

GUAM HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

Adapted from the National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Competition

As Modified for Use in Guam

The Guam High School Mock Trial Competition (“Competition”) offers high school students a unique opportunity to learn about the legal system through simulated courtroom trials. Students develop skills in legal analysis, public speaking, teamwork, and critical thinking in a competitive, yet educational environment.

The Competition is governed by the National High School Mock Trial Championship (“National Championship”) Rules of the Competition (with minor revisions for Guam) (“Rules of Competition”) and the National High School Mock Trial Rules of Evidence (“Rules of Evidence”). These rules have been adapted to reflect the local structure and oversight of the Guam competition.

All references in the original national rules to the “National Board” or other national governing bodies shall be interpreted to refer to the Guam High School Mock Trial Committee (“GHSMT Committee”), which oversees the administration and interpretation of all competition matters in Guam.

Any clarification of the Rules of Competition, the Rules of Evidence, or the case materials will be issued in writing to all participating teams in a timely manner and no less than two weeks prior to the tournament whenever possible. The state coordinator, upon the advice and consent of the members of the GHSMT Committee, will distribute to each team any such clarification.

The Rules of Competition and the Rules of Evidence govern all aspects of the Guam High School Mock Trial Competition. All participating teams are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to these rules. In addition, teams are responsible for the conduct of all persons associated with their teams throughout the Competition.

These rules are intended to promote fair competition, ensure consistency across trials, and support the educational goals of the program. All participants are expected to act with professionalism, courtesy, and integrity at all times.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES OF COMPETITION

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Article 1 Administration

Rule 1.1 Rules

Rule 1.1.1 Rules Generally

The National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Competition and the National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Evidence govern the National Championship.

The Rules of Competition may contain Commentary. Any Commentary serves the purposes of explaining the National Board's rationale when adopting the Rule and providing guidance to Participants in interpreting the Rule; however, such Commentary is not part of the Rule itself. In the unusual event of a conflict between the Commentary and the accompanying Rule, the Rule prevails.

Rule 1.1.2 Clarification of the Rules and Case Materials

- A. Questions or interpretations of the Rules of Competition and Rules of Evidence are within the discretion of the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., whose decision is final.
- B. Any clarification of the Rules of Competition, the Rules of Evidence, or the case materials will be issued in writing to all participating teams in a timely manner and no less than two weeks prior to the National Championship whenever possible.
- C. The Host Director or their designee, on the advice and consent of the National Board, will distribute to each team any such clarification.

Rule 1.1.3 Alterations to the Rules

- A. No Host Director may alter the language of the Rules of Competition for the National Championship without the approval of a majority of the National Board.
- B. The National Board may alter the Rules of Competition consistent with Rule 1.5.
- C. A Host Director may review the Rules of Evidence for relevance and may:
 - 1. delete Rules of Evidence that are not relevant to the case materials for that Host Director's National Championship, or
 - 2. add Rules of Evidence that are relevant to the case materials for that Host Director's National Championship and are not currently contained in the Rules of Evidence, so long as the language inserted is the original text contained in the current Federal Rules of Evidence.

Rule 1.1.4 Definitions

Under these Rules of Competition, the following terms have the following meanings:

- A. “Ballot” means the decision made by a scoring judge as to which team made the best presentation in the round.
- B. “Coach” means any individual who has been registered as a coach of an Official Team for a Member Organization competing in a National Championship (including, but not limited to, teacher-coach and attorney-coach).
- C. “Competing Team Member” means an individual who will compete in one or more rounds of the National Championship as part of a Member Organization’s Official Team.
- D. “Dispute Resolution Committee” means the committee appointed by the National Board at the meeting immediately preceding the beginning of the National Championship in a given year.
- E. “During the competition” means arising between the adjournment of the National Board meeting immediately preceding the competition and the conclusion of the Championship Round.
- F. “Host Director” means the individual responsible for a National Championship and has the same scope as that term is used in a Host’s contract to host a National Championship.
- G. “Host” means the territory or organization within a territory on whose behalf the Host Director is hosting the National Championship.
- H. “Member Organization” means a member territory of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.
- I. “Mock Trial Organization” means an organization that is composed of students that reside in the same Member Organization’s geographic territory that is approved to participate in the NHSMTC member’s state competition, and is:
 - 1. A school (whether public, private, charter, parochial, etc.) or international equivalent;
 - 2. A team consisting of home school students; or
 - 3. One of the following:
 - a. An organization (e.g., a YMCA, a law Explorer post, a program targeted at helping at-risk youth succeed, etc.), provided that the organization is permitted to compete to increase participation in mock trial and not for purposes of creating a competitive advantage, and the students of the Mock Trial Organization are unable to participate under subsection 1 of this Rule; or
 - b. A team consisting of students from two or more schools in geographic proximity who are not otherwise able to field a Mock Trial Team under this Rule, and provided that the team is permitted to compete to increase participation in mock trial and not for purposes of creating a competitive advantage.

4. For teams not meeting the criteria of this Rule, the State Coordinator shall seek and receive approval for the team from the National Board prior to the commencement of the first round of the Member Organization's competition in which that team competes. Failure to receive timely approval may result in the team being ineligible to compete in the National Championship, should that team win a Member Organization's competition.
- J. "National Board" means the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.
- K. "National Championship" means the National Championship for a competition year.
- L. "Non-Competing Team Member" means a student who is associated with an Official Team but who is not an Official Team Member.
- M. "Official Team" or "Official Team Members" means members of a Member Organization competing in the National Championship, inclusive of the Mock Trial Team, the Courtroom Artist, and the Courtroom Journalist, as those terms are defined in Rule 2.3.
- N. "Participant" means any individual attending any activity as a part of a National Championship, in-person or virtually, including Competing Team Members, Coaches, Non-Competing Team Members, State Coordinators, and observers. All references in the Rules to "participation" or "participating" include attendance at and any action that is part of the National Championship in which a "Participant" engages.
- O. "Rules of Competition" means the National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Competition.
- P. "Rules of Evidence" means the National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Evidence.
- Q. "Score Sheet" means the form on which points are recorded by a scoring judge.
- R. "State Coordinator" means the individual responsible for administering the state-level competition in a respective Member Organization.

Rule 1.2 Code of Conduct

Rule 1.2.1 Application

- A. The Rules of Competition, as well as proper rules of courthouse and courtroom decorum and security, must be followed by all Participants.
- B. All teams are responsible for the conduct of Participants associated with their teams throughout the National Championship, and any conduct by a Participant associated with a team will inure to that team.

Rule 1.2.2 Code of Conduct Violations

- A. The National Board may impose sanctions on Official Teams or other Participants for any misconduct occurring while a team is participating in the National Championship, flagrant rule violations, and breaches of decorum which affect the conduct of a trial or which impugn the reputation or integrity of any team, school, participant, court officer, judge, or the National Championship.
- B. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, adjustment of points or standings, disqualification, immediate eviction from the National Championship events, and forfeiture of all fees and awards (if applicable).

Commentary to Rule 1.2: This Rule is meant to remind all Participants that part of the educational aspect of the Championship is to learn about the rule of law and civil discourse. Lawyers who appear in a U.S. court are expected to comply with the rules of ethics and to be civil; non-lawyers who appear are also expected to tell the truth and to provide due respect to the Court. This Rule is meant to encapsulate this concept.

Rule 1.3 Effect of Violations of Rules on Scoring

- A. Scoring judges may consider in their scoring any violation of these Rules or the Code of Conduct that they observe or a team raises. Other sanctions may be imposed by the National Board regardless of whether scoring judges have included the violation in their scoring.
- B. Whether a rule has been violated and the manner in which to assess that violation are left to the sole discretion of each scoring judge. Scoring judges are not bound by the decision of a presiding judge regarding whether there has been a violation of these Rules or the Code of Conduct.
- C. To the extent that a Rule provides for a specific penalty or otherwise conflicts with this rule, that rule controls.

Rule 1.4 Relationship to Other Laws; Accommodations

- A. The Rules of Competition will be interpreted and administered consistent with all applicable laws. Accordingly, should any applicable law require variance from these Rules of Competition or accommodation of any competitor for any reason, their coach may apply to the National Board or its designee for accommodation.
- B. The National Board shall provide reasonable accommodation, including those required by applicable law, for Competing Team Members upon timely request, preferably no later than two weeks prior to the start of the National Championship. These accommodations may include adjustment of the Rules of Competition where appropriate.
- C. Where possible, teams competing against the team for which an accommodation was granted shall be informed of the accommodation in advance of a National Championship round but will ordinarily not be informed of the specific nature of the issue that led to the accommodation.

Rule 1.5 Adoption or Modification of Rules During Competition

Rule 1.5.1 When the Rules Fail to Address an Issue

If the National Board determines by a majority vote that the Rules of Competition fail to address an issue raised during the National Championship, two thirds of the National Board may establish a rule to be in effect for the duration of that National Championship.

Rule 1.5.2 When the Rules Operate in an Unforeseeable Manner

- A. If during a National Championship, the application of a Rule of Competition would operate in a manner not contemplated by the National Board in establishing these Rules of Competition, the National Board may modify the Rule of Competition or the application of the Rule of Competition in the best interests of the National Championship.
- B. This rule may only be invoked if:
 - 1. Two thirds of the National Board determines that the application of the Rule of Competition would operate in a manner not contemplated by the National Board in establishing these Rules; and
 - 2. Two thirds of the National Board determines that the particular modification of the Rule of Competition or application of the Rule of Competition would be in the best interests of the competition.

Rule 1.5.3 Notification

In any case in which Rule 1.5 is invoked, the National Board will share its decision with Mock Trial Organizations competing in the current National Championship.

Commentary to Rule 1.5: The National Board tries to address rule changes through a deliberative and thoughtful process. However, the National Board recognizes that the Rules may not cover every situation that may arise during the National Championship. The National Board will invoke this rule in rare and extreme circumstances. Whenever it is invoked, however, the National Board will refer the matter to the Rules Committee so that the matter can be resolved for future National Championships.

Article 2 Teams

Rule 2.1 Team Eligibility

- A. Subject to the other provisions of this article, an Official Team representing a Member Organization in the National Championship must be comprised of students, each of whom in the school year of the National Championship in which they are competing:
 - 1. Were or are enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12), or for teams outside of the United States, the equivalent in their respective countries;
 - 2. Participated on the Member Organization's championship team at any level of the Member Organization's competition; and
 - 3. Represent the same Mock Trial Organization.
- B. A student who is not enrolled with the Mock Trial Organization at the time of the National Championship may not be a Competing Team Member, unless that student graduated from that Mock Trial Organization in the academic year (July 1st to June 30th) in which the National Championship is held.
- C. The State Coordinator and the coach(es) each have an affirmative obligation to verify each Mock Trial Organization's eligibility. Submission of an Official Team for the National Championship constitutes certification that the status of each Participant for the Mock Trial Organization has been verified and that the Official Team complies with this rule.

Rule 2.2 Participation by Non-Member Organizations

The National Board recognizes that it is difficult to create a program in a territory that does not have a Member Organization. To assist a Non-Member Organization's efforts to establish a program that will lead to having an Official Team in the National Championship, the following provisions apply:

- A. If a Non-Member Organization does not have an organization or person willing or capable of sponsoring the program in the full membership process, a State Coordinator from a Member Organization or a member of the National Board may agree to assist the Non-Member Organization in forming a competition and fielding an Official Team at the National Championship. If a State Coordinator or National Board member agrees to do so, the champion of the Non-Member Organization may compete at the National Championship provided that:
 - 1. There was a tournament involving at least two teams from at least two different schools from the Non-Member Organization during that school year;
 - 2. The team sent to the National Championship from the Non-Member Organization meets all other requirements set forth in the Rules of Competition; and
 - 3. The Official Team or its sponsoring entity has fulfilled all financial obligations required of all other teams participating in the National Championship.

- B. No Non-Member Organization may field a team in the National Championship in this manner for a period of more than three years. After three years, at the latest, an organization or person seeking to sponsor the Non-Member Organization's Official Team at the National Championship must apply for and be accepted as a Member Organization as required by Article III of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.'s Amended and Restated Bylaws in effect at the time.

Rule 2.3 Team Composition

A Member Organization's Official Team is the Member Organization's Mock Trial Team and, if competing, a Member Organization's Courtroom Artist and/or Courtroom Journalist. A Competing Team Member on an Official Team may only qualify as a Competing Team Member under one of the following rules (that is, the same individual cannot qualify under both Rule 2.3.1 and Rule 2.3.2).

Rule 2.3.1 Mock Trial Team Composition

- A. Mock Trial Teams consist of six (6) to nine (9) Competing Team Members, not including the Courtroom Artist and/or Courtroom Journalist (if any). Only these Competing Team Members may be assigned to attorney, witness, and timekeeper roles representing the prosecution/plaintiff and defense/defendant sides.
- B. The Official Team will become official at the close of on-site registration for an in-person competition and at 5:00 p.m. local time of the Host location on the day prior to the first round for a virtual competition.
- C. Any student outside the declared Official Team is considered a Non-Competing Team Member. Non-Competing Team Members may neither compete nor keep time for the Mock Trial Team at any point during the National Championship.

Rule 2.3.2 Courtroom Artist

Each Member Organization that has a Courtroom Artist program may register their champion Courtroom Artist (or an alternate pursuant to Rule 2.4.2) to compete in the NHSMTC Courtroom Artist Contest. The Courtroom Artist will use the same team code as their Member Organization's Mock Trial Team.

Rule 2.3.3 Courtroom Journalist

Each Member Organization that has a Courtroom Journalist program may register their champion Courtroom Journalist (or an alternate pursuant to Rule 2.4.2) to compete in the NHSMTC Courtroom Journalist Contest. The Courtroom Journalist will use the same team code as their Member Organization's Mock Trial Team.

Rule 2.4 Substitution of Competing Team Members

Rule 2.4.1 Mock Trial Teams

- A. A Member Organization's champion Mock Trial Organization may not substitute or add Competing Team Members on its Official Team for the National Championship if seven (7) or more students who competed in the Member Organization's tournament are available to compete in the National Championship.
- B. A Member Organization's champion Mock Trial Organization may not compete in the National Championship if three (3) or fewer students who competed in the Member Organization's tournament are available to compete in the National Championship.
- C. A Member Organization's champion Mock Trial Organization that has four (4), five (5), or six (6) students who competed in the Member Organization's tournament and who are available to compete in the National Championship may add up to two (2) Competing Team Members provided that:
 - 1. The final composition of the team is no more than seven (7) Competing Team Members;
 - 2. Additional students may be added only from students who were members of the Mock Trial Organization during the current academic year, although they do not have to have participated in mock trial; and
 - 3. A student may not be added if the additional student competed for a Mock Trial Organization on a team that finished higher than the Member Organization's Official Team at the National Championship.

Rule 2.4.2 Substitution of Official Team, Courtroom Artist, or Courtroom Journalist

Should the Member Organization's Mock Trial, Courtroom Artist, or Courtroom Journalist champion be unable to compete or elect not to compete in the National Championship, the State Coordinator has the sole discretion to designate an alternate from their competition to compete in the National Championship. Absent good cause, the State Coordinator should ordinarily designate alternate teams in order of their finish in the Member Organization's competition.

Commentary to Rule 2.4: This Rule anticipates situations where teams lose official members for various reasons (e.g., illness, conflicts with other events, travel concerns). When adding Official Team Members under this Rule, a team may add an otherwise-eligible student enrolled at the same school or registered with the same organization, even if that student did not participate in mock trial. However, if the Mock Trial Organization fielded multiple teams, and the Official Team is not the Mock Trial Organization's championship team, no student from the championship team is eligible to be substituted onto the Official Team. The purpose of this rule is to avoid the creation of "All-Star" teams from a Mock Trial Organization. State Coordinators or Coaches who are concerned about violating this rule should reach out to the National Board before registering their team.

Rule 2.5 Team Duties

- A. Each team must present the side assigned to it in each round.
- B. Except as permitted during technical difficulties under Rule 3.7, in each round:
 - 1. three Competing Team Members will serve as attorneys;
 - 2. three different Competing Team Members will serve as witnesses; and
 - 3. a seventh Official Team Member, if available, will serve as timekeeper. If a team has only six Competing Team Members, it must designate two or more of its witnesses to serve as timekeepers in each round. Each timekeeper must meet the requirements set forth in Rule 6.1.
- C. Each team must call all three of its assigned witnesses. Witnesses must be called only by their own team during their case-in-chief and examined by both sides. Witnesses may not be recalled by either side.

Rule 2.6 Team Roster Form

Rule 2.6.1 Generally

The Official Team Roster Form(s) will be provided to each Mock Trial Organization prior to the National Championship. Each Official Team must complete the team Roster Form(s) consistent with this Rule.

- A. For an in-person competition, copies of the Official Team Roster Form must be completed and duplicated by each team prior to arrival at the courtroom for each round of the National Championship.
- B. For a virtual competition, each Mock Trial Organization must submit its Official Team Roster Forms in accordance with the protocol established and announced for the National Championship.
- C. Teams must be identified by the code assigned by the Host. Teams shall not knowingly disclose their place of origin to any member of the judging panel.
- D. Official Team Roster Form(s) include a section for teams to identify their preferred form of address. Official Team Members may, but are not required, to complete this section.

Rule 2.6.2 Distribution of Official Team Roster Forms

- A. For an in-person competition, before the beginning of each round, the Official Teams must exchange copies of the team Roster Forms and should also provide copies of their Official Team Roster Form to the judging panel.
- B. For a virtual competition, Official Team Roster Forms will be provided to the teams and judging panel according to the protocol established by the Host for that National Championship.

Article 3 The Trial

Rule 3.1 Courtroom Setting

Rule 3.1.1 In-Person Competition

- A. The prosecution/plaintiff team will be seated closest to the jury box.
- B. No team may rearrange the courtroom without prior permission of the presiding judge, National Board, or Host Director. If a team is granted permission to rearrange the courtroom, that team shall restore the courtroom to its original condition at the conclusion of the trial round.

Rule 3.1.2 Virtual Competition

- A. Each Participant is encouraged to log into the virtual platform separately from a normal personal computer, tablet, cellular phone, or similar device. At a minimum, each participating attorney, witness, and timekeeper shall utilize an individual device while those individuals are active in the round.
- B. Each Participant shall use a screen name formatted according to the protocol established and announced for the National Championship.
- C. Once the trial begins, only Participants who are competing in a particular trial segment will have their camera turned on. All Participants who are not actively participating in that trial segment must have their cameras turned off, except for timekeepers turning on their cameras to display remaining time consistent with Rule 6.4.2.
- D. For purposes of this Rule, the witness, direct-examining attorney, and cross-examining attorney must have their cameras turned on for the entire witness examination.

Rule 3.2 Reading into the Record Not Permitted

Neither the indictment nor the charge to the jury will be read into the record. Stipulations will be considered a part of the record and already read into evidence.

Rule 3.3 Jury Trial

The case will be tried before a jury. Arguments are to be made to a judge and the jury. Teams may address the scoring judges as the jury.

Rule 3.4 Use of Notes

Attorneys may use notes in presenting their cases. Witnesses are not permitted to use notes while testifying during the trial. Attorneys may consult with each other at counsel table verbally or through notes. The use of laptops or other electronic devices is prohibited, except during a virtual competition or as necessary to provide a reasonable accommodation under Rule 1.4.

Rule 3.5 Name Tags and Name Plates

Unless provided by the Host, name tags or name plates at counsel table are not permitted. In a virtual competition, students may be directed to display screen names according to a protocol established and announced for a virtual competition. Such display is not a violation of this rule.

Rule 3.6 Emergencies

Rule 3.6.1 Generally

During a trial, the presiding judge has the discretion to declare an emergency and adjourn the trial for a short period of time to address the emergency.

Rule 3.6.2 Emergencies Affecting an Official Team

If an emergency would cause a Mock Trial Team to be unable to continue a trial or to participate with less than six Competing Team Members:

- A. The Official Team must notify the National Board as soon as is reasonably practical.
- B. The National Board or its designee(s) will determine, at their sole discretion, if an emergency exists.
- C. If the National Board or its designee(s) determines an emergency exists, the National Board or its designee(s) will decide whether the Mock Trial Team will forfeit or whether the Mock Trial Team may take appropriate measures to continue any trial round with less than six Competing Team Members. The National Board may assess a penalty if a Mock Trial Team continues with less than six members.
- D. A forfeiting team will receive a loss, zero Ballots, and points equal to the score of the team that received the fewest points in that round. The non-forfeiting team will be treated as if it received a “bye” pursuant to Rule 10.3.2.

Rule 3.6.3 Emergencies Affecting the Judging Panel

- A. If an emergency would cause the judging panel to be unable to continue with at least three judges, the presiding judge will call for a brief recess and assess whether the judging panel member will be able to return in a reasonably short period of time.
- B. If the judging panel member is unable to return to the courtroom or virtual competition platform in a reasonably short period of time, the Dispute Resolution Committee must be informed.
 - 1. Once the judging panel composition is adjusted by the Dispute Resolution Committee to best meet the requirements of the Rules, the round should continue.
 - 2. During any recess under this Rule, the Mock Trial Teams, whenever possible, should remain in their appropriate positions within the courtroom or in the virtual competition platform until the round resumes.

- C. If the emergency impacts the presiding judge, a designated scoring judge will serve as the presiding judge until the Dispute Resolution Committee can be informed and can act to adjust the panel composition.

Rule 3.7 Technical Difficulties in a Virtual Competition

Rule 3.7.1 Generally

- A. For purposes of this Rule, technical difficulties include internet failure, and computer, device, or microphone failure that make it impossible for a Competing Team Member to compete. Failure of a camera only is not a technical difficulty under this Rule. Official Team Members who lose internet connection will rejoin the trial using a telephonic connection, if possible.
- B. In the event of technical difficulties substantially impairing participation in the trial during a virtual competition, the presiding judge has the discretion to adjourn the virtual trial for a short period of time to resolve the technical difficulties.
- C. An attempt to feign a technical difficulty violates the Rules of Competition and Code of Conduct and may be sanctioned under Rule 1.2.

Rule 3.7.2 Technical Difficulty Involving Attorney or Witness

- A. If the technical difficulty is substantially impairing a Competing Team Member's participation in the trial and cannot be resolved within a reasonable, but brief, amount of time, then the trial will continue with another Competing Team Member of the impacted Mock Trial Team substituting for the impacted Competing Team Member. The emergency substitute must be an Official Team Member of the same Official Team as the impacted Competing Team Member.
- B. Before making an emergency substitution, the impacted Mock Trial Team must make the presiding judge aware, by stating words to the effect of, "Your honor, before I begin I would like to inform the court that I am [insert name] and I am substituting for [insert name], who is unable to compete due to technical difficulties." Teams shall advise the National Board of any emergency substitution following the round of competition.
- C. The presentation will be scored based on the performance by the initial team member and the emergency substitute, taken as a whole.
- D. Once the presiding judge determines that a Competing Team Member is unable to compete in a role due to technical difficulties, to minimize disruption, the impacted Competing Team Member is not permitted to return and compete in the role for which a substitution was made during that round.
- E. If the technical difficulty is resolved, the impacted Competing Team Member may return and participate in their other roles, if any.
- F. A witness examination consists of direct, cross, any redirect and any recross. A Competing Team Member who requires an emergency substitution for a witness examination may not return and participate until the entire witness examination is completed.

Rule 3.7.3 Technical Difficulty Involving Timekeeper

In the event of a loss of connection for a timekeeper, that Mock Trial Team shall defer to its opponent's timekeeper for that trial segment. The Mock Trial Team whose timekeeper lost connection may substitute another timekeeper qualified under Rule 6.1 for the remaining trial segments.

Rule 3.7.4 Technical Difficulty Involving Entire Team

- A. If the technical difficulty prevents an entire Mock Trial Team from competing in part or all of a round, the presiding judge shall declare a recess of up to 15 minutes to allow that Mock Trial Team to reconnect, either via video or by connecting on audio-only via telephone.
- B. If reconnection is impossible, the National Board or its designee may:
 - 1. Declare a forfeit in favor of the Mock Trial Team that maintains its connection no sooner than the end of the 15-minute recess, or
 - 2. If at least five witnesses have been subject to cross-examination, may in its sole discretion complete the Ballot, assigning scores equal to the disconnected Mock Trial Team's average score on all segments that could not be completed by the disconnected Mock Trial Team and a "10" to the Mock Trial Team that remained connected.
- C. If a technical emergency prevents an entire Mock Trial Team from connecting via video, but that Mock Trial Team is able to connect via audio-only, the opposing Mock Trial Team and all judges shall turn off their video until video connection from both Mock Trial Teams has been restored.

Rule 3.7.5 Technical Difficulty Involving Judging Panel

Technical emergencies resulting from the loss of the connection of a presiding or scoring judge shall be handled in accordance with Rule 3.6.3.

Article 4 Attorney Portrayal

Rule 4.1 Attorney Duties

- A. Except as permitted during technical difficulties in a virtual competition, the attorney duties for each Mock Trial Team will be divided as follows:
1. One attorney will be responsible for the direct examination of one witness and the cross-examination of one witness;
 2. One attorney will be responsible for the direct examination of one witness, the cross-examination of one witness, and the opening statement; and
 3. One attorney will be responsible for the direct examination of one witness, the cross-examination of one witness, and the closing argument (including rebuttal, if any).
- B. The attorney who examines a particular witness on direct examination is the only person who may make the objections to the opposing attorney's questions of that witness' cross-examination, and the attorney who cross-examines a witness will be the only person permitted to make objections during the direct examination of that witness.

Rule 4.2 Opening Statements and Closing Arguments

Opening statements and closing arguments must be given by both sides at the beginning and end of the trial, respectively.

Rule 4.2.1 Opening Statements

The prosecution/plaintiff gives its opening statement first and may not reserve rebuttal time.

Rule 4.2.2 Closing Arguments

- A. Closing arguments must be based on the actual evidence and testimony presented during the trial.
- B. The prosecution/plaintiff gives its closing argument first and may reserve a portion of its closing time for a rebuttal.
1. The prosecution/plaintiff need not request or state that it is reserving rebuttal time.
 2. The rebuttal is limited to the scope of the defense/defendant's closing argument.
- C. During closing argument, Mock Trial Teams may show the jury any document introduced as evidence and may use as a demonstrative any trial exhibit marked under Rule 7.7, the jury verdict sheet or special interrogatories, and jury instructions.

Rule 4.2.3 Objections During Opening Statements or Closing Arguments

No objections may be raised during opening statements or during closing arguments. If a Mock Trial Team believes an objection would have been warranted during the opposing Mock Trial Team's

opening statement or closing argument, the opposing attorney for that segment may, following the opening statement or closing argument, object and provide a basis for the objection. The opposing Mock Trial Team is then allowed to respond to the objection. The presiding judge will not rule on this objection, and each scoring judge will weigh the objection individually.

Rule 4.3 Prohibited Motions and Procedures

- A. Motions are prohibited except for motions requesting the presiding judge to strike testimony following a successful objection to its admission.
- B. Mock Trial Teams may not request actual or constructive sequestration or exclusion of witnesses.
- C. Mock Trial Teams may not request bench conferences, and bench conferences are not permitted. Objections are deemed to have occurred at sidebar.
- D. No offers of proof may be requested or tendered.
- E. Voir dire examination of a witness is not permitted.

Rule 4.4 Standing During Trial

Rule 4.4.1 In-Person Competition

Student attorneys will stand if able while giving opening statements and closing arguments, during direct and cross examinations, and for all objections, unless excused by the presiding judge.

Rule 4.4.2 Virtual Competition

Student attorneys may elect to stand or remain seated while giving opening statements and closing arguments, during direct and cross examinations, and for all objections.

Rule 4.5 Redirect/Recross

Redirect and recross examinations are permitted, but any redirect and recross examination is limited in scope to matters raised in cross examination and redirect examination, respectively. Re-redirect and re-recross examination are not allowed.

Rule 4.6 Objections

In addition to objections that are available under the Rules of Evidence, attorneys may raise the following objections:

1. Argumentative questions: An attorney shall not ask argumentative questions.
2. Lack of proper predicate/foundation: Attorneys shall lay a proper foundation prior to moving the admission of evidence. After the exhibit has been offered into evidence, the exhibit may still be objected to on other grounds.

3. Assuming facts not in evidence: Attorneys may not ask a question that assumes unproved facts. However, an expert witness may be asked a question based upon stated assumptions, the truth of which is reasonably supported by evidence (sometimes called a “hypothetical question”).
4. Questions calling for narrative or general answer: Questions must be stated to call for a specific answer. (Example of an improper question: “Tell us what you know about this case.”)
5. Non-responsive answer: A witness’ answer is objectionable if it fails to respond to the question asked.
6. Repetition: Questions designed to elicit the same testimony or evidence previously presented in its entirety are improper if merely offered as a repetition of the same testimony or evidence from the same or similar source.

Article 5 Witness Portrayal

Rule 5.1 Costuming

- A. No costumes are permitted unless authorized specifically in the case materials. Costuming is defined as hairstyles, clothing, accessories, or makeup that is case specific.
- B. An accent is not considered costuming. Witnesses may affect an accent that is not their own.

Commentary to Rule 5.1: The purpose of this rule is to ensure that teams have an even playing field despite their resources. While judges are instructed to only consider a team's performance, things like a police officer's uniform, a lab coat, or even a hairstyle fashionable by an older person may at the very least subconsciously influence a judge's score for a witness. In interpreting this rule, teams should err on the side of caution.

Rule 5.2 Filibustering or Deliberate Time Wasting

- A. Consistent with common trial practice, witnesses may give a brief, responsive answer other than a simple "yes" or "no" to questions on cross-examination.
- B. No witness may provide non-responsive or narrative answers on cross to consume the other Mock Trial Team's cross time.
- C. The presiding judge is encouraged to control any effort at marginally-responsive, narrative "filibustering" or "deliberate time wasting."
 - 1. An effort to deliberately consume the opposing Mock Trial Team's time through these techniques may also violate the Code of Conduct and may be sanctionable under Rule 1.2.
 - 2. A presiding judge who believes that egregious misconduct under this Rule has occurred may refer the matter for consideration by the National Board immediately following the trial round.
 - 3. Whether to bring this concern to the attention of the National Board is solely at the discretion of the presiding judge; individual Mock Trial Teams may not raise this issue under Rule 11.1.
- D. Scoring judges may deduct points for filibustering or deliberate time wasting whether or not the presiding judge has directed the witness to answer more responsively, and scoring judges should deduct points for filibustering or deliberate time wasting that persists after such a direction by the presiding judge.

Rule 5.3 Reference to Witness Gender and Physical Traits

- A. Unless such information is included in a witness statement, a witness or attorney is prohibited from referring to the physical traits or gender of any witness. Such references are unfair extrapolations under Rule 7.4.

- B. A Competing Team Member playing a witness is allowed to act as though the Competing Team Member has any condition, deformity, or disability described in the witness's statement.
1. Under no circumstances is the opposing Mock Trial Team permitted to question the existence of such conditions because the Competing Team Member playing the witness does not actually have them.
 2. While the opposing Mock Trial Team may cross examine the witness on the extent of the condition based on information provided in the witness's statement, the opposing Mock Trial Team may not challenge the witness to prove the existence of the condition by asking the Competing Team Member to show the condition to the jury.

Commentary to Rule 5.3: For example, it would be a violation of this Rule for a witness to call attention to their own physical size to show an inability to complete some physical act included in the case materials or to state that the witness was treated differently because of the witness's gender. However, this Rule does not prohibit teams from raising issues about general or common human traits and abilities relevant to the case. For example, if a character in a case regularly used a wheelchair, it would not violate these Rules to note that such a person might have difficulty using stairs.

Rule 5.4 Swearing of Witnesses

- A. The following oath may be used before questioning begins:
- “Do you promise that the testimony you are about to give will faithfully and truthfully conform to the facts and rules of the mock trial competition?”
- B. The swearing of witnesses will occur in one of two ways:
1. The presiding judge will indicate that all witnesses are deemed to be sworn using the above oath, or
 2. The above oath will be administered by the presiding judge or a bailiff provided by the Host.
- C. The Host will indicate which method will be used during all rounds of the current year's National Championship. Witnesses may stand or sit during the oath.

Article 6 Timekeeping

Rule 6.1 Student Timekeepers

- A. Each Mock Trial Team participating in the National Championship is responsible for providing at least one student as an official timekeeper. All timekeepers must be Official Team Members.
- B. Timekeepers must attend the scheduled timekeeper orientation, which will be held before the National Championship rounds begin.
 - 1. If a Mock Trial Team desires to assign more than one student to the timekeeper role, then all students who will be assigned to the timekeeper role must attend the timekeeper orientation.
 - 2. If a Mock Trial Team does not have a timekeeper attend the required orientation meeting, that Mock Trial Team will defer to its opponents' timekeepers in all rounds of the competition.

Rule 6.2 Role of Timekeepers

- A. Timekeepers are responsible for fairly and accurately keeping and reporting the time during the trial presentation and during any disputes under Rule 11.1.
- B. During the rounds of the National Championship, timekeepers are to act as a neutral entity and may not communicate with their respective Official Teams during the trial presentation, recesses, or during any dispute procedure, except to display the time remaining or to indicate (as directed by the presiding judge) how much time is remaining during a particular part of the trial.

Rule 6.3 Timing the Trial

Rule 6.3.1 Generally

Timekeepers may use stopwatches or cellular phones to keep time. Any cellular phone used for timekeeping must be kept in airplane mode and silenced during the duration of trial.

Rule 6.3.2 Trial Sequence and Time Limits

- A. The trial sequence and time limits are as follows:
 - 1. Opening Statement (5 minutes per side)
 - 2. Direct and Redirect (optional) Examination (25 minutes per side)
 - 3. Cross and Recross (optional) Examination (20 minutes per side)
 - 4. Closing Argument (5 minutes per side)
- B. Attorneys are not required to use the entire time allotted to each part of the trial.

C. Time remaining in one part of the trial may not be transferred to another part of the trial.

Rule 6.3.3 Time Charged

Time runs from the beginning of the witness examination, opening statement, or closing argument until its conclusion. Time does not stop for introduction of exhibits.

Rule 6.3.4 Time Not Charged

- A. Introductions of counsel or witnesses prior to the opening statement are not included in the time allotted for opening statements. However, if counsel or witnesses are introduced once the opening statement has commenced, such time is included in the time allotted for the opening statement.
- B. Time stops only for objections or questioning from the judge.
- C. The presiding judge shall have discretion to stop time for technical difficulties:

Rule 6.4 Timecards

Rule 6.4.1 In-Person Competition

- A. In trial, each Mock Trial Team will use three sets of timecards, one set for openings and closings, one set for direct examination, and one set for cross-examination. Each timecard will display both the “Time Elapsed” and the “Time Remaining.”
- B. The National Board and/or Host will provide a format for timecards. The Host will provide timecards and Mock Trial Teams are not permitted to use other timecards.
- C. The timecards will be allocated as follows (shown as Time Elapsed/Time Remaining):
 - 1. Openings and Closings: 1:00 / 4:00; 2:00 / 3:00; 2:30 / 2:30; 3:00 / 2:00; 3:30 / 1:30; 4:00 / 1:00; 4:20 / 0:40; 4:30 / 0:30; 4:40 / 0:20; 4:50 / 0:10; STOP.
 - 2. Direct examinations: 3:00 / 22:00; 5:00 / 20:00; 7:00 / 18:00; 10:00 / 15:00; 13:00 / 12:00; 15:00 / 10:00; 18:00 / 7:00; 20:00 / 5:00; 21:00 / 4:00; 22:00 / 3:00; 23:00 / 2:00; 24:00 / 1:00; 24:20 / 0:40; 24:40 / 0:20; STOP.
 - 3. Cross-examinations: 2:30 / 17:30; 5:00 / 15:00; 7:30 / 12:30; 10:00 / 10:00; 12:30 / 7:30; 15:00 / 5:00; 16:00 / 4:00; 17:00 / 3:00; 18:00 / 2:00; 19:00 / 1:00; 19:20 / 0:40; 19:40 / 0:20; STOP.
- D. Mock Trial Teams may not use these timecards to signal time other than the aggregate time elapsed and remaining. (For example, Mock Trial Teams may not use these cards to show the time remaining of the time allocated by that Mock Trial Team to a particular trial segment.)

Rule 6.4.2 Virtual Competition

- A. Timekeepers will signal time by posting the time signals in the chatroom function of the virtual competition platform.

- B. The timekeepers may also display timecards by activating their camera to do so. Any timecards used must conform with Rule 6.4.1.
- C. Timekeepers will also post the time elapsed and remaining at the end of each task during the trial presentation (i.e., at the end of each opening, at the end of each witness direct examination, at the end of each cross examination, and at the end of each closing argument).

Rule 6.5 Time Extensions and Scoring

- A. Presiding judges are responsible for enforcing the time limits.
- B. The presiding judge has sole discretion to grant time extensions. Such extensions should be granted sparingly and should be limited in duration, for example, to finish a question, answer, or thought.
- C. In all other cases, the presiding judge must stop the presentation once time expires.
- D. If time has expired and an attorney continues without permission from the court, each scoring judge may deduct points in a category because of over-runs in time.

Rule 6.6 Timekeeping Disputes

- A. At the end of each task during the trial presentation (i.e., at the end of each opening, at the end of each direct witness examination, at the end of each cross examination, and at the end of each closing argument), the timekeepers must notify the presiding judge if there is more than a 15-second discrepancy between the timekeepers. Discrepancies of less than 15 seconds will not be considered.
- B. The presiding judge will rule on the discrepancy, the timekeepers will synchronize their stopwatches accordingly, and the trial will continue. The presiding judge's decision regarding the resolution of the time discrepancy is final.
- C. No time disputes will be entertained after the trial concludes.

Article 7 Case Materials

Rule 7.1 The Problem

- A. The problem will be an original fact pattern which may contain any or all the following: statement of facts (i.e., a separate statement of facts agreed to for the case; not the case introduction); pleadings; indictment (if a criminal trial); stipulations (which may not be disputed at trial); witness statements; jury charges; orders/rulings; and exhibits.
- B. Mock Trial Teams may refer only to materials included in the trial packet.
- C. The problem will consist of three witnesses per side, all of whom shall have names and characteristics that would allow them to be played by individuals of any gender. All three witnesses must be called.

Rule 7.2 Exhibits and Demonstratives

- A. No illustrative aids, enlargement of the case materials, or other props are permitted unless provided in the case packet or by the Host. For the avoidance of doubt, Mock Trial Teams may not provide enlarged or alternate versions of an exhibit during the trial.
- B. The Host or National Board may provide an enlarged or alternate version of an exhibit. If so provided, use of that version of that exhibit does not violate these rules.

Commentary to Rule 7.2: The purpose of this rule is to ensure that Mock Trial Teams have an even playing field despite their resources. Mock Trial Teams should interpret the rule “prop” broadly. For example, a tissue held or used by a crying witness should be considered a prop. Or for example, a pencil that an attorney breaks during closing arguments to emphasize a point should be considered a prop. Teams are encouraged to err on the side of caution.

Rule 7.3 Witnesses Bound by Statements

- A. Witnesses cannot contradict the facts contained in their statements, the stipulations, and any statements made or adopted by them. If a witness testifies to a fact that contradicts the witness’s statement, the stipulations, or statements made or adopted by the witness, the opposing attorney may impeach by demonstrating the contradiction.
- B. Witness statements may not be altered except that personal pronouns may be changed to indicate the preferred gender of the characters.
- C. A witness is not bound by facts contained in other witness statements.
- D. All witness statements are considered to have been made under oath and to contain everything that the witness knows, observed, or believes to be relevant to the case. Each witness was given the opportunity to revise the statement immediately prior to trial to amend, correct, edit, or complete their testimony, and each witness declined to do so after reviewing their statement.

Rule 7.4 Extrapolations

Rule 7.4.1 Generally

- A. An extrapolation is testimony by a witness to a fact or information not directly or explicitly contained in witness's statement, documents with which the witness is familiar, or facts that are stipulated.
- B. An extrapolation that is fair is permitted. An extrapolation that is unfair is prohibited.
1. An extrapolation is considered fair if either:
 - a. It is implied by or can reasonably be inferred from the witness's statement, documents with which the witness is familiar, or facts that are stipulated; or
 - b. It is immaterial, i.e., it does not affect the outcome of any issue in the case, cause prejudice to any party, or make any fact at issue more or less likely. For example, testimony that constitutes background information used solely to develop or enhance the character or portrayal of the witness is immaterial, because it does not affect the merits of any issue in the case.
 2. An extrapolation is considered unfair if it is both:
 - a. Not implied by and not reasonably inferable from the witness's statement, documents with which the witness is familiar, or facts that are stipulated; and
 - b. Material to the outcome of the case i.e., affects the outcome of any issue in the case, causes prejudice to any party, or makes any fact at issue more or less likely.
- C. On cross examination, the opposing attorney may ask the witness about material facts, events, or observations that are not included in the statement, stipulations, or statements made or adopted by the witness. In response, it is an unfair extrapolation for the witness to testify that the witness perceived, said, or did anything material to the case if it is not contained in or reasonably inferable from the witness's statement, the stipulations, or statements the witness has made or adopted. If the witness does so, the cross-examining attorney may impeach by omission, i.e., may challenge the witness's credibility or identify the unfair extrapolation by impeaching with the witness's statement.

Commentary to Rule 7.4: The case materials are intended to be balanced, and thus efforts to inject material information into the case are forbidden. Accordingly, it is critical to distinguish between natural or salutary efforts to fill in the blanks and unfair efforts to distort the balance of the case. For example, it would be a fair extrapolation to respond to the question "What color was the sky that night?" by saying "black," because it being night implies that the sun was away.

Likewise, it would be fair to extrapolate from a witness's statement that it was a beautiful, sunny day that the sky was blue or that no fog obscured sight lines. It would also be fair to extrapolate - assuming that the case materials don't provide these facts - inherent professional or personal background. So it is fair to assume that someone who has a valid driver's license knows how to drive a car, that someone who is identified as a driver in the case has a valid driver's license unless otherwise provided in or inconsistent with the case materials, or that a police officer who makes arrests was trained putting handcuffs on an arrestee.

It is not fair to extrapolate that material observations were made or steps were taken, even if in the common course they would be, if those observations or steps are not in the case materials. For example, if the case materials do not contain any reference to fingerprints being taken, a particular witness being interviewed, or a background check being run, it would be unfair for a police officer to testify that any of those actions occurred. Likewise, it would be unfair for an expert witness to identify experiments run, measurements made, or treatises consulted if the witness's statement contains none of those bases for the expert's opinion.

However, it is reasonable to infer that a witness with a medical doctorate studied basic human anatomy and the germ theory of disease, but such extrapolations cannot become determinative in evidentiary rulings or render witnesses expert in fields the case materials do not suggest. The witness statements are written to be portrayed in manifold ways, and it is impossible for the case materials to state every fact about a witness's background or training. For a particular witness portrayal to be entertaining, flavorful, or authentic, some extrapolation beyond the facts provided is appropriate. Thus, it would be a fair extrapolation for a witness to talk about their favorite musical artist, sports team, nickname, family background, favorite sneaker, restaurant, or the foods they ate growing up in an ethnic household, so long as none of those things affect the issues of the case at bar. (If the case involves a print left by a particular shoe, though, a sneakerhead character might materially affect the outcome, and the extrapolation that was fair can become unfair.)

Rule 7.4.2 Addressing Unfair Extrapolations

- A. Unfair extrapolations are best addressed through impeachment, but they also may be addressed through making an objection under this Rule. In either case, they should always be addressed during the trial.
- B. Attorneys making an objection may refer to that objection as "unfair extrapolation" or "invention of material fact" and may make reference to this Rule in making this objection.
- C. When such an objection is made, the judge must rule either:
 - 1. No extrapolation has occurred;
 - 2. An extrapolation occurred, but it was fair; or
 - 3. An unfair extrapolation has occurred.

Rule 7.5 Sleeves and Lamination of Trial Exhibits

Mock Trial Teams may, but are not required to, use lamination or page sleeves for their trial exhibits or other case materials. If a Mock Trial Team chooses to laminate a page or use page sleeves, that Mock Trial Teams will ensure that each page is clean prior to trial.

Rule 7.6 Procedure for Introduction of Exhibits

Rule 7.6.1 In-Person Competition

As an example, the following steps effectively introduce an exhibit:

- A. All exhibits will be pre-marked as exhibits.
- B. Ask for permission to approach the witness. “Your Honor, may I approach the witness with what has been marked for identification purposes as Exhibit No. ____?”
- C. Show the exhibit to opposing counsel.
- D. Ask the witness to identify the exhibit. “I now hand you what has been marked for identification as Exhibit No. _____. Would you identify it please?” The witness should answer to identify only.
- E. Ask the witness a series of questions that are offered for proof of the admissibility of the exhibit. These questions lay the foundation or predicate for admissibility, including questions of the relevance and materiality of the exhibit.
- F. Offer the exhibit into evidence. “Your Honor, we offer Exhibit No. ____ into evidence.”
- G. Court: “Is there an objection?” (If opposing counsel believes a proper foundation has not been laid, the attorney should be prepared to object at this time.)
 1. Opposing Counsel: “No, Your Honor,” OR “Yes, Your Honor.” If the response is “yes,” the objection will be stated for the record. Court: “Is there any response to the objection?”
 2. Court: “Exhibit No. ____ (is/is not) admitted.” If admitted, questions on content may be asked.
- H. If an exhibit is introduced into evidence, a Mock Trial Team may publish it to the jury at the presiding judge’s discretion.

Rule 7.6.2 Special Rules for a Virtual Competition

The procedure in Rule 7.6.1 shall be followed, except:

- A. All witnesses shall have all case materials available and in their possession during their testimony but may only refer to them when prompted by an examining attorney.

- B. Attorneys will not physically approach witnesses. Instead, attorneys will identify the exhibit they wish to show the witness and request the Court’s permission for the witness to view it.
- C. Attorneys will not be required to confirm that they have shown the exhibit to opposing counsel.
- D. Instead of the language in Step D, above, the attorney will say words to the effect of “I now show you what has been marked for identification as Exhibit No. _____. Would you identify it please?” The witness should answer to identify only.
- E. When an exhibit—or, during impeachment or refreshment of recollection, some other document—is shown to a witness, a member of the examining attorney’s Mock Trial Team shall make that document available to all Participants via “screen sharing” or similar technology. The individual responsible for posting the exhibit must be a Competing Team Member in the round or the timekeeper for the round.
- F. Exhibits or other documents posted in this manner will be deemed not to have been shown to the jury unless they are admitted into evidence and formally published to the jury. Publication to the jury is at the presiding judge’s discretion.
- G. Mock Trial Teams may use technology to mark exhibits electronically only to the extent that marking physical exhibits would have been permitted by Rule 7.7. Any marked electronic exhibits may only be used as provided in Rule 7.7.

Rule 7.7 Marking Documents at Trial

- A. No trial exhibits may be modified prior to the trial exhibit being admitted.
- B. Once a trial exhibit has been admitted, attorneys and witnesses may in real time highlight, underline, zoom in, or otherwise mark (e.g., circling, drawing an arrow, or making another, similar mark) the admitted exhibits during direct or cross examination, either physically or electronically.
 - 1. If a Mock Trial Team wishes to mark a trial exhibit entered but not marked by the opposing Mock Trial Team, it must substitute its own clean copy of that trial exhibit for this purpose before any markings are made.
 - 2. No other alterations, animations, or enhancements to the trial exhibit are allowed.
- C. A Mock Trial Team may also mark other documents in the case materials during trial, such as by real time highlighting, underlining, zooming in, or otherwise marking a pleading or witness statement.

Rule 7.8 Sharing Documents with Scoring Panel

- A. Unless otherwise provided in the Case Materials, the only documents which the Mock Trial Teams may provide to the presiding judge or scoring panel are the individual trial exhibits as they are introduced into evidence and the Roster Forms. Exhibit notebooks are not to be provided to the presiding judge or scoring panel.

- B. If a trial exhibit is marked during an examination for demonstrative purposes, the marked exhibit may be used as a demonstrative exhibit during the trial and during closing arguments but may not be entered into evidence as a trial exhibit.
- C. Other documents, such as witness statements or pleadings, whether marked under Rule 7.7 or not, may not be entered into evidence, used as demonstratives during closing argument, or otherwise shown to the scoring panel.

Article 8 Trial Logistics

Rule 8.1 Trial Communication

Rule 8.1.1 Generally

- A. Non-competing Participants (including Official Team Members who are not competing in that particular round of the National Championship) may not talk to, signal, communicate with, or coach their Official Teams during trial. This rule remains in force during any recess that may occur.
- B. Competing Team Members (other than the timekeeper) may, among themselves, communicate during the trial; however, no disruptive communication is allowed, and no Participant may communicate with a witness while that witness is testifying other than through the course of that witness's questioning.
- C. Signaling of time by timekeepers is not a violation of this rule.

Rule 8.1.2 Location of Individuals

Non-competing Participants must remain outside the bar in the spectator section of the courtroom. Only Official Team Members participating in this round may sit inside the bar and communicate with each other.

Rule 8.1.3 Virtual Competition

- A. No one may use the "chat," "instant message," or "chatroom" function of the electronic platform, except to display timekeeping messages as permitted by Rule 6.4.2 or to communicate in the case of a technical emergency where audio and video functions are lost but access to chat or instant messaging functions remain intact.
- B. Non-competing Participants are not permitted to use the chat or instant messaging functions at any time.
- C. Only the six participating attorneys and witnesses may communicate with one another. The six participating attorneys and witnesses may use computers, cellular telephones, or other devices to facilitate this communication.

Rule 8.2 Scouting and Viewing Trials

- A. Participants associated with an Official Team or Mock Trial Organization, except for those authorized by the National Board, are not allowed to view other Mock Trial Teams' performances in rounds of the National Championship, so long as their Mock Trial Team remains in the National Championship.
- B. No person shall display anything that identifies their school, home state or territory, or organization of origin while in the courtroom.

- C. Official Team Members and other Participants associated with Official Teams are prohibited from contacting teachers, students, and attorney advisors from any other Official Team or Mock Trial Organization in any manner if the intent of the contact is to obtain strategic information about an opponent.
- D. It is not a violation of this Rule for Official Teams to participate in practice or scrimmage matches. It is a violation of this Rule for Participants to seek information about other Official Teams in rounds of the National Championship from individuals who observed such scrimmages, including members of the Official Team competing in that scrimmage.

Commentary to Rule 8.2: The broad purpose of this rule is to prohibit Official Teams from seeking out information from or about other Official Teams in an effort to gain a strategic advantage. Official Teams are strongly discouraged from actively seeking out information of this kind, and it may constitute scouting for a member of an Official Team to actively seek out information (including, but not limited to, through personal communication, electronic communication, or through internet/social media sites) about a future opponent.

It is possible that information about an Official Team may be made publicly available. For example, a Member Organization may make publicly available footage of that organization's Championship Round. The viewing of such material would not violate this Rule so long as a Participant did not affirmatively seek out that information for the purposes of gaining a strategic advantage over an opponent at the National Championship.

Rule 8.3 Videotaping/Photography

- A. To support civics education, facilitate media coverage, and provide a maximum opportunity for family, friends, peers, and teachers to view our Official Teams competing, all Participants are deemed to have consented to video or audio recording and electronic posting (including video meeting, social media, or other platforms) of each performance at the National Championship.
- B. No team may post, share with another Official Team, or otherwise disseminate any recording of any National Championship round prior to the conclusion of that year's National Championship.
 - 1. Each team will inform all Participants associated with their team of this Rule.
 - 2. Violations of this Rule, including those by a Participant associated with an Official Team, may result in the Official Team associated with the Participant who violated this rule being sanctioned under Rule 1.2.
- C. The National Board or its designee(s) may permit exception to this Rule for media coverage.

Article 9 Judging

Rule 9.1 Finality of Decisions

All decisions of the judging panel are FINAL.

Rule 9.2 Composition of Judging Panels

- A. The judging panel will consist of at least three (3) individuals.
- B. The composition of the judging panel and the role of the presiding judge will be at the discretion of the National Board or its designee, as follows:
 - 1. One presiding judge and two scoring judges; or
 - 2. One presiding judge and at least three scoring judges.
- C. Each scoring panel will include at least one attorney.
 - 1. The presiding judge will be an attorney.
 - 2. The scoring judges may be persons with substantial mock trial coaching or scoring experience or attorneys.
- D. At the discretion of the Host Director, the championship round may have a larger panel.
- E. All presiding and scoring judges will receive the mock trial manual, orientation materials, and a briefing in a judges' orientation.

Rule 9.3 Conflicts of Interest

Rule 9.3.1 Determination of Conflict

- A. The National Board or its designee(s) have sole discretion to determine if a judicial conflict exists.
- B. Subject to Rule 9.3.3, a judge will be disqualified from participating in a trial if the judge is:
 - 1. A coach of an Official Team;
 - 2. A close family member of an Official Team Member or Coach of an Official Team; or
 - 3. The State Coordinator for the Member Organization of an Official Team in the courtroom.
- C. Subject to Rule 9.3.3, the National Board or its designee(s) has the discretion to disqualify a judge from participating in a trial if the judge (or a close family member):
 - 1. Attended one of the Mock Trial Organizations competing in the courtroom;
 - 2. Has a personal friendship with a Participant associated with an Official Team in the courtroom; or

3. Previously scored a trial involving one of the Official Teams competing in the round (in the current National Championship).
- D. The National Board or its designee(s) will use reasonable efforts to prevent a judge who was a Coach for a team in a Member Organization's competition from judging a round involving an Official Team from that Member Organization, with the understanding that if that is not reasonably possible with regard to judges from the Host, the National Board or its designee(s) may allow that judge to participate in a trial, taking into consideration that person's experience as a judge and whether the judge is familiar with either Official Team involved in the trial.
- E. In general, it is not a conflict of interest if the judge recognizes a Participant associated with an Official Team through professional acquaintance, through participation in a Member Organization's competition, or through participation in previous National Championships, absent a more significant conflict that would prevent the judge from fairly scoring a round.

Rule 9.3.2 Notification of Conflict by a Judge

- A. A judge who becomes aware of a conflict prior to or during a trial should be excused from the panel as soon as possible.
- B. If the judge was not aware of the conflict until after the judge has completed the scoresheet, it is left to the discretion of the National Board to determine whether to disqualify the judge.

Rule 9.3.3 Reasonable Efforts

The National Board will take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict between judges, Official Teams, Coaches, and coordinators or sponsors of teams. In all such cases, however, the National Board or its designee(s) reserves the right to permit a judge to participate in a trial if there are no reasonable alternatives.

Rule 9.4 Score Sheets, Ballots, and Scoring

Rule 9.4.1 Score Sheets and Ballots

- A. Score Sheets are to be completed individually by the scoring judges and the presiding judge.
- B. The Mock Trial Team that earns the highest points on an individual judge's Score Sheet is the winner of that Ballot. Subject to Rule 9.5, the Mock Trial Team that receives the majority of the Ballots wins the round.
- C. All scores and awards are determined individually by scoring judges; the judging panel does not deliberate or confer on individual scores or awards.

Rule 9.4.2 Scoring

- A. For each trial, including the Championship Round, each scoring judge and the presiding judge will record a number of points (1-10) for each presentation of the trial.
- B. Scoring judges are not bound by the rulings of the presiding judge.

C. During scoring, each judge should consider any violations of these Rules or the Code of Conduct.

D. No ties are permitted; each scoring judge must adjust scores if necessary to avoid submitting a tied ballot.

Rule 9.5 Disqualification of a Ballot/Score Sheet

Rule 9.5.1 Generally

The National Board or its designee(s) have discretion in cases involving judge irregularity to disqualify a scoring judge's Ballot/Score Sheet.

Rule 9.5.2 Replacement of Ballot/Score Sheet if There Are More Than Three Ballots

If a scoring judge's Ballot/Score Sheet needs to be disqualified following the conclusion of a round, and there are more than three judges who have completed Score Sheets, then the Ballot/Score Sheet will be replaced by the "extra" Ballot/Score Sheet.

Rule 9.5.3 Replacement of Ballot/Score Sheet if There Are Less Than Three Ballots

Rule 9.5.3.1 Remaining Ballots agree

If there are only two legal Ballots and those Ballots agree on the winning Mock Trial Team of the round, a third Ballot and Score Sheet will be generated consisting of the average total score of those two Ballots/Score Sheets.

Rule 9.5.3.2 Remaining Ballots disagree

If there are only two legal Ballots and those Ballots do not agree on which Mock Trial Team won the round, the following process will be employed:

- A. An average of the total points on the two valid Score Sheets shall be generated, and the winner on points of that average Ballots/Score Sheets will be deemed the winner of the trial.
- B. If the average Score Sheet is tied, the tie shall be broken by highest average score in the closing argument category.
- C. If the Score Sheet remains tied, that tie shall be broken by the highest average score in the opening statement category.
- D. If the Score Sheet remains tied, the winner of the trial shall be determined by coin toss. However the tie is broken, that Mock Trial Team shall be given one additional point on the third Ballot.

Rule 9.5.3.3 Effect of created third Ballot

A Ballot created under Rule 9.5.3 will be treated the same as any other Ballot for the purposes of power matching and final rankings.

Rule 9.5.3.4 Whole numbers required

In all cases where the averaging of two Score Sheets above results in a score that is not a whole number, the score shall be averaged by rounding up to the nearest whole number.

Rule 9.6 Judge Critiques

- A. The judging panel is allowed ten (10) minutes for critiquing. The timekeepers will monitor the critique following the trial. Presiding judges are to limit critique sessions to a combined total of ten (10) minutes. There is no critique in the fourth round.
- B. Judges shall not make a ruling on the legal merits of the trial. Judges may not inform the students of Score Sheet results.

Article 10 Mock Trial Team Ranking and Advancement

Rule 10.1 Mock Trial Team Ranking Generally

Mock Trial Teams will be ranked based on the following criteria in the order listed:

- A. Total rounds won;
- B. Number of Ballots won;
- C. Strength of Schedule, as determined by opponents' wins, ballots, point differential, and total points, in that order;
- D. Point Differential – Total points scored by the team versus the total points scored by their opponents in the rounds in which the team competed against them.
- E. Total points scored in all rounds;

Rule 10.2 Power Matching and Seeding

Rule 10.2.1 Generally

- A. Pairings for the first round will be determined randomly.
- B. Pairings for the second round will be determined by power matching based on the following order:
 1. Wins
 2. Ballots Won
 3. Point Differential
 4. Total Points
- C. For the third and fourth rounds, ranking of Mock Trial Teams for purposes of power matching shall be in the order of:
 1. Total rounds won;
 2. Number of Ballots won;
 3. Strength of Schedule, as determined by opponents' wins, ballots, point differential, and total points, in that order;
 4. Total point differential in all rounds to that point; and
 5. Total points scored in all rounds to that point.
- D. Pairings will be made in accordance with the following rules, in order of importance:

1. Mock Trial Teams will not meet the same opponent twice prior to the Championship Round;
 2. To the greatest extent possible, all Mock Trial Teams will present each side of the case once during rounds one (1) and two (2) of competition, and once during rounds three (3) and four (4) of competition. In the event that a Mock Trial Team presents the same side during rounds one (1) and two (2) of competition, that Mock Trial Team will present the opposite side during rounds three (3) and four (4) of competition;
 3. If there is an odd number of Mock Trial Teams in a bracket/sub-bracket, the top-ranked Mock Trial Team from the next lower bracket/sub-bracket will be moved into the higher bracket/sub-bracket to create a bracket/sub-bracket with an even number of Mock Trial Teams. In Round 2 or 4, this Rule shall be applied to move into a higher bracket enough Mock Trial Teams from a lower bracket to provide an even number of Mock Trial Teams on each side of the case, to meet the side constraints of Rule 10.2.1(B)(2).
 4. Brackets and sub-brackets will be determined by win/loss record. If after the application of the above Rules, the number of Mock Trial Teams in a bracket is greater than twelve (12), the bracket will be split to create two (2) roughly equal sub-brackets for power matching purposes.
- E. To the greatest extent possible, the Mock Trial Team with the highest rank in a bracket/sub-bracket will be matched with the Mock Trial Team with the lowest rank in the bracket/sub-bracket, the team with the next highest rank will be matched with the Mock Trial Team with the next lowest rank, and so forth, until all teams are paired.

Rule 10.2.2 The National Championship

- A. The two Mock Trial Teams emerging with the highest rank from the four rounds will advance to the final round.
- B. The first-place Mock Trial Team will be determined by Ballots from the championship round only.

Rule 10.2.3 Selection of Sides for the Championship Round

In determining which Mock Trial Team will represent which side in the championship round, the following order will be used:

- A. If the Mock Trial Teams competed against each other at any stage of the National Championship, the Mock Trial Teams shall switch sides for the championship round.
- B. In all other cases, a coin flip, tossed by the Host Director or their designee, will determine which Mock Trial Team will represent which side. If the coin comes up heads, the Mock Trial Team with the code which comes first alphabetically shall represent the plaintiff/prosecution in the championship round. If the coin comes up tails, that Mock Trial Team shall represent the defense/defendant.

Rule 10.3 Byes at the National Championship

Rule 10.3.1 Intent to Avoid Byes Whenever Possible

To avoid having a bye to start the National Championship, the Host, upon determining that a bye would be necessary, will have a second Mock Trial Team from the Host participate. This second Mock Trial Team will be treated as a separate Official Team for all purposes of these Rules.

Rule 10.3.2 Procedure When Byes are Necessary

When a bye is necessary:

- A. A Mock Trial Team receiving a bye in round one will be awarded a win and three Ballots for that round. For power-matching purposes, the Mock Trial Team will temporarily be given total points equal to the average number of points for all round one winning Mock Trial Teams. In subsequent rounds, this total will be adjusted at the end of each round to reflect the average points earned by that Mock Trial Team.
- B. A Mock Trial Team receiving a bye in rounds two through four will, by default, receive a win and three Ballots for that round. For power-matching purposes, the Mock Trial Team will temporarily be given points equal to the average of its own points earned in its preceding trials. In subsequent rounds, this total will be adjusted at the end.

Article 11 Dispute Resolution

Rule 11.1 Dispute at the Conclusion of Trial

Rule 11.1.1 Generally

- A. At the conclusion of each trial, the presiding judge must inquire of the Mock Trial Teams whether either Mock Trial Team believes that a substantial violation of the Rules occurred during trial.
- B. The Competing Team Members are permitted to consult with the Mock Trial Team's Coach(es) for a time not to exceed two minutes before determining whether the Mock Trial Team wishes to raise any substantial violations it believes occurred.

Rule 11.1.2 Dispute Procedure for In-Person National Championship

The process for determining that dispute shall be as follows (scoring judges shall remain in the courtroom for the duration of the dispute):

- A. One of the Competing Team Members who competed in that round will state that the Mock Trial Team wishes to file a claim that a substantial Rules violation occurred (a "dispute").
- B. The presiding judge will provide the Competing Team Member with a dispute form, on which the Competing Team Member will record in writing the nature of the dispute. No more than two minutes per Mock Trial Team shall be allotted for this process. The Competing Team Member may communicate with their Official Team Members and Coach(es) in preparing the form.

- C. The Mock Trial Team accused of a substantial rules violation will have the opportunity to respond in writing. No more than two minutes per Mock Trial Team shall be allotted for this process. The Competing Team Member may communicate with their Official Team Members and Coach(es) in preparing the form.
- D. One Competing Team Member who competed in that round from each Mock Trial Team will briefly present their Mock Trial Team's position to the presiding judge. No more than two minutes per Mock Trial Team shall be allotted for this explanation.
- E. The presiding judge will ask any questions and perform any additional investigation they believe appropriate.
- F. The presiding judge will inform the Mock Trial Teams whether the dispute is granted or denied. The announcement will be made with no further colloquy, but the presiding judge will record the reasons for the decision. The presiding judge will then retire to complete their Score Sheet (if applicable) and submit the dispute form to the National Board.

Rule 11.1.3 Virtual Competition

The foregoing Rules apply in virtual competitions, except that the designated Competing Team Members will not complete a dispute form. Instead, the Competing Team Members will have two minutes to prepare an argument regarding their dispute in consultation with Coaches and Official Team Members, and the presiding judge shall take notes regarding the nature of the dispute and the arguments presented by each team.

Rule 11.1.4 Effect of Violation on Score

After hearing the Mock Trial Teams' arguments, the scoring judges may account for their view of that dispute in their scoring. The presiding judge's determination of the dispute is not binding on the scoring judges.

Rule 11.2 Disputes After the Conclusion of the Trial

Rule 11.2.1 Generally

Prior to the first round of the National Championship in a given year, the National Board will designate a Dispute Resolution Committee.

Rule 11.2.2 In-Person Competition

If a dispute could not have been brought to the attention of the presiding judge under Rule 11.1, a coach for an Official Team may bring the dispute to the attention of the National Board or its designee(s) under the following procedure:

- A. The Coach must promptly notify a courtroom liaison, a member of the National Board, or the National Board's designee(s) that a dispute which the Coach believes could not have been raised under Rule 11.1 exists.

- B. The notified individual will notify the National Board, who will ask the Coach to complete a dispute form.
- C. The form will be taken to the tournament's communications center, whereupon the Dispute Resolution Committee will notify all pertinent parties; allow time for a response, if appropriate; conduct a hearing; and rule on the charge.
- D. The Dispute Resolution Committee may notify the judging panel of the affected courtroom of the ruling on the charge and/or may assess an appropriate penalty.

Rule 11.2.3 Virtual Competition

The foregoing Rules will also apply in virtual competitions, except that the National Board or its designee(s) will, in consultation with the Host, designate in advance of competition a mechanism for submission and resolution of disputes.

Article 12 Courtroom Artist Contest

Rule 12.1 Trials/Trial Depiction

Rule 12.1.1 In-Person Competition

- A. Sketches must depict actual courtroom scenes observed by the Courtroom Artist. Sketches are created and completed by the Courtroom Artist during the round two trial without the help of any source or person. Laptops are not permitted in the competition venue.
- B. Courtroom Artists may only observe and sketch the trials in which their Member Organization is competing. **assigned by the state coordinator.**
- C. The presiding judge may allow Courtroom Artists to sit in the jury box. **, but they must be seated in such a way to see the scoring judges' scoresheets. Once the trial begins,** Courtroom Artists may not move about the courtroom or communicate with any other person, except as directed by the presiding judge.
- D. Courtroom Artists must supply their own equipment and are responsible for ensuring that their work area is left neat and orderly, with all trash disposed in the appropriate trash receptacle.

Rule 12.1.2 Virtual Competition

The rules for trial depiction are the same as those during an in-person competition, except that:

- A. Because there is no physical "courtroom" in a virtual competition, Courtroom Artists are permitted to create details of a courtroom setting in crafting their competition pieces.
- B. Competing student attorneys may be drawn either standing or sitting, even if they were sitting during the virtual competition round.
- C. It is not a violation of these Rules for Courtroom Artists to depict a courtroom scene that they did not observe. If a template courtroom is provided by the National Board or the Host, that courtroom must be used in the depiction.
- D. All depictions of competing students and judges shall be accurate to the mode and manner of their dress and of traditional courtroom dress, even if the entirety of their clothing is not visible during the virtual competition.
- E. Courtroom Artists are advised not to focus too much on the courtroom background for their competition pieces. Competition piece judging will weigh more heavily the depiction of faces and bodies during a virtual competition.
- F. Courtroom Artists are permitted to use a laptop computer throughout a virtual competition.
- G. Courtroom Artists are encouraged to explore ways to utilize the virtual competition's chosen technical platform to make their art easier to create and more detailed. For example:

1. Courtroom Artists may wish to test whether a particular method of connection (e.g. using an app vs. a direct internet connection, using an app on an iPad vs. a laptop) provides the clearest views and best controls.
 2. Courtroom Artists may wish to test using different views (such as a layout in which the video of the individual speaking will appear larger on the screen).
 3. Courtroom Artists are permitted to experiment with these settings on their own systems during round 1, so that they may prepare to use those that prove most effective in Round 2.
- H. Courtroom Artists will be permitted into the virtual courtroom on the same terms as any Official Team Member, except that if a Courtroom Artist loses connection, it shall not constitute an emergency for purposes of Rule 3.6 or Rule 3.7.

Rule 12.2 Submission Specifications

Rule 12.2.1 In-Person Competition

- A. The submission may be done in color or in black and white, using any of the following media: color pencil, pen and ink, pastel, or marker. No watercolors or paint are allowed. The drawing must be on paper of the dimensions 11" X 14", in a horizontal/landscape format.
- B. The art submission must have the artist's name and team code placed on the back of the sketch; no signatures on the front of the submission are allowed.
- C. Each artist submits one sketch to the presiding judge or courtroom liaison at the conclusion of the trial.

Rule 12.2.2 Virtual Competition

The rules for submission of the artist's work following Round 2 are the same as those during an in-person competition, except that:

- A. At the conclusion of the trial, the artist must turn on their video to allow for a screenshot of the drawing.
- B. A picture of the art sketched during Round 2 must be submitted within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the Round 2 trial to be considered in the contest.
- C. The submission process, labeling protocol, and technical specifications for Courtroom Artist depictions – maximum file size, minimum or maximum resolution, and image format (.jpg, .tiff, .pdf, etc.) – shall be announced in advance of the competition by the Host. In advance of the competition, artists are encouraged to explore options for high-resolution scanning or photography of their work.
- D. Courtroom Artists shall maintain a digital copy and shall retain the physical copy of their Round 2 submission piece until, at least, the end of the National Championship.

Rule 12.3 Judging

Sketches are evaluated and scored anonymously by a judge or judging team. A sample judging scoresheet will be posted to the NHSMTC website for information on how sketches are scored. The highest scored sketch will be named the NHSMTC Courtroom Artist National Champion. The results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony.

Rule 12.4 Release

All Courtroom Artist submissions become the property of the NHSMTC and may be used for any purpose it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reproduction and dissemination, with recognition to the artist.

Article 13 Courtroom Journalist Contest

Rule 13.1 Trials/Trial Depiction

Rule 13.1.1 In-Person Competition

- A. Articles must report on what the Courtroom Journalists observed during their respective Mock Trial Team's trial. Articles are created and completed by the Courtroom Journalist **during a trial assigned by the State Coordinator ("Designated Trial")**, ~~during the Round 2 trial~~ without the help of any source or person. Articles must be based on what occurs during the ~~Round 2~~ **Designated trial**, not what occurred in earlier rounds of competition.
- B. During the trial, Courtroom Journalists are bound by Rule 3.4, and thus must take handwritten notes, not notes on laptops or other electronic devices. After the trial has concluded and Mock Trial Teams have been dismissed, Courtroom Journalists may use laptops, desktops, or other devices to complete the article for submission.
- C. Courtroom Journalists may only observe and report on the trials **assigned by the state coordinator**, ~~in which their Member Organization is competing~~.
- D. The presiding judge may allow Courtroom Journalists to sit in the jury box. ~~, but they must be seated in such a way to see the scoring judges' scoresheets.~~ Once the trial begins, Courtroom Journalists may not move about the courtroom or communicate with any other person, except as directed by the presiding judge.
- E. Courtroom Journalists must supply their own equipment and note-taking supplies. Courtroom Journalists are responsible for ensuring their work area is left neat and orderly, with all trash disposed in the appropriate trash receptacle.

Rule 13.1.2 Virtual Competition

The rules for trial depiction are the same as those during an in-person competition, except:

- A. Courtroom Journalists are permitted to use a laptop computer or other electronic device throughout a virtual competition for purposes of observing the trial. Otherwise, Rule 3.4 applies, and they must take all notes by hand.
- B. Courtroom Journalists will be permitted into the virtual courtroom on the same terms as any Official Team Member, except that if a Courtroom Journalist loses connection, it shall not constitute an emergency under Rule 3.6 or Rule 3.7.

Rule 13.2 Submission Process

- ~~A. At the conclusion of the trial, the Courtroom Journalist must move to a location other than the courtroom to type their article. The Host may designate a location for Courtroom Journalists, or they may return to their hotel spaces or to a public area.~~

- B. Courtroom Journalists will have time to complete their article following the conclusion of the trial selected by the State Coordinator ("Designated Trial") Round 2. The exact deadline for submission will be provided by the Host in advance of the competition, based on the competition schedule. Typically, Courtroom Journalists will have 60-90 minutes to complete their work and submit their article following the conclusion of the Designated trial, of Round 2. Articles sent after that deadline may be disqualified from consideration.
- C. The Courtroom Journalist will submit the article via email.
 - 1. The Host will designate an email address to which the articles must be submitted by the deadline set by the Host.
 - 2. Articles must be sent as attachments to the email, not in the body of the email itself. Attachments must be in Microsoft Word or .pdf format.
 - 3. In the body of the email, the Courtroom Journalist will provide a word count for the article using the word count function of their word processing program. Any false statement with respect to word count is a violation of Rule 1.2.
- D. Courtroom Journalists may not have dictionaries and thesauruses in the courtroom, but they may have and use them in completing their articles.
- E. Courtroom Journalists may use any publicly available source of information (e.g., webpages not behind a paywall) in completing their articles.
- F. Courtroom Journalists will maintain a digital copy of their article submission piece until, at least, the end of the National Championship.

Rule 13.3 Article Specifications

- A. Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering the Designated Trial. Round 2 trial.
- B. Each Courtroom Journalist shall place their name and school's name team code only—not their state—on the top left corner of the page.
- C. The article must be double spaced; in 12-point, Times New Roman font with one-inch margins; and may not exceed 850 words (exclusive of the journalist's name and team code).

Rule 13.4 Judging

Articles are evaluated and scored anonymously by a judge or judging team. A sample judging scoresheet will be posted to the NHSMTC website. The highest scored article will be named the NHSMTC Courtroom Journalist National Champion. The results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony.

Rule 13.5 Release

All Courtroom Journalist submissions become the property of the NHSMTC and may be used for any purpose it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reproduction and dissemination, with recognition to the Courtroom Journalist.

Old Rules	Revised Rules
Preamble	Rule 1.1
Rule 1.1	Rule 1.1
Rule 1.2	Rule 1.2
Rule 1.3.A	Rule 3.6
Rule 1.3.B	Rule 3.7
Rule 1.4	Rule 6.1
Rule 1.5	Rule 1.4
Rule 1.6	Rules 1.1, 1.5
Rule 2.1	Rule 7.1
Rule 2.2	Rule 7.3
Rule 2.3	Rule 7.4
Rule 2.4	Rule 7.3
Rule 2.5	Rule 4.3
Rule 3.1	Rules 1.1, 2.1 – 2.2
Rule 3.2	Rule 2.4
Rule 3.3	Rule 2.3.1
Rule 3.4	Rule 2.5
Rule 3.5	Rule 2.6
Rule 4.1	Rule 3.1
Rule 4.2	Rule 3.2
Rule 4.3	Rule 3.2
Rule 4.4	Rule 5.4
Rule 4.5	Rule 6.3
Rule 4.6	Rules 6.1 – 6.6
Rule 4.7	Rule 6.5
Rule 4.8	Rule 4.3
Rule 4.9	Rule 4.3
Rule 4.10	Rule 4.3
Rule 4.11	Rules 5.1, 7.2
Rule 4.12	Rule 8.1
Rule 4.13	Rule 8.2
Rule 4.14	Rule 8.3
Rule 4.15	Rule 3.3
Rule 4.16	Rule 4.4
Rule 4.17	Rule 4.2
Rule 4.18	Rule 4.6
Rule 4.19	Rule 5.2
Rule 4.20	Rule 7.6
Rule 4.21	Rule 3.4
Rule 4.22	Rule 4.5
Rule 4.23	Rule 4.2
Rule 4.24	Rule 9.6
Rule 4.25	Rule 4.3

Rule 4.26	Rules 7.1(B), 7.2
Rule 4.27	Rule 7.6
Rule 4.28	Rule 7.7
Rule 4.29	Rule 5.3
Rule 4.30	Rule 2.6, 3.5
Rule 4.31	Rule 7.5
Rule 5.1	Rule 9.1
Rule 5.2.A	Rule 9.2
Rule 5.2.B	Rule 9.3
Rule 5.2.C	Rule 9.5
Rule 5.2.D	Rule 9.5
Rule 5.3	Rule 9.4
Rule 5.4	Rule 9.4
Rule 5.5	Rule 10.1
Rule 5.6	Rules 10.2
Rule 5.7	Rule 10.2
Rule 5.8	Rule 10.3
Rule 6.1	Rule 11.1
Rule 6.2	Rule 11.1.4
Rule 6.3	Rule 11.3
Rules 7.1 et seq.	Rules 2.3.2, 12.1 et seq.
Rules 8.1 et seq.	Rules 2.3.3, 13.1 et seq.