

## **Minutes of the 2014-15 Journalism Advisory Committee**

### **Thursday May 7, 2015**

The IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington on Thursday, May 7, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Liaisons present were: IJEA Representative Stan Zoller and Illinois State University Sectional manager John Plevka. Advisory committee members: Division 2- Alissa Prendergast, Elk Grove Village (E.G.), Adviser; Division 3- Keith Carlson, Naperville (Central), Adviser; Division 4 Brittany Glidden, Rockford East; Division 5 – Tim Lee, Fithian (Oakwood), Principal; Division 6 – Michael Gudwien, Williamsville, Adviser; Division 7- Dana Donovan, Okawville, Adviser; Division 1 – Patrick Levins, Chicago Taft and Division 6 – Jennifer Reiser, Washington, Adviser. IHSA Asst. Executive Director Matt Troha conducted the meeting.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **1. Item VIII-A – 1 – Feature Photography**

**Recommendation:** Change category name to “Photo Story Telling.” Replace current event description with the following language:

*Photographers will submit a series of three photos with a common theme to collectively tell a story. Photoshop can be used to enhance the images but not alter the content. The submission must include a brief written summary to provide context for the photo story, although the written portion will not be scored.*

NOTE: Subsequent judging standards would also change:

- Current standard #10 eliminated
- Current standard #1 rewritten to read: “Do photos help tell a story?” and moved to #8.
- Current standard #5 moved to #1.
- Text added: “The provided summary will not be judged and is only provided for context.”

**Rationale:** The advisers feel like the current category is too vague and doesn’t distinguish if the intent for the competitors or the judges is photojournalism or artistic feature photography. The change will allow competitors to capture different types of photos that work together to tell a story, instead of three shots that may not share a connection. It provides clearer guidelines, without the limitation of forcing all competitors to photograph a single event or requiring that each of their three photos feature a commonality.

#### **2. Item VIII-A – 9 – Info Graphics**

**Recommendation:** Add following language to current event description:  
Adobe Creative Suite programs can be used in this event.

**Rationale:** There have been questions about whether Illustrator can be used in this category and this would clarify that it can be.

### **3. Item VIII-A-6-Yearbook Theme Development**

**Recommendation:** Edits following italicized language below to current event description: Entries will be judged on basic design principles, ~~and~~ creativity *and originality*.

NOTE: Subsequent judging standards would also change:

-Rewrite judging standard #1 to read “Is the concept original?”

**Rationale:** It is important for the submissions to be original.

### **4. Item VIII-A – 7/14 – Newspaper Design/Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread**

**Recommendation:** Add following language to current event description: Only the elements provided at the contest site may be used.

NOTE: This language would also be added to the prompt.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that elements not provided at the site cannot be used in either category.

### **5. Item VIII-A – 8 – Yearbook Caption Writing**

**Recommendation:** Edits following italicized language below to current event description: Captions should be two sentences, but no more than three sentences, *and must fit within a caption box provided on the computer program without changing size, font or spacing*.

**Rationale:** Adding a caption box provides a real world limitation that a yearbook caption writer would have to work within.

### **6. Item VIII-A – 7- Newspaper Design**

**Recommendation:** Add following language to current event description: Adobe Creative Suite programs can be used in this event.

**Rationale:** There have been questions about whether Illustrator can be used in this category and this would clarify that it can be.

## **7. Item VIII-A –14- Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread**

**Recommendation:** Add following language to current event description: Adobe Creative Suite programs can be used in this event.

**Rationale:** There have been questions about whether Illustrator can be used in this category and this would clarify that it can be.

### **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. The committee reviewed and discussed the Sectional sites.
2. The committee discussed Sectional and State Final exit packets and how to improve the process, including potentially using Advisory Committee members or Sectional managers to help process.
3. The committee discussed the process of double-checking to make sure all entries are judged and the judging critiques returned.
4. The committee discussed that the rule change adopted last year allowing recording devices in News Writing needs to be updated in T&Cs and Prompts.
5. The committee discussed a video broadcast category and has asked Matt Troha to disseminate a survey to advisers to gain more data on interest.
6. The committee discussed the importance of Sectional managers relaying the software available at their site to competing schools prior to the competition.
7. The committee discussed the idea of the yearbook companies providing a mock dummy template to be used in Yearbook Layout: Double-Page Spread. The committee has asked Matt Troha to follow-up with yearbook companies to discuss availability.
8. The committee discussed the Sectional date for 2019, which will fall one day before Easter Sunday.
9. The committee discussed administrative updates to Sectional/State Final prompts, including: requiring students to post their word count at bottom of stories in applicable categories, saving to PDF to ease printing, clarifying prompts when not using Abraham High School.
10. The committee discussed radio categories.
11. The committee discussed ways that advisers could be more involved in the Sectional and State Final tournaments to help ease the workload on tournament managers.
12. The committee discussed adding a third judge to categories, potentially an adviser with no students competing in that category.
13. The committee discussed adviser input on what judges are hired for Sectionals and the State Finals.
14. The committee discussed if the list of judges and their credentials could be released to adviser before or at the Sectional and State Final sites.
15. The committee discussed team yearbook categories.
16. The committee discussed developing a document for the Managers Manual that makes judge expectations more clear and concise. Stan Zoller from IJEA has volunteered to help develop this document.
17. The committee reviewed and discussed the Adviser Meeting minutes from each of the Sectional sites.

18. The committee asked Matt Troha to investigate having more content available in Newspaper Design and Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread.
19. The committee asked Matt Troha to investigate having updated sample prompts posted online.
20. The committee discussed altering the judging process to a system where each judge would rank independently and then confer to determine places.
21. The committee discussed forming a committee to help identify and choose judges.
22. The committee discussed the entry deadline date.
23. The committee discussed how to decrease number of state qualifiers who have to dropout of competition. Several members recommended having students sign form indicating availability for both competition dates.
24. The committee asked Matt Troha to research how other states run journalism competitions to compare judging policies and practices.
25. The committee asked that the Schools Center be adjusted to allow entries to be visible after the deadline.
26. The committee discussed if the Broadcast News category as it relates to the Radio Broadcasting event in Speech, as well as if/should speaking voice be considered
27. The committee discussed adding the option of a second person to the Broadcast News category, allowing defined roles of talent and production.
28. The committee discussed their desire to maintain football, basketball, baseball, softball or soccer as the Sports Writing prompts to maintain a level playing field for schools who may not have familiarity with sports like lacrosse.