseason bids.**

~~Although nine bids are re-allocated, some of these bids may not go to higher-performing regions as they may be needed to serve as base bids for new regions. If at least 5 bids are not redistributed beyond providing base bids, additional re-allocations will occur so that at least 5 such bids are gained by high-performing regions.~~

**Open Bids shall be awarded using the following series of tiebreakers:**

Notwithstanding the foregoing procedures, no regional tournament may have less than five (5) total postseason bids or more than eight (8) total postseason bids. (6-07)

- 1. Regional Win-Loss Record.**
- 2. Whether the program already has a team in the postseason (with those programs without a team in the postseason winning the tiebreaker).**
- 3. Combined strength**
- 4. The number of teams in the team's regional (with the higher number taking precedence.)**
- 5. Bonus bid ranking (with the higher ranking taking precedence).**

**Rule 6.6 National championship bid criteria.** Bids to the Championship Tournament will be allocated as follows:

50 bids to top teams from Regionals;

2 bids reserved for Acts of AMTA and distributed on a "wildcard" basis if no Acts of AMTA are needed by the conclusion of the last regional.

12 bids (3 from each of four National divisions) from the top placing teams at the National Tournaments. (11-04)

**There shall be 48 bids to the National Championship. The manner in which bids are allocated shall be determined by the Tabulation Committee.**

AMTA sponsors two National Tournaments, held after the Regional Tournaments and before the Championship Tournament. Each of the two National Tournaments will host fields of up to 48 teams. Institutions will receive bid offers for the National and Championship Tournaments based upon their teams' performance at Regional Tournaments. The National Tournaments Committee will determine the procedure for assigning teams to national sites, as well as the criteria and procedures by which declined bids will be allocated. (6-04) Fifty-two teams will earn direct bids to the Championship Tournament, based upon their records at the Regional Tournaments. The top six teams from each of the two National Tournaments will earn bids to the Championship Tournament.

**In 2008-09, there shall be a total of 192 bids at National Tournaments.**

Bids to the Championship Tournament that become open after the completion of the National Tournaments shall go to the team from a National Tournament that had the best record but did not advance to the Championship.

**Rule 6.7 Act of AMTA Bids.**

Any requests for Act of AMTA bids must be received via email by the National Tournaments Committee Chair by noon (central time) on Tuesday following the completion of the tournament where the alleged error occurred, with the

exception of Act of AMTA requests related to the last **Regional or last** National Tournament which must be submitted by 4 pm (central time) the day after the tournament ends.

For Act of AMTA requests that relate to the last regional **Regional** tournament or the last National tournament, the NTC Chair may immediately issue an official ruling on the request upon obtaining support for his/her recommendation from at least two other members of the NTC. ~~Two Act of AMTA Bids shall be reserved for the Championship tournament. These bids shall not be awarded until (at the earliest) the Monday after the last National tournament is concluded. If these bids are not awarded for Acts of AMTA, they shall be awarded on a wildcard basis to the teams that perform the best at the National Tournaments regardless of division. There will no longer be "wildcard" bids awarded to the Championship prior to the National Tournaments.~~

### **Rule 6.8 Open Bids.**

~~If a program has accepted a bid to a National tournament no team from that program is eligible to receive an open bid to any other National tournament.~~

The NTD shall maintain a running total of the rankings of teams eligible for such bids, updated after the completion of each regional tournament. This list shall be posted online and shall be used to award bids if no errors are reported within 48 hours of the final update posted upon completion of the final regional tournament. Any errors discovered after 48 hours shall be corrected but will not result in the reversal of any bid awards already made.

#### *~~Criteria for Awarding of Open Bids on a National Basis (amended 6-07)~~*

~~1. Win-loss record.~~

~~2. Whether or not the programs involved have another team in the National Championship Tournament, with programs that do not have any such a bid taking precedence.~~

~~3. Whether or not the programs involved have another team in a National Tournament, with programs that do not have any such a bid taking precedence. (Note also that a team currently competing on one National Tournament cannot be awarded an open bid to compete in the other National Tournament.)~~

~~4. The number of ballots won at the regional tournament by each team's opponents. (CS)~~

~~5. The bid percentage ratio of each region (defined as the number of teams that actually competed in a region, including bye teams, divided by the total number of bids, including bonus bids) with the team with the higher bid percentage ratio getting preference.~~

- ~~6. A team's total margin of victory, with a larger margin getting precedence.~~
- ~~7. A team's total points earned, with the higher point total getting precedence.~~
- ~~8. A team's national "bonus bid ranking" with the higher ranking getting precedence.~~

~~A program may send teams to more than one National Tournament, but that if a team directly qualifies a team to more than one National Tournament, the program may elect to send both teams to a single National Tournament. The Chair of the National Tournaments Committee shall determine to which National the program will send both teams.~~

~~In the event that a Championship bid is awarded on a wildcard or open bid basis prior to the start of the National Tournaments, the National bid previously held by the team receiving the bid shall be reallocated on a nationwide basis according to the open bid rankings. This bid does not necessarily stay in the region.~~

~~In awarding "wildcard" bids, the following criteria will be used in order of importance:~~

- ~~1. Win-Loss Record~~
- ~~2. Whether the program has another team in the Championship tournament with programs without a Championship bid taking precedence.~~
- ~~3. Combined strength~~
- ~~4. The number of Championship bids in the region divided by the number of teams competing in the region (including ByeBuster teams) with the lower number taking precedence.~~
- ~~5. A team's placement in its regional tournament with the higher placement getting precedence.~~

~~A Championship bid that is awarded after the start of a National tournament will be awarded (using the criteria numbered 1-3 above) to the team that performs best in any division of any National tournament but did not receive a bid to the Championship. Criteria 1 and 3 refer to the team's performance at that national rather than at its regional.~~

~~The fourth criterion will be the team's record at regionals followed by its combined strength at regionals.~~

#### *Manner of Determining Which of a Program's Teams Earn Postseason Bids*

~~The following criteria are listed in order of importance:~~

- ~~1. Provisional bids to the National Championship take precedence over bids to a National.~~
- ~~2. If a bonus bid was awarded to a regional based on the program-at-issue's presence, that regional takes precedence if and only if a team from that program~~

~~has not yet earned a bid from that region. If a region was awarded two bids based on a program's presence, that region takes precedence if the program has not yet earned two bids from that region.~~

~~3. If "PPP credit" was awarded to a regional based on the program-at-issue's presence, that regional takes precedence if and only if a team from that program has not yet earned a bid from that region. If a region was awarded "PPP credit" for two teams based on a program's presence, that region takes precedence if the program has not yet earned two bids from that region. If two different regions involved in this comparison both received PPP credit, the region that received more credit takes precedence. For the purposes of this analysis, a team that brought in a "Championship pool entry" takes precedence over a team that was a "National pool entry."~~

~~4. If one provisional bid awarded to a team competing in a given Regional Tournament has already evolved into a postseason bid, the team that competed in a different Regional Tournament takes precedence.\*~~

~~5. Regional Winners take precedence over non-regional winners.~~

~~6. The region where a program sent more teams takes precedence.~~

~~7. The team with the better win-loss record takes precedence.~~

~~8. If win-loss records are identical the team with the better placement in the tournament (first place, second place, etc.) takes precedence.~~

~~9. If none of the above seven criteria determine the award, ties shall be broken using the procedures designated for the awarding of open bids on a national basis.~~

~~\* This criterion is meant to address the type of situation that occurs when Example Univ. sends multiple teams to Region A, where it places first and second and Region B where it places third and fourth. Example now has four "provisional bids." Presuming that Example's first place team has its provisional bid converted to an official postseason bid, there must be a choice between Example's second place team in Region A and its third place team in Region B. This criterion would award the bid to the team from Region B. Otherwise, both postseason bids would likely come from Region A--resulting in two bids dropping down to lesser ranked teams in Region B and unfairly penalizing the remaining teams in Region A.~~

**Con 5: (From Executive Committee)** Motion by Seelau to have the Assistant Secretary produce an e-mail newsletter on the first Monday of the month to be sent out (by the AMTA Administrator) that informs the institutions of any recent AMTA developments (such as case changes, board decisions, etc.) and informs them of any important future deadlines (registration deadlines, dates to drop, etc.). The brief newsletter will be drafted by the Assistant Secretary and

approved by the President, or in the event the President is absent, by the Executive Committee, before being sent out.

**Recommend Adoption – Moved to Consent Calendar by Executive Committee.**

**Con 6: (From Tabulation Committee)**

Motion by Nelmark to alter the Rules such that each team that registers for regional competition shall be given a team number, assigned consecutively, beginning with number **1001**. These numbers shall remain the same throughout the season, but shall change from year to year.

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by Tabulation Committee (to correct the Rule Number to 1001) – Moved to Consent Calendar by Tabulation Committee.**

**Con 7: (From Tabulation Committee)**

Motion by Nelmark to adjust the rules so that ByeBuster teams that substantially change composition shall be treated as having a record of “-1” for the purposes of bracketing, pairing, and resolving impermissible. The ByeBuster’s actual record is still used for calculating the CS of its opponents.

**Recommend Adoption – Move to Consent Calendar by Tabulation Committee.**

**Con 8: (From Tabulation Committee)**

Motion by Nelmark to grant the Tabulation Director authority to amend the Tabulation Manual without approval of the AMTA Board provided that such amendments do not contradict any existing Board rule or policy. **The Tabulation Director shall post a notice on the AMTA website indicating where any changes can be found in the Manual.**

**Recommend Adoption, as amended by Tabulation Committee (amended language in boldface type) – moved to Consent Calendar by Tabulation Committee.**

**Con 9: (From Tabulation Committee)**

Motion by Freixes (on behalf of R. Wagoner) that all tabulation summaries include the result of the coin flip used in the tab room to determine pairings when 2 or more teams have identical records, point differential, and combined strength. This is the flip described on page 21 of the current Tab Manual.

**Recommend Adoption – moved to Consent Calendar by Tabulation Committee.**