



What to Expect at the State Mock Trial Competition

Teams / Visitor Badges: Each team is allotted 24 visitor badges. (Teacher and attorney coaches have separate team badges.) If there are more than 16 students on a team, the remaining students need to wear visitor badges. Be aware the courtrooms have limited seating and vary in size with each courtroom assignment. Like the regional competitions, a team's visitors cannot view a round without visitor badges that match their team's code.

Pairing/Room Assignments and Power Matching: The state competition has three rounds for all teams. All teams are seeded and power matched in the first round using teams' final standing earned at regional competitions. Power matching is a form of pairing teams which cannot take place until all teams have completed a round. All subsequent rounds are also power matched. When determining pairings for the subsequent rounds, it is possible that a team may perform a particular side more than once consecutively. It is guaranteed that both sides of each team will compete once each during the competition. Detailed information about power matching can be found in the rules. Lead teachers are texted no later than 8 pm Friday night with side performance and courtroom number for Saturday morning. Teams need to be seated in their assigned courtroom 15 minutes prior to each round beginning.

Communication: Any communication that takes place over the bar subjects the team to a strong point deduction or even disqualification. Visitors, coaches, and non-competing team members are to refrain from all communication with competing team members unless directed by the presiding judge. Communication is directed solely to the State Coordinator and is made only by the lead teacher and/or attorney coaches. Any communication during the competition or post-competition not from the lead teacher and/or attorney coaches is in non-compliance of Rule 1.9 (Communication with Mock Trial Coordinators).

Photography/Videography: Video cameras and photography are permitted in this courthouse. Use of these devices must be approved by both teams in each round. Permission in one round does not mean permission in remaining rounds. All photos and videos must be taken from a seated position without blocking or distracting others.

Late Arrivals: Must obtain a nametag from the LRE Staff prior to entering a courtroom.

Transitioning In and Out of Courtrooms: Visitors are asked to be respectful of both teams competing and only enter or exit the courtroom during a transition. A transition is when a witness is leaving the witness stand.

Judging/Scoring: Each trial has a presiding judge overseeing the trial and a minimum of two to for people serving as the jury. Should there only be two judges serving as jury members or an emergency with the third scoring judge, the scores are averaged for a third scoresheet and the presiding judge determines which team wins the third ballot. The scoring judges score each team on how well they perform, their knowledge and understanding of the case itself and the trial process, not guilt or innocence. The scoring judges also determine the most effective witness and most

effective attorney for each round. The most effective determined by each team's opponent after each round are announced in the courtroom. The championship rounds have a larger scoring jury.

Recesses: During the competition there is a recess. Anyone behind the bar (visitor seating) may not leave or communicate during the recess. Only students in front of the bar may communicate, for the purposes of adjusting their closing arguments.

Snack Breaks: As mentioned in the state letter, Friday's break allows teams to have snacks and beverages outside of the courthouse, or in the Community Room. No snacks or beverages are provided. Food and beverages (including water) may not be brought into the courthouse. There will be an additional snack break between the two championship rounds on Saturday. Please dispose of all garbage in trash cans.

Closing Assembly / Championship Round / Selection of Sides: The Closing Assembly starts with the presentation of the regional advancement plaques. Next, the most effective witnesses and attorneys are recognized from each round. Finally, a State Professionalism and Civility Award is presented. At the conclusion, the top two teams competing in the championship rounds are announced. Each of the top two teams' designated team members and lead teacher coaches come forward for the official coin toss to determine which sides performed in the first championship round.

Saturday's Lunch: After the top teams are announced and the remaining ten teams are dismissed, lunch will be provided to the top two teams and their guests in the Community Room. Guests of both teams are asked to allow team members to eat their lunch and meet with their coaches without interruption during lunch.

Announcing of State Winner: The winner of the State Mock Trial Competition is announced approximately 15 to 20 minutes following the second championship round.

Presentation of Traveling Championship Cup: The presentation of Traveling Championship Cup will be presented to the team after engraving is complete, along with state championship certificates. The State Championship Team and their respective school are responsible for the upkeep/security of the cup, while it is on display at the school. The traveling cup is returned at the following year's regional Mock Trial competition.