

Tournament Rules Overview



1. **The prosecution is responsible for providing any diagrams.** If the prosecution does not, it may be reflected in the team performance score. Rule 3.2A
2. **Once trial has commenced, there can be no communications between the students and their coaches/parents/spectators.** An automatic **deduction of 5 points per score sheet** will be imposed if the presider finds the rule has been breached. Rule 3.3
3. **Reasonable Inferences.** The definition has not changed. Inferences and objections about those inferences should “be minimized, and points may be deducted for inferences with the trial.” Rule 3.5D
4. **Only the person who conducts the direct may make the objection on cross.** “Points may be deducted for objections made by the wrong attorney.” Rule 3.7C
5. **Legal motions not outlined in the official materials will not be allowed.** Rule 3.7F. The only allowable motions are (1) the pre trial motion, (2) motions to enter exhibits and (3) motions to strike testimony. Rule 3.8G. If a motion is made that is not listed, “two points will automatically be deducted from the Team’s total performance score.” Rule 3.8G.

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6. **30 second consult-coaches may not directly make arguments on behalf of the team.** Rule 3.7I The consult is to raise rule violations and not additional points of law or rebut the closing argument. Rule 3.7N
7. **Running of another team's time is not allowed.** If a presider determines there has been an unreasonable running of the time, the presider may direct the scorers to deduct one point from the offending witness's score. Rule 3.9D
8. **One minute is automatically reserved for rebuttal at the conclusion of the closing arguments.** Rule 3.9
9. The **clerk** must give **verbal** and **visual warnings** at **2 minutes, one minute and 30 seconds.** Rule 3.9J
10. The presider has the ultimate authority and it is solely the student attorney's responsibility to bring the matter to the presider's attention before the verdict is rendered. There are no bench conferences allowed. Rule 4.0A and B.

