

Virtual Competition – Introductory Matters (Presiding Judge)

The Presiding Judge should handle the following introductory matters before beginning the trial:

1. Ask each side if it is ready for trial. Remind non-performing participants that their video and audio should be muted. Then, ask one team member from each team to state their team members' names, roles, and the team letter code (not school name).
2. Inquire of both teams whether they have objections to recording of the round.
3. Ask if there are people in the Zoom courtroom who are connected with other schools in the competition not performing in your courtroom. If so, they should be asked to leave the Zoom courtroom and be reassigned from the main Zoom room.
4. Remind observers of the importance of showing respect for the teams. Observers must remain muted with no video throughout the entire trial.
5. Remind teams that witnesses are permitted to testify only to the information in the fact situation, their witness statements, and what can be reasonably inferred from that information.
6. Remind teams that they must complete their presentations within the specified time limits. The timekeepers will signal you in the Zoom chat area as the time for each segment progresses. Three-minute, one minute, and TIME warnings will be posted by both timekeepers. At the end of each segment attorneys and witnesses will be stopped when time has run out, regardless of completion of the presentation.
7. All witnesses must be called and sworn in. If a team fails to call a witness penalty points will be assigned. See Rule 11.
8. Only the following exhibits may be offered as evidence at the trial:

Exhibit 1: Sammy Snow's May 31, 2024, Social Media Post and Example Comment Section

Exhibit 2: Social Media Follower Comparison

Exhibit 3: Honeycutt Carnival's Profits & Loss Graph

Exhibit 4: April 20, 2004 – Newspaper Article

Exhibit 5: Text Exchange between Charlie Baggins and Denny Nugget

Exhibit 6: Morgan Dorf's CV

Exhibit 7: Rowan Wilson's CV

Finally, before you begin, indicate that you have been assured that the Code of Ethical Conduct has been read and will be followed by all participants in the Mock Trial competition. Should there be a recess at any time during the trial, the communication rule shall be in effect. See the Code of Ethical Conduct. If there are no other questions, begin the trial.

At the end of the trial, the Presiding Judge shall ask teams if either side wishes to make a Rule 35 motion. If so, resolve the matter as indicated in Rule 35. Then, judges will complete their ballots. Judges shall NOT inform the students of results of their scores or results from their ballots. Judges should also not announce a verdict on the merits. Once ballots are complete, judges will immediately submit them before final remarks are made.

In-Person Competition – Introductory Matters (Presiding Judge)

The Presiding Judge should handle the following introductory matters before beginning the trial:

1. Ask each side if it is ready for trial. If so, ask each side to provide each judge with a copy of its Team Roster. Then, ask each member to rise and state their name, role and team letter code (not school name).
2. Ask the scoring judges (juror) if they are prepared for the start of the trial. (Ensure they have access to their online scoring ballot, or if need be, a backup hardcopy ballot).
3. If video or audio recorders are present, inquire with both teams whether they have objectives to recording of the round.
4. Ask if there are people in the courtroom who are connected with other schools in the competition not performing in your courtroom. If so, they should be asked to leave. They may contact the Competition Coordinator to determine the location of the courtroom in which their school is performing.
5. Remind spectators of the importance of showing respect for the teams. Ask spectators to silence electronic devices. Judges may remove spectators who do not adhere to proper courtroom decorum.
6. Remind teams that witnesses are permitted to testify only to the information in the fact situation, their witness statements, and what can be reasonably inferred from that information.
7. Remind teams that they must complete their presentations within the specified time limits. The bailiff will signal you as the time for each segment progresses. Three-minute, one minute and zero-minute cards will be held up by the bailiff. At the end of each segment attorneys and witnesses will be stopped when time has run out, regardless of completion of the presentation.
8. All witnesses must be called. If a team fails to call a witness penalty points will be assigned. See Rule 11.
9. Only the following exhibits may be offered as evidence at the trial:

Exhibit 1: Sammy Snow’s May 31, 2024, Social Media Post and Example Comment Section

Exhibit 2: Social Media Follower Comparison

Exhibit 3: Honeycutt Carnival’s Profits & Loss Graph

Exhibit 4: April 20, 2004 – Newspaper Article

Exhibit 5: Text Exchange between Charlie Baggins and Denny Nugget

Exhibit 6: Morgan Dorf’s CV

Exhibit 7: Rowan Wilson’s CV

Finally, before you begin, indicate that you have been assured that the Code of Ethical Conduct has been read and will be followed by all participants in the Mock Trial competition. Should there be a recess at any time during the trial, the communication rule shall be in effect. See the Code of Ethical Conduct. If there are no other questions, begin the trial.

At the end of the trial, the Presiding Judge shall ask teams if either side wishes to make a Rule 35 motion. If so, resolve the matter as indicated in Rule 34. Then, judges will complete their ballots. Judges shall NOT inform the students of results of their scores or results from their ballots. Judges should also not announce a verdict on the merits. Once ballots are complete, judges will immediately submit them before final remarks are made.