



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 2020 One Last Time tournament (“OLT”).

This Rulebook is only effective for OLT.

To the extent that any of the traditional AMTA Rulebook changes for the 2021 Regionals and ORCS tournaments, AMTA will announce those changes at a later date.

Chapter 1 – Definitions, Applicability, the Philosophy of AMTA

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

Rule 1.2(g) is modified to read that “A trial begins when a judge enters the room (*either physical or virtual*). A trial ends when the scoring sheets *have been submitted, whether electronically or by being delivered to the timekeeper or other authorized person.*

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 OLT.

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 OLT and registration therein replace those rules.

Chapter 3 – Eligibility

Chapter 3 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to OLT and is replaced by the rules found at the following links:

https://www.collegemocktrial.org/OLT%20-%20Competitor%20Eligibility_6.16.20%20.pdf

<https://www.collegemocktrial.org/Alternates%20-%20Roles%20and%20Eligibility%207.14.20.pdf>

Chapter 4 – Rules Applicable to All Sanctioned Tournaments

Chapter 4 of the AMTA Rulebook applies to OLT 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 OLT as follows: OLT ballots will be electronic. The Bailiff in each room is responsible for distributing ballot links to judges and confirming accurate completion at the end of each trial. 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; OLT must have an even number of teams. OLT will have procedures for a “swing team” comprising alternate students.

Rule 4.8, Opening Meetings, is modified in that at the Opening Meeting the pairings for the rounds will be determined. First round opponents will be determined by a challenge system. The challenge order will result from a random draw of teams in the tournament and will be released

before Opening Ceremonies. During Opening Ceremonies, teams will be prompted to make their challenges following the challenge order. A team making a challenge will select its opponent. The opponent will then select the side of the case it wants to represent in the first round. No team may pass or refuse to challenge an available opponent.

Rules 4.9 through 4.12, Captains Meetings, are modified: Captains may meet at any time after pairings are released to complete the captains meeting tasks, including those set forth in Rules 4.12(2) and (3), but such meeting must begin no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled trial start time. Any dispute (e.g., demonstratives) must be brought to the attention of the AMTA Representatives in the prescribed manner no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled trial start time or the dispute is waived. Likewise, any demonstrative not shown to the opponent at least 10 minutes prior to the trial start time may not be used. Captains must email a copy of any demonstratives that are not exhibits in the case packet to their opponent. Any demonstratives not sent to the opponent at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled trial start time may not be used.

Rules 4.14 through 4.17 do not apply to OLT.

Rules 4.19 through 4.20.1 will apply to OLT 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 OLT in that the OLT 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 OLT. 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(2) is amended for OLT to provide for a 10 minute review period upon the conclusion of closing ceremonies.

Rule 4.26 is amended for OLT to provide that only participants, judges, the bailiff, and tournament staff may be in the Zoom room of any trial. Coaches and other spectators may only watch via the provided live stream. In the event that the live stream fails, then spectators and coaches may be admitted to the Zoom room at a break in the trial. Any spectator or coach wishing to enter the Zoom room may only enter by inputting the Meeting ID for the Zoom room and changing their name to the following format: “(Observer [team #]) [Name]” (ex: (Observer 55) Johnathan Woodward).

Rule 4.31, Time Limits, is modified as follows: Each attorney will have 25 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: Each trial will have its own all-loss time, which shall be 2 hours and 15 minutes after that trial begins. The trial begins for purposes of the All-Loss Rule when the attorneys begin their pretrial matters with the presiding judge. The all-loss time will be determined by the Bailiff.

Chapter 5 – Tournament Specific Rules

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

The AMTA Representatives and/or the OLT 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 OLT format.

Chapter 6 – Championship Series Bids

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

Chapter 7 – Roles and Duties of Participants

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

Rule 7.1(1), Communication During a Round, does apply to OLT. In addition, each participant must be in a separate physical room from all teammates, coaches, and spectators during trial. Further, no coach or spectator may be in the Zoom room during trial; coaches and spectators are only to watch a trial via livestream, unless there is a technical failure. (See also OLT Rule 8.1).

7.1(2) - Whenever possible, each participant is to use a laptop or desktop computer for the purpose of connecting to the trial and displaying permitted demonstratives. A tablet may be used if a participant does not have access to a laptop or desktop computer, or in the event of a malfunction. A smartphone may not be used to connect to Zoom except in the event of a malfunction. Participants may (but are not required to) use other electronic devices during trial for the purpose of communicating with their teammates, the Bailiff, and the AMTA Representatives, and for timekeeping. Electronic devices may not be used to circumvent the no-communication Rule 7.1(1).

Rule 7.11, Accommodations, is modified in that the January 1 deadline set forth in the rule is changed to August 3 for OLT.

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

Rule 7.25, Scoring Judges, is amended to the extent that the OLT 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 OLT as follows: Each judge will be provided an electronic scoring ballot by the Bailiff. There will be no comment sheets.

Rule 7.33(1), Written Comments, does not apply to OLT.

Rule 7.35, Bailiffs, is created as follows: Each trial shall have a Bailiff furnished by AMTA, who may not be affiliated with either team. The Bailiff is responsible for logistical and procedural duties related to the judges, such as reporting missing judges to the Representatives, ensuring each judge has their electronic ballot, and ensuring all ballots are correctly completed. The Bailiff will be the host of each Zoom room and will be responsible for the overall efficient functioning and technical maintenance of the Zoom room, e.g., directing participants to mute audio and/or video, assisting users in the correct view settings, ensuring only authorized

participants are in the room, and so forth. Matters traditionally handled by the AMTA Representatives, such as rule disputes or substantive questions from the judges, are to be brought to the attention of a Representative and may not be handled by the Bailiff.

Chapter 8 – Trial Procedures

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

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

All attorneys and witnesses must be physically separate from each other during the trial (see OLT Rule 7.1). All attorneys and witnesses are to be logged into their assigned Zoom room by the time set forth in the tournament schedule for round check-in.

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 character name exactly as set forth in the case materials only; with no side designations or descriptions, e.g., "Kelly James" is allowable; "FBI Agent Kelly James" is not.

Backgrounds: Each participant must use a generally neutral and court-appropriate background.

No persons other than the judges, participating attorneys and witnesses, Bailiff, AMTA Representatives and other tournament staff may be in the Zoom room. Coaches and spectators may only watch via the livestream. In the event that the live stream fails, then coaches and spectators may be allowed into the Zoom room under the procedures and requirements described under Rule 4.26.

Rule 8.5, Demonstrative Aids, is modified for OLT as follows:

- a. Physical items allowed. Participants may use tangible items that are not enlargements, i.e. "props."
- b. Physical items prohibited. Participants may not use physical enlargements of exhibits, physical printed demonstratives, or physical whiteboards.
- c. Electronic items allowed. Participants may create electronic demonstratives as follows:
 - i. Electronic demonstratives may be created using the native functions of any of the Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or the functional equivalent of those programs (e.g., Apple Pages, Numbers, Keynote; Google Docs, Sheets, Slides.)
 - ii. Participants may use the whiteboard function of Zoom.
 - iii. Participants may use the annotation function of Zoom to mark up an exhibit or demonstrative in the same manner that a dry erase marker would be used on a laminated exhibit or demonstrative.

d. Electronic items prohibited. Participants may not use professional software beyond the native functions of the programs listed above. By way of example without limitation, it is prohibited to use professional trial presentation software, or computer generated graphics or animations. It is further prohibited to digitally alter any item provided in the case packet except to draw attention to a particular portion such as by excerpting, enlarging, or highlighting.

Rule 8.5.1, Trial Order, is amended for OLT to reflect there are two witnesses per side. Further, there will be no break after the Defense case in chief prior to closing argument unless requested by a judge.

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

Rule 8.10, Manner of Examination, is modified for OLT 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 OLT. 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 OLT with modifications to the below listed rules:

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

The OLT Dispute Panel will comprise the Rules Chair, Tab Director, one of the case authors, and the OLT Committee Chair. The Panel may also consult the CRC Chair 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 tournament penalties or sanctions 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 OLT.