

## Local Mock Trial Rules 2017-2018

1. Teams may have alternates listed on the roster. Each team may have a maximum of only 20 official team members with 5 alternates.
2. All participants are required to wear appropriate courtroom attire (i.e. no ripped or stained jeans, appropriate length dresses and skirts.) At the county competition attorneys wear suits. (Sports coats are acceptable)
3. All participants are expected to act with good sportsmanship and respect for others in both victory and defeat throughout the competition. Students and coaches should exit the courtroom promptly at the close of the trial, and not initiate interaction with scoring attorneys the night of the trial.
4. Everyone, including Mock Trial staff, must be respectful of the Courthouse rules. Students, coaches and spectators should enter the courthouse quietly, as there are still courts in session. Everyone must be out of the Courthouse by 8:00 p.m. All teams and spectators should exit the building as quietly as possible immediately after the trial ends. Teams must be out of the parking lot as well as close to 8:00 p.m. as possible.
5. At all levels of the competition, participants are expected to be polite and patient with Mock Trial volunteers, and Courthouse staff. The scorers have the final word. Any procedural complaints during the trial should be addressed by the presiding judge. Student attorneys have the opportunity to address the judge at two times during the trial.
6. Coaches are on their honor not to send non-team members to scout for the team. If scouting is suspected, the issue must be reported to Paula Terrill or Paula Clark, before the start of the trial. Mock Trial staff will not interrupt a trial to determine whether or not a student from another school is scouting. (Intentional scouting means that a team member from another Mock Trial team is deliberately watching a competitor's trial.)
7. Video taping: You can only video/audio tape a trial involving your school, and **only if the other team and the judge gives you permission to do so**. Video tapes should not be shared with any OTHER team without the permission of both teams. The Mock Trial staff will NOT accept any videotape for complaint purposes.
8. Once the county Mock Trial competition schedule has been created, it will be adhered to. In the event the Mock Trial staff sees a need to alter the schedule, they will do so, then send out to all schools as a correction.
9. If both teams have competed against each other prior to semifinals or finals the teams will automatically switch roles.
10. If, in semi-finals, the opposing teams played the same role (i.e. both teams were prosecution in semifinals), the Mock Trial staff will flip a coin in order to determine roles for finals. The winner of the coin toss automatically plays the role that makes their role-playing even for prosecution and defense.
11. If a team is more than 30 minutes late for competition, they will forfeit that round of competition. If both teams would like to proceed with the round, they may do so as long as they are out of the courtroom by 7:45 p.m., but the points will not count towards the competition.

The Tulare County Mock Trial Program will adhere to all state rules with the above modifications.