

2021-2022 California Mock Trial Program

AMENDMENTS TO THE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY TEAM RULEBOOK

Issued January 25, 2022

The following amendments incorporate recent decisions of the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Committee (“Mock Trial Committee”), including those to ensure a safe competition environment for all students, teachers, coaches, scorers, judges, and mock trial volunteers and staff. Where language of an existing rule has been modified, the new language is highlighted in yellow. Where a new section or paragraph of a rule has been added, the section is highlighted in yellow. If language from a select paragraph in the original rules issued in the fall of 2021 is not included in this amendment, it is deleted.

Rule 1.3 Trial Procedures

E. At least one attorney coach or teacher should be in the courtroom during the trial. **Only coaches, teachers and the students who will be competing in that day’s or evening’s round will be permitted in the courthouse and the courtroom.** Teachers, attorney coaches, and participants are to remain in the courtroom throughout the trial so as to not disrupt the trial.

Rule 1.4 Copyright and Plagiarism

D. **Teams may be supplied links on digital platforms so that family members, friends and other team members may observe their team’s performance. These links may be shared only with those expressly authorized by the Mock Trial Committee. No intentional scouting is allowed and links may not be shared with teams other than those performing in a particular round. Observers watching on a digital platform may not, under any circumstances, record any portion of a mock trial session.**

Rule 2.3 Team Withdrawal

B. Competition registration fees are non-refundable after January 26.

Rule 2.4 Awards

A. An award ceremony for the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition will be held on **March 8, 2022**. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Prosecution Pretrial Attorney- **3** awards
- Defense Pretrial Attorney- **3** awards
- Prosecution Attorney- **4** awards
- Defense Attorney- **4** awards
- Prosecution Witness- **5** awards
- Defense Witness- **5** awards
- Clerk- **up to 2** awards
- Bailiff- **up to 2** awards
- Judge David H. Bartick Civility Award

The Mock Trial Committee is instituting a new recognition for students to be determined by their opponents. Teams will select a most valuable player (MVP) from their opposing team for each round of competition. At the end of each round and before the debrief, each team will be given a few minutes to confer to select a student from the opposing team who they feel should be recognized with an MVP award. Criteria for this award include the student's demonstration of skill in the performance of the student's trial role, adherence to mock trial rules, civility and collegiality towards the opposing team. All students who are selected as an MVP will receive a special certificate and be acknowledged during the award ceremony.

Rule 3.6 Attorneys

I. If there are any irregularities regarding the rules of the competition that a team wishes to bring to the attention of the judge and attorney scorers, one active team member will have 30 seconds to orally argue any irregularities to the judge. Attorney coaches may not directly make arguments on behalf of the team. This opportunity should be used for substantial rule violations and should not be used to argue additional points of law or rebut an opponent's closing argument. **Teams arguing a violation of the rules must be able to point to specific conduct that comprises the rule violation and cite to the judge the corresponding rule in the team rulebook and/or case materials using the following script:**

“Your Honor, the Prosecution/Defense identified a substantial trial irregularity (or irregularities). The opposing team [specify team member] violated Rule [specify rule and section] by [explain violation].

[Optional] The violation worked to the advantage of the other team and disadvantaged our team by [explain impact].”

The defending team is to be given an opportunity to respond. Teams arguing against an allegation of a rule violation should cite to specific conduct and rules which support their position. There will be no rebuttal regarding claims of an irregularity unless affirmatively invited by the judge.

Rule 4.1 Rule Interpretation and Modification

D. The Mock Trial Committee reserves the right to modify the Team Rulebook and issue and publicize via email and the website (sdmocktrial.org) appropriate measures to minimize health risk to participants and staff presented by the recent surge of COVID cases and exposures.

Rule 5.6 Championship Trial

A. Following four rounds of competition, the two teams with the highest number of wins, and if there are more than two teams with the same number of wins, the best overall cumulative point percentages will compete in the Championship Round.