

San Mateo County Mock Trial Rules for 2016-7

NOTE: in competition in San Mateo County these rules supplement or supercede the CRF statewide rules. The CRF rules and all other CRF documents are available on our website at www.mocktrial.org or the CRF website at www.crf-usa.org

Team Composition

1. Team composition: Pre-trial attorneys may not serve as a regular attorney; no attorney may serve as both a Prosecution and Defense attorney; a good faith effort will be made by all schools to have three attorneys on each side and to have 18 students participate in each round. In the event of a last minute student cancellation due to illness, family emergency, or traffic incident, a school may once during the season have one of its students serve as an attorney (either trial or pretrial) on both prosecution and defense. The school's advisor must inform in advance the coordinator and the advisor of the opposing team of this move. This option is not available in the playoffs. If determined practicable by October 15, there will be a JV competition in 2017.

Forfeits

2. A forfeit will award the opposing team a 53 percent score.

Caps

3. Should a severe mismatch occur a cap will be imposed for the competition under which no team could win by more than a 53 to 47 percentage. Anything more than this would revert to the 53/47 split.

Court Trial

4. Competition is a court trial (tried by the judge, not a jury) and students should direct their attention to the judge, NOT to any individuals who may be sitting in the jury box. A note to this effect will be included in the rules given to the attorney scorers so that they may understand why they are being 'ignored.'

Jury Box/Video Taping/Spectators

5. No one will sit in the jury box except rating attorneys and in the second Round the Courtroom Artist. Upon mutual agreement of the teacher–advisors of both schools, however, a person, who is not to be a coach or advisor, may videotape from the jury box. Prior to the beginning of the competition or in the transition time between Pretrial and the Trial, if no other space is available for spectators the jury box may be used. An empty seat must remain between spectators and scoring attorneys. Spectators will not wear any clothing or engage in any behavior that indicates which school they are from or support.

Team Contact During Match

6. There is to be no contact between team members and advisors or others during a trial. (San Mateo County will not utilize Conduct of the Trial Rule Section _____, p. _____, regarding making objections at the end of the trial regarding the opponent team's behavior.) Team members sitting in the reserved witness section may not talk with each other or pass notes. Unless a school has two sides competing at the same time, it is very unwise for a Teacher–Advisor or an Attorney–Coach to leave a courtroom during a trial. When the two sides of a team are competing at the same time, or there is only one adult advisor at the courtroom at a particular time, the teacher advisors should meet prior to the trial to settle issues such as leaving the courtroom.

Who Gets the Roster/Award Nomination Sheets

7. At each competition the teacher advisor will be responsible for preparing five copies

of his/her team roster. Distribution as follows: the competition judge, the opposing Teacher–Advisor, and two copies for the attorney–scorers, and one copy for the Mock Trial Coordinator. The copies should be color coded: BLUE paper with the names of the Prosecution team and YELLOW paper for names of the Defense team.

First Round Forms

8. At the First Round each school will provide the following forms to the Coordinator: signature page of the Team Roster & Code of Ethics and the Student Permission Slips. After that date any additions or changes to the team can be given to the Coordinator the first night that the student competes. Please type out forms using the templates on our website.

School Fees

9. In 2016-17 the fee is \$335. It is due by November 14.

Team Anonymity

10. During the competition teams will be scheduled, announced, and recognized by the team letter determined at the annual orientation.

Team Introduction

11. Each school will introduce the team to the Court at the beginning of the competition trial. To ensure anonymity, students will not mention the name of their school or introduce the teacher advisor and attorney coach. Shadow timers must identify themselves.

Requesting Time

12. Team attorneys may ask for remaining time from the clerk at any time. This is a good time for a shadow timer to point out a significant discrepancy if one exists.

Scouting

13. Each school will make a good faith effort to not scout other teams.

Presider Reading Scripts

14. The judge will not read The Script for Presiding Judge (Trial) and The Script for Presiding Judge (Pretrial) to participants. (See the Judges & Attorneys Handbook 2014-2015)

Exhibits

15. *No marking on exhibits*

Shadow Timers

16. Prosecution and Defense team members may serve as a shadow timer. If the shadow timer is a non-participating member of the side competing, he or she should sit next to the clerk. However, the shadow timer, whoever it is, is not required to sit next to the clerk.

Errata

17. Errata is a correction to the Mock Trial casebook. Its authenticity may not be challenged. It is the responsibility of the Prosecution to produce it in court in the form in which it was downloaded from our website or the CRF website. It may be examined by the Defense team

along with the exhibits prior to the beginning of the match. Unless challenged by the Defense team, the Presider will include it with the stipulations of the exhibits.

Clerk

18. The clerk must sit while giving time warnings or checks.

Scoresheets

19. The original score sheets, without scorers names, will be available for examination at the request of a teacher advisor or attorney coach. Attorneys will be asked to give anonymous feedback if he or she awards below a 5. The coordinator will share the feedback with the teacher advisor

Electronic Devices

Participants may not use electronic devices, however adults and spectators may if set on silent.

The Bailiff when calling the court to order all announce this rule.