

## 2018-19 Team Rulebook Changes

### Rule 1.3 — Trial Procedures

- A. After trial; **“participants may not address the scoring attorneys as if they were a jury.” has been replaced with** “attorneys and witnesses may not verbally address the scoring attorneys as if they were a jury. A ten point deduction must be taken from each score sheet when a team member addresses the scorers.”
- O. **“should not be used” has been replaced with** “are not allowed.”

### Rule 3.2 — Physical Evidence

- A. **Previous rule was changed to** “The prosecution team must bring to each trial, the physical evidence listed under the heading “Physical Evidence” in the case materials. All reproductions can be as small as the original size of the exhibits found in the case material, but no larger than 22 x 28 inches. Teams will not be penalized if they choose not to reproduce and enlarge the exhibit as found in the case material. If the prosecution team fails to bring physical evidence to court, it may be reflected in the team presentation/participation score.”
- B. “No other physical evidence will be allowed. All physical evidence and witnesses found in this case, but not made physically available for trial, are unavailable and their availability may not be questioned.” **has been moved up to B.**
- C. **Previous rule was changed to** “Procedures for introducing items into evidence —Attorneys may introduce physical exhibits, if any are listed under the heading “Evidence,” provided that the objects correspond to the description given in the case materials. Below are the steps to follow when introducing physical evidence (maps, diagrams, etc.). All items are presented prior to trial.  
1- Present the item to an attorney for the opposing team prior to trial. If that attorney objects the use of the item, the judge will rule whether the evidence is appropriate or not.  
2- Before beginning the trial, mark all exhibits for identification. Address the judge as follows: “Your honor, I ask that this item be marked for identification as Exhibit #\_\_\_\_.”  
3- When a witness is on the stand testifying about the exhibit, show the item to the witness and ask the witness if he/she recognizes the item. If the witness does, ask him or her to explain it or answer questions about it. This shows how the exhibit is relevant to the trial.
- D. **Previous rules was changed to** “Moving the Item into Evidence — Exhibits must be introduced into evidence if attorneys wish the court to consider the items themselves as evidence, not just the testimony about the exhibits. Attorneys must ask to move the item into evidence during the witness examination or before they finish presenting their case.  
1- “Your honor, I ask that this item (describe) be moved into evidence as People’s (or Defendant’s) Exhibit # and request that the court so admit it.”  
2- At this point, opposing counsel may make any proper objections.  
3- The judge will then rule on whether the item may be admitted into evidence.”
- G. **After “prohibited” added** “, including but not limited to the use of electronic or light projected aids.”

### Rule 3.3 — Trial Communication

- A. **After spectators, replaced** “**may not talk to, signal, communicate with or coach their teams.**” with “may not communicate (including signaling and passing notes) with the teams.”
- B. **Previous rule was changed to** “Mock Trial is a bench trial; attorneys and witnesses may not verbally address the scoring attorneys as if they were a jury.”
- C. **Previous rule was changed to** “Communication between trial attorneys is allowed during the trial but must be non-disruptive.”
- D. “The defendant may sit at the counsel table and communicate with the defense attorneys. All communication must be non-disruptive to the trial.” **has been moved to D.**
- E. “After the pretrial, the pretrial attorneys may not sit with the trial attorneys and may not communicate with the trial attorneys at any time.” **has been moved to E.**

- F. "Once the trial has begun, there must be no spectator contact with student team members, whether in the hallway or the courtroom." **has been moved to F.**
- G. "There will be an automatic deduction of ten points per score sheet if the presider finds that any section of rule (3.3) has been violated" **has been replaced with** "If any section on rule 3.3 has been violated, scorers must deduct ten points per score sheet per violation."

### Rule 3.5 — Unfair Extrapolation

- J. "Point deduction(s) should be considered for individual scores of participants who make unfair extrapolations or ask questions that call for unfair extrapolations. Witnesses and attorneys making unfair extrapolations and attorneys who ask questions that require the witness to answer with an unfair extrapolation should be penalized by having a point or points deducted from their individual scores." **has been replaced with** "Witnesses and attorneys making unfair extrapolations and attorneys who ask questions that require the witness to answer with an unfair extrapolation should be penalized by having two points deducted from their individual scores."
- K. "The number of points deducted should be determined by the severity of the extrapolation. If a team has several team members making unfair extrapolations, the offending team's overall points should be reduced accordingly." **has been replaced with** "If a team has several team members making unfair extrapolations, in addition to the individual point deductions, five points must be deducted from the offending team's performance/participation score."

### Rule 3.6 — Attorneys

- C. "Points should be deducted for objections made by the wrong attorney." **has been replaced with** "Two points must be deducted for each objection made by the wrong attorney."
- G. "Points may be deducted for objections made during opening statements or closing arguments." **has been replaced with** "Two points must be deducted for each objection made during opening statements or closing arguments."
- M. **Replaced "This" with** "The 30 second"

### Rule 3.7 — Conduct of the Pretrial Motion

- C. "Points may be deducted for objections made during pretrial arguments" **has been replaced with** "Two points must be deducted for each objection made during pretrial arguments."
- G. **After "section," replaced** "two points will automatically be deducted from the team's total performance score." **with** "two points must be deducted from the team's total performance/participation score."

### Rule 3.8 — Clerk, Bailiff, and Unofficial Timers

- A. **After "presentations." replaced** "At the State Finals (and LA County), the clerk and unofficial timer must bring a stop watch (no cell phones, tablets, or other electronic devices) and a time sheet to each trial. The time sheet can be downloaded from CRF's website." **with** "The clerk is the official neutral time keeper for the trial. The clerk must keep accurate time for both teams, provide time remaining warnings, and complete a time sheet. In addition, any member of the team presenting defense may serve as an unofficial timer. This unofficial timer must be identified before the trial begins. To avoid timing issues, both the clerk and unofficial timers must sit next to each other during the trial."
- E. **Replaced "(In LA County – The junior division's total time is 34 minutes.) with** "(The time may be utilized however they choose, but the maximum allowable totals for each section must be observed.)"; **Combined** "Pretrial and Rebuttal bullet points"; **Combined** "Opening Statement/Closing Arguments and Rebuttal bullet points"
- F. **Replaced previous rule with** "The time will start when each attorney starts to speak (i.e. first work of pretrial, opening, direct, cross-examination, and closing. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - "May it please the court..."
  - "Your Honor..."

- “Please state your name for the court...”
- G. **Moved following rule to G** “The time will be stopped when:
  - Witnesses are called to the stand
  - Attorneys make objections
  - Presider questions attorneys and witnesses
  - Presider offers their observations.
- H. “The time will not be stopped if witnesses are asked to approach the diagram or for other physical demonstrations. Time will not be rounded off.” **was moved to H.; After “off” added “**, and must be measured to the whole second.”
- J. **After “section.” added** “The time remaining cards must be displayed in a manner to ensure that there is a clear view for the counsel and presiding judge.” ; **Replaced “There will be an automatic deduction of one point per score sheet if the presider finds that any section of this rule has been violated.” with** “Two points must be deducted per score sheet if the presider finds that any section of this rule has been violated.” **Removed bullet point.**
- K. **Removed “Any member of the team presenting defense may serve as an unofficial timer. This unofficial timer must be identified before the trial begins. To avoid timing issues, both the official and unofficial timers must sit next to each other during trial.” All subsequent rules shifted up in order.**
- O. **Added** “The bailiff will call the court to order and swear in the witnesses. In addition, the bailiff must bring a copy of the 2018-19 Team Rulebook and Case Packet should the presider need to clarify an issue or question.”
- P. **Added** “Before calling the court to order, the bailiff will remind the audience to turn off all cell phones and that ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD is allowed in the courtroom. Water is OK. If spectators must step outside, they should do so quietly in order to avoid disrupting the participants.”
- Q. **Added** “The bailiff will call the court to order using the following language:  
“All rise, Superior Court of the State of California, County of (ex. Sacramento)\_\_\_\_\_,  
Department \_\_\_\_\_, is now in session. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ presiding. (Allow time for the presider to take the bench.) Please be seated and come to order.”
- R. **Added** “The bailiff will swear in the witnesses by using the following language:  
“Do you solemnly affirm that the testimony you are about to give will faithfully and truthfully conform to the facts and rules of the Mock Trial competition?”

## Rules

### Rule 4.1 — Rule Interpretation

- G. **Replaced “Arguing for hyper technical interpretations of the rules, especially when designed to embarrass other, is prohibited.” with** “Arguing for hyper technical interpretations of the rules, especially when designed to embarrass others or to gain an unfair advantage, is prohibited and five points must be deducted.”