

## **AMTA 2020-2021 Season Guidance**

The American Mock Trial Association Board of Directors issues the guidance below for the 2020-2021 season. All changes announced below are for the 2020-2021 season only. As always, the full AMTA Rulebook, revised in light of the Board's summer meetings, will be posted on the AMTA website this fall. Please feel free to direct any questions or concerns to [amta@collegemocktrial.org](mailto:amta@collegemocktrial.org). We look forward to your participation!

### **Registration Deadlines**

AMTA Priority Registration:	November 16, 2020 (2020-2021)
Final Registration Deadline:	January 15, 2021 (unchanged)

### **Important AMTA Dates**

Regionals and ORCS Case Release:	By September 8, 2020
Regional Weekend Assignments:	By November 26, 2020
Regional Tournament Assignments:	Between January 15, 2021 and January 31, 2021
Regional Drop Deadlines and Fees:	Unchanged - See Rule 2.6(1)

*For example, AMTA will tell teams by November 26, 2020 that School A team and School B team will be competing on the weekend of February 12-14, 2021. By January 31, 2021, AMTA will release the specific groupings (or tournaments) of teams competing the weekend of February 12-14, 2021.*

### **Registration Fees**

AMTA School Registration:	\$450 Per School (unchanged)
First Regional Team:	\$75.00 (2020-2021)
Second Regional Team:	\$150.00 (unchanged)
Subsequent Regional Teams:	Increase by \$25 (unchanged)
ORCS Team Registration	\$250.00 (unchanged)
Late Fee (after Nov. 15 but before Jan. 15):	\$75

### **AMTA Hosts**

Regional and ORCS Host Stipend:	\$1,000 (2020-2021)
AMTA Host Fee Waiver:	\$450 (unchanged)

### **Invitational Competitions**

Invitational License Fee:	Unchanged - See Rule 2.4
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### **Competitor Eligibility**

AMTA's competitor eligibility rules are unchanged. Specific student questions about whether an individual is eligible to compete should be directed to the AMTA Rules Committee at [AMTA.IP@collegemocktrial.org](mailto:AMTA.IP@collegemocktrial.org).

## **Trial Format**

### **Roster/Team Size**

This is unchanged. Each round will consist of 12 competitors - 3 attorneys and 3 witnesses per side. Team rosters must include a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 students.

### **Timing**

Based on AMTA's experiences at One Last Time, AMTA shortened the length of trials for the 2020-2021 Regionals and ORCS season. Time limits for online trials are as follows:

**Opening Statement and Closing Argument:** 12 minutes total per side

**Direct Examination and Cross Examination:** 38 minutes total per side

**Selecting Time:** At captain's meeting, each team must announce, in whole minutes, how much of the 38 minutes it designates for direct examination. The direct examination time selection must be 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24 minutes. The remainder of the 38 minutes will be the team's cross examination time. For example, if a team designates 23 minutes for direct examination, the team will have 15 minutes for cross examination. A team may not carry over unused time from direct examination to cross examination or vice versa. For example, if a plaintiff team designates 24 minutes for direct examination but only uses 19 minutes on direct examination, the team's total cross examination time remains unchanged at 14 minutes.

**All Loss:** The All-loss time is reduced to 150 minutes.

### **Competitor Locations**

AMTA will not *require* teammates to be on the same screen or in the same room or physical location while competing. AMTA is still evaluating whether to *permit* multiple individuals to appear on the same screen or in the same space during competition. AMTA will reach a final decision by December 31, 2020.

### **Virtual Backgrounds**

AMTA is evaluating whether to permit or prohibit virtual backgrounds and a final decision will be made by December 31, 2020. For now, there is no rule or restriction relating to virtual backgrounds and invitational hosts can experiment with this during the invitational season.

### **Technology Usage and Demonstrative Rules**

AMTA is evaluating what technology packages (Microsoft Office or otherwise) should be permitted during trial and how demonstratives should be shared in advance of trial. Final rules and procedures will be announced by December 31, 2020. For now, AMTA's current rules regarding demonstratives remain in effect and there are no rules or restrictions regarding technology packages, and invitational hosts can experiment with this during the invitational season.

### **Additional Details Regarding Online Competition Format**

AMTA will continue to revise its practices to find the optimal procedures for online competition in advance of the 2021 season, with the final rules and procedures announced by December 31, 2020. Until then, One Last Time is AMTA's best estimation of what online competition will look like during the 2021 Regionals and ORCS competitions. All of the One Last Time trial recordings are available on [AMTA's YouTube page](#).

**Guidance for Invitational Hosts**

Although invitational competitions are not AMTA competitions, this fall, AMTA will release recommended procedures for hosting online competition and invitationals are welcome to use (or not use) those recommendations. AMTA is still finalizing the processes by which Regionals and ORCS will operate virtually, will publicly share what worked well at One Last Time, and will endeavor to hold at least one question and answer session with invitational hosts during the fall. AMTA will release any additional and final rules and procedures for the Regional and ORCS competitions by December 31, 2020. In addition, AMTA is working on additional training and online trial recommendation documents, along with planning training sessions, which will be announced and held before AMTA 2021 events begin.

**Other AMTA Rules**

Teams should assume that all other AMTA rules not addressed here will remain in force. An agenda for the AMTA midyear meeting will be posted before the meeting, and we encourage community comments on the posted agenda.