

AMTA Rulebook
2009-2010 Edition – Revised January 6, 2010

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Introduction

The rules in this document were created by the AMTA Board of Directors from 1985 to the present. The rulebook itself was drafted by David Nelmark, adopted by the AMTA Board at the June 2006 Board Meeting, and is edited as needed by the Rules Committee.

This rulebook does not replace the following documents:

Midlands Rules of Evidence
Tabulation Manual (a/k/a Step-by-Step Guidelines)
AMTA Representatives Handbook
Tournament Hosts' Handbook

Chapter 1: Definitions; Applicability; The Philosophy of AMTA

Rule 1.1. Applicability. These rules shall apply to all sanctioned tournaments. Invitational tournaments are not sanctioned tournaments. Although invitational tournaments often follow some or all of these rules, they are not obligated to. Participants are cautioned that the absence of enforcement of any rule at an invitational tournament does not mean the rule will not be enforced at a sanctioned tournament.

Rule 1.2. Definitions. Unless given a different meaning in a particular Rule, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning:

- a. "School" means any post-secondary institution of higher learning. If a school has multiple campuses, branches, or centers which grant separate degrees, each degree-granting branch shall be considered a separate school. If multiple campuses, branches, or centers do not grant separate degrees, the multiple locations shall collectively be considered one school.
- b. "Team" means a group of eligible students who constitute a roster for the purpose of competition.
- c. "Sanctioned tournament" means any regional, opening round championship, or national championship tournament.
- d. "Championship series tournament" means any opening round championship or national championship tournament.
- e. "Invitational tournament" means any tournament which is not a sanctioned tournament.
- f. "Round" means a group of trials scheduled to occur at the same time.
- g. "Trial" means a single competitive match between two teams. A trial begins when a judge enters the trial room. A trial ends when the scoring sheets depart the trial room.
- h. "Board" means the American Mock Trial Association Board of Directors.

Rule 1.3. Interpretation and enforcement. Interpretation and enforcement of these Rules during the course of a sanctioned tournament shall be done by the AMTA Representatives at that tournament, in accordance with Chapter 9 of these Rules. Interpretation and enforcement of these Rules at any other time shall be done in the manner prescribed by these Rules, or, if no manner is prescribed, by the Executive Committee or its designee.

Rule 1.4. Expectations of participants; inappropriate behavior. All participants should strive to emulate the finest practitioners in the legal profession. Professional, ethical and collegial behavior is expected at all times. AMTA does not permit or condone any form of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment by any individual or organization affiliated with AMTA based on race, ancestral origin, color, political belief, religion, age, sex, gender, or sexual orientation. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- disparaging comments based upon race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, class, religion or political beliefs;

- failing to treat fellow participants with respect;
- engaging in dishonesty in any matter related to mock trial;
- violating the rules outlined in the AMTA fact situation and rules, including all rules related to courtesy;
- engaging in irresponsible behavior that puts oneself or others at risk, including being intoxicated at any time during tournaments;
- illegal conduct of any sort during tournaments, including underage drinking, from arrival at registration until departure from the site following the awards ceremony.

Rule 1.5 Ideals of mock trial. The ideals of fair play, civility, and friendship shall guide the conduct of all participants throughout all mock trial activities including, but not limited to, tournament rounds, breaks between rounds, organizational meetings, and team practices.

Comment to Rule 1.5. Teams, individual participants and coaches who disregard the rules of competition, or who participate in or encourage others to participate in unprofessional conduct, may be subject to penalties or sanctions pursuant to Chapter 9.

ALL PARTICIPANTS

Rule 1.6 Integrity. Participants shall strive to exemplify the highest ideals of the legal profession, to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and to strive for competence and integrity.

Rule 1.7 Courtesy. Courtesy toward opposing team members, judges, tournament officials, coaches and one's own team members is expected of all participants.

Rule 1.8 Abiding by rules. Participants—whether attorneys, coaches, witnesses, or alternates—are expected to abide by the rules. Failure to conform behavior to the rules may lead to a tournament penalty and/or sanction under Chapter 9.

Rule 1.9 Demeaning, harassing, or embarrassing behavior. Participants shall eschew any behavior designed to demean, harass or embarrass any other participant or solely to garner notoriety or publicity for themselves or their school.

Rule 1.10 Damage to property. No participant shall intentionally take, move, or cause damage to any property of any school, courthouse, or facility hosting any part of a sanctioned tournament or belonging to the members of any other team. In the case of accidental damage or loss of any property, participants are required to report the event and circumstances immediately to appropriate officials. Failure to comply with this rule may

lead to a tournament penalty and/or sanction under Chapter 9.

COACHES

Rule 1.11 Requirement of a coach. Every team may have one officially designated Educator Coach and one officially designated Attorney Coach. Notwithstanding the limit on officially designated coaches, a team may use the coaching services of any number of educators, attorneys or others before, during or after sanctioned tournaments, except during a trial as set out in Rule 7.1.

Rule 1.12 Coaching goals. Coaches are reminded that the purpose of mock trial is to instill respect for the legal system and its ideals of justice, equality, and truth. Coaches are expected to promote and champion these ideals above winning.

Rule 1.13 Coaches' responsibility to AMTA objectives. Every coach has the responsibility to instill in every student, by word and example, the highest ideals of the American legal system, including fairness, professional integrity, and respect for judges, officials and other members of the mock trial community.

Chapter 2: Registration, Case Access, and Withdrawal

Rule 2.1 Registration information. Registration information shall be available on the AMTA web site. Registration shall be completed online.

COACHES, PRIMARY CONTACTS, AND SCHOOL SANCTION

Rule 2.2 Requirement of an official contact person.

(1) EDUCATOR COACH OR PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON. AMTA will always recognize a school's Educator Coach as the school's primary contact person. In the case of student-run organizations, the primary contact person for the school is the first such individual who pays the school's registration fee and presents evidence of official school sanction under Rule 2.3.

(2) ROLE OF THE PRIMARY CONTACT. AMTA regards the primary contact as the official agent of the program and will accept registrations, bid reservation forms, requests for regional assignment or reassignment, and any other correspondence only from the official contact person.

(3) CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION REQUIRED. Each school has the affirmative obligation to provide AMTA with the primary contact person's current mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address.

(4) NO INTERVENTION IN LOCAL DISPUTES. AMTA does not intervene in local disputes and thus recognizes a single primary contact person per school, even if the institution has multiple teams operating under the auspices of different organizations.

Rule 2.3 Requirement of a coach or official school sanction.

(1) GENERAL RULE. No school may register as a member or attend any sanctioned tournament without an Educator Coach or official school sanction.

(2) SCHOOLS WITHOUT AN EDUCATOR COACH. A school may participate in sanctioned tournaments without an Educator Coach if the school provides AMTA with evidence of official school sanction under (3).

(3) OFFICIAL SCHOOL SANCTION DEFINED. School sanction shall be evidenced by a letter, written and signed by an administrator at the school, which expresses all of the following:

(a) the administrator's willingness to assume responsibility for the conduct of the school's mock trial program and participants, including any fees incurred by the school's mock trial program;

(b) the administrator's understanding that the administrator shall serve as the point of contact for grievances or complaints regarding the school's mock trial program.

(4) INSUFFICIENT SCHOOL SANCTION. The following items shall not suffice as evidence of school sanction:

(a) Any letter submitted under sub. (3) that fails to explicitly take responsibility for the conduct of the school's mock trial program and participants;

(b) Payment of registration fees with a check from the member school.

REGISTRATION FEES, REFUNDS, AND PENALTIES

Rule 2.4 Registration fees.

(1) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE PER SCHOOL. Each school shall pay an annual membership fee of \$350. A school new to AMTA shall pay \$200.

(2) REGIONAL TOURNAMENT FEE PER TEAM. The first team from each school shall pay a regional tournament registration fee of \$100. Each additional team shall pay a registration fee which increases by \$25, so that the second team's fee is \$125, the third team's fee is \$150, etc.

(3) OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP FEE PER TEAM. Each team participating in an opening round championship tournament shall pay a registration fee of \$200.

(4) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FEE PER TEAM. Each team participating in the national championship tournament shall pay a registration fee of \$225.

(5) LATE REGISTRATION FEE PER TEAM. Each team which registers after October 15 shall pay an late fee of \$25 in addition to any applicable late fees.

(6) RULE FOR MULTIPLE CAMPUSES. If two campuses are treated as separate schools, as defined in Rule 1.2, each campus must pay a separate school membership fee.

Rule 2.5 Refunds and credits.

(1) WITHDRAWAL FROM REGIONAL COMPETITION. A school that withdraws one or more teams from regional competition after October 15 shall not receive any credit or refund.

(2) NON-QUALIFICATION TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES. If a school competes at a regional tournament, has paid championship series registration fees, but fails to qualify to part or all of the championship series, the school shall receive a credit for the unqualified fees. The credit shall be applied to the school's registration the following year. Any school that does not register within two years after a credit is obtained shall forfeit the credit. No refunds will be given.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR NEW PROGRAMS. A school registering with AMTA for the first time that has paid the fee and is unable to compete may roll the fee over to the next year. This applies to the first registration only and the fee may be rolled over only once. This does not apply if the school withdraws from regional competition within 30 days of the start of the tournament.

Rule 2.6 Withdrawal penalties for regional tournaments.

(1) PENALTY STRUCTURE. Late cancellation and/or failure to appear at a regional tournament will subject a school to the following penalties:

\$50 for teams that drop within 30 days of the start of the tournament, but more than 14 days before the start of the tournament;

\$100 for teams that drop within 14 days of the start of the tournament but more than 48 hours before the start of the tournament;

\$200 for teams that drop within 48 hours of the start of the tournament but more than 24 hours before the start of the tournament;

\$350 for teams that drop within 24 hours of the start of the tournament, but before the start of the tournament;

\$500 for teams that drop after the start of the tournament, fail to show for the tournament, or that leave the tournament early without permission of the AMTA Representative.

(2) DEFINITION OF “START TIME”. For the purposes of assessing penalties under this Rule, the start time of a tournament is deemed to be the start of the check-in/registration period. For example, if a regional tournament’s check-in period begins at 2:00 p.m. pacific time on February 14, a team would have to cancel by 2:00 p.m. pacific time on January 14 to avoid any penalty.

(3) APPEAL OF PENALTY. The Executive Committee may consider appeals of penalty assessments and may waive fines if the reasons for failing to comply with this Rule are compelling.

Rule 2.7 Coaches’ responsibility to AMTA tournaments. Every coach, as a leader of mock trial, has the responsibility to promote fair and efficient operation of AMTA events, including notifying AMTA of changes in participation. At the earliest possible moment, the coach shall notify AMTA and the tournament host of any changes regarding the school’s participation and any special needs of the school’s team members.

REGIONAL REGISTRATION AND ASSIGNMENT

Rule 2.8 Regional registration, deadline.

(1) DEADLINE. The registration deadline for priority placement at a regional tournament is October 15. Teams may register after that time only with the permission of the Tournament Administration Committee Chair. Late registrants will be assigned to regional tournaments on a space-available basis.

(2) NUMBER OF TEAMS PERMITTED. A member school may register an unlimited number of teams for regional competition. If a school registers more than two teams, no more than two teams may compete at any single regional tournament site.

(3) EXCEPTION TO TWO-TEAM LIMIT. The Tournament Administration Committee, in its discretion, may waive the two team per regional limit in Rule 2.8(2) if a school is located more than 900 miles from the next closest regional site where the school’s additional teams would be assigned.

Rule 2.9 Regional assignment criteria and procedures.

(1) ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA. The Tournament Administration Committee will assign every member school’s registered team(s) to one or more regional tournaments. Assignment of schools and teams to regional tournaments will be made after the close of registration, using the following criteria:

(a) assigning schools to a location within three hours of driving distance (according to Mapquest) when possible (not necessarily the closest geographic region). A school may voluntarily waive this provision; however, waiver may result in the school’s teams being assigned to any regional tournament or opening round championship tournament, regardless of distance and expense, even if there are tournaments closer to the school which do not conflict;

(b) implementing Board policy to equalize the number of teams at all regional tournament sites;

- (c) assigning AMTA Representatives in such a fashion as to ensure that teams of the AMTA Representatives are not competing on the same weekend as their AMTA Representative assignments;
- (d) considering requests for specific dates made prior to the registration deadline;
- (e) assigning specific teams from a school (i.e. A team, B team, etc.) to better balance power among regional tournament sites;
- (f) minimizing travel for schools new to AMTA; and
- (g) accommodating schools who wish to move outside their region, only if doing so assists AMTA's Tournament Administration Committee Chair in implementing the criteria in subs. (a)-(f).

(2) SPLITTING TEAMS BETWEEN REGIONALS. A school may request that its teams be split among two or more regional tournaments, regardless of the number of teams fielded. The request may be granted when such a split meets AMTA's needs.

(3) POLICY ON CONFLICTS AND SCHOOL BREAKS. AMTA does not recognize winter, spring, quarter, or other breaks, recesses, and exam periods as conflict dates. A school with a written policy which prohibits the school's participation in a sanctioned tournament during such a recess or exam period shall provide a copy of the full school policy to the Tournament Administration Committee Chair. AMTA may accommodate a conflict if such a written policy applies.

(4) DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCING ASSIGNMENTS. Regional assignments for teams registered by October 15 shall be posted on the AMTA web page by Thanksgiving.

(5) COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ARE FINAL. The Tournament Administration Committee shall dictate where a school's teams are assigned. Schools shall follow this designation. A failure to do so may result in sanctions under Chapter 9. If a team appears at a regional tournament to which the team was not assigned, it will not be allowed to compete, except as the bye-buster team, and shall be ineligible for bids, trophies, individual awards, and all other forms of recognition.

(6) CHANGING REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS. No team may move out of its assigned regional tournament except under extraordinary circumstances AND with the permission of the Tournament Administration Committee Chair. **Schools and teams may not "region shop."**

CASE ACCESS AND USE

Rule 2.10 Case access.

(1) LICENSE TO USE CASE. By remitting payment for school registration, the school purchases a license to use the current AMTA case for educational purposes, including participation in mock trial competition.

(2) PRIMARY CONTACT'S OBLIGATION. Each school's primary contact is responsible for controlling access to the case and ensuring that access information is held secure. Access information may not be posted in any publicly accessible forum, including but not limited to web sites. Each school's Primary Contact has an affirmative obligation to monitor case access and case use at his/her school and to inform AMTA of any violations.

(3) WHEN ACCESS IS REVOKED. If the primary contact or any other individual who has obtained case access discontinues their affiliation with the member school, his/her case access is revoked.

(4) ACCESS CONTINGENT ON PAYMENT. No school shall receive access to the case materials until its payment for registration has been received by the AMTA office and until the school has paid any outstanding penalties or fines.

Rule 2.11 Case use in subsequent years.

(1) WHEN PERMITTED. Current faculty members or current primary contacts at a member school may use old cases for educational purposes, if both of the following are true:

- (a) the school was an AMTA member in good standing during the year the case was issued;
- (b) the school is an AMTA member in good standing at the time of use.

(2) EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES DEFINED. “Educational purposes” include, but are not limited to, use for exhibition rounds, course instruction, auditions, or academic research. “Educational purposes” shall not include any purpose for which a fee is charged, including but not limited to fee-based instruction (outside normal institutional course fees) or summer camps.

(3) LICENSE REQUIRED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. A school wishing to use an old AMTA case for fee-based instruction, summer camps, etc. may purchase a license to do so. The fee schedule on the AMTA Registration page will show current pricing. In lieu of an agreement to the contrary, each license shall last for one year from the date of purchase.

Rule 2.12 Sanctions for violation. Engaging in, providing, or facilitating unauthorized case access or case use is egregious conduct and is sanctionable under Rule 9.5.

Chapter 3: Eligibility

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

Rule 3.1 School membership required. Only teams from schools that belong to the American Mock Trial Association may compete in sanctioned tournaments.

Rule 3.2 Membership qualification. Any post secondary institution of higher education may apply for AMTA institutional membership. Timely AMTA membership, along with payment of team registration fees under Chapter 2, guarantees an assignment to participate in a Regional Tournament, unless the school's participation has been limited under Rule 9.5. A school shall not be allowed to participate in any sanctioned tournament if the school has any unpaid fines or penalties.

Rule 3.3 Number of teams eligible for regional competition. Each school may register an unlimited number of teams for regional tournaments, but no more than two teams per school may compete at any single regional tournament

Rule 3.4 Number of teams eligible for championship series competition. No more than two teams per school may participate in the championship series. Bye-buster teams are exempt from the limitation.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Rule 3.5 Student membership required. All student participants in sanctioned tournaments must be student members of AMTA. The Board will set the membership fee and may change it at its discretion. Each student must, in addition to paying any required dues (initially set at \$0), complete an application form that will allow AMTA to track its participants and better communicate with alumni. Individual information about students will not be released to any organization outside AMTA.

Rule 3.6 Student eligibility requirements.

(1) GENERAL RULES. Each team shall consist only of undergraduate students currently enrolled at the member school. No student may participate in sanctioned tournaments for more than five academic years.

(2) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DEFINED. The term "undergraduate student" shall mean:

- (a) Any full-time or part-time student at a school, provided that the student is not simultaneously enrolled as a full-time student at a different AMTA member school; or
- (b) Any student enrolled in a targeted program designed for working and/or non-traditional students, provided that the coursework is at the undergraduate level and permits the student to receive a degree or certification.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR EARLY GRADUATES. A student who graduates at the conclusion of a fall or winter term may compete in the winter or spring term, but only if the student has not matriculated in a graduate or professional school, and only if the student's school

permits such competition.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR STUDENTS WORKING ON ADDITIONAL DEGREES. A student who holds a baccalaureate degree, but is currently enrolled in another baccalaureate program may compete, but only if all of the following are true:

- (a) the student is not enrolled in any graduate or professional school; and
- (b) the student has not earned any professional or graduate degree; and
- (c) the student's school permits such participation.

(5) EXCEPTION FOR STUDENTS FROM MULTIPLE SCHOOLS. If prior permission of the Executive Committee is obtained in writing, a team may be composed of students from more than one school. This exception is intended to accommodate new schools that cannot generate sufficient participation to field a team. It is not intended to allow schools to combine teams for competitive purposes.

(6) EXCEPTION FOR STUDENTS ON MEDICAL OR FINANCIAL LEAVE. A student who has taken a leave from the institution for financial or medical reasons may compete in sanctioned tournaments for a maximum of one term, provided that the student is in good academic standing with the student's school. The school must produce a letter from an administrator other than the school's Educator or Attorney Coach certifying the student's eligibility under this Rule.

(7) INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS RULE. The Executive Committee is empowered to interpret the rules of student eligibility and grant exceptions when, in its judgment, extraordinary circumstances make an exception appropriate. Competitive advantage shall not be considered an extraordinary circumstance.

Rule 3.7 Obligation to verify eligibility. The Educator Coach or Primary Contact has an affirmative obligation to verify each competitor's eligibility. Submission of a roster at a sanctioned tournament constitutes certification that the eligibility of each participant has been verified.

Rule 3.8 Use of ineligible team members. Any team that knowingly uses an ineligible person as a member will be subject to sanctions. Challenges alleging ineligibility of a competitor must be made to an AMTA Representative before or after a round, but not to a judge, and not during a trial.

ROSTERS

Rule 3.9 Number of members on a team. A team shall consist of no less than six members and no more than ten members. No one may sit at the attorney table in the role of plaintiff or defendant unless that person is on the team's six to ten person roster. Any team fielding more than ten scoring team members will be disqualified from eligibility for team awards, individual awards and bid consideration. The record of the disqualified team will remain as initially recorded for tabulation and pairing purposes. No student may compete on more than one team for his/her school, unless the student is given permission to do so under rule 3.15 by the AMTA Representatives at the tournament.

Rule 3.10 Submission of roster. Each team shall submit its roster no later than the start of the first round captains' meeting. Rosters shall be submitted in the manner

indicated by the tournament host or AMTA Representatives. The roster shall designate which members are team captains, and shall include the cell phone numbers of the team captains and coaches. Each roster shall be submitted on the standard form posted on the AMTA web site or its substantial equivalent. Teams are encouraged to submit computer printed rosters to avoid spelling errors on the tab summary.

Rule 3.11 One regional per student. No student may compete in more than one regional tournament per year, except as a member of a bye-buster team.

Rule 3.12 One opening round championship per student. No student may compete in more than one opening round championship tournament per year, except as a member of a bye-buster team.

Rule 3.13 Changing composition between sanctioned tournament levels. Subject to the other Rules in this chapter, each school may freely adjust the composition of its team rosters between regional tournaments and the opening round championship tournaments, and between the opening round championship tournaments and the national championship tournament.

TRIAL ROLES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Rule 3.14 Allocation of roles to team members. The roles to be played by team members are left to the discretion of the coaches. There is no requirement that a team member play a witness on one side and an attorney on the other. However, there must be three witnesses and three student attorneys in each trial. Furthermore, each student attorney must conduct at least one direct and one cross-examination per trial, and no attorney may give both the opening statement and closing argument.

Rule 3.15 Substitutions in case of illness.

(1) GENERAL RULE. If a participant becomes too ill to compete, the affected team may use a permissible substitute. If no permissible substitute is available, or the team chooses to not use a permissible substitute, the judges shall enter a zero for the role(s) and the trial will proceed.

(2) PERMISSIBLE SUBSTITUTES DEFINED. Permissible substitutes are:

- (a) other persons on the roster of the affected team who are not competing in that trial;
- (b) a person on the roster of the opponent's team who is not already competing in that trial;
- (c) any other person on the roster of any team competing in the tournament but not in that particular round.

Chapter 4: Rules Applicable To All Sanctioned Tournaments

AMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Rule 4.1 AMTA Representatives at sanctioned tournaments. Two AMTA Representatives shall be assigned to each sanctioned tournament. If a tournament has divisions, two AMTA Representatives shall be assigned to each division. Each Representative shall be an AMTA director or officer, candidate director, or other individual approved by the Tournament Administration Committee. No Representative may have a team in competition at the tournament to which s/he is assigned. The AMTA Representatives shall oversee the tabulation room, resolve disputes, and insure compliance with all AMTA rules and procedures. A tournament may proceed with one AMTA Representative if necessary.

AWARDS

Rule 4.2 Non-AMTA awards. If any outside group wants to present an award at a sanctioned tournament, members of the AMTA board shall be included on the selection committee for the award.

Rule 4.3 Author awards. The author of a case selected for use in sanctioned competition shall receive a \$500 cash prize. If there are multiple authors, the authors shall collectively receive \$500.

BALLOTS

Rule 4.4 Official ballots, requirements. Official AMTA ballots shall be used for all trials at all sanctioned tournaments, including the final championship round. AMTA will use two-part, pressure-sensitive ballots for pages one through four, with a three-part page five. Each team will receive one copy of each page of the ballot, with the first copy of page five retained by an AMTA Representative.

Rule 4.5 Ballot distribution. Ballots shall not be removed from the tab room prior to the end of a tournament. A pair of participants, consisting of a representative from each team, should bring these sheets to the tab room and wait while tab room officials review the ballots for completeness and legibility of scores, character names, and P/D markings.

Rule 4.6 Ballot retention. AMTA shall maintain the original set of blue scoring ballots from all sanctioned tournaments in a given year until at least 30 days after the conclusion of that year's national championship tournament.

BYE-BUSTER TEAMS

Rule 4.7 Service on tournament bye teams. Everyone accompanying a team to a tournament, including alternate team members not competing in the immediate round, timekeepers, spectators, and, as a last resort, coaches, may be required to serve on a bye-

buster team at the discretion of the AMTA Representatives. When practical, teams should not be allowed to provide members to a bye-buster team that is facing another team from the same school. Should a school with alternates or coaches refuse to supply personnel for a bye-buster team upon the request of the AMTA Representative, the AMTA Representative may remove that school's teams from the tournament. If the school has more than one team, the team with the best record at the time will be removed.

Comment to rule 4.7: A bye-buster team may be recognized for its final placement. However, it never receives a team award or a bid to subsequent tournaments. Students volunteering to serve on a bye-buster team are eligible for individual awards based upon bye-buster team participation.

Comment to rule 4.7: The Tabulation Manual has a number of specific provisions regarding the constitution of ByeBuster teams, their eligibility for awards, etc.

CAPTAINS' MEETINGS

Rule 4.8 Opening meeting required. There shall be informational meetings for all participants at the beginning of each sanctioned tournament.

Rule 4.9 Necessity of a captain. Each team must have a captain. The captain shall represent the team at captains' meetings.

Rule 4.10 Captains' meetings required, timing. A captains' meeting shall be held at least thirty minutes prior to each round at each sanctioned tournament. If a tournament has divisions, there shall be a separate captains' meeting for each division.

Rule 4.11 Prompt arrival required, penalties. The captain for each team shall arrive promptly for all captains' meetings and perform all functions required by the AMTA Representative presiding over the captains' meeting. Any team whose captain does not appear on time for a scheduled captains' meeting may receive a tournament penalty pursuant to Chapter 9. If a team's failure to have a captain present at the scheduled start time for a captains' meeting delays the start of any trial, that team shall automatically lose any tie-breaker at that tournament.

Rule 4.12 Required functions at the captains' meetings. Captains shall complete the following tasks at the captains' meetings:

(1) WITNESS SELECTION. Captains shall select witnesses in the order dictated by the case materials. Each captain shall inform the opponent's captain of the sex of the witnesses who will be called. No team may call a witness who has already been called by its opponent.

(2) SEX OF OTHER PARTIES. If not already called as witnesses, each captain shall inform the opposing captain of the sex of the named parties or named party representatives of the case, where the sex of a party is not dictated by special rule.

(3) EXHIBITS AND DEMONSTRATIVES. Each captain shall show their opponent any exhibits, demonstratives, visual aids, or other enlargement intended to be used during trial.

Any disputes shall be brought to the AMTA Representative at the captains' meeting for resolution prior to trial. The AMTA Representative shall make a determination pursuant to Rule 8.5.

(4) BALLOT PREPARATION. At or shortly after each captains' meeting, the captains shall neatly complete the non-judges' portions of the sets of ballots required for the trial, including student names, team numbers, and the round number. The ballots to be completed will be those distributed to the captains by tournament officials. If more than two sets of ballots are returned for any trial, the two most unfavorable to the plaintiff/prosecution will be used.

(5) TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS. It shall be the responsibility of the each captain to report to their team members, coaches, and observers any tournament announcements made at the captains' meetings.

Rule 4.13 Updates. Teams must obtain all case materials and updates via the AMTA web site. Case changes for any post-regional competition will only be posted after the completion of the last regional tournament.

HOSTS AND FACILITIES

Rule 4.14 Tournament host required. Every tournament shall have a host. The host may recruit such other officials as are needed to assist with the smooth operation of the tournament.

Rule 4.15 Hosts' judge recruitment duties. Hosts shall recruit for three attorneys to act as judges per round, exclusive of coaches. Tournament hosts may recruit judges from local bar associations, institutional mock trial and law school alumni, or any other reasonable source.

Rule 4.16 Information for hosts. Hosts will receive contact information on assigned teams and are responsible for contacting assigned teams and confirming date, time, place, number of teams, and other tournament details. AMTA will make available to hosts of all sanctioned tournaments a standardized set of forms, signs, materials, and a "how-to" manual.

Rule 4.17 Tournament facilities. The host will provide facilities that are adequate for the tournament. Each trial should have a separate room. The tournament host is not responsible for providing lecterns, podiums, easels or other special props and equipment. Each team should bring the equipment it needs.

Rule 4.18 Accessibility and accommodations. The host shall consider and accommodate the needs of physically challenged participants, judges, and spectators to the fullest extent possible. Schools with any student requiring accommodations should notify the host as early as possible.

ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

Rule 4.19 Categorization of judges prior to assignment. Using information from tournament hosts and/or the judges themselves, AMTA Representatives shall categorize volunteer judges as follows:

(1) CATEGORY ONE. Category One shall generally consist of sitting judges, trial attorneys, and other attorneys with indicia of mock trial experience.

(2) CATEGORY TWO. Category Two shall generally consist of non-coach attorneys who do not fall within Category One.

(3) CATEGORY THREE. Category Three shall generally consist of coaches, law students, other non-attorneys, and anyone who would otherwise fall within another category but who the AMTA Representative feels is unfit to judge a top round.

(4) NO RELIEF. No team may claim relief of any sort on the grounds that a judge was miscategorized.

Rule 4.20 Assignment of judges.

(1) WHO ASSIGNS. One or both AMTA Representatives shall assign judges to each trial.

(2) RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE IN ROUND 1. The assignment of judges to Round 1 trials shall be random.

(3) RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE IN ROUNDS 2 AND 3.

(a) First, assign one Category One judge to each trial, beginning with the top pairing and working down.

(b) If every trial has at least one Category One judge, add a second Category One judge to each trial, beginning with the top pairing and working down. If there are fewer Category One judges than trials, proceed to sub. (c).

(c) After all Category One judges are assigned, assign one Category Two judge to each trial, beginning with the highest available pairing and working down.

(d) If any trial does not have two judges assigned, assign Category Three judges until every trial has two judges.

(e) If there are enough judges for every trial to have a third judge, assign the judges from the top of the pairings, working down.

(f) If there are enough judges for only some trials to have a third judge, assign the third judges from the bottom of the pairings, working up, leaving the top trials with two judges. Judges should likewise be assigned from the bottom up, so that the highest ranked third judge is closest to the top of the pairings.

(g) The following example diagrams may be helpful in visualizing the judge assignment process:

EXAMPLE 1

Teams	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3
4 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 1	
4 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 1	
3.5 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3 v. 3.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3 v. 2.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
2 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 2
2 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 2

1 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
0 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
0 v. 1	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
0 v. 0.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
0 v. 0	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3

EXAMPLE 2

Teams	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3
4 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
4 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3.5 v. 4	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3 v. 3.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3 v. 2.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
2 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
2 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 3	
1 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 3	
0 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 3	
0 v. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 3
0 v. 0.5	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 3
0 v. 0	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 3

(4) RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE IN ROUND 4 AT REGIONAL AND OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS.

(a) No Category One or Category Two judge should be assigned to a non-bid determinative round, unless all bid-determinative rounds already have two judges assigned.

(b) No Category Three judge should be assigned to a bid-determinative round, unless there is insufficient room for all Category Three judges in the non-bid determinative rounds, or there are insufficient Category One and Category Two judges to complete two judge panels in the bid determinative rounds.

(c) Generally speaking, the best judges should be assigned to the rounds most likely to be bid-determinative.

(d) The following example diagrams may be helpful in visualizing the assignment process:

EXAMPLE 1

Teams	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3
Non Bid Determinative Rounds			
6 v. 0	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 3
5.5 v.0	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 3
1 v. 1	Cat. 3	Cat. 3	Cat. 3
Bid Determinative Rounds			
1.5 v. 5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 2
2 v. 4.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
2 v. 3.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 1	
2 v. 3	Cat. 1	Cat. 1	
3.5 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 1	
4 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	

4 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
4 v. 1	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
5 v. 0.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 2

EXAMPLE 2

Teams	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3
Non Bid Determinative Rounds			
6 v. 0	Cat. 3	Cat. 3	
5.5 v.0	Cat. 3	Cat. 3	
1 v. 1	Cat. 3	Cat. 3	
Bid Determinative Rounds			
1.5 v. 5	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	
2 v. 4.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 3	
2 v. 3.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
2 v. 3	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
3.5 v. 2	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
4 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
4 v. 1.5	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	
4 v. 1	Cat. 1	Cat. 3	
5 v. 0.5	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	

(5) RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE IN ROUND 4 AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT. Judges should be assigned in the same manner as Rounds 2 and 3.

(6) NO RELIEF. No team may claim relief of any sort on the grounds that a judge was not assigned in accordance with these guidelines.

Rule 4.21 Information for judges. A case summary and a copy of the AMTA rules will be provided to judges of sanctioned tournaments. All handouts to be given to judges at sanctioned tournaments must be approved by the Board or the Executive Committee. Judges may be provided with a password to the AMTA website so that they can access case materials prior to the tournament.

Rule 4.22 Judges' meetings. The Board will create a standard presentation for judges and make the presentation available on the AMTA web site. Coaches may observe the judges' meeting. A Judges' Instruction Summary sheet will be distributed along with a paper copy of the ballots to judges to review during the judges' orientation session. A copy of the summary sheet should be made available to each team.

TABULATION

Rule 4.23. Tabulation manual.

(1) MANUAL ADOPTED. Tabulation of all sanctioned tournaments shall be done in accordance with the AMTA Tabulation Manual, which is hereby adopted by reference.

(2) TABULATION DIRECTOR'S AUTHORITY. The Tabulation Director has final authority

to interpret any matter contained within the Tabulation Manual.

(3) AMENDMENTS TO THE TABULATION MANUAL. No later than September 1 of each year, the Tabulation Director shall amend the Tabulation Manual to reflect all actions of the Board at its summer meeting which affect the Tabulation Manual.

Rule 4.24 Review period.

(1) AFTER ROUNDS 1, 2, AND 3. After rounds one, two, and three, there shall be a review period, which begins immediately upon the conclusion of pairing the next-occurring round. The review period shall last 30 minutes. If the next-occurring round starts the following morning, the AMTA Representatives may hold the review period on the following morning during the 30 minutes immediately prior to the captains' meeting.

(2) AFTER ROUND 4. The review period after round four shall begin immediately upon conclusion of the awards ceremony. The review period shall last 30 minutes.

(3) TEAM RESPONSIBILITY DURING REVIEW PERIOD. During each review period, each team's tabroom representative may review scoring ballots and the official pairing cards. If any error in the tabulation of the preceding round or pairing of the following round is suspected, regardless of whether it affects the reporting team, it shall be reported prior to the expiration of the review period.

(4) AMTA REPRESENTATIVES TO RECEIVE REPORTS. Errors may only be reported to an AMTA Representative. Tournament hosts or other Board members have no ability to receive such reports.

(5) CORRECTION OF RECORD OR PLACEMENT ERRORS. The AMTA Representatives shall correct any timely reported error in win/loss record, combined strength, point differential, ranking, recording of results, or final placement.

(6) CORRECTION OF PAIRING ERRORS. The AMTA Representatives shall correct any timely reported error in the pairing of the following round, if the correction can be made without undue disruption of the tournament schedule.

(7) UNTIMELY REPORTS. Any error not timely discovered or reported is deemed waived. The AMTA Representatives may correct any error not timely discovered or reported, but only if the subsequent round can be repaired without undue tournament schedule disruption.

Rule 4.25 Tab summaries. Each sanctioned tournament shall produce a tabulation summary, which shall be distributed to participating teams and forwarded to the AMTA office for posting on the AMTA web site. No tabulation summary may include the trademark of any school or business unless AMTA receives appropriate proof of its license to use the trademark.

SCOUTING, VIDEOTAPING, AND RECORDING

Rule 4.26 Open and public trials. All trials shall be open and public. No one, whether family, friend, press, or opponent, shall ever be excluded from any trial, except that the court may clear the court room during its deliberations at the end of a trial. Witnesses shall not be sequestered except pursuant to the Midlands Rules of Evidence.

Rule 4.27 Videotaping or recording by AMTA, permission granted. AMTA

may record any trial at any sanctioned tournament. By competing in a sanctioned tournament, each participant grants AMTA the right to record the participant's likeness and performance and use the recording for any purpose.

Rule 4.28 Videotaping or recording by other parties.

(1) BY NEWS MEDIA. The news media may videotape, record, or photograph any trial at any sanctioned tournament. By competing in a sanctioned tournament, each participant grants the right to have the participant's likeness and recording used for media purposes.

(2) BY A SCHOOL COMPETING IN A TRIAL. A school may videotape or record any trial in which the school is competing, so long as the recording does not interfere with the conduct of the trial. The use of any such recording is limited to the educational use of the school making the recording. Commercial use is prohibited without the permission of AMTA and all involved participants.

(3) BY A SCHOOL NOT COMPETING IN A TRIAL OR OTHER PARTY. Any videotaping or recording of a trial not otherwise permitted by these Rules is prohibited, unless permission is granted in advance by both teams in the trial to be recorded. The use of any such recording is limited to the educational use of the party making the recording. Commercial use is prohibited without the permission of AMTA and all participants.

Comment to rule 4.28: Recording can serve many educational purposes. Recording for such purposes is encouraged. Recording for "scouting" purposes is not permitted by the rule. No tournament host is ever required to provide recording equipment, a space convenient for videotaping, or even access to an electrical outlet. No one is entitled to record, and a tournament should never be delayed to accommodate recording.

SCHEDULE

Rule 4.29 Accommodation of religious practices. AMTA will attempt to accommodate the religious practices of all participants so that they may participate in sanctioned tournaments, unless the accommodation requires fundamental changes in the format of the tournament. The Tournament Administration Committee chair and the tournament host(s) will make the determination as to whether accommodations are possible.

STRUCTURE

Rule 4.30 Rounds. Each sanctioned tournament shall consist of four regular rounds of competition in which all teams compete. Each team shall perform twice as the plaintiff/prosecution and twice as the defense.

TIME LIMITS

Rule 4.31 Time limits. Time limits for all trials in sanctioned tournaments shall be strictly observed.

(1) TIME LIMITS GENERALLY. Time limits for each side shall be as follows:

Opening statements - 5 minutes per side

Direct examinations of all three witnesses (combined) - 25 minutes per side

Cross-examination of all three witnesses (combined) - 25 minutes per side

Closing arguments- 9 minutes per side

(2) PLAINTIFF’S/PROSECUTOR’S REBUTTAL. The plaintiff’s attorney in a civil case or prosecutor in a criminal case may reserve up to five minutes of closing time for rebuttal, provided the attorney requests reservation of remaining time for rebuttal prior to commencing the closing argument proper.

(3) UNTIMED ACTIVITIES. Time spent in arguing objections or comments of judges shall not be assessed against either side, but shall be included in all calculations under Rule 4.32.

(4) EXPIRATION OF TIME. If a team runs out of time for direct examination before all of its witnesses are called to the stand, the attorney who was slated to direct any uncalled witness shall receive no points for the direct examination. The witness shall receive no points for direct examination. The opponent may choose to have the witness take the stand for cross examination. If the opponent exercises this option the witness will receive a cross examination score and the crossing attorney will receive a score. No re-direct examination is allowed. If the crossing attorney declines to have the witness take the stand, the witness will not receive a cross examination score and the crossing attorney will not receive a score.

Rule 4.32 Running-clock guideline. The running-clock guideline suggests that the case-in-chief of each party be conducted in one hour or less. The case-in-chief includes the direct and cross examinations of three witnesses, objections, arguments on objections and all other matters presented to the court in connection with the testimony of the three witnesses for each side. It does not include the opening statements and closing arguments. The running clock guideline does not serve as the basis for any penalty.

Rule 4.33 All-loss rule.

(1) DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Rule,

(a) “Start time” means the time when all judges have arrived to their proper trial rooms at the beginning of a round. If one or more judges must be reassigned after arriving to their initially assigned trial room, the start time does not occur until all judges have arrived to their subsequently assigned trial rooms.

(b) “All-loss time” means 180 minutes after the start time.

(2) RULE. All trials in a round must be completed by that round’s all-loss time, or penalty will be imposed under this Rule.

(3) WHEN TRIAL IS DEEMED COMPLETED. A trial is deemed completed when both scoring ballots from the trial are submitted to an AMTA Representative or his/her designee. The trial shall be deemed completed even if any ballot must be returned to a judge due to error, incompleteness, or illegibility.

(4) PENALTY. If the all-loss time occurs prior to the completion of a trial, each team competing in the uncompleted trial shall have one ballot subtracted from its final total of ballots won. The actual record of each team prior to the imposition of the penalty shall be used for the purposes of pairing and tiebreakers.

(5) DUTIES OF AMTA REPRESENTATIVES AND TEAMS. The AMTA Representatives shall determine the start time of each round and prominently post the resulting all-loss time. It is the duty of each team to ascertain the all-loss time for each round.

(6) REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION. The AMTA Representatives or their designee may

intervene to get a delayed trial back on schedule. The AMTA Representatives may allow adjustment to the operation of this rule on those rare occasions where delay in a trial occurs without any contribution from either team. A representative of either team must make a timely request for intervention to the AMTA Representatives who will observe the trial and determine whether the team requesting intervention is entitled to relief. The decision of the AMTA Representatives is final.

(7) NO RELIEF FROM JUDGES. No presiding judge or scoring judge may grant relief from the operation of this rule.

Chapter 5: Tournament Specific Rules

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Rule 5.1 Independence from AMTA. AMTA hosts regional tournaments, opening round championship tournaments, and a national championship tournament. These are the only AMTA-sanctioned and sponsored events. All other events not reflected above shall be deemed invitational tournaments. AMTA does not host, organize, fund or endorse any invitational tournament. These tournaments are exclusively hosted, organized and administered by their respective hosts, and are completely independent of AMTA.

Rule 5.2 Involvement of board members. AMTA directors and officers may volunteer to help the hosts and/or organizers of an invitational tournament. However, said involvement is strictly voluntary, on their own accord, and is in no way an endorsement or sanctioning of the tournament by AMTA.

Rule 5.3 Rules and policies. Invitational tournaments are not sanctioned tournaments, therefore, all aspects of each invitational tournament are at the discretion of the host and shall not be made in consult with AMTA. The host school may determine all aspects of the tournament or event including: a) when the tournament is held, b) where the tournament is held, c) whether the tournament is open to all schools and programs, d) the time of rounds, e) the length of rounds, f) whether the AMTA case problem for that year is used, g) the number of rounds, and h) whether AMTA materials, rules, pairing and tabulation systems are used.

Rule 5.4 Advertising on AMTA website. Hosts of invitational tournaments may request to advertise the tournament or event on the AMTA website. Such a request shall be in writing, and must indicate the host's acknowledgment that AMTA is not sponsoring, organizing or hosting the event.

Rule 5.5 Recommendation of general liability insurance. AMTA strongly encourages hosts to obtain general liability insurance for their events, if the event is not already covered by the host institution's policies.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Rule 5.6 Regional tournaments defined. Regional tournaments are those tournaments selected by the Tournament Administration Committee to serve as qualifying tournaments to the opening round championship. A minimum of six teams from at least three schools is required to hold a regional tournament, provided that there is no other regional tournament scheduled within a six-hour drive.

Rule 5.7 Regional tournament dates. Regional tournaments may be held on the last weekend in January or on any weekend in February. Hosts should avoid the LSAT weekend.

Rule 5.8 Regional host eligibility. Any member school or other qualified organization that meets the criteria laid out by the Tournament Administration Committee and the criteria established in these rules may be a regional tournament host.

Rule 5.9 Regional host selection. Regional tournament hosts are selected through a bid process. Regional tournament hosts must submit a regional proposal as outlined by the Tournament Administration Committee in order to be eligible to host a regional tournament. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to require current regional tournament hosts from going through the bid process.

Rule 5.10 Regional tournament host manual. All regional tournament hosts will receive an updated hosting manual and information on evaluation procedures prior to the start of the academic year.

Rule 5.11 Regional tournament host reimbursement. AMTA shall provide each regional tournament host with a minimum of \$40 times the number of teams assigned. No regional host may charge teams additional fees (above those paid to AMTA) to participate in a regional tournament.

Rule 5.12 Regional tournament evaluations. Each regional tournament will undergo a site evaluation process that includes (a) a report from the AMTA Representatives and (b) evaluations from all teams at that site. This information will be provided to the Tournament Administration Committee Chair, who, in consultation with the Tournament Administration Committee, will make a recommendation about the quality of all sites. The reports will be shared with each regional tournament host. If a site has significant problems, the host shall be informed in writing by the Tournament Administration Committee about the nature of the deficiencies and given one year to remove them. If the host fails to remove the deficiencies for two years in row, the Tournament Administration Committee chair, in consultation with the Tournament Administration Committee, may remove that school as a regional site.

Rule 5.13 Regional tournament team awards.

(1) TEAM TROPHIES. The top eight finishing teams at each regional tournament shall receive a trophy. The trophies will not differentiate in size or place, and shall state “Championship Series Qualifier” along with the appropriate year.

(2) SPIRIT OF AMTA AWARD. At least one team at each regional tournament shall receive a Spirit of AMTA plaque in accordance with the rules set forth in the Tabulation Manual.

Rule 5.14 Regional tournament individual awards. Each regional tournament shall award at least ten All-Region attorney and ten All-Region witness awards. Additional awards shall be given to students tied for tenth place. If ties create the need for additional individual plaques, the AMTA Representatives shall contact the AMTA office within one week of the regional tournament with the name, address, and award needed. When distributing the available plaques at the tournament, AMTA Representatives should withhold plaques from students whose teams are advancing to the championship series or

from students whose teams are coached by an AMTA director.

OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Rule 5.15 Opening round championship sites. AMTA will sponsor at least two opening round championship tournaments.

Rule 5.16 Location of opening round championship tournaments. The Board will determine the location of the sites for opening round championship tournaments.

Rule 5.17 Schedule of opening round championship tournaments. The Tournament Administration Committee will establish the schedule for all opening round championship tournaments.

Rule 5.18 Dates of opening round championship tournaments. If possible, the Board will schedule tournaments to allow a minimum of two weeks between the last regional tournament and the first opening round championship tournament

Rule 5.19 Eligibility for opening round championship tournaments. Every team that competes in an opening round championship tournament must be from an AMTA member school and must qualify by earning a bid under Chapter 6.

Rule 5.20 First round pairings. Public drawings shall be held at a predetermined time and place for the first round pairings at each opening round championship tournament.

Rule 5.21 Opening round championship tournament team awards.

(1) TEAM TROPHIES. Trophies will be awarded to each team that qualifies to the national championship tournament from the opening round championship. The trophies shall not differentiate in size or place, and shall state “National Championship Tournament Qualifier” along with the appropriate year.

(2) SPIRIT OF AMTA AWARD. At least one team shall receive a Spirit of AMTA plaque in accordance with the rules set forth in the Tabulation Manual.

Rule 5.22 Opening round championship tournament individual awards. Each opening round championship tournament shall award at least ten outstanding attorney and ten outstanding witness awards. Additional awards shall be given to students tied for tenth place. If ties create the need for additional individual plaques, the AMTA Representatives shall contact the AMTA office within one week of the tournament with the name, address, and award needed. When distributing the available plaques at the tournament, AMTA Representatives should withhold plaques from students whose teams are advancing to the national championship tournament or from students whose teams are coached by an AMTA director or officer.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Rule 5.23 National championship tournament. AMTA will sponsor one National Intercollegiate Championship Mock Trial Tournament.

Rule 5.24 Location of national championship tournament. The location of the national championship tournament will rotate among host sites, with Des Moines, Iowa to be the location every other year. The Board will determine the location of the national championship tournament in those years when Des Moines, Iowa is not the host location.

Rule 5.25 Dates of the national championship tournament. If possible, the Board will schedule tournaments to allow at least two weeks between the final opening round championship tournament and the national championship tournament. The dates of the national championship tournament will be set two years in advance by the Board.

Rule 5.26 Eligibility for the national championship tournament. Every team that competes in the national championship tournament must be from an AMTA member school in good standing, and must earn a bid to the national championship tournament under Chapter 6 of these Rules.

Rule 5.27 First round pairings. Public drawings shall be held at a predetermined time and place for the first round pairings at the national championship tournament.

Rule 5.28 Divisions at the national championship tournament.

(1) DIVISIONS, SAME-SCHOOL LIMITATION. The national championship tournament will be run in two divisions. If two teams from a single school compete, they shall be assigned to the same division.

(2) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED. At least two teams from each opening round championship tournament shall compete in each division.

(3) DISTRIBUTION OF BONUS BID RANKS. Teams with Bonus Bid Ranks shall be divided such that five of the top ten ranked teams participating in the tournament will be in each division, five of the next ten ranked teams shall be in each division (teams with the 11th to 20th best BBRs, not necessarily BBRs 11-20), five of the next ten ranked teams shall be in each division (teams with the 21st to 30th best BBRs), and, to the extent possible, all remaining ranked teams should be distributed with an equal number in each division.

(4) RANDOM DRAW REQUIRED. Division draws shall be done at random, taking steps as needed to implement the above rules.

Rule 5.29 Swing teams.

(1) DESIGNATION. The Tabulation Director may designate one team in each division as a swing team. The swing team will switch divisions if it is necessary to move a team to comply with Rule 5.32(1). The swing team(s) shall be selected at random, with the caveat that they must be teams from programs with only a single team in that tournament.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION WHEN TEAMS DO NOT ARRIVE. If at least one team in each division will not be arriving, the Tabulation Director may move a swing team from one

division to the other to prevent the need for a Bye-Buster in both divisions. The swing team should move into the division that had the higher ranked no-show. Ranking shall be based on bonus bid rankings, or, if neither team has a bonus bid ranking, the team's performance at regionals. This procedure ensures that the division that loses a higher ranked team at least stays at its full size.

(3) OPPONENTS. If pairings have already been conducted:

(a) In the division receiving the swing team, the swing team shall face the team initially scheduled to face the team which is not arriving.

(b) In the division the swing team departed, the team initially paired against the team not arriving shall face the team initially paired against the swing team.

(c) If necessary, the AMTA Representatives shall conduct a coin flip to determine side assignments for the trials affected by the movement of the swing team.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION WHEN TEAMS WILL ARRIVE LATE. If a team is scheduled to arrive late, but is planning to participate, do not move teams from one division to another. Simply field a ByeBuster in each.

Rule 5.30 National championship tournament team awards.

(1) TEAM TROPHIES. Team trophies will be awarded to the first through tenth place teams in each division, plus five honorable mention trophies in each division. The announcement of team awards shall begin with the presentation of honorable mention awards. A minimum record of 4-4 or its equivalent is required for team award recognition at the national championship tournament.

(2) SPIRIT OF AMTA AWARD. At least one team in each division shall receive a Spirit of AMTA plaque in accordance with the rules set forth in the Tabulation Manual.

Rule 5.31 National championship tournament individual awards.

(1) ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS BASED ON RANK POINTS. Each student who receives 18 or more individual award points on one side of the case shall be designated an Intercollegiate All-American Witness or Intercollegiate All-American Attorney. If less than ten students in a division earn 18 individual award points or better, all students who place among the top ten in individual rankings will receive All-American status. A student may receive All-American designation as both an attorney and a witness.

(2) ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS BASED ON REACHING FINAL ROUND. All students participating in the final championship round shall be designated an Intercollegiate All-American Witness or Intercollegiate All-American Attorney, as appropriate.

Rule 5.32 National championship trial. The first place team from each division will meet in the national championship trial. Teams from the same school will be assigned to the same division and will not meet. The winner of the national championship trial shall be the national champion.

Rule 5.33 Judging of the national championship trial. Judges of the National Championship Round shall be assigned by the tournament host in consultation with the Tournament Administration Committee Chair. The national championship trial shall be scored by an odd number of at least three and no more than nine judges. The presiding judge should not score if possible.

Chapter 6: Championship Series Bids

GENERAL RULES

Rule 6.1 Bid limitation. No school may accept more than two bids to the championship series.

Rule 6.2 Types of bids, how earned. There are three types of championship series bids:

(1) REGULAR BIDS. Regular bids to the opening round championship are strictly determined and earned by the final placement results at regional tournaments. Regular bids to the national championship are strictly determined and earned by the final placement results at opening round championship tournaments.

(2) OPEN BIDS. Open bids consist of regular bids that have been declined or unreserved, and extra bids not allocated to a tournament as a regular bid. When available, open bids are awarded pursuant to Rule 6.9.

(3) ACT OF AMTA BIDS. Act of AMTA bids are awarded, when necessary, pursuant to Rule 6.10.

Rule 6.3 Reservation of bids. Each school which earns a bid shall promptly visit the AMTA web site to follow the bid reservation process pertaining to the tournament to which the bid was earned. Each bid shall be reserved in the precise manner indicated no later than 12:00 noon, central time, on the first Tuesday following the tournament at which the school earned the bid. Additional time for accepting a bid may be granted at the discretion of the Tabulation Director or the President. Any bid not timely reserved, or not reserved in the precise manner indicated, shall be deemed forfeited.

Rule 6.4 Withdrawal penalties for the championship series.

(1) PENALTY STRUCTURE. The following penalties shall be assessed to each school that returns a previously accepted bid, fails to appear at a championship series tournament, or leaves a championship series tournament early:

\$100 for each team that drops 7 or more days before the start of tournament to which it accepted a bid;

\$250 for each team that drops less than 7 days but at least 72 hours before the start of the tournament;

\$350 for each team that drops less than 72 hours but at least 48 hours before the start of the tournament;

\$500 for each team that drops less than 48 hours but at least 24 hours before the start of the tournament;

\$750 for each team that drops less than 24 hours before the start of the tournament, or fails to appear at the tournament, or leaves the tournament early without permission of the AMTA Representative.

(2) DEFINITION OF "START TIME". For the purposes of assessing penalties under this Rule, the start time of a tournament is deemed to be the start of the check-in/registration period. For example, if a tournament's check-in period begins at 2:00 p.m. pacific time on March 14, a team would have to cancel by 2:00 p.m. pacific time on March 7 to receive the

lowest penalty.

(3) APPEAL OF PENALTY. The Executive Committee may consider appeals of penalty assessments and may waive fines if the reasons for failing to comply with this Rule are compelling.

(4) PROCEDURE FOR DROPS. To properly withdraw a bid after acceptance, a team must notify both the tournament host and the Tournament Administration Committee Chair. The time of notification of withdrawal does not occur until both parties are notified.

BIDS TO THE OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP

Rule 6.5 Announcing bids at regional tournaments. For the purposes of award announcements at regional tournaments, all teams shall be treated as eligible for bids to the opening round championship. The award of a bid in no way affects the operation of Rule 6.1.

Rule 6.6 Opening round championship bids.

(1) NUMBER OF BIDS. There shall be 192 bids to the opening round championship.

(2) ALLOCATION OF BIDS TO REGIONALS. Bids to the opening round championship shall be allocated equally to all regions. Should the number of regional tournaments not allow for equal distribution of the bids, each region shall receive the same number of bids and the remainder shall be distributed as open bids. If any bid is declined for any reason, including any bid unaccepted due to Rule 6.1, the declined bid shall become an open bid.

(3) FEEDER ASSIGNMENTS TO THE OPENING ROUND. The number of teams assigned to each opening round championship tournament, and the designations of which regions feed into each opening round championship tournament, shall be established by the Tournament Administration Committee in consultation with the Tabulation Director.

Rule 6.7 Bids to multiple opening round locations.

(1) DIFFERENT OPENING ROUND SITES PERMITTED. A school with two bids to the opening round championship may send its two teams to different opening round tournament sites.

(2) RULE FOR DETERMINING WHICH BIDS ARE ACTIVE. If a school earns more than two bids to the opening round championship, the Tabulation Director shall deem as active the bids to the opening round championship site to which the school has earned the most bids. If a school earns an equal number of bids to more than one opening round championship site, the school may submit a request to the Tabulation Director to have its bids reassigned to a single tournament site. The Tabulation Director shall grant this request when reasonably possible, but shall not necessarily grant a request to reassign bids to the particular site requested by the school.

(3) TEAM NUMBERS. Each school shall use its two lowest team numbers during the championship series, regardless of the team number(s) associated with a bid earned at a regional tournament.

(4) BID REASSIGNMENT. After consultation with the chair of the Tournament Administration Committee, the Tabulation Director shall have the authority to reassign any bid to a different opening round site, taking into account both the competitive balance of the opening round championship sites, and schedule conflicts approved by the Tournament

Administration Committee. No team's regular bid shall be reassigned to a different tournament site without the consent of the team.

BIDS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rule 6.8 National championship bids.

(1) NUMBER. There shall be 48 bids to the national championship tournament.

(2) ALLOCATION OF BIDS TO THE OPENING ROUND SITES. Six regular bids shall be allocated to each of the opening round championship tournament sites.

OPEN BIDS AND ACT OF AMTA BIDS

Rule 6.9 Open bids.

(1) CRITERIA FOR OPEN BIDS TO THE OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP. The following series of tiebreakers shall control the open bid list to the opening round championship:

- (a) Ballots won at the regional tournament;
- (b) Whether the school already has a team in the championship series, with those schools without a team in the championship series taking precedence;
- (c) Combined strength at the regional tournament;
- (d) The number of teams in the team's regional tournament, with the larger number taking precedence;
- (e) Bonus bid ranking, with the better ranking taking precedence.

(2) CRITERIA FOR OPEN BIDS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. The following series of tiebreakers shall control the open bid list to the national championship:

- (a) Ballots won at the opening round championship;
- (b) Whether the school already has a team in the national championship tournament, with those schools without a team in the national championship tournament taking precedence;
- (c) Combined strength at the opening round championship tournament;
- (d) The number of teams in the team's opening round championship tournament, with the larger number taking precedence;
- (e) Bonus bid ranking, with the better ranking taking precedence.

(3) OPEN BID LIST. The Tabulation Director shall maintain a running total of the rankings of teams eligible for open bids, updated after the completion of each regional tournament and each opening round championship tournament. This list shall be posted online. Any errors reported to the Tabulation Director after 48 hours shall be corrected but will not result in the reversal of any bid awards already made.

(4) AWARD OF OPEN BIDS. Open bids shall be awarded on a national basis, meaning no declined bids will be reserved for teams from a particular regional.

Rule 6.10 Act of AMTA bids.

(1) ACT OF AMTA DEFINED. An Act of AMTA is an error, beyond a team's control, that appears to have prevented that team from receiving a regular bid that the team otherwise would have earned. Allegations of "bad judging" shall not be deemed acts of AMTA. Acts of God which are beyond the control of the teams, AMTA, and tournament hosts shall also be considered, but shall result in the awarding of bids only in rare

circumstances.

(2) HOW TO REQUEST; DEADLINE. A request for an Act of AMTA bid must be made by email to the Competition Response Committee Chair. The request must be received by the Competition Response Committee Chair by 12:00 noon central time on the Tuesday following the completion of the tournament where the alleged error occurred.

(3) SHORTENED DEADLINE. Notwithstanding the deadline in (1), if the alleged error occurred during the final weekend of opening round championship tournaments, a request for an Act of AMTA bid must be received by the Competition Response Committee Chair by 4:00 p.m. central time the day after the tournament where the alleged error occurred ended.

(4) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT. The Tabulation Director shall investigate the complaints and report to the Competition Response Committee no later than two business days after the submission of the request.

(5) FAST-TRACK RESPONSE. If an Act of AMTA bid request relates to a tournament occurring on the last weekend of regional tournaments or the last weekend of opening round championship tournaments, the Competition Response Committee chair may issue an official ruling on the request after obtaining support for the ruling from at least two other members of the Competition Response Committee.

BONUS BID RANKINGS

Rule 6.11 Bonus bid rankings.

(1) METHOD OF CALCULATING. Bonus bid rankings will be compiled by taking the number of ballots won in the most recent National Championship Tournament multiplied by 5, the year previous shall be multiplied by 3, and two years previous should be multiplied by 1. The Opening Round Championship Site ballots win-count shall be worth half the weight as that respective year's National Championship Tournament. If a team competes at both an Opening Round Championship Site and the Championship Tournament, it will be credited for the win-total of the tournament in which the team would receive the most bonus bid credit.

(2) BREAKING TIES BETWEEN RANKS. Ties in the Bonus Bid Rankings shall be broken by eliminating the oldest year's points, with the team with the highest remaining total receiving the higher ranking. If the tie is still not broken, the second oldest year's points shall be eliminated.

Chapter 7: Roles and Duties of Participants

ALL PARTICIPANTS

Rule 7.1 Communication during a round.

(1) GENERAL RULE. From the time a trial begins until it ends, each student participant in the trial may communicate only with the following:

- (a) other students on the roster of either team competing in that trial;
- (b) judges and tournament officials.

If anyone else, including any coach or spectator, attempts to communicate with a student participant during a trial, it is the duty of the student to terminate the communication.

(2) WIRELESS DEVICES TO BE TURNED OFF. All student participants shall turn the power off on all pagers, cell phones, wireless communication devices, or computers during each trial.

(3) EMERGENCY EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to this Rule may be granted by an AMTA Representative for emergency communication not related to the trial. Normally, advance permission should be obtained.

Rule 7.2 Team identification. Participants shall identify themselves to judges only by assigned team numbers. Clothing and other materials visible to the judges during a trial shall not identify any school. After scoring sheets have been submitted to the tournament officials, both teams may identify their school affiliations to the judges.

Rule 7.3 Courtesy. Courtesy toward the court, opposing counsel, witnesses, and the law is expected throughout all sanctioned tournaments.

Rule 7.4 Dress. Appropriate dress shall be worn by all participants. Derogatory comments about the appearance of opposing counsel are prohibited.

ATTORNEYS

Rule 7.5 Diligent preparation. All student attorneys shall strive diligently to undertake the study, preparation, and practice required to present their clients' cases with integrity and competence.

Rule 7.6 Zealous representation. Attorneys shall represent their clients zealously but within the bounds of the law. Specifically:

(a) If the facts of the case can lead to more than one inference or the law can reasonably be interpreted in more than one way, the attorneys may argue the inferences, conclusions and interpretations most favorable to their client(s); however,

(b) Student attorneys shall refrain from all offensive behavior, shall not attempt to circumvent any rule, nor commit any dishonesty, deceit, or misrepresentation, nor engage in any conduct that is unfair or prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Rule 7.7 Role of each attorney. Each attorney shall conduct one direct examination and one cross examination in each trial. An attorney who chooses not to ask one or more

questions of a witness upon cross examination will receive a zero for that examination, and the witness will receive the same score as s/he received on direct examination. Only the attorney handling the examination of a witness may interject an objection during the testimony offered by that witness. An attorney may give either the opening statement or the closing argument but not both during any single trial. Nothing in this rule prohibits an attorney from requesting permission to consult with co-counsel. This rule may be suspended for a bye-buster team.

WITNESSES

Rule 7.8 Learning and adhering to the role. Each student witness shall endeavor, to the best of the student's ability, to learn and adhere to the role of that witness.

Rule 7.9 Testimony of witnesses. All witnesses shall remain faithful to their affidavits.

Rule 7.10 Supplementary rules for visually impaired student participants.

(1) PRESUMPTION. Witnesses are presumed to have been sighted at the time of the events described in their affidavit.

(2) ASSISTANCE PERMITTED. When direct examination or cross examination of a visually impaired witness involves the use of exhibits, affidavits, or other written material, the witness may be assisted by another team member, including but not limited to identifying for the witness an exhibit or affidavit for which authentication has been requested and reading aloud to the witness from the portion of written material that the examining attorney has made the subject of a question. The assisting team member may not otherwise address the witness, examining attorney, or the court.

Rule 7.11. Supplementary rule for hearing impaired student participants.

Witnesses are presumed to have been able to hear at the time of the events described in their affidavit.

Rule 7.12. Supplementary rule for students with any physical limitations

other than visual or hearing impairments. Any student with a physical impairment who performs a witness role shall be deemed to have not had the physical impairment at the time his or her witness statement was created, if the physical impairment would have significantly impeded the ability of the character to perform actions attributed to him or her by the case materials.

Rule 7.13 Use of notes during a round. A witness, other than one summoned for a bye-buster team, may not use notes while giving testimony. However, the recollection of a witness may be refreshed, where appropriate, pursuant to MRE 612.

Rule 7.14 Characterizations. Witnesses may develop the persona of their character. Any dress, demeanor, and appearance consistent with Rules 1.4 through 1.10 may be used.

Rule 7.15 Non-testifying witnesses. No one may sit at the attorney table in the role of plaintiff or defendant unless that person is on the team's six to ten person roster.

TIMEKEEPERS

Rule 7.16 Timekeeper required. Each team is expected to supply a timekeeper for each trial. The timekeeper is an officer of the court while keeping time during a trial. The timekeeper shall be a person who is named on the team roster. It is a violation of this rule to use a coach, a non-rostered spectator, or a person from the same school who is not on the roster of the team competing in that trial.

Rule 7.17 Duties of timekeepers. Each timekeeper shall accurately monitor the time elapsed. In order to assist his/her team in complying with Rules 4.31 through 4.33, the timekeeper may unobtrusively indicate to her/his team the amount of used or remaining time. The timekeeper shall announce aloud to the court when the time for any part of the trial has expired. Timekeepers for opposing teams shall cooperate with and assist each other to insure accurate timekeeping and to eliminate any interruption of the trial due to errors in timekeeping.

Rule 7.18 Record of time used. Each timekeeper shall keep a written record of the time, using the official timekeeping sheet, which may be downloaded from the AMTA web site. Teams are responsible for bringing sufficient copies of the timekeeping sheet to each tournament. The completed timekeeping sheet need not be returned to the tab room unless there is a dispute regarding timing.

Rule 7.19 Communication during a trial. Timekeepers, as rostered team members, may communicate only with other persons on their roster, persons on their opponent's roster, judges, and tournament officials during a trial.

ALL JUDGES

Rule 7.20 Fairness and impartiality. Every mock trial judge shall strive to be absolutely fair and impartial in all evidentiary rulings, in scoring and in all other judging activities. In order to assure impartiality, team names shall not be used nor disclosed in any manner during a round. However, a judge or spectator, after submitting the scoring ballot, may inquire about the identity of the schools represented by the teams competing in any round.

PRESIDING JUDGES

Rule 7.21 Presiding judge required. In each trial, one and only one judge shall act as presiding judge. If there are three judges, the presiding judge will not score the round. If there are fewer than three judges, the presiding judge will score as well as preside.

Rule 7.22 Role of the presiding judge. It is the role of the presiding judge to control all proceedings, to rule on objections and to carry out all other functions of a trial court

judge for the mock trial over which he or she presides. The court should refrain from questioning witnesses or preempting the role of student attorneys.

Rule 7.23 Argument on objections. The court, at its discretion, may allow limited argument on objections and may question counsel concerning objections.

Rule 7.24 Ruling on objections. After receiving such argument on an objection as the court deems necessary, the judge should rule on objections without discussion or comment. However, in stating its ruling, the court may indicate the reason for the ruling.

SCORING JUDGES

Rule 7.25 Scoring judges. There should be two scoring judges in each trial (other than the national championship trial). The role of the scoring judge is to evaluate the performance of the witnesses and attorneys in the trial.

Rule 7.26 Ballots. In scoring the trial, judges shall use the ballots provided by the captains. Regulation AMTA ballots are impression ballots. Each page consists of a form in duplicate or triplicate. Judges should take care to write on one page at a time only, setting the other pages aside. Judges should press firmly on the top sheet. The white ballots are designed to be used by the judges to record comments and critique. The blue ballots are used to record numerical scores for each performance by a student attorney or witness.

Rule 7.27 Scoring shall be on performance, not outcome. Scoring shall be based on the performance of the student witnesses and attorneys. Scores should not be based on the merits or outcome of the case as it would be judged in an actual trial.

Rule 7.28 Importance of comments. The comments of the judges are very important to the students who participate. Students are likely to take such comments to heart. Being mindful that the participants are undergraduate rather than law students and that mock trial is a law-related education function, judges should strive to educate and inform participants as well as to give them advice on improving their performances.

Rule 7.29 Scoring performance of the participants.

(1) NUMERICAL SCORES GENERALLY. Judges shall issue only whole number scores between 1 and 10. In selecting the numerical score for any student's performance, 10 shall represent excellent performance, 5 shall represent average performance, and 1 shall represent poor performance. The score of zero shall not be issued except when a performance is not attempted.

(2) SCORING WITNESSES. The scores of students playing witness roles should be based on the student's knowledge of the part, faithfulness to the part, believability of the character, ability to handle cross-examination, and credibility. Witnesses are limited to the information in their sworn affidavits and reasonable inferences. Egregious invention of facts by witnesses on direct and redirect examination is prohibited. It is a decision of each scoring judge whether testimony offered by a witness is reasonable inference or outrageous invention. A scoring judge should deduct points from the score of a witness who engages in

outrageous fact invention. *See* Rule 8.9.

(3) SCORING ATTORNEYS. The scores of students acting as attorneys should be based on the student's mastery of trial techniques, understanding of the legal issues, understanding of the role of counsel, oratorical and advocacy skills, and demeanor. Judges should not consider whether the party being represented would prevail on the merits of the case. However, the judge may consider the effectiveness of the student attorney's representation for the party the student attorney represents, taking into consideration the restrictions on time and materials available to counsel inherent in mock trials.

Rule 7.30 Deductions from scores. At the discretion of each scoring judge, points may be deducted for:

- (a) Unreasonable invention of facts by a witness, in violation of Rule 8.9;
- (b) Violation of these rules;
- (c) Any act that would constitute contempt of court or unprofessional conduct on the part of a student attorney.

Rule 7.31 Complete blue ballots quickly. Judges should enter numerical scores on the blue ballot as the trial progresses. Completing the blue ballot immediately after the last closing argument will greatly facilitate the operation of the tournament.

Rule 7.32 Ruling on the merits. After the scoring judges have completed their blue scoring sheets, the court may render a verdict on the merits. The judges need not agree. Each may offer an explanation of his or her decision. The decision on the merits of the case should not affect the outcome of a trial or the tournament.

Rule 7.33 Comment and critique by the court. Judges' comments and critiques are important to student participants both to improve performance in subsequent rounds and to educate students. Judges are urged to share their insights and coaching tips in the following two ways:

(1) WRITTEN COMMENTS. To offer critique or comment to an individual student, judges are encouraged to write down their ideas in the section of the ballot below the student's name. It is a good idea to write such comments as the trial progresses, but judges should feel free to add to their comments after the trial, too. Each team will get one copy of the ballot.

(2) ORAL CRITIQUE. At the end of the trial, after the blue scoring ballot has been completed and submitted to a tournament official, the judging panel may offer oral comment to the participants and answer questions. Students are generally eager to get the impressions of the judges who have watched their trial. Each mock trial judge becomes a law-related educator for the participants he or she is judging. AMTA stresses that the competitors are not law students, and harsh criticism is usually not appropriate. Positive observations, specific tips on improving performance in subsequent trials, and sharing insights and experiences are beneficial to the students. Time is important at mock trial events, so judges are urged to keep oral critiques short as well as positive in tone. Comments should never exceed ten minutes per judge.

COACHES

Rule 7.34 Coaches required to judge, penalty for failure to comply. Whenever there is an insufficient number of volunteer judges, coaches must agree to judge. Coaches who act as judges shall set aside partisan interests and be fair and reasonable in presiding and scoring. The team(s) of any coach who refuses to judge will be removed from the competition. If the school has more than one team, the team with the best record at the time will be removed.

Chapter 8: Trial Procedures

Rule 8.1 Arrangement of the courtroom. Counsel tables should be marked with placards indicating which team is plaintiff/prosecution and which team is defense. In rooms with a jury box, the plaintiff/prosecution shall use the table closest to the jury box. In rooms without a jury box, when the judges are facing counsel tables, the plaintiff/prosecution shall be to the judges' left. Teams shall not move furniture where such rearrangement is prohibited. Teams must provide their own placards.

Rule 8.2 Authenticity of documents. No witness may deny the authenticity of documents supplied by AMTA. Proper foundation must be laid, and to the extent that the authenticity standard promulgated by Midlands Rule of Evidence 901 requires testimony sufficient to show that evidence is what it purports to be, such is still required. There are no restrictions as to how evidence is to be used in a trial beyond the requirement that participants acknowledge the legitimacy of the documents provided by AMTA. Arguing for hyper-technical interpretations of the rules shall be avoided. Witness affidavits cannot reasonably identify documents in a degree of detail sufficient to prevent witnesses from denying central case components clearly within their knowledge bases. Manipulating this reality in an effort to argue that AMTA-supplied documents are or are possibly not the real documents is being hyper-technical.

Rule 8.3 Affidavits. All affidavits shall be treated as sworn to and signed by the witness. All affidavits are assumed to have been reviewed and updated by each witness immediately prior to trial. Each witness is assumed to have affirmed that no changes to the affidavit are necessary.

Rule 8.4 Extrinsic legal authority prohibited. Notwithstanding any explicit or implicit reference to the U.S. Constitution or any other federal, state or local law within the Midlands Rules, no statute, code, regulation, ordinance, rule, treaty, doctrine or opinion of any judicial, legislative or administrative authority may be invoked, asserted, cited, referenced, relied upon, or otherwise mentioned or observed in competition unless expressly included among the relevant legal authorities set forth in the case materials in use at the tournament.

Rule 8.5 Demonstratives, visual aids, and exhibits.

(1) GENERAL RULE REGARDING VISUAL AIDS, POSTERS, AND ENLARGEMENTS. The use of visual aids, posters, and enlargements is permitted, subject to the other provisions of these Rules, and so long as such aids are not hazardous or potentially damaging to persons or property. If used, a visual aid must be made available to the opposing attorneys for subsequent use during examination of witnesses and closing argument.

(2) ELECTRONIC VISUAL AIDS. The use of electronic or light projected aids is prohibited.

(3) EVIDENCE RESTRICTED TO CASE PACKET. Only materials provided in the case packet may be offered into evidence during trial. Exhibits and documents provided in the case packet, and demonstratives deemed allowable under this Rule and Rule 4.12(3), are not automatically admissible at trial. Unless the admissibility of an item has been

stipulated, all items remain subject to objection on evidentiary grounds including, but not limited to, improper foundation.

(4) RESTRICTION ON MATERIALS NOT INCLUDED IN CASE PACKET. No photographs, pre-made maps, or pre-made drawings of particular people or places may be used as demonstratives unless they have been provided with or are specifically permitted by the case materials. Nothing in this rule prevents a witness from creating a demonstrative illustration during the course of his or her examination. Lists, charts, graphs, phrases, etc. are not considered “drawings” for the purposes of this rule. All other items may be used as demonstrative aids, subject to these Rules and the Midlands Rules of Evidence.

(5) DEFACING PROHIBITED. Permanently defacing an opponent’s visual aids is not permitted.

Rule 8.6 Bench conferences and side-bars. Bench conferences and side-bars are not permitted. Judges should handle all matters that might be the subject of a side bar or bench conference in open court so that all participants may learn from the exchanges. The court may call a brief conference to clarify an objection or a rule. Counsel will remain at counsel table unless specifically instructed by the court to approach the bench.

Rule 8.7 Format of the trial. All trials in sanctioned tournaments are to be treated as jury trials, unless expressly stated otherwise within the case. In the event that the host impanels an actual jury to observe a trial, the following rules shall apply:

(1) To save time, a timely motion to strike excluded evidence shall be automatically interpreted as both a motion to strike and a request to admonish the jury to disregard the stricken evidence. If a jury is actually impaneled, attorneys may specifically request, and judges may give such admonitions.

(2) Attorneys may request limiting instructions when testimony or evidence is admitted on limited grounds.

(3) Discussions and arguments on evidentiary matters and other issues normally held outside the presence of the jury shall be conducted in open court, but shall be considered constructively outside the presence of the jury. In the interest of time, no special request to "meet constructively at sidebar" or the equivalent is required. Judges shall not entertain any objection that improper discussion has occurred in the presence of the jury, even if an actual jury is impaneled.

(4) If an actual jury is impaneled, the scoring ballots must be completed and sent to the tab room before the jury gives a verdict or any other feedback.

Rule 8.8. Cross, redirect, and recross examinations.

(1) SCOPE OF INITIAL CROSS EXAMINATION. The scope of the initial cross examination is not limited to matters raised in the initial direct examination.

(2) SCOPE OF REDIRECT AND RECROSS EXAMINATIONS. The scope of each re-examination is limited to matters raised in the immediately preceding examination.

(3) NUMBER OF REDIRECT AND RECROSS EXAMINATIONS. An unlimited number of redirect and recross examinations are permitted, subject only to sub. (2) of this Rule and all applicable time limits.

Rule 8.9 Invention of fact. In lieu of discovery, this rule shall govern the testimony of all witnesses.

(1) DIRECT AND REDIRECT EXAMINATION TESTIMONY. During direct and redirect examination, a witness may testify only to facts that are either stated in or which could be reasonably inferred from the witness's affidavit. Such inferred testimony may fill in details of the witness's answer, provide background information or develop the character of a witness as long as it does not introduce substantive new facts.

(2) CROSS AND RECROSS EXAMINATION TESTIMONY. During cross and recross examination, a witness's answers to questions posed by the cross examiner must (a) be responsive to the question, and (b) not be contradictory to that witness's affidavit.

Comment to Rule 8.9(2): During cross or recross examination, witnesses may invent facts as long as they are responsive to the question asked and do not contradict their affidavits.

(3) REMEDY FOR VIOLATIONS. If the cross-examiner believes the witness has exceeded the limitations of this rule, the only remedy available during the trial is to impeach the witness using the witness's affidavit or any other written statement of the witness. No other remedy for "invention of facts" is permitted.

Comment to Rule 8.9(3): The cross-examiner is not permitted to make an objection to the judge on the basis of "invention of fact."

Rule 8.10 Manner of examination. Whenever possible, counsel will stand when speaking to the court, to opposing counsel, or to a witness, and shall maintain a respectful demeanor. Participants should address a jury if there is a jury present and address the bench if there is no jury. Unless directed otherwise by the court, counsel will ask permission to approach the court or a witness or to use an exhibit.

Comment to Rule 8.10: Mock trials have elements that resemble both a jury trial and a bench trial. Students should adapt their presentations to the situation they confront in individual rounds.

Rule 8.11 Motions. No motions, except a motion to strike pursuant to Midlands Rule of Evidence 102 or a motion to exclude witnesses pursuant to Midlands Rule of Evidence 615, are permitted. The motion to strike is not permitted for the purpose of raising alleged violations of Rule 8.9.

Rule 8.12 Objections. Objections to evidence are subject to the following limitations:

(1) WHEN OBJECTIONS ARE PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED. Objections are permitted during the examinations of witnesses but not during opening statements or closing arguments.

(2) WHICH OBJECTIONS ARE PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED. The only objections that may be made are those that are consistent with the Midlands Rules of Evidence or which have been recognized by a case provided with the case materials. .

(3) WHO MAY OBJECT. Only the attorney who conducts the direct or cross examination of the witness may advance objections during the questioning or testimony of a witness.

Rule 8.13 Burdens of proof.

(1) CIVIL CASES. Unless otherwise provided within the case materials, in all civil cases the plaintiff shall have the burden of proof, which shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

(2) CRIMINAL CASES. Unless otherwise provided within the case materials, in all criminal trials the prosecution shall have the burden of proof, which shall be beyond a reasonable doubt.

Rule 8.14 Bench notebooks prohibited. No team is permitted to present judges with any materials not included in the case materials, nor “bench notebooks,” nor any other compilation of case materials.

Rule 8.15 Voir dire. Voir dire is allowed and shall count against the cross examination time of the team employing it.

Chapter 9: Rules Violations, Penalties, and Sanctions

Rule 9.1 Reporting a rule violation at a tournament.

(1) WHO MAY RECEIVE REPORTS. Protests or complaints concerning any violation of these rules, or concerning the acts or comments of any participant, coach, official, judge or observer of a sanctioned tournament, must be brought to the attention of an AMTA Representative. Protests and complaints shall not be brought to anyone else, including tournament hosts, tournament volunteers, or the judge of any round.

(2) DEADLINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS. A violation occurring during a trial shall be reported no later than the first break in the trial after the violation occurs or is discovered. A violation occurring at any other time during a sanctioned tournament shall be reported prior to the expiration of the applicable review period, as defined in Rule 4.24, of the round in which the violation occurs or is discovered.

(3) AMTA REPRESENTATIVES MAY INITIATE PENALTY PROCEDURE. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent imposition of a penalty for a rule violation personally observed by an AMTA Representative, even if no complaint is filed by another party.

TOURNAMENT PENALTIES

Rule 9.2 Tournament penalties.

(1) GENERAL RULE. The AMTA Representatives may impose a penalty for any violation of any rule occurring at a sanctioned tournament. The AMTA Representatives are permitted, but not required, to impose a penalty for conduct described in Rule 9.5(2).

(2) AVAILABLE PENALTIES. Unless another Rule provides the AMTA Representatives with a different or additional available penalty, the available penalties are limited to:

- (a) warning, verbal or written;
- (b) loss of time from any timed portion of a trial;
- (c) loss of opportunity to select witnesses according to the witness selection order;
- (d) loss of individual or team awards;
- (e) loss of points;
- (f) exclusion of an individual, team, coach or observer from further attendance at, or participation in, the current tournament.

(3) FACTORS TO CONSIDER. AMTA Representatives are encouraged to resolve disputes in a manner that does not unfairly impact the competitive balance of a tournament. The Representatives should consider both the intent of the conduct and its impact on the aggrieved team.

Rule 9.3 Tournament penalty procedure.

(1) INITIAL PROCEDURE. Upon receiving a timely complaint under Rule 9.1, or if an AMTA Representative observes a violation, one of the AMTA Representatives shall immediately notify the affected parties. If the affected parties include one or more teams, the AMTA Representatives shall notify the respective team captain(s) or coach(es). The AMTA Representatives will consult the affected parties, the complainant, and any third party the AMTA Representatives believe may have material information regarding the conduct complained of or observed.

(2) DETERMINATION OF PENALTY. After following the procedure in sub. (1), the

AMTA Representatives shall confer and determine whether a penalty under Rule 9.2 should be imposed. Once a determination is made, the AMTA Representatives shall immediately notify the affected parties of the determination.

(3) DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES. If the AMTA Representatives cannot agree on whether a penalty is appropriate, or what the appropriate penalty should be, the AMTA Representatives shall immediately consult the Tabulation Director, and the determination will be made by a simple majority of the three officials. If the Tabulation Director is unavailable for immediate consultation, or is one of the AMTA Representatives involved, the AMTA Representatives shall consult a member of the Executive Committee according to the following order: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Administration Committee Chair, Rules Committee Chair, Development Director, and Past-President. Once a determination is made, the AMTA Representatives shall immediately notify the affected parties of the determination.

Rule 9.4 Appeal of tournament penalty. A party dissatisfied with the determination of the AMTA Representatives may appeal to the Tabulation Director. In the event that the Tabulation Director cannot be reached, or is one of the AMTA Representatives, the party may appeal to a member of the Executive Committee in the order described in Rule 9.3(3). The Tabulation Director (or other Executive Committee member) may affirm, modify, or set aside an appealable determination of the AMTA Representatives with the agreement of at least one of the AMTA Representatives. If the person hearing the appeal disagrees with the decision of the two AMTA Representatives, and neither Representative chooses to change his/her position, the person hearing the appeal shall contact the next Executive Member in line pursuant to Rule 9.3(3). That person shall serve as the tiebreaker in choosing between the decision of the person initially hearing the appeal and the decision of the two AMTA Representatives. This decision is final.

SANCTIONS

Rule 9.5 Sanctions.

(1) GENERAL RULE AND PROCEDURE. The AMTA Representatives may request sanctions due to any violation of any rule occurring at a sanctioned tournament. Such request shall be made to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may initiate the sanction procedure due to any violation of any rule occurring outside the bounds of a sanctioned tournament.

(2) SANCTIONABLE CONDUCT DEFINED. Sanctionable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Coaching during a round;
- (b) Physical or verbal abuse of any participant;
- (c) Intentionally destroying or defacing property, including an opponent's exhibits;
- (d) Intentionally engaging in inaccurate time keeping;
- (e) Intentionally using an ineligible person as a team member;
- (f) Arriving late to a scheduled event such that the start of a competitive round or draw for pairings is delayed;
- (g) Violation of the rules regarding case access and case use;
- (h) Violating the terms of use or rules of any facility where a sanctioned tournament

is held;

(i) Any conduct proscribed by law.

(3) AVAILABLE SANCTIONS. Sanctions are limited to:

(a) probation;

(b) loss of bid eligibility;

(c) fines and/or restitution;

(d) suspension of a coach or team member;

(e) suspension of school membership.

(4) FACTORS TO CONSIDER. In determining whether sanctions are appropriate and, if so, which sanctions are appropriate, the Executive Committee shall consider the severity of the conduct and the severity of the possible sanctions. The Executive Committee shall endeavor to impose a sanction no more severe than the conduct warrants. The Executive Committee should also consider the impact any sanction may have on individuals or teams not directly responsible for the conduct, and shall avoid or minimize such impact as appropriate and wherever possible.

Rule 9.6 Appeal of sanction. Imposition of a sanction by the Executive Committee in Rule 9.5 may be appealed to the full Board. The Board's decision is final.

RULE INTERPRETATION

Rule 9.7 Rule interpretation during a tournament.

(1) DURING A TRIAL. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or in these Rules, the interpretation of any of these rules during the course of a trial shall be left solely to the discretion of the presiding judge. As noted in the section on rules for scoring judges, a judge may dock points if the judge perceives a rules violation.

(2) DURING A TOURNAMENT, BUT NOT DURING A TRIAL. The interpretation of any of these rules during a sanctioned tournament, but not during a trial, shall be addressed to the AMTA Representatives. If the AMTA Representatives cannot agree on the rule interpretation, or desire additional guidance, the Representatives shall contact the Tabulation Director. If the Tabulation Director cannot be reached, or is one of the AMTA Representatives involved, the AMTA Representatives shall contact a member of the Executive Committee as described in Rule 9.3(3).

Comment to Rule 9.7: Tournament hosts and volunteers are able to answer hospitality questions, but they are not empowered to receive complaints or interpret rules. Whenever possible, concerns and questions regarding these rules should be brought to the attention of the AMTA Representatives or other appropriate AMTA officials prior to the competition so that they can be resolved in advance.

Rule 9.8 Rule interpretation standard. These rules are designed to introduce the procedures of law to the participants and to foster professional collegiality in all AMTA activities. Interpretations of the rules should be guided by American legal traditions and common sense. Arguing for hyper-technical interpretations of the rules, especially when designed to embarrass others, is to be avoided. The legal tradition of "harmless error" will apply: when no harm is suffered, there is no error.

Rule 9.9 Interventions.

(1) INTERVENTION DEFINED. An intervention occurs when an AMTA Representative acts in a manner which alters or affects the progress of the trial in a substantive way. Routine administrative tasks such as responding to problems regarding the facilities (temperature, furniture) shall not be considered intervention.

(2) WHEN INTERVENTIONS ARE PERMITTED. Interventions are permissible in the following circumstances:

(a) to prevent the application of the all-loss penalty under Rule 4.33;

(b) to provide clarification of rules upon request of the judges;

(c) to address a major and flagrant violation of AMTA rules (for example, if a judge decided a witness could not take the stand because he/she is irrelevant; or, that there is no need for a defense close because the plaintiff has not begun to meet its burden).

(3) NO INTERVENTION ON EVIDENTIARY MATTERS. Disagreements regarding evidentiary matters shall be resolved by the presiding judge during the trial.

(4) PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING INTERVENTION. A request for intervention shall be brought to the AMTA Representatives. A representative from each team in the trial must be present and must be permitted to speak. The team(s) requesting intervention must show convincing evidence that the teams made a concerted effort to resolve the matter prior to requesting intervention.

(5) GENERAL POLICY REGARDING INTERVENTIONS. AMTA Representatives should minimize their use of interventions, allowing the trial to proceed under the direction of the judges, absent a fundamental abrogation of the letter and spirit of AMTA rules and policies.

(6) PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER TO INTERVENE. The decision to intervene shall be made by the AMTA Representative(s) present at the time the request for intervention is brought to the tab room. The AMTA Representatives should be guided by a “no harm, no foul” logic. In other words, does the violation stand to negatively effect one team more than the other (and thus affect the outcome of the trial)? For example, in the case of a presiding judge asking questions to witnesses, it is a clear violation of an AMTA rule; but it is not clear that it will hurt one team more than the other if such questions are being asked to both sides. Should the AMTA Representatives disagree as to the propriety and necessity for intervention, they shall not intervene in the trial.

(7) PENALTY AVAILABLE FOR FRIVOLOUS REQUEST. The AMTA Representatives may issue a tournament penalty under Rule 9.2 if they determine a request for intervention was frivolous.

(8) NO APPEAL. A team that seeks an intervention from the AMTA Representatives during trial waives its right to an appeal of the AMTA Representatives’ decision.

Chapter 10: Policies of the AMTA Board of Directors

Rule 10.1 Board membership and nomination. Nomination and election of board members shall be in accordance with the Bylaws.

Rule 10.1.2 Compensation and reimbursement. Board membership is uncompensated. Board members are expected to work in the tab room of any AMTA Tournament they attend and will not receive reimbursement for serving as an AMTA Representative at any sanctioned tournament to which one or more of their school's teams is assigned.

Rule 10.1.3 Duties of board members. Board members who are not officers are expected to:

- a. serve as AMTA Representatives at sanctioned tournaments;
- b. host tournaments when possible, recruit and/or mentor new coaches and schools, and otherwise engage in outreach activities on AMTA's behalf;
- c. contribute time and expenses for AMTA-related duties, attend board meetings, and serve without salary;
- d. put the goals of the organization first, even at the expense of their own team(s); and
- e. discuss vigorously and advocate forcefully in Board meetings, but act as part of a unified team in implementing decisions adopted by the Board.

Rule 10.1.4 Limitation on members from a single institution. No school may have more than one voting member on the Board. A second individual from the same school may serve as a nonvoting officer, or, a school may have two persons who share or alternate votes. Individuals sharing votes may serve and vote separately on committees. There are no meetings of the membership of the association for business purposes.

MEETINGS

Rule 10.2 Board meetings. The Board shall have two annual meetings. Those meetings will include a summer in-person meeting at a pre-determined location (open to guests) and a mid-year conference call, to be limited to Board members and candidate-members.

Rule 10.2.1 Meeting agendas. The Executive Committee will establish the agenda for the mid-year meeting and set a date and time for the conference call. An agenda for the annual summer meeting will be distributed no less than 30 days prior to the meeting and will include a consent calendar established by the Executive Committee. The Board will adopt the consent calendar unless at least 3 Board members object and request that a specific item be moved to the full calendar. The agenda for the Annual Meeting will be posted on the AMTA website at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda for meetings of the Executive Board shall be published. All motions for the Annual Board Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by April 21 prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee shall refer each motion to an appropriate committee for review, recommendation, and preparation for the agenda. The committee will have the right to table

the proposal, return to the author for additional work or recommended changes by the committee. The Agenda for the Annual Board Meeting shall be accompanied by a list of tabled motions. The Board shall take up consideration of a tabled motion upon the request of five members of the Board other than the author or authors of the proposal. After discussion, a motion to overturn the committee's recommendation to table must be passed by a majority vote. Each item that is not tabled by committee shall appear on the agenda accompanied by a notice that the committee recommends adoption or takes no position.

Rule 10.2.2 Meeting schedules. The Board will set the time and place of the annual summer meeting at the preceding summer meeting. Board committees shall meet on the morning prior to the annual summer Board meeting.

Rule 10.2.3 Meeting minutes. The minutes from AMTA Board Meetings shall be posted on the AMTA website within 60 days following the meeting. The minutes of meetings of the Executive Board shall be published.

COMMITTEES

Rule 10.3.1 Committee membership.

(1) LIMITATIONS ON CHAIRS. No Board member may chair more than one of the following committees: Rules, Tournament Administration, and Case.

(2) LIMITATIONS ON MEMBERSHIP. No Board member may serve on more than two of the following committees: Rules, Tournament Administration, and Case

(3) NON-BOARD MEMBERS. Non-board members shall be permitted to serve on committees and exercise full voting rights within the committee. Per the bylaws, they are not permitted to vote on motions before the full Board.

Rule 10.3.2 Case Committee duties and procedures.

(1) The case committee will not "contract" with anyone to write a given year's case but will solicit entire cases (not an outline, précis, or topic) by an announcement on the AMTA web site. Case solicitations will be open to anyone who wishes to submit a case for consideration. The Case Committee will select the case from those submitted. The Case Committee will give cash awards of \$500 to individuals who win advertised case-writing competitions.

(2) CASE RELEASE DEADLINE. Each year's case will be made available no later than 15 August.

(3) CORRECTION OF ERRORS. The Case Committee will carefully proofread each case to eliminate all errors before it is distributed. Once the case is distributed, it is the duty of all AMTA participants to call any suspected errors to the attention of the Case Committee Chair immediately upon detection. The Case Committee will correct or clarify the case as necessary by posting updates and corrections on the AMTA web site. No one else, including sanctioned tournament hosts, may issue changes to the case without the approval of the relevant case committee.

(4) CASE CHANGES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES. Significant changes in the case are authorized for use at National and Championship Tournaments and will be posted to the AMTA web site no later than the Monday after the last Regional Tournament.

(5) The Case Committee will choose and adapt the case so that it conforms to the following requirements:

a. Cases will alternate between civil and criminal disputes, with civil matters being tried during seasons in which sanctioned tournaments are held in an odd-numbered year.

b. The order of witnesses and witness restrictions will be specified in the case and approved by the Case Committee.

c. The Case Committee is responsible for clarifying the burden of proof to be used in cases involving an affirmative defense. The Committee will also specify the order of witness selection and will insure that affidavits contain the statement in Rule 8.3 under affidavits. The Committee will pay close attention to matters involving authentication of documents.

d. All witnesses must be gender-neutral as characterized in the affidavits. This rule requires case authors and the Committee to avoid all forms of gender stereotyping, in addition to assigning gender-neutral names to witnesses.

e. Lines of testimony in each affidavit shall be numbered.

f. Jury instructions, including instruction with regard to the burden of proof, will be prepared and used in all jury trials.

g. Jury instructions to be used at National and Championship Tournaments will be made available to all participants.

Rule 10.3.3 Executive Committee duties and procedures.

(1) COMPOSITION. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Past-President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Tournament Administration Committee Chair, the AMTA Tabulation Director, the Rules Committee Chair, the Competition Response Committee Chair, and a Development Officer. The President shall chair the committee and vote on matters before it only when necessary to break a tie.

(2) CHARGE. The charge of the Executive Committee is to:

(a) establish and charge such committees as authorized by the Board and such ad hoc committees as become necessary;

(b) appoint people to these committees;

(c) monitor the work of those committees throughout the year, making such adjustments to the charge and composition as are needed to facilitate the goals of the committee;

(e) compile the agenda for the annual Board meeting;

(f) propose the budget to the Board;

(g) establish relationships with internal and external constituencies;

(h) handle issues not heretofore specified in the By-Laws.

(3) PETITION FOR VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Any Board member may petition the Executive Committee to conduct an ad hoc Board vote. Such a vote will be conducted upon the recommendation of at least half of the Executive Committee members. In the event of such a vote, Board members will have at least three business days to respond. For action to occur, at least one half of the current Board members must respond in the affirmative.

Rule 10.3.4 Strategic Planning Committee duties and procedures. AMTA shall

formulate a mission statement, identify core values, and establish a five-year strategic plan. The Strategic Planning Committee will guide this process, with input from all Board members.

Rule 10.3.5 Competition Response Committee duties and procedures.

(1) COMPOSITION. The Competition Response Committee (“CRC”) shall consist of a chair, the Tournament Administration Committee Chair, the Rules Committee Chair, the Case Committee co-chairs for the current case problem, the Ombudsperson and the President. The CRC will be co-chaired by the NTC Chair and the RTC Chair. The NTC Chair shall serve as Chair for the purpose of managing Act of AMTA bids.

(2) CHARGE. The CRC is charged with responding to in-season questions and problems and with issuing timely rule interpretations during the season. All interpretations and rulings made by the CRC are effective only until the next annual Board meeting. The CRC will also receive and adjudicate Act of AMTA bid requests. The CRC shall develop guidelines for in-season rule interpretations and the co-chairs shall report those guidelines to the Board of Directors at the mid-year meeting.

Rule 10.4 Halls of Fame. AMTA will recognize outstanding coaches by inducting them into a Coaches’ Hall of Fame, with inductees to be selected by the membership of the Hall of Fame. Judges' Hall of Fame Awards will be presented at the awards ceremony at the Championship Tournament.

Rule 10.5 Mock Mediation. The Reifsnnyder and Stamatelos traveling trophies previously awarded to the mock trial National Tournament champions shall be awarded to participants in the National Mediation Tournament.

Rule 10.6 Publicity. Publicity about AMTA National and Championship Tournaments will note that AMTA is the primary sponsor.

WEBSITE

Rule 10.7.1 Website content.

a) The pairings manual, bid allocation information, and tab summaries for all AMTA Invitational, Regional, and National Tournaments shall be posted on the AMTA web site.

b) Documents containing rules shall be made available to members.

c) The Board will create a Power Point presentation for judges and make the presentation available on the AMTA web site.

d) AMTA-sanctioned tournaments will produce a tabulation summary, which shall be distributed to participating teams and forwarded to the AMTA office for posting on the AMTA web site.

Rule 10.7.2 Online discussion forum. The Administrative Assistant will arrange for the Web Master to create an online forum for discussion of AMTA policies and proposals. Access will be limited to members of the Board of Directors.

Rule 10.7.3 Interactive components. AMTA shall have an interactive site so that the National Tabulation Director, the National Tournaments Director(s), and the Executive Committee could address student concerns quickly in a manner that is available to all. The site shall also contain Q and A from Rules Committee with official responses to questions raised throughout the season. Answers posted on the site would be the only official answers.

HOSTING PROPOSALS

Rule 10.8 Proposal to host a sanctioned tournament.

Requirement to submit proposal: Proposals must be submitted by any institution seeking to host a sanctioned tournament for the first time. Current hosts must submit a proposal if the tournament received an unfavorable AMTA Representative evaluation during the prior academic year or upon the request of the Tournament Administration Committee (TAC).

Selection Procedures: The TAC shall review the proposals and present formal recommendation(s) to the Board at its annual meeting. The TAC will notify prospective hosts of the TAC's decision. The TAC shall employ the following criteria, in no particular order, in evaluating the requests:

- Overall quality of the proposal
- Cost-effectiveness for participants
- Location
- Experience and reliability of organizers

Eligibility to Host: any member institution, other institution of higher learning or non-profit organization, may submit Proposals. Non-member institutions should have a contact person or organizer who holds individual membership in the American Mock Trial Association.

Proposal Requirements: Proposals must be submitted typewritten and include a cover letter summarizing the proposal. Essential requirements include:

Facilities: Please demonstrate that the host can secure the following rooms. The proposal should include the proposed site and should list any costs associated with the site. If using a courthouse site, the proposal should review any special requirements imposed by the courthouse for security and insurance. The proposal should list any costs associated with the facilities with the understanding that AMTA National Hosts receive a fixed budget, regardless of costs. **Photographs of the facility should accompany the proposal.**

- Trial rooms sufficient to host at least 48 teams (24 rooms appropriate for trials, with tables and chairs. Student desks are not acceptable)
- A room that can safely seat all participants and is appropriate for an opening assembly and awards ceremony.
- A meeting room in each division for judges, equipped with a power point projector

and screen, with appropriate space for refreshments

- A meeting room in each division appropriate for captains' meetings (it is acceptable to use the same room as is used for the opening assembly and awards ceremony)
- Wheelchair access

Judges: The proposal should address the need to recruit at least three individuals per trial per round to serve as judges. These individuals should be actual judges, attorneys or advanced law students. The proposal should contain the following information.

- A recruitment plan for judges, including a timeline
- Information regarding the judging pool (size, resources, contacts made by the organizers, access to Bar Association electronic mailing lists, etc)
- Information on past recruitment efforts (judge turnout at invitational tournaments, past regional tournaments, or prior national tournaments)
- Amenities provided for judges and approximate costs

Proposed Dates: The proposal should indicate the probable dates of the tournament and provide confirmation of the availability of facilities, if possible. Too, the proposal should indicate if there are any dates in March that would be problematic. If formal confirmation is not available, the proposal should indicate when such confirmation would become available.

Organizers: The organizers should have experience in organizing a tournament or conference and should list such experience in the proposal. Proposals from tournament organizers that are experienced will receive preference.

Lodging and food: List the local lodging and restaurant accommodations to meet the needs of your estimated number of participants.

Transportation: List the transportation (airport, trains, buses, trolleys, taxis, etc.) that is available in the area. Include distance and available transportation from the nearest international airport.

Institutional Support: A letter from a faculty member or administrator of the affiliated institution or organization should accompany the proposal, confirming institutional support for the tournament. The letter should be written on official letterhead and signed.

Budget: Although the budget is fixed, AMTA must verify that the prospective host is prepared to meet all of the financial obligations. The proposal should identify other financial resources the prospective host has beyond what AMTA will be providing. This may include commercial and private donations in cash or in kind. Describe how the prospective will secure these resources in a timely manner. Include a budget outlining the costs associated with the event.

Proposed Schedule: The proposal should include a preliminary schedule of events.

AMTA Assistance: The American Mock Trial Association will provide the following:

- The on-site assistance of two AMTA Representatives per division during the tournament to conduct meetings, to perform tabulation, to verify results, to award national tournament bids and to insure compliance with AMTA rules and policies. AMTA will cover the expenses associated with providing AMTA Representative assistance.
- Ballots, tabulation cards and trophies
- Contact Information for all participants
- A stipend to the host based upon the budget for the tournament passed at the annual meeting of the AMTA Board of Directors.

Deadlines and Submission Procedures:. The proposals should be submitted in electronic format and in hard copy to the AMTA main office. The Tournament Administration Committee shall announce, from time to time, the deadlines for submitting proposals for tournaments to be held in a given year.

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