

**Santa Clara County’s Modifications to the CRF 2022-23 Team Rulebook (“Local Rules”)
and Santa Clara County’s Rules for Virtual Trials**

(Revised October 25, 2022)

I. Local Rules

The Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial Tournament Steering Committee adopts the CRF 2022-23 Team Rulebook with the following modifications:

Rules concerning mandatory point deductions: The CRF 2022-23 Team Rulebook specifies a number of mandatory point deductions. As in the past, Santa Clara County adopts the mandatory point deductions set for in Rule 3.6 G and H for failing to begin a direct or cross examination within the allotted time. However, to encourage professionalism and good sportsmanship, and to discourage overzealous allegations of rule violations, the other specified point deductions are not mandatory. The presiding judge has the discretion to determine whether a violation occurred. If the presiding judge determines that a violation occurred, the presiding judge will direct the scoring attorneys to use their own discretion to determine individually how many points (if any) to take off their score sheet. The decisions made by the presiding judge and the scoring attorneys will be final. The Tournament Administrators, County Coordinator, and the Steering Committee will not consider any appeals regarding any rule violations or point deductions.

Rule 1.2(E). Add “*See Santa Clara County Professionalism and Good Sportsmanship Recommendations* for additional guidance” to the end of the paragraph.

Rule 3.2(B). Teacher and Attorney coaches may only be identified at the conclusion of the trial.

Rule 3.2(C) (school anonymity). This rule is not adopted.

Rule 3.2(D) (clothing that identifies school). This rule is not adopted.

Rule 3.2(F). Add at end of first sentence “with COE provided rosters.” Delete second sentence and replace with “Schools may provide rosters with information on which roles and assignments the students perform. The schools may add student photos to the roster.”

Rule 3.2(I). Add “However, the Clerk and Backup Timer may use their cell phones as a stopwatch.”

Rule 3.2(M). This rule is subject to the prior approval from the Santa Clara County Superior Court Presiding Judge. The Steering Committee will strive to obtain all necessary approvals for teams to take team photographs inside the courthouse.

Rule 3.4(A). *See Steering Committee Guidance to Schools and Presiders re Cross Examination Answers* for additional guidance.

Rule 3.10(G). The rule is modified to include “when attorneys read stipulations into the record” before or during examinations as time when the clock is not stopped.

Rule 4.5(A). Please note that clerks and bailiffs will be scored using a scale of 1-5 as per the CRF rules.

Rule 4.5(F). Add “materials” after “case.”

Rule 4.6. The Power Pairing Memo replaces these rules for purposes of the Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial Tournament.

II. Santa Clara County’s Rules for Virtual Trials

1. Mute your audio feed and turn off your visual feed when you are not participating.
2. Attorneys must stand at least two feet from their computer screen when speaking.
3. Electronic backgrounds are not permitted.
4. Do not screen share the exhibits but you may show them.

5. If a participant loses visual or audio feed, that participant will have four minutes off the clock to correct that problem. If the problem cannot be corrected within four minutes, an alternate must perform that part.
6. You must wear a mask at all times if there are other people in your room other than when you are speaking.