

Community College Clash Rulebook

This Rulebook is intended to supplement the general AMTA Rulebook and make certain modifications, deletions, and additions to the AMTA Rulebook with respect to the 2023 Community College Clash tournaments (“CCC” or “CCCs”).

This Rulebook is only effective for CCC.

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

Chapter 1 – Definitions, Applicability, the Philosophy of AMTA

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 1.16 applies to any volunteers.

Chapter 2 – Registration, Case Access, and Withdrawal

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

Chapter 3 – Eligibility

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

Competitor/Trial Tech Eligibility:

- A competitor is eligible to compete at the Community College Clash if and only if the competitor is a currently enrolled student at a community, vocational, two-year, technical, or associate-degree-focused academic institution.
- Students currently enrolled at four-year-degree granting institutions are not allowed to compete in the CCC.

- Students who competed in AMTA for four-year-degree granting institutions and are now enrolled in community, vocational, two-year, technical, or associate-degree-focused academic institutions are not allowed to compete in the CCC.
- Each team may have 1 non-competing member who will act as their trial technician to fill their 5th or 6th spot. The trial technician would be responsible for document sharing and any other technological presentation during trial. The technician would also be allowed to communicate with the team during trials and breaks, but they are not a competing (speaking) team member, unless a competing member becomes sick/unavailable.

Judge Eligibility:

- AMTA alumni, current rostered AMTA seniors, lawyers, and law school students are generally eligible to judge at the CCC.
- Judges may be accepted or denied eligibility at the discretion of the CCC tournament chair.
- Students who are currently enrolled in community, vocational, two-year, technical, or associate-degree-focused academic institutions are not allowed to judge in the CCC.

Alternates:

- Any student eligible to compete in CCC that has not already registered may be an Alternate.
- Role: Alternates may be offered one of two roles, as needed by the competition:
 - (1) A position on the “Bye Team.” The Bye Team may compete as a registered team in the event that the tournament field has an uneven number of teams. This includes being “on call” on the weekend of competition if a registered team does not show up at any point.
 - (2) A position on a registered team if a registered team is unable to complete their roster with four eligible competitors.
 - Registration: Alternates must register as (a) an Attorney, (b) a Witness, or (c) an Attorney and/or Witness. Alternates may also state whether they wish to have a position on the bye team, a registered team, or no preference. There is no guarantee that selection for the Bye Team gives anyone a more or less likely chance for being able to compete at the tournament.
- Ranking of Alternate Registrants: Alternates will be ranked on the Attorney, Witness, or Attorney/Witness lists in the below order:
 - (a) Students eligible to compete in the CCC.
 - (b) Students who were undergraduate students during the 2022-2023 academic year and were listed on an AMTA roster for the 2023 competitive season.
- The tie breaker for registrants at the same level will be time and date of registration.

Formation of the Bye Team:

- When registration closes, the Bye Team members will be randomly selected from those who selected a preference for being placed on the Bye Team or who selected no preference while completing the alternate registration process. We will fill the Bye Team following the above priority ranking of alternate registrants until complete. In the event

that not enough people indicate a preference for the Bye Team or “no preference,” the members of the Bye Team will be randomly selected from the Alternates list with priority given as described above.

Registration Period (competition #1 - October 14-15, 2023)

- (a) Registration for competitors composed of full teams, partial teams, and individuals will open on September 10, 2023 and close on October 1, 2023.
- (b) If there is a need, there will be a separate registration period for Alternates for the CCC competition, beginning on October 2, 2023. Alternates are NOT guaranteed an opportunity to compete. We may assign Alternates at any time, up to and including the day of competition. If an Alternate has been offered a spot more than 7 days before the tournament, the Alternate has 24 hours to accept the offer. Failure to accept in a timely manner will forfeit the offered spot. Within 7 days of the tournament, offers will be made on a first come first served basis, such that multiple offers may be made simultaneously and the first to respond will receive the spot.

Registration Period (competition #2 - December 9-10, 2023)

- (a) Registration for competitors composed of full teams, partial teams, and individuals will open on October 22, 2023 and close on November 26, 2023.
- (b) If there is a need, there will be a separate registration period for Alternates for the CCC competition, beginning on November 27, 2023. Alternates are NOT guaranteed an opportunity to compete. We may assign Alternates at any time, up to and including the day of competition. If an Alternate has been offered a spot more than 7 days before the tournament, the Alternate has 24 hours to accept the offer. Failure to accept in a timely manner will forfeit the offered spot. Within 7 days of the tournament, offers will be made on a first come first served basis, such that multiple offers may be made simultaneously and the first to respond will receive the spot.

Chapter 4 – Rules Applicable to All Sanctioned Tournaments

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

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

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

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

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

Rules 4.14 through 4.17 do not apply to CCC.

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 4.26(1) is amended for CCC to provide that each team shall have no more than 10 spectators in any round. These spectators may include anyone (coaches, family members, friends, etc.).

Any spectator (including coaches) watching the round must change their name to: “[Team 3 Number] – Spectator [First Name]”. If multiple spectators share the same first name, those spectators must also add the initial of their last names.

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

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

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

Chapter 5 – Tournament Specific Rules

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

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

Chapter 6 – Championship Series Bids

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

Chapter 7 – Roles and Duties of Participants

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

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

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

Rule 7.11, Accommodations, is modified in that the January 1 deadline set forth in the rule is changed to “three days prior to the registered competition” for CCC.

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

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

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

Chapter 8 – Trial Procedures

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

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

- Display names for attorneys: Each attorney’s display name is only their side, a dash, and their first and last name: e.g., Plaintiff - Alex Winter; Defense - Dylan Hendricks.
- Display names for witnesses: Each witness’ display name is their side, a dash, the character name exactly as set forth in the case materials, and their real names in parenthesis (e.g., P - Alex Steiner (Sue Johnson)).

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

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

Rule 8.9(6) is amended as follows: Complaints of egregious improper invention are to be brought to the AMTA Representatives in the Tab Room, who will refer the complaint to the CCC Dispute Panel. An allegation of an egregious improper invention during the Plaintiff case in chief

must be brought to the Panel before the Defense begins its case in chief. An allegation of an egregious improper invention during the Defense case in chief must be brought to the Panel before the closing argument begins. The Panel has the authority to impose any appropriate penalty or sanction, including but not limited to dismissal from the tournament.

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

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

Chapter 9 – Rules Violations, Penalties, Sanctions

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

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

- The CCC Dispute Panel will comprise the Tab Director, one of the case authors, and the CCC Committee Chair. The Panel may also consult the President as needed.
- The Panel's duties are to:
 - a) Resolve all claims of egregious improper invention under **Rule 8.9(6)**;
 - b) Resolve any disagreements between the AMTA Representatives under **Rule 9.3(3)**;
 - c) Hear any appeals from a ruling of the AMTA Representatives under **Rule 9.4**;
 - d) Interpret rules as authorized by **Rule 9.7(2)**;
 - e) Issue in-tournament penalties (as listed in **Rule 9.2**) for sanctionable conduct under **Rule 9.5(2)**.

Chapter 10 – Policies of the AMTA Board of Directors

Chapter 10 of the AMTA Rulebook does not affect CCC.

Chapter 11 – Additional Rules Governing Virtual Competitions

Rules 11.4 – 11.7 do not apply to CCC.