

INDIANA BAR

FOUNDATION

Indiana High School Mock Trial 2019 Update to the Rules of Competition

I. Rules Reordered

- The Rules have been reordered so that they more closely reflect the National Rules. That being said, not every National Rule is the same as an Indiana Rule, and vice versa.

II. Table of Contents

- A table of contents was added at the beginning for ease of use.

III. Rule 1.1 – Rules

- Added language specifies the roles of the Foundation, its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, as well as the Mock Trial Advisory Committee.
- Language was also added regarding Competition Directors, who will make the calls on Rules interpretations at an event.
- There is no appeals process. Note, the last sentence, says, “At its sole discretion, the Foundation’s Executive Committee *may* determine whether the Rules of Competition were interpreted or administered incorrectly.”

IV. Rule 1.4 – Regional Competitions

- The Rule mentions the creation of the fourth Regional in Evansville.
- It mentions that the Committee may ask certain teams to move to a different Regional, for the purpose of avoiding byes, etc.
 - Language was added here to give sufficient notice (at least seven days) to the teams, if that were to happen.

V. Rule 2.7 – Gender of Witnesses

- The main edit here was to shift to an edited version of the National Rule on Gender of Witnesses, which specifically mentions “gender election of the student.”
- The hope is that this would be more accepting and accommodating for all students.

VI. Rule 4.12 – Communication during Competition

- The Rule was edited to disallow alternates from being able to communicate with participating team members during a trial
 - This is a departure from previous Rules, but the change mirrors National Rule 4.12.
- The Rule has an exception for communication by a timekeeper, but only for the purposes of signaling the amount of time.

VII. Rule 4.21 – Use of Notes

- This Rule, which bars the use of laptops/electronics, was edited with the addition “in the courtroom” to clarify that laptops are allowed anywhere but in the courtroom.
- An exception was also added to allow for stopwatches and phones (according to Rule 4.6 – Timekeeping).

VIII. Rule 5.2 – Composition of a Judging Panel

- The added language here was to build in a backup plan, using only two scoring judges, in the event that something happens (illness, weather, etc.), and we are unable to secure enough judges for three-judge panels.

IX. Rule 5.6 – Team Advancement

- Team Rankings (after rounds and at the conclusion of competitions) will be determined by one of the following methods:
 - If 3 Scoring Judges were used in each trial:
 - Trial Wins → Ballots → Total Point → Differential
 - If 2 Scoring Judges were used in each trial:
 - Ballots → Total Points → Differential

X. Rule 5.7 – Power-Matching/Seeding

- The gist of the changes here are that teams will alternate the side they play each round.
- As the competition progresses, they are continually paired with teams that are the closest to their “ranking” as we can determine.
- At the end of a competition, the winner should be the team who prevailed against the toughest opponents.
- First Round matchups will be conducted live and in the presence of the teams.
- For Round 2, all P teams from Round 1 are ranked from top to bottom, as are the D teams. #1P plays #1D (and so on) in Round 2, with each team switching the side it performed in Round 1.
- For Round 3, all teams will have played both sides once. They’re ranked from top to bottom. #1 vs. #2 (and so on till all are matched). To determine which team plays which side, a team name will be drawn from an envelope, live and in the presence of the teams.
- At State, since there are four rounds, all teams are guaranteed to play both sides twice.

XI. Rule 5.8 – Selection of Sides for Championship Trial

- There was no previous rule on this, but the practice was to allow the top ranked team to pick which side they wanted to present.
- The new Rule reflects the Committee’s desire to remove the advantage that one team gets by “picking” its side, so:
 - The team names will be placed in an envelope;
 - One name will be drawn (in the presence of the teams);
 - Whatever team is drawn presents Plaintiff/Prosecution in the Championship Trial.
- Very similar to the process for picking sides in Round 3 of a competition (described above).

XII. Rule 6.1 – Reporting a Rules Violation (Inside the Bar)

- For Rules Violations that happen in the course of the trial, only student attorneys may initiate the complaint. ***If they do not, coaches cannot do it later.***
 - This is a change, in that coaches were previously allowed to initiate complaints about things happening in the bar through a complaint form.
 - Now, under the revised Rule, a complaint may still be filed (under 6.2) by a coach if they’re unsatisfied with the Presiding Judge’s decision, but only if the student attorneys brought up the issue ***during the trial.***

XIII. Rule 6.4 – Reporting a Rules Violation (Outside the Bar)

- This is the standard procedure of filling out a complaint form, but only coaches can do this, and it has to be for things occurring outside the bar (among non-participants in the trial).
 - Could deal with videotaping, unauthorized people viewing a trial, etc.