

# Mock Trial Training

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South Carolina  
**BAR FOUNDATION**  
Lawyers Sustaining Justice

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## Mock Trial Dispute Settlement

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## Dispute Settlement

Disputes are raised when a team has substantial reason to believe that a significant violation of Mock Trial rules has occurred, which

- Involve students competing in the competition, and
- Occurred within the courtroom

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## Dispute Process

- At the end of the trial and the scoring panel have been excused, the **students will be permitted to consult with their coaches and teammates** for a maximum of two minutes.
- *The presiding provides each team a dispute form to be completed by the student attorneys.*
- If any team believes that a substantial rules violation has occurred, one of its **student attorneys will then present his position**, to which a student attorney from the opposite side will have an opportunity to respond.
- The judge may question the spokesperson from each team.

Attorney coaches and teacher coaches are not allowed to address the court regarding a dispute settlement or complete the dispute form – only students.

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## Ruling on a Dispute

- The ruling on a dispute is not announced at the end of the trial.
- If the presiding judge determines that the dispute is not meritorious, the judge will not inform the scoring panel.
- If the dispute is meritorious, the scoring judges may consider the dispute before completing their scoresheets.
- The dispute may or may not affect the scoring process, but that determination will be left solely to the scoring judges.
- There will be no appeal beyond the judges' decision, no matter the basis of the complaint.
- **A dispute on a rules violation must be done immediately after each individual trial.**

***JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL.***

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# Questions?

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