

North Shore Science League
Coaches Meeting June 2007
Notes From Meeting....

1. Financial Report: Money in treasury, Dues status of teams, Stipends to event runners and executive positions
Miguel expressed the leagues continued improvement regarding finances with an approximate accumulation of \$2k. This can be attributed to increased # of schools in the league (28 registered teams, 27 semi-active/active teams, 25 paid in full through 6/13/06) and schools are meeting their financial obligations in a timely manner.
2. Cookout/Ice Breaker at beginning of year (Sept 19, 2007)? Need an Event Runner? Location? Should this event count in the standings? We all have the same issues of getting a team together and building an event (egg catapult and catcher)
There is continued support for a cookout at the beginning of the school year that would also act as a coaches meeting (which may not be needed due to the productiveness of the June meeting). IF schools are interested, please email me asap so we can determine if it is possible and whether you would be willing to help with an informal event or act as a host site where we can cook burgers/hotdogs. We could consider other foods that do not require the use of fire if that is a problem.
3. Trophies will be awarded on the last meet (April 2007). Teams should prepare to stay a bit later to cheer on the trophy winners.
The award ceremony will happen on the last meet of the year at Woburn HS. The league will help with extra \$\$ for food and teams should expect to stay until approx 6pm on this date. It is important for the students/schools to receive their trophy with their peers and coaches looking on and it is important for schools to stay in support of the process...even if they do not win a trophy. Please include this extra time in your planning for the next and future years.
4. Propose a place on the NSSL website (Teacher Exchange) for the exchange of ideas, curricula, equipment, needs, etc so that we can share our expertise and resources with each other.
There will be a teacher exchange page on the league website where teachers can post needs/excesses for/of equipment, laboratories, employment, etc. It is the league's hope that every coach can benefit from this through an open exchange of information and harvest the talents and resources made available from other professionals in the field of science and math. This piece will be developed and implemented under the constraints on Mike's (Somerville) schedule and hopefully will be up and operating by September 2006.
5. Amendment to the constitution: ALL teams must submit an event or must offer their school as a meet site for the next year in a timely manner to be set by the league president. A team that does not submit an event will not be permitted to participate in the league for that year. It is expected that

every team will participate in the facilitation of the league from year to year.

The coaches in attendance voted to change the league charter regarding school participation in the league: Each school will be required to EITHER develop and facilitate an event OR host the league at least once per year. League hosts will be awarded on a first come – first serve basis with preference given to new host schools. Schools will be required to submit their event (title/subject area) or hosting ability for the upcoming year by the second Tuesday in May of the current year (coaches meeting). Schools who fail to meet this requirement will be able to continue their involvement in the league but will not be counted toward league standings. If there is an excess of events (>18), the coaches in attendance at the May coaches meeting will determine which events will be used in the upcoming year and possible uses for excess events.

Extra:

1. Raising the reimbursement for meets: I (Chelsea) had a couple of ideas that I wanted people to think over. One is that we are doing well economically, and I think it could be possible to raise the amount of money we give for hosting a meeting. When he hosted one at Chelsea we thought the money was too short---or perhaps we could have ordered something cheaper than pizza. But I would like to know what other teams think as well. I will have hard numbers soon and I will let you know what I think the options are.

Since the league is doing relatively well financially, the league has decided to raise the stipend associated with the host school's financial obligation to provide food and drink for both coaches and students. The league will review this stipend at the 2007 coaches meeting for effectiveness and affect on league finances.

2. Scoring of Events: Changing the way events are scored to reflect the difficulty of winning an event: Tom and I (Chelsea) are curious about whether the scoring system could be changed. Currently there is just one point of difference from position to position, but we think that maybe there should be more differences to reflect the fact that winning is very difficult. In other words, set a gap of a few points between first and second, second and third, and then diminish it. (for example:

55 points for winning; 51 for coming in second; 48 for coming in third, and in intervals of one afterwards). We are not proposing this out of interest (Chelsea almost never wins). But we are curious to see if other teams might like it.

After considering this proposal, the coaches decided that the scoring scheme currently used by the league is producing the results expected the coaches. This includes tight-competitive scores for the top ten teams, the ability of any team to win the meet (top accumulated score) without winning any individual event, and the ability of any team to remain within striking distance of teams currently ranked high than themselves. It is the coach's intent to not generate a scoring system that generates apathy among schools due to large differences accumulated scores.

3. Frequency of event rotation: meaning that, with the exception of current event-style events like science in the news or Instant Invention, I'd like to see at LEAST two years between the same events being used in meets. It's repetitive for the kids to see the same event again and again. I propose that if an event is used in the 2006/2007 season, that event cannot be used again until the 2008/2009 season. Coaches may argue, "the general topic might be the same but the questions are different," but I don't think that solves the problem. Also, it leaves open the temptation to use a smattering of new Q's and old Q's. I know that it would mean that we would have to be more aggressive in generating new events, but I for one would be willing to take on that responsibility in order to keep the league fresh, fun, and fair for the students.

The coaches are aware of the repetitive events and will make adjustments to insure that events change from year to year whether it be by different questions, different modes of facilitation, or completely different events. Part of this problem occurs due to the lack of events being proposed by all teams...which will hopefully be addressed by the amendment to the charter (#5 above). We can review this subject again at the 2007 coaches meeting.