

## Evaluation Guidelines

All teams will compete in all three rounds unless a team has a bye. Teams are randomly matched for Round 1 and power-matched based on win/loss record, total ballots, and total number of points.

You should use your team rosters (provided by each team) for note-taking and reference when evaluating performances.

Ballots shall be completed and submitted immediately following completion of the round and before final remarks. If online ballots are not available, ballots shall be completed and given to the Clerk for delivery to the scoring room immediately following competition of the round and before the final remarks. Judges will not provide oral critique. Comments may be written on ballots. Teams will be provided with copies of their ballots after the competition.

Judges shall assign a score of 1-10 in each section of their ballots. Scoring is broken down as follows:

<b>1-2 pts</b>	<b>Poor, Unprepared:</b> does not meet criteria
<b>3-4 pts</b>	<b>Weak, Needs Practice:</b> developing the criteria, but inconsistent
<b>5-6 pts</b>	<b>Fair, Average:</b> meets the criteria some of the time
<b>7-8 pts</b>	<b>Good, Very Good:</b> proficient with the criteria nearly all of the time
<b>9-10 pts</b>	<b>Excellent, Amazing:</b> mastery or near mastery of the criteria at all times

Judges will be provided with a performance evaluation rubric for each role being evaluated. A good way to approach assigning points is to start each performance at a 5-6 (average). Then, the performance can either drop below or exceed average. This helps to avoid score inflation. **Remember: a score of 1 OR 10 should be rare.**

## Penalty Points

Penalty Points should be assigned if a team member:

- uses procedures beyond the Mock Trial rules (with intent, not mistakenly);
- goes beyond the scope of the Mock Trial materials (with intent, not mistakenly);
- does not follow mock trial rules in any other way (with intent, not mistakenly);
- talks to coaches, non-performing team members or other observers. This includes during breaks and recesses, if any should occur, in the trial. This violation, if determined to be harmful, carries a mandatory 2-point penalty to be indicated on the Presiding Judge's ballot.
- does not call all witness. This violation carries a mandatory 2-point penalty to be indicated on the Presiding Judge's ballot.

Note: The conduct of teachers and attorney coaches may impact a team's score.

Judges shall not engage in any discussion with students or coaches about scoring before, during, or after the trial. Any questions from teams about scoring should be referred to the Competition Coordinator.