

San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition Code of Ethics

§1: All participants and observers will promote and practice the ideals of good sportsmanship and show respect to the opposing team, observers, mock trial administrators, coordinators, judges, attorney scorers, courtroom monitors, and other volunteers. Mock trial participants shall do all of the following:

(a) Maintain a cordial and respectful demeanor and be guided by a fundamental sense of integrity and fair play in all mock trial activities.

(b) Be civil in their dealings with one another and with the public and conduct all proceedings with civility and respect for each of the participants and facilities.

(c) Abstain from making disparaging, demeaning or sarcastic remarks or comments about one another and abstain from any conduct that may be characterized as uncivil, abrasive, hostile, or destructive.

(d) While participating in court, dress in a manner showing proper respect for the court, the proceedings and the law.

(e) Advise team observers that proper conduct is expected within the courthouse and, where possible, prevent team members and non-team members from creating disorder or disruption, and ensure cooperation with all court staff.

(f) Conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates sensitivity to the necessity of preserving decorum and the integrity of the judicial process by adhering to courtesy, good manners and dignity.

§2: All participants will focus on accepting defeat and success with dignity and restraint. Trials will be conducted honestly, fairly, and with the utmost civility. Members will not willfully violate the Rules of the Competition in spirit or in practice. All participants acknowledge that there is subjectivity in life and in human interaction and that reasonable people can view things differently.

§3: Teacher-Sponsors and Attorney Coaches agree to focus attention on the educational value of the Mock Trial Competition. They shall discourage willful violations of the Rules. Teacher-sponsors will instruct students as to proper procedure and decorum and will assist their students in understanding and abiding by the competition's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct.

§4: Attorney Coaches agree to uphold the highest standards of the legal profession and will encourage fair play. They will promote conduct and decorum in accordance with the competition's Rules and Code of Ethical Conduct. Attorney Coaches are reminded that they are in a position of authority and thus serve as positive role models for the students. They will focus on proper evidentiary objections rather than focus on potential Rule violations.

§5: Presiding judges and attorney scorers are asked to observe the trials with an objective eye. Interjecting one's own personal style and biases is of no value in the education process. Team members have agreed to abide by the Rules and this Code in spirit and in practice; therefore, violations should result in a lowering of the team performance score. All judges and attorney scorers should be prepared and knowledgeable about the Code of Ethical Conduct, the Rules of the competition, the case materials, and the procedures. By participating in this competition, volunteer judges and attorney scorers pledge advance preparation in order to competently carry out this competition.

§6: All participants are bound by all sections of this Code and agree to abide by the provisions. Teams are responsible for ensuring that all observers are aware of the Code. Violations of the Code of Ethical Conduct will be grounds for reductions in team scores.