

Worcester County Mathematics League By-Laws

Proposed rule changes

September 14, 2005

This document contains rules proposed by the Rules Committee.
Changes made at the Spring Coaches' Meeting, and proposed changes, are shown in
boldface for additions and ~~overstrike~~ for deletions.

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Worcester County Mathematics League By-Laws

revised November 25, 2005

1 NAME

1. The name of the organization, that was established in the 1962–1963 school year, shall be the **WORCESTER COUNTY MATHEMATICS LEAGUE**.
2. Unofficially, it may be referred to as **WOCOMAL**.

2 PURPOSE

1. To stimulate interest in mathematics among students.
2. To expose students to competition in mathematics in order to enhance the learning of mathematics.

3 ELIGIBILITY AND MEMBERSHIP

3.1 SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

1. Any secondary school **with students in grade 12 or below** which wishes to join **WOCOMAL** may apply for membership after attending at least one meet during the previous year, or after an instructional meeting between the league President and the prospective team's coach.
2. Any school which has not paid its dues for the previous year may be dropped from the league.
3. Any school which has not competed for two consecutive years may be dropped from the mailing list.
4. Each school is allowed one coach designated as the voting representative who is entitled to a subsidized dinner at the Spring meeting.
5. PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP: In order to encourage new membership, any school which has not previously competed in WOCOMAL may, upon invitation of the President and Executive Committee, join the League as a provisional member. The provisional member shall be able to compete in all League meets, but shall not be subject to dues, nor be able to exercise voting privileges, nor be eligible to win individual or team awards. A school may opt for provisional membership only once, and such membership may extend for at most one year.
6. ~~Any students can participate in WOCOMAL if school they attend is under the same Principal as the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. If they are not, they may still participate, but must register as a separate school.~~

3.1.1 DUES

Each member school shall pay an annual registration fee. In addition, there shall be an assessment per meet per team. All fees shall be determined at the Spring Coaches' meeting and shall be in effect for the following school year.

3.2 INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

1. Any student duly registered in a participating league school system is eligible for competition in WOCOMAL with that school.
2. Any student duly registered in a school that is under the same principal or headmaster as a participating league school is also eligible for competition in WOCOMAL with the participating league school.
3. Any student in grade eight or below, who would otherwise be ineligible to compete in WOCOMAL, may compete in WOCOMAL with a participating league school that educates students in grades nine, ten, eleven, or twelve, subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) Such a student must participate with the high school that he or she is planning to attend.
 - (b) Such a student may not change his or her school selection during the school year, except with permission of the Executive Board.
 - (c) Participation with a participating league school may only occur with the permission of the coach of the school's team. That coach shall have full authority to determine whether the student competes at any given meet.
 - (d) The participating league school, or a school under the same principal or headmaster as the participating league school, cannot educate students at the student's grade level or below.
4. Students who are home schooled may compete for the school system under which they are registered.

4 OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the proper functioning of league meetings, meets, and other functions, persons shall be elected or appointed at the Spring Coaches' Meeting. These persons shall have duties as enumerated below.

4.1 ELECTED OFFICERS

The elected officers are the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Varsity Question Selection Chairman, and the Freshman Question Selection Chairman.

4.1.1 THE PRESIDENT

1. Schedules Fall and Spring Coaches' meetings and presides over them, establishing the agenda under Section 12.
2. Calls special (summer) meetings and Executive Committee meetings whenever necessary.
3. Notifies schools of time and place of all meetings, providing written reports of same.
4. At each meet, provides each coach with proctoring assignments, a letter for the coach, score sheets and a map for the next meet and any other necessary material.
5. At the conclusion of the meet, announces the unofficial high scorers and the top three (3) teams in each division.
6. Determines, along with the Executive Committee, which schools are eligible for State and New England competitions.
7. Has the responsibility with the host school of canceling and re-scheduling meets and notifying the participating schools.
8. Keeps a record of all meetings, meets, results and activities and hands these results down to successive Presidents.
9. Writes letters of commendation for officers and sends them to their building principals at the end of the season.
10. In consultation with the Executive Committee has the final decision in all matters of controversy.
11. Assumes all other duties as they arise.

4.1.2 THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Assists the President in the operation of the Varsity meet.
2. Compiles the statistics for the Varsity meet as reported by the Head Scorer.
3. Reports the team and individual statistics to the coaches as soon as possible after the meet, providing the President extra copies of these statistics.
4. Notifies the news media of the results of each Varsity meet.
5. For each Varsity meet, keeps a record of the average number of points scored per round for the top scoring team from each school.

4.1.3 THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Performs the same duties as the First Vice-President as they pertain to the Freshman meets.

In the event that the same person is both the First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President, that person shall be referred to as the Vice-President.

4.1.4 THE SECRETARY

1. Takes the minutes at all regular and special meetings and Executive Committee meetings and provides all coaches with these minutes.
2. Is responsible for other correspondence for the League.
3. Compiles names of coaches for the directory and distributes this directory to each school.
4. Writes thank you notes to host schools and a letter of commendation for the President.

4.1.5 THE TREASURER

1. Determines dues for each school and issues bills to all schools requesting same.
2. Reimburses officers, Committee Chairmen, and host schools for expenses incurred, upon proper receipt.
3. Makes reports, at the Fall and Spring meetings, of the League's financial status.

4.1.6 THE VARSITY QUESTION SELECTION CHAIRMAN

1. Selects questions from the varsity question bank and verifies answers.
2. Writes the varsity test and provides the moderator with test copies for the students and the Head Scorer, with the answers for the scorers.
3. During the varsity meet, provides the coaches with answers and test copies.
4. Provides the coaches with complete solutions to all varsity meet questions.
5. **Provides the website maintainer with a computerized, typed version of meet questions in the form that students received them, and a computerized, typed version of the official solutions.**
6. Following the Fall meeting and preceding each varsity meet, informs the President of coaches who have not submitted questions to the question bank.
7. Receives remuneration as determined at the Spring meeting. The current yearly stipend for the Varsity Question Selection Chairman is \$1000.

4.1.7 THE FRESHMAN QUESTION SELECTION CHAIRMAN

1. Performs the same duties as the Varsity Question Selection Chairman as they pertain to the Freshman meets.
2. The current yearly stipend for the Freshman Question Selection Chairman is \$750.

In the event that the same person is both the Varsity Question Selection Chairman and the Freshman Question Selection Chairman, that person shall be referred to as the Question Selection Chairman.

4.2 APPOINTED OFFICERS

The President appoints officers to assist with meets, meetings, and other functions. Appointed Officers include the Head Scorer, the Moderator, the Proof Reader, the Banquet Chairman, the Trophy Chairman, the MAML Representative, and the Nominating Chairman.

4.2.1 THE HEAD SCORER

1. Oversees the scoring room and makes final decisions.
2. Determines the high scorers and school standings and informs the President of same.
3. Provides the vice-presidents with the team score sheets.

4.2.2 THE MODERATOR

1. Oversees the competition area(s) and is responsible for final decisions.
2. Is responsible for arranging competitors, instructing competitors in filling out the information on the answer sheet, and providing warnings at two minutes and again at fifteen seconds, during each round.
3. Appoints a "runner" to bring students to the competition area(s) and to bring the score sheets to the Head Scorer in the scoring room.

4.2.3 THE PROOF READER

Has the responsibility to verify all answers before the scorers check the students' answers.

4.2.4 THE BANQUET CHAIRMAN

Has the responsibility, under the direction of the President, to make the facilities and dinner arrangements for the Spring Coaches' Meeting.

4.2.5 THE TROPHY CHAIRMAN

Has the responsibility, under the direction of the President, to purchase trophies.

4.2.6 THE MAML REPRESENTATIVE

Has the responsibility to represent WOCOMAL at all Massachusetts Association of Mathematics Leagues (MAML) meetings, and to report to the coaches at the Fall and Spring meetings.

4.2.7 THE NOMINATING CHAIRMAN

1. Heads a committee of three to review the work of the current officers and to solicit coaches for the positions of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Question Selection Chairman.
2. Proposes a slate of officers for election at the Spring meeting.

4.3 RULES CONCERNING OFFICERS

1. The Varsity Question Selection Chairman shall not be a coach of any varsity team competing during the year the office is held, and the Freshman Question Selection shall not be a coach of any freshman team competing during the year the office is held.
2. Ordinarily, no officer, other than the Treasurer and the Question Selection Chairman, shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive years.
3. The duties of these officers may be changed, and other offices initiated, by a two-thirds vote of all member schools (one vote per school).

4.4 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Consists of all six elected officers, the immediate past-President and the MAML representative(s).
2. Acts in the best interest of the League concerning matters not addressed in these by-laws.
3. Advises the President in controversial matters.

5 COACHES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 QUESTION BANK

1. Each school must contribute questions to the bank no later than the Fall Coaches' meeting, in accordance with the assignment by the President at the Spring meeting.
2. Each question shall be submitted on a 3" × 5" index card. On the front, the coach will print SCHOOL NAME, COACH'S NAME, VARSITY or FRESHMAN, MEET NUMBER, ROUND, CATEGORY, and the QUESTION. On the back, the coach will provide a complete solution and all acceptable answers.

3. The Question Selection Chairman may request more examples for the bank as deemed necessary.
4. All officers shall be exempt from submitting questions.
5. Coaches from new member schools shall be exempt from submit questions. New coaches from existing member schools must submit questions, the number of which shall be left to the discretion of the President.
6. PENALTY: The professional responsibility of all coaches is to submit questions. Any school that has not submitted the full assignment by the Fall meeting shall be reminded of its obligation. A school's continued failure to submit all required questions prior to a meet shall result in a five point reduction from that team's score for that meet. Such penalty, issued by the Question Selection Chairman in conjunction with the President, shall then be reported to the Head Scorer.

5.2 SCORESHEETS

1. Coaches must provide a completed scoresheet for each team to the Head Scorer before the commencement of each meet.
2. Coaches must ensure that each team is properly composed, in accordance with Section 7.2.
3. For freshman meets, coaches must mark which round will be the "odd" round.
4. It is the responsibility of each coach to check student papers to make sure that they have been accurately corrected and recorded.
5. At the conclusion of the meet each coach should pick up the individual answer sheets. Those not picked up may be discarded by the Head Scorer.

5.3 COMPETITOR SHEETS

1. Coaches must provide a completed competitor sheet to the appropriate Vice President before the commencement of each meet.
2. A competitor sheet must list all students from a school who are competing at the meet but who have never before competed at a WOCOMAL meet.
3. The competitor sheet must be as legible as possible, and must include full name, grade, and gender.
4. Students who have competed in previous years for a school should not be listed on a competitor sheet for that school.
5. Students in grades nine or below who compete in both varsity and freshman meets should be listed only at the first meet they attend.

6. **PENALTY: If a school fails to submit a Competitor Sheet for new students, or fails to list new students on a submitted Competitor Sheet, the school's score shall be reduced by one point for each such error, with one error allowed without penalty and a maximum penalty of five points.**

5.4 MEET DUTIES

1. Each coach who is not also an officer shall be assigned either to the scoring room, to the competition area, or to the non-competition area.

6 THE HOST SCHOOL

1. The host school shall provide refreshments for all students and coaches. WOCOMAL shall provide a ~~\$450~~ **\$400** stipend to schools hosting a Varsity meet, and a ~~\$350~~ **\$300** stipend to schools hosting a Freshman meet, to cover the cost of the refreshments.
2. The host school shall establish a competition area, a non-competition area and a scoring area, each of which shall be separate. The host school shall also provide scrap paper for the students. The scrap paper shall be any paper other than $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$ white copy paper.
3. The host school shall provide member schools with a map **giving directions to the school.**
4. **The host school shall allow WOCOMAL use of a photocopier during the meet.**
5. With notification from the President, the host school shall make provisions for any student with special needs.
6. The host school may request a member of the local news media to report on that meet.

7 THE MEET PROPER

7.1 NUMBER OF STUDENTS

1. **For a varsity meet, no school shall bring more than three (3) teams for a total of fifteen (15) students.**
2. ~~N~~**For a freshman meet, no school shall bring more than five (5) teams for a total of twenty-five (25) students.**
3. Any school that brings ~~fifteen (15)~~ **ten (10)** or more students to a meet must bring an extra coach.
4. **PENALTY: A school that brings greater than 10 students but does not bring a second coach shall be assessed a five (5) point penalty on its school score.**

7.2 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

1. **An official varsity team contains no postgraduates, at most two (2) seniors, and at most four (4) juniors and seniors combined.**
2. A Varsity team which consists of more than two (2) seniors or more than four (4) upperclassmen shall be deemed unofficial. Also, any Varsity team containing a post-graduate shall be deemed unofficial. ~~For unofficial teams, individual scores shall count, but the team score shall not.~~
3. ~~In the event that no freshmen or sophomores attend a school, a team of five students, including no more than two seniors, shall be considered a complete team. For purposes of team scoring only, the median junior score shall be subtracted from such a team. This rule shall be reconsidered at the end of the 2004-05 season.~~
4. **Coaches fielding an unofficial team shall create an “official subset” of team members by placing an “X” in the individual total column of the scoresheet for those members whose scores should not count towards the team score. Those students who are not so marked must satisfy the criteria in section 7.2.1.**
5. **If a coach does not create an “official subset,” the Head Scorer shall create an official subset by working downward on the scoresheet, only placing an “X” when team composition rules would otherwise be violated by keeping the student in the subset. For example, if three seniors are on the team, the senior listed third would not be in the official subset.**
6. **The team score of an unofficial team shall be the sum of the individual scores of the “official subset,” plus the team round score. All individual scores shall count.**
7. Each student is to compete in at most three rounds.
8. For varsity meets, a maximum of three students from each team may compete in each individual round. This rule applies to all teams, official and unofficial. (See Section 7.2.2 for the definition of an unofficial team.)
9. For freshman meets, a maximum of four students from each team may compete in any three of the individual rounds. A maximum of three students from that team may compete in the other remaining, or “odd,” round.
10. A school may have at most one incomplete team (team with fewer than five students).

7.3 CONDUCT

1. Exemplary conduct is expected at all times.
2. **During any individual round, two students who know each other should not sit together. Specifically, two students from the same school or who both participate at ARML should not be at the same table.**

3. Students are responsible for learning the procedures and rules pertinent to the competition.
4. **In the event of student misconduct, the Executive Board shall have full discretion to penalize the individual, the team, and/or the school.**

7.4 VARSITY MEETS

1. There shall be four meets each year.
2. Each meet shall consist of five individual rounds and one team round.
3. All students from each team may compete in the team round, and each team shall submit one answer sheet. All rounds, including the team round, are worth eighteen points per team.

7.5 FRESHMAN MEETS

1. There shall be three meets each year.
2. Each meet shall consist of four individual rounds and one team round.
3. All students from each team may compete in the team round, and each team shall submit one answer sheet. All rounds, with the exception of the “odd” round, are worth twenty-four points. The “odd” round is worth eighteen points.

7.6 MEET PROCEDURES

7.6.1 BEFORE THE MEET

1. **Teams should arrive at the host school by 3:00 PM.**
2. Upon arrival, each coach should pick up any information provided by the President. The coach should then give completed official score sheets to the Head Scorer, and completed Competitor Sheets to the appropriate Vice-President.
3. The meet shall begin when all schools arrive, but not later than ~~3:15 PM~~ **3:20 PM. Students shall be moved to competition and non-competition areas at 3:10 PM.**
4. When the meet begins, each coach should report to his/her assigned station.
5. ~~Schools~~ **Teams** that cannot attend a meet or **that** will be arriving late should notify the host school or any officers who, in turn, shall notify the President.

7.6.2 DURING THE MEET

1. Each round shall be ten minutes in length.
2. Students assigned to a specific round shall be directed to a Competition Area. Students not assigned to the round shall be directed to a Non-Competition Area.
3. A student may not enter any Competition Area after a round has begun.
4. A two-minute warning and a fifteen-second warning shall be given for each round.
5. ~~Any team that arrives after the meet has started~~ **In an academic year, the first time that a school arrives late, it** shall immediately be segregated and shall be allowed to make up ~~the previous round, as well as the round in progress. However, if the team arrives after the two minute warning has been issued, only the round in progress may be made up.~~ The coach must notify any officer or official upon arrival.
6. **In an academic year, the second or subsequent time that a school arrives late, it shall not be allowed to make up the round in progress or any earlier rounds.**

7.6.3 AFTER THE MEET

1. Reasonable time shall be provided at the conclusion of the meet for each coach to check individual answer sheets. No changes shall be permitted once the papers have left the scoring room. Also, no changes shall be permitted after the President declares the meet officially over.
2. Any appeals after the conclusion of the meet may be made to the Executive Committee.

8 SCORING

8.1 INDIVIDUAL SCORING

1. A student can be in at most three rounds per meet.
2. The maximum score per round is six points.
3. Therefore, the maximum meet score for an student is eighteen points.
4. If a student competes in more than three rounds, the lowest three round scores shall be counted for the individual score.

8.2 INDIVIDUAL RANKING

1. After each meet, competitors shall be ranked against all other competitors in Varsity or Freshman. Within Varsity and Freshman, they shall also be ranked against other competitors in their division.

2. Competitors shall be ranked by the total number of points that they have scored in all meets.
3. Competitors shall also receive “quality points,” calculated as the signed difference between points scored in a round by the competitor, and the average number of points scored in that round by all competitors.
4. The total number of quality points earned by a competitor shall be used to break ties in rankings.

8.3 TEAM SCORING

1. A team score shall be the sum of the individual scores of all team members, plus the points scored by the team in the team round, minus any score adjustments.
2. The maximum score in a varsity meet is 108 points; the maximum score in a freshman meet is 114 points.
3. Team score adjustments shall be made as follows:
 - If more than the appropriate number of team members compete in an individual round, the highest score(s) shall not count toward the team score. However, the score(s) may count toward the individual score.
 - In the event that a team is unofficial, as described in section 7.2.2, ~~the team score for that team shall be zero~~ **the score of the official subset shall be counted.**
 - ~~Per section 7.2.3, if no freshmen or sophomores attend a school, the school may field a team of two seniors and three juniors. In that case, the median junior score shall be subtracted from the team score. This rule shall be reconsidered at the end of the 2004-05 season.~~
 - In the event that a school fields more than one incomplete team, the team score for all such teams shall be zero.
 - ~~In the event that freshmen and sophomores attend a school, but that school fields a team with more than four juniors and seniors combined, the team score for that team shall be zero.~~

8.4 SCHOOL RANKING

1. A school’s score shall be its highest team score.
2. School score adjustments shall be made as follows:
 - **A five-point penalty shall be assessed against a school which brings more than ten (10) students but does not bring a second coach. (See section 7.1.4.)**
 - **A penalty shall be assessed against a school whose coach did not submit correct Competitor Sheets (see section 5.3.6).**

- **A five-point penalty may be assessed against a school whose coach has not submitted his or her questions (see section 5.1.6).**
3. For a specific meet, schools within a division shall be ranked according to their school score. The team with the greatest number of points is ranked first, etc.
 4. Schools that compete in each meet shall receive the following points, within their division:
 - FIRST PLACE: ONE point
 - SECOND PLACE: TWO points, etc.
 5. Schools that tie for a position shall receive the average of that and the following position points. For example, if two schools tie for fourth, they each receive 4.5 points (the average of 4 and 5). If three schools tie for first, they each receive 2 points (the average of 1, 2, and 3).
 6. A school that has paid all its dues and does not compete at a meet shall be placed last with a one point penalty.
 7. Ties in the final year standing shall be settled by the school with the highest raw score.

8.5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

1. Unofficial results shall be read at the end of each meet.
2. Official results for the meet shall be made available to each school by the appropriate Vice-President.
3. Official results for the year shall be announced at the Spring meeting.

9 CANCELLATION OF A MEET

1. ~~The host school and the President are responsible for the decision to cancel a meet and for determining a make-up date on the next available Wednesday.~~
2. **In the event that any league school cancels classes on the day of a meet because of inclement weather, where that school would otherwise have competed, that day's meet shall automatically be cancelled.**
3. ~~If a meet is canceled, the officers shall contact each school after 9:00 AM on the day of the meet~~ **the host school. Coaches who are uncertain whether the meet is cancelled should contact the host school.** Each coach has the responsibility of verifying any cancellation.
4. **Normally, the make-up date for a meet shall be the following Wednesday. Exceptions to this rule shall be determined at the Fall Coaches' Meeting.**

10 CATEGORIES

The League shall periodically review categories for the season. A list of categories shall be presented for a vote at the Spring meeting, to be in effect for the following year.

11 CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Ordinarily, there shall be four classes, designated as A, B, C and D. If there are twenty-one (21) or fewer member schools there shall be only three divisions. Schools shall be ranked according to averages, and from this list the Executive Committee shall suggest the classification and relate to all coaches the method that was used to arrive at such classifications. The guiding principles in arriving at classifications are to make the number of schools in each division as equal as possible, and to consider the gaps in averages. This suggestion shall be voted on at the Fall meeting.
2. A coach may request re-classification of his/her school by notifying the President by the second meet. The Executive Committee shall hear reasons and shall, prior to the team round, notify all schools of any changes that have been made.
3. Any school which finishes first in its division ~~in Varsity~~ shall automatically move into the next higher division the following year. Any school which finishes last in its division may compete in the next lower division the following year.
4. Averages shall be calculated as follows:
 - VARSITY: The average of last year's Freshman raw score and the last two years' Varsity raw scores shall be computed. Schools shall then be ranked according to these averages.
 - FRESHMAN: The same ranking shall be used to determine both Varsity and Freshman divisions. However, the number of divisions in Varsity and Freshman may differ.
5. New schools shall be classified by the Executive Committee after the new school's first meet.

12 COACHES' MEETINGS

1. The President shall hold a Fall meeting on a Wednesday in September. The agenda shall include: introduction of officers and coaches; Secretary's and Treasurer's reports; collection of registration forms, dues and self-addressed stamped envelopes; President's message, appointing officials; discussing meet locations; and any other business to be brought before the coaches.
2. The President shall hold a Spring meeting on the first Wednesday in May. The agenda shall include: Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, voting on by-law changes, awards, John Phelan Memorial Scholarship of \$200 (awarded to the top scoring senior in

Varsity), the out-going President's message, banquet, Nominating Committee report, election of officers, dates and locations for the following year and the newly-elected President's message, including announcements of summer meetings.

13 POST-SEASON COMPETITION

WOCOMAL teams are eligible to compete in State, New England and other mathematics league meets. The number of participating teams for the State meet shall be determined by MAML. The President with the Executive Committee shall determine which teams are to be invited to the compete at the State meet. The MAML representative shall notify all schools that are eligible for the State Meet. The school with the highest raw score for the year qualifies for the New England meet. If a team does not wish to participate, the next ranking team is eligible to participate. The cost of participating (with the exception of meals and transportation) at the State and New England meets shall be paid by WOCOMAL.

14 AWARDS

The awards usually given at the end of each school year are as follows:

- Top three schools in each division
- Top forty (40) scoring students, at grades 12 and below, in Varsity
- Postgraduate students who score above the 40th place non-postgraduate student
- Top twenty-five (25) scoring students in Freshman
- John Phelan Memorial Scholarship of \$200 awarded to top scoring senior in Varsity

15 BY-LAW CHANGES

By-law changes may be made only at the Spring and Fall coaches' meetings by a two-thirds vote of all schools, with each school casting one vote.