American Mock Trial Association
2009 Mid-Year Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2009

I. Call to order

President Zeigler called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. EST.
Directors Present: Bernstein, Bloch, Butler, Calkins, Cross, Eslick, Freixes, Guliuzza, Halva-Neubauer, Houlihan, Langford, Lyons, Nelmark, Neuhaus, Pohlmann, Pryor, Racheter, Seelau, Wagoner, Woodward, Zeigler.
        Quorum present.
Others Present: Detsky (Candidate), Herron (General Counsel), Heytens (Candidate), Leckrone (Candidate), Palmer (Candidate), Satler (Candidate), Schuett (Candidate).

II. Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Approved Unanimously.

III. Approval of 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes (with correction that Jim Wagoner is on the civil case committee, not the criminal case committee). Seconded. Approved Unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

Justin Bernstein delivered an update on the Civil Case Committee.
Jason Butler delivered an update on the Criminal Case Committee.
Adam Detsky delivered an update on the Development Committee.
Mark Pohlmann delivered an update on the Strategic Planning Committee.
Johnny Pryor delivered an update on the Budget Committee.
Frank Guliuzza delivered the National Tournament Selection Subcommittee's Report. The National Tournament Selection Subcommittee's Report is attached as Appendix A.

V. Motions:

A. **Motion by Ryan Seelau**: Motion to Amend By-Laws – Vote by Proxy

Motion to Amend the By-Laws to allow for Directors (with a vote) to cast their vote via proxy for any relevant Executive Committee position (which under our current By-Laws would mean the ability to vote for the President and no other positions).

Rationale: There are many reasons a board member might have to miss a board meeting, but that should not deprive him/her from being able to choose something as important as the leader of AMTA. We already have rules in place that prohibit directors from missing multiple meetings in a row, so it is unlikely that this proxy vote would be abused or cause directors to skip meetings, etc.

Full Disclosure: I will be living out of the country when the next board meeting is scheduled to occur and, as such, it is unlikely (although not impossible) that I will be able to attend in person.

Motion by Guliuzza to Amend Motion to state that an absentee ballot may be submitted for President-Elect. Seconded. Amendment Approved.
Motion by Woodward to refer this Motion to the Executive Committee. Seconded. Passed—Motion deferred to Executive Committee.

B. **Motion by Kris Lyons:** Motion to Amend Rule 6.7:

Motion to Amend Rule 6.7 to add new sub paragraph (4)

(4). Bid Reassignment. Upon consultation with the Chairman Chair of the Tournament Administration Committee (TAC), the Tabulation Director shall have the authority to reassign bids to take into account both competitive balance of the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) sites, the competitive balance of the ORCS and approved schedule conflicts (recognized as such by TAC) of teams that have earned bids.

Comment: This rule reflects the current practice. Open bids are "swapped" to accommodate teams that have scheduling conflicts recognized by TAC. Such a practice provides flexibility in filling bids at ORCS sites used with 'swapping' open bids, and teams with approved conflicts to create flexibility within the ORCS. Having said that, while this rule allows for swapping, it does NOT require it.   While there is flexibility in choosing which teams get which open bids at which ORC, there is no rule that allows for swapping. This is merely a rule change to bring our rules in line with current practices.

Motion by Nelmark to Amend to add language that states that no team will be moved against their will other than when being offered an open bid. Seconded. Approved.

Motion seconded. Approved.

C. **Motions by Gonzalo Freixes**: Three Motions proposed by Freixes

I wish to propose the following three motions for inclusion on the mid-year board agenda. These proposals are necessary for the mid-year meeting because they address registration procedures. Accordingly, the changes would need to be passed in December to be effective before 2010-2011 registration begins. The rules center on the fact that, after three years on the regional assignments committee, it is clear that the number of programs listing spring/winter breaks as conflicts has gotten out of control. Many of these teams have in the past been quite disrespectful when addressing the issue.

MOTION 1: Amending rule 2.9(1)(a) To allow teams to voluntarily waive rule 2.9(1)(a) which provided as follows:

Rule 2.9 Regional assignment criteria and procedures.
(1) ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA. The Tournament Administration Committee will assign every member school's registered team(s) to one or more regional tournaments. Assignment of schools and teams 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);

New Rule 2.9:
(1) ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA. The Tournament Administration Committee will assign every member school's registered team(s) to one or more regional tournaments. Assignment of schools and teams 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); This provision may be voluntarily waived by a program. However, waiver may result in the program's teams being assigned to any regional or opening round championship tournament regardless of distance from that program's institution and regardless of expense even if there are close tournaments that do no conflict.

RATIONALE: If teams want their winter breaks, then we can try to accommodate - but since that takes away two weekends out of four, AMTA needs flexibility.

Motion seconded. Motion Approved.

MOTION 2: Regardless of whether the above motion is passed, the following language and check box should be added to the Registration Form.

AMTA does not recognize Winter/Spring Break as a conflict.

_____ Our program has no winter/spring break conflicts.

_____ Our program has winter/spring break from _____ to _____.

If your institution has spring break, please check one of the following:

_____ Our program has a winter/spring break but we are able to compete on those weekends.

_____ Our program has a winter/spring break and a written university policy not allowing student activities to meet or travel on weekends that the school is enclosed. (A copy of the written policy must be forwarded to glen.halva-neubauer@furman.edu. by the registration deadline. Failure to provide a copy by the registration deadline will result in a determination that there is no conflick) **Please note:** the actual policy must be forwarded, a note from a faculty member will not suffice).

_____ Our program is unable to compete during our winter/spring break and we voluntarily **waive** Rule 2.9(1)(A) of the AMTA rulebook. Our program understands that Rule 2.9(1)(A) is our right to be assigned to a close geographic location. We agree that AMTA *may* assign our team to any regional and/or Opening Round Championship Series ("ORC") qualifying tournament *if space allows*, *regardless of distance* from our institution. We further acknowledge that this *may* result in our program having to fly to our assigned regional and/or ORC qualifier at our own expense and that we **waive** any request for hardship considerations that may result as a consequence. We also understand that we *may* have to fly to our assigned regional qualifier at our own expense even if there are closer regional tournaments that do not conflict with our winter/spring break. We further understand that tournament spaceat all AMTA tournaments is limited and other teams will not be forced to extensively travel in order to accomodate our winter/spring break and, as a result, we may have no choice other than to compete during our spring break.

RATIONALE: Take your spring break, but at your own expense and peril.

Motion to Amend motion to state that "winter/spring breaks are not a viable AMTA conflict unless there is documentation from the school stating that competing on such weekends is impermissible." Motion to Amend seconded. Approved.

Motion by Guliuzza to substitute Amended Motion for all three Motions originally submitted by Freixes. Seconded. Approved.
Amended Motion (which is now a substitute for the other motion submitted by Freixes) is Seconded. Approved.

MOTION 3: That the following language be added to rule 2.9 as part of 2.9(3) and also added to the registration form/page at or near the "Conflicts" Box:

>"AMTA does not recognize spring/winter breaks or recesses as conflicts."

ALTERNATE MOTION 3: In the event motion 1 and 2 fail:That the following language be added to the registration page at or near the "Conflicts" Box:

"AMTA does not recognize spring/winter breaks or recesses as conflicts."

D. **Motion by Justin Bernstein:**

Motion to amend Rule 3.9 to say that, "A team shall consist of no less than six members and no more than ten members."
Rationale: *With the restriction of two teams per regional tournament, programs are finding it more financially challenging to field additional teams. Allowing larger rosters -- particularly, allowing all teams to include as many as 10 students -- allows great participation without requiring teams to field additional teams, and without requiring teams to bear the cost of attending additional regional tournaments. The original primary opposition to allowing larger rosters was the concern that teams, particularly top teams, would have their students specialize to the point where competitive balance would be undermined. That has not occurred. In fact, it seems very few Championship teams carried more than eight. This will permit greater participation without undermining competitive concerns.*
Motion Seconded. Motion Approved.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn. Seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m. EST.