

2022 – 2023

**RULES
UPDATE**



**MSBA
MOCK
TRIAL
RULES**

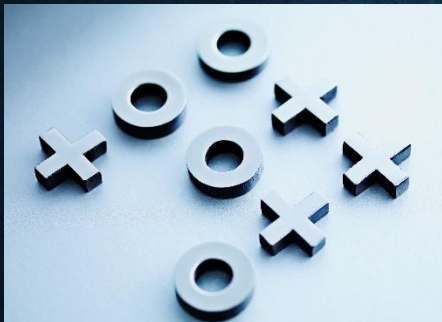
Competition Rules

Simplified Rules of
Evidence

Virtual Competition Rules



Part	Rules Regarding
A.	Administration
B.	The Problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 2.2 Witness Bound by Materials • Rule 2.3 Knowledge of Documents
C.	Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPDATE - Rule 3.1 clarification about “school” • Rules 3.2 & 3.4 Composition and Duties
D.	The Trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules 4.1 & 4.1(A) Courtroom Setting and Pretrial • Rule 4.4 Swearing in of Witness • Rule 4.5 & 4.6 Time Limits and Keeping UPDATE – Judge is to check time remaining after first two witnesses to assure timekeepers are aligned • Rules 4.12 Restriction on Communication • Rules 4.17 & 4.18 Objections • Rule 4.19 Witnesses not to Waste Time in Cross • UPDATE – Rule 4.26 No Cross on Actual Trait of a Witness (may address matters in their statement)



Part

Rules Regarding

E. Judging and Team Advancement

- Rule 5.5 Format of Competition
 - Rounds 1 – 4 (Sub-Regional)
 - Regional Finals
 - State Tournament
- 5.5A Subregional
 - First two are set & final two are “power matched” based on results of first two rounds, coin flip to assign sides (unless there was a bye or forfeit)
 - **UPDATE** – if pairings for 4th Round will require one of the teams to repeat a side for third time, pairings may be adjusted to reduce such occurrences
 - **UPDATE** – Not specified in the rules but will have first two rounds in person with final two virtual; will permit greater Minnesota teams to manage travel schedules
- 5.5B Regional Championship **UPDATE** – Rule 4.24 post round Critique only on request
- 5.5C State Tournament **UPDATE** – Rule 5.5B(d) if team qualifying for regional final knows (prior to final) it will not compete at State, it should inform Director so another team may compete

F. Dispute Resolution

- Rule 6.1 Allegation of Rules Violation Before the Critique

Rules of Evidence

Based on the Minnesota Rules of Evidence which are very similar to the Federal Rules of Evidence

Basis upon which counsel may raise an objection during examination of a witness (direct or cross) by opposing counsel. (See Rule 4.18 of Competition Rules)

Many of the rules will likely not have application to the case. Thus, the goal for an attorney/witness pair is to figure out, based on the witness statement, what may be the evidentiary issues with getting information from a witness statement “in.”

“The Usual Suspects”

- Rule 401 – Relevance
- Rules 608 & 609– Evidence of Witnesses Character and Conviction of a Crime
- Rule 611 – Leading questions on direct and beyond the scope in re-direct or re-cross
- Rules 701 and 702 Opinion Testimony
- Rules 801-804 Hearsay



VIRTUAL COMPETITION RULES

We contemplate two virtual rounds this season; however, a make up round can be required to be held on a virtual basis.

We have “VC Rules.”

- General Rules for Virtual Rounds
- Of significance is responding to technical difficulties

We also have “VC Modifications.”

- They identify the specific Competition Rule which is modified
- They indicate the change applicable to the virtual trial (thus need to review both to appreciate the change)

We also have Tips and Advice



Questions?

