



RULEBOOK 2023

This Rulebook is intended to supplement the general AMTA Rulebook and make certain modifications, deletions, and additions to the AMTA Rulebook with respect to the 2023 Rookie Rumble tournament (“RR”).

This Rulebook is only effective for RR.

Note: If a rule found in the AMTA Rulebook is not listed in this rulebook, then that rule applies to RR.

Chapter 1 – Definitions, Applicability, the Philosophy of AMTA

Rules 1.1 through 1.10 of the AMTA Rulebook apply to RR with the following modifications:

Rule 1.2(g) is amended for RR as follows: A trial ends when the scoring sheets *have been submitted electronically*.

Rule 1.11 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply; a team need not officially designate any coach. However, a team may use as much or as little coaching, mentoring, or advice as it deems appropriate, except during a trial as set forth in Rule 7.1.

Rules 1.12 and 1.13 apply to the extent a team has coaches.

Rules 1.14 and 1.15 do not apply; AMTA is the host of RR.

Rule 1.16 applies to any volunteers.

Chapter 2 – Registration, Case Access, and Withdrawal

Chapter 2 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply and the rules and procedures on the AMTA homepage regarding RR and registration therein replace those rules.

Chapter 3 – Eligibility

Chapter 3 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR and is replaced by the following rules:

Competitor Eligibility:

A competitor is eligible to compete at the Rookie Rumble Tournament if and only if the competitor:

- (a) Was a first or second year undergraduate student during the 2022-2023 academic year; and
- (b) Was listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.

Trial Techs Eligibility and Role:

Anyone who was rostered during the AMTA 2023 competitive season may serve as a Trial Tech. Each team may have 1 non-competing member who will act as their trial technician to fill their 5th or 6th spot. The trial technician would be responsible for document sharing and any other technological presentation during trial. The technician would also be allowed to communicate with the team during trials and breaks, but they are not a competing (speaking) team member, unless a competing member becomes sick/unavailable.

Alternate Eligibility:

Any student eligible to compete in Rookie Rumble that has not already registered may be an Alternate. In addition, any student may be an Alternate if the student was listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.

Role: Alternates may be offered one of two roles, as needed by the competition:

- (1) A position on the “Bye Team.” The Bye Team may compete as a registered team in the event that the tournament field has an uneven number of teams. This includes being “on call” on the weekend of competition if a registered team does not show up at any point.
- (2) A position on a registered team if a registered team is unable to complete their roster with four eligible competitors.

Registration: Alternates must register as (a) an Attorney, (b) a Witness, or (c) an Attorney and/or Witness. Alternates may also state whether they wish to have a position on the bye team, a registered team, or no preference. There is no guarantee that selection for the Bye Team gives anyone a more or less likely chance for being able to compete at the tournament.

Ranking of Alternate Registrants: Alternates will be ranked on the Attorney, Witness, or Attorney/Witness lists in the below order:

- (a) Students eligible to compete in the Rookie Rumble: (1) Was a first or second year undergraduate student during the 2022-2023 academic year; and (2) was listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season);
- (b) Students who were third year undergraduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year and were listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.
- (c) Students who were fourth year undergraduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year and were listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.
- (d) Students who were fifth or subsequent year undergraduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year and were listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.

The tie breaker for registrants at the same level will be time and date of registration.

Formation of the Bye Team:

When registration closes, the Bye Team members will be randomly selected from those who selected a preference for being placed on the Bye Team or who selected no preference while completing the alternate registration process. We will fill the Bye Team following the above priority ranking of alternate registrants until complete. In the event that not enough people indicate a preference for the Bye Team or “no preference,” the members of the Bye Team will be randomly selected from the Alternates list with priority given as described above.

Registration Periods:

- (a) Registration for competitors comprised of full teams, partial teams, and individuals will open on July 3, 2023 and close on July 12, 2023.
- (a) If there is a need, there will be a separate registration period for Alternates for the Rookie Rumble competition, beginning on July 13, 2023. Alternates are NOT guaranteed an opportunity to compete. We may assign Alternates at any time, up to and including the day of competition. If an Alternate has been offered a spot more than 7 days before the tournament, the Alternate has 24 hours to accept the offer. Failure to accept in a timely manner will forfeit the offered spot. Within 7 days of the tournament, offers will be made on a first come first served basis, such that multiple offers may be made simultaneously and the first to respond will receive the spot.

Chapter 4 – Rules Applicable to All Sanctioned Tournaments

Chapter 4 of the AMTA Rulebook applies to RR except as modified here:

Rule 4.1, AMTA Representatives, is modified in that there may be more than two Representatives.

Rules 4.4 through 4.6, Ballots, are replaced for RR as follows: RR ballots will be electronic. Participants will receive instructions from the Representatives regarding how to access electronic copies of the ballots.

Rule 4.7, Bye-Buster Teams, does not apply; RR must have an even number of teams. RR will have procedures for a designated and already composed “Bye Team” made from alternate students as described in the Alternates eligibility rules.

Rule 4.8, Opening Ceremonies, is modified in that at the Opening Ceremonies the pairings for the rounds will be determined. First round opponents will be determined by a challenge system. The challenge order will result from a random draw of teams in the tournament and will be released before Opening Ceremonies. During Opening Ceremonies, teams will be prompted to make their challenges following the challenge order. A team making a challenge will select its opponent. The opponent will then select the side of the case it wants to represent in the first round. No team may pass or refuse to challenge an available opponent.

Rules 4.9 through 4.12 apply to RR. Teams will conduct Captains’ Meetings in their respective Zoom breakout rooms for their trials according to the schedule.

Rules 4.14 through 4.17 do not apply to RR.

Rules 4.19 through 4.20.1 apply to RR to the maximum extent possible. Judges will be asked to self-report conflicts with participating individuals as well as the schools from which the participants have graduated.

Rules 4.21 and 4.22 are amended for RR in that the RR Committee will provide all training and materials for judges.

Rule 4.23 is clarified to indicate that Championship-style high-high pairing as set forth in the Tabulation Manual will be used for RR. Further, each ballot will call for judges to rank the best two attorneys and best two witnesses; a #1 rank will equate to 5 rank points and a #2 rank will equate to 3 rank points.

Rule 4.24 applies to RR, except for Rule 4.24(2), which is amended for RR to provide for a 10-minute review period upon the conclusion of closing ceremonies.

Rule 4.25 is amended for RR to reflect that AMTA will produce the tabulation summary, and will be responsible for distributing it to participating teams. It is also amended along with Rule 4.24(2) to account for a 10-minute review period following closing ceremonies.

Rule 4.26(1) is amended for RR to provide that each team shall have no more than 10 spectators in any round. These spectators may include anyone (coaches, family members, friends, etc.). Any spectator (including coaches) watching the round must change their name to: “[Team

Number] – Spectator [First Name]”. If multiple spectators share the same first name, those spectators must also add the initial of their last names.

Rule 4.26(2), this rule applies to RR. This rule is further expanded such that if a spectator or competitor elects to watch a round for teams that the spectator has no affiliation, that spectator may not enter any other courtroom during the round. Once a spectator or competitor has selected a room, they must remain in that room for the duration of the trial. *Rationale: This will help keep the Zoom stable and will reduce the likelihood of a Zoom crash mid-trial.*

Rule 4.31, Time Limits, is modified as follows: Each attorney will have 22 minutes in which to complete their direct examination, their cross examination, and their opening statement or closing argument. If an attorney runs out of time prior to beginning any function, the attorney shall receive a score of zero for the unperformed function. Rule 4.31 otherwise applies with references to “team” time limits to be interpreted as the individual attorney time limits.

Rule 4.33, All-Loss Rule, is modified as follows: The all-loss time shall be 2 hours and 15 minutes after that trial begins. The all-loss time will be determined by the AMTA Representatives.

Chapter 5 – Tournament Specific Rules

Chapter 5 of the AMTA Rulebook does not affect RR, except as follows:

The AMTA Representatives and/or the RR Committee Chairperson shall have the ability to interpret these rules and make such adjustments to their operation as may be necessary to adapt these rules to the RR format.

Chapter 6 – Championship Series Bids

Chapter 6 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR.

Chapter 7 – Roles and Duties of Participants

Chapter 7 of the AMTA Rulebook applies to RR with modifications to the below listed rules:

Rule 7.1(1), Communication During a Round, does apply to RR.

Rule 7.1(2), Wireless Devices, does not apply to RR.

Rule 7.11, Accommodations, is modified in that the January 1 deadline set forth in the rule is changed to July 28 for RR.

Rule 7.15, Non-testifying Witnesses, does not apply to RR. *See also* Rules 7.1(1), 8.1.

Rule 7.25, Scoring Judges, is amended to the extent that the RR Committee has discretion to determine the number of scoring judges at any point prior to the beginning of the first round.

Rule 7.26, Ballots, is amended for RR as follows: Each judge will be provided an electronic scoring ballot.

Chapter 8 – Trial Procedures

Chapter 8 of the AMTA Rulebook applies to RR with modifications to the below listed rules:

Rule 8.1, Arrangement of the Courtroom, is modified for RR as follows:

Display names for attorneys: Each attorney's display name is only their side, a dash, and their first and last name: e.g., Plaintiff - Alex Winter; Defense - Dylan Hendricks.

Display names for witnesses: Each witness' display name is their side, a dash, the character name exactly as set forth in the case materials, and their real names in parenthesis (e.g., P - Alex Steiner (Sue Johnson)).

Both attorneys and witnesses may elect to include their preferred pronouns at the end of their display name. Ex wit: P – Sana Yoshida (Kelly Doos) (they/their); Ex atty: D – Parker Paige (she/her). The ability to include preferred pronouns is optional and is not required.

Rule 8.5.1, Trial Order, is amended for RR to reflect there are two witnesses per side.

Rule 8.9(6) is amended as follows: Complaints of egregious improper invention are to be brought to the AMTA Representatives in the Tab Room, who will refer the complaint to the RR Dispute Panel. An allegation of an egregious improper invention during the Plaintiff case in chief must be brought to the Panel before the Defense begins its case in chief. An allegation of an egregious improper invention during the Defense case in chief must be brought to the Panel before closing argument begins. The Panel has the authority to impose any appropriate penalty or sanction, including but not limited to dismissal from the tournament.

Rule 8.10, Manner of Examination, is modified for RR as follows: Each participant may stand or remain seated for statements, examinations, and arguments in their discretion and within the preferences of the presiding judge. Exhibits or demonstratives shown to a witness via screen sharing for identification purposes shall be deemed to be shown outside the presence of the jury.

Rule 8.14, Benchbooks, does not apply to RR. The host will provide all judges with a link to a virtual benchbook.

Chapter 9 – Rules Violations, Penalties, Sanctions

Chapter 9 of the AMTA Rulebook applies to RR with modifications to the below listed rules:

Rules 9.3 - 9.7 generally apply, but with the following amendment:

The RR Dispute Panel will comprise the Tab Director, one of the case authors, and the RR Committee Chair. The Panel may also consult the President as needed.

The Panel's duties are to:

- a) Resolve all claims of egregious improper invention under Rule 8.9(6);
- b) Resolve any disagreements between the AMTA Representatives under Rule 9.3(3);
- c) Hear any appeals from a ruling of the AMTA Representatives under Rule 9.4;
- d) Interpret rules as authorized by Rule 9.7(2);
- e) Issue in-tournament penalties (as listed in Rule 9.2) for sanctionable conduct under Rule 9.5(2).

Chapter 10 – Policies of the AMTA Board of Directors

Chapter 10 of the AMTA Rulebook does not affect RR.

Chapter 11 – Additional Rules Governing Virtual Competitions

Rules 11.4 – 11.7 do not apply to RR.