



To: Past Participants of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition  
From: Rebecca Britton, President - North Carolina Mock Trial Program  
Date: September 9, 2022  
Re: **Overview of Competition Rule Changes in 2022-2023**

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For those who have competed in previous years of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition, we have implemented a few rule changes for this season which include student eligibility to participate and a change from a “time remaining” to a “time elapsed” time keeping system. We have also increased the time for opening statements from 4 to 5 minutes. All other time limits for trial remain the same. The adjusted rules are noted below: You can access all of the NCMTTP rules at <https://ncmocktrial.org/compete/case-materials/>

❖ Rule 2.1 – Student Eligibility

All students who are or were enrolled full-time in grades 9 to 12 during the current mock trial season are eligible to compete as team members as follows:

- a. With the sponsoring school in which they are or were enrolled; or
- b. With a sponsoring organization in which they are active members (such as YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Teen Court or local homeschool support group), provided that the organization is permitted to compete to increase participation in mock trial and not for the purpose of creating a competitive advantage, and the students of the mock trial organization are unable to participate under subsection a of this Rule; or
- c. With a team consisting of students from two or more schools in geographic proximity who are not otherwise able to field a mock trial team under this Rule, and provided that the team is permitted to compete to increase participation in Mock trial and not for the purpose of creating a competitive advantage.

❖ Rule 4.6 – Trial Sequence and Time Limits

The trial sequence and time limits are as follows:

- Opening Statements (5 minutes per side)

❖ Rule 4.7 – Timekeeping

Each team must provide one student in each round to serve as an official timekeeper for that round. The Plaintiff/Prosecution timekeeper will also serve as Bailiff by swearing in the witnesses.

**Both timekeepers should time all relevant aspects of the trial, not just their own team’s case presentation.** Timekeepers should display the “Time Elapsed” cards simultaneously. In trial, each team is to use a set of "Time Elapsed" cards found at the back of this book with the following designations to signal time: OPENING/CLOSING- 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 4:20, 4:40, 5:00/STOP; DIRECT- 5:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 19:20, 19:40, 20:00/STOP; and CROSS- 3:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 17:20, 17:40, 18:00/STOP. Modification of intervals is not permitted. Teams are not permitted to use other cards. Teams may not use these cards to signal time other than the aggregate time elapsed. (For example, teams may not use these cards to show the time elapsed of the time allocated by that team to a particular trial segment.)

Timekeepers are to act as **neutral** entities. They are not to communicate with their respective teams during the course of the trial presentation, emergency recesses, or any dispute procedure, except to display the time elapsed cards and indicate (as directed by the presiding judge) how much time has elapsed during a particular part of the trial.

*\*\*During a virtual competition, after each witness, timekeepers shall confer using the “chat” or similar feature regarding how much time has lapsed for each team.\*\**

In addition to the rule changes above, additional health and safety measures and/or requirements may be added to the rules as we get closer to the Regional Competitions and/or State Competitions depending upon the circumstances at that time.

We recommend all teams read the competition rules closely. Please contact us if you any questions.