

RULES OF TRIAL PROCEDURE - COUNTY

1. During any one trial, five team members must participate - two attorneys and three witnesses. Team member responsibilities may change during the competition but not during the trial. Witnesses will testify for their own team. Although the witness statements are written in the male or female gender, any witness may use them, with appropriate gender changes, as the situation may warrant.
2. During a trial, each team must evenly divide its duties. One attorney will do one direct and two cross examinations and the other attorney will do two direct and one cross examinations. The attorney examining a particular witness is the only one allowed to object to questions of that witness. One attorney must make an opening statement and the other attorney must make the closing argument. Failure to follow this rule may result in point deductions.
3. Each team must call all of its assigned witnesses. The witnesses will be treated as having been sworn with an oath.
4. The trial sequence and time guidelines are as follows:
 - Opening Statement-4 minutes per side
 - Direct examination for each side is limited to a total time of 20 minutes for all witnesses combined
 - Cross examination for each side is limited to a total time of 20 minutes for all witnesses combined
 - Closing Argument-6 minutes per sideThe Plaintiff may, at the discretion of the Court, reserve some of its time for a brief rebuttal to the Defendant's closing argument.
5. Each team should keep time and make proper objections when an opposing team has exceeded their time limits. The judges will enforce the clock, and will use their discretion in deciding whether to allow a team to continue after the time limits have been reached. The clock will be a running clock and will not stop for objections. Any objection will count off of questioning team time.
6. Teams may prepare trial notes, and an attorney or witness will be permitted to read such notes, but submission of trial briefs, written motions, etc., will not be permitted. Witnesses are not permitted to have notes on the witness stand.
7. Advisors, instructors and observers shall not talk to, signal, communicate with, or coach their teams during trial. Additional team members not participating in the trial and coaches will remain in the courtroom with the team members presently competing. Scouting other teams is prohibited. Advisors and coaches may not communicate with the trial judge at any time during the trial. If a violation of the rules occurs during the trial, it is the responsibility of the trial team to bring the issue to the court's attention.
8. Teams may not cite statutes or case law or use exhibits unless provided as part of the competition packet. Enlargements of exhibits are permissible.
9. Attorneys and witnesses are limited to the facts and information provided in the trial packet. Points may be deducted from teams if facts are exceeded in the opinion of the judge.
10. All team members in the courtroom, whether participating in the trial or not, are subject to the rules for proper courtroom decorum, as established by the judge. Failure to maintain this decorum may cause points to be subtracted from the team's total score.
11. Judges shall take judicial notice of the Stipulations Regarding Evidentiary Matters.
12. Videotaping of the trials is allowed with the consent of the opposing team and the videotaping team must provide a copy of the video to the other team within 1 week. Video cameras shall be placed so as not to be obtrusive to the participants. Still photography by authorized individuals/organizations is permitted during the trial.