



RULEBOOK 2025

This Rulebook is intended to supplement and make certain modifications, deletions, and additions to the general AMTA Rulebook for purposes of the 2025 Rookie Rumble tournament (“RR”). This Rulebook is only effective for RR.

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

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

Chapter 1 – Definitions, Applicability, the Philosophy of AMTA

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

Chapter 2 – Registration, Case Access, and Withdrawal

Chapter 2 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR. The rules and procedures on the AMTA homepage relating to RR and registration for RR replace those rules.

Chapter 3 – Eligibility

Rules 3.1-3.5 of the AMTA Rulebook do not apply to RR.

Rules 3.6-3.20 of the AMTA Rulebook do not apply to RR. These rules are replaced for RR as follows:

Competitor Eligibility:

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

- (a) has previously competed in one, but no more than two AMTA seasons; and
- (b) Was listed on an AMTA roster in the 2025 competitive season; and
- (c) Has not graduated or will not be graduating from their undergraduate course of study in 2025.

Team Composition:

A team shall consist of no fewer than six members and no more than twelve members. No one may participate as a team's party representative or trial technician unless that person is on the team's six to twelve person roster. No student may compete on more than one team. No school shall have more than 16 students represented across all competing teams. Teams may comprise members from more than one school.

Team Eligibility:

Each team must provide one judge per round in order to confirm their spot. If a team cannot provide the necessary amount of judges, they may forfeit their spot in the tournament.

Alternate Eligibility:

If the tournament does not reach capacity, two alternate positions may be offered:

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.

Alternate Registrants: If there is a waitlist, Alternates and the Bye Bust team will be the first on the waitlist. If Alternate Registration is needed, it will be published shortly after the registration period closes and further instructions will be given at that time. Alternates will be used as needed on a first come, first serve basis at the discretion of the Rookie Rumble Chair.

Registration Periods:

- (a) Registration for all competitors - including those registering as full teams, partial teams, and as individuals - will open on June 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm ET and close on June 11, 2025 at 11:59 pm ET.

- (i) If there is a need, there will be a separate registration period for Alternates for the Rookie Rumble competition, beginning on June 12, 2025. 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 5 – General Procedures for All Sanctioned Tournaments

Rule 5.1 is amended for RR as follows: There may be *more* than two AMTA Representatives.

Rule 5.4 Time Limits, is modified as follows: Opening statement and closing argument (combined) – 12 total per side. Direct examinations of all three witnesses (combined) – 20 minutes per side. Cross examination of all three witnesses (combined) – 20 minutes per side

Rule 5.5 All-Loss Rule, is modified as follows: The all-loss time shall be 2 hours and 30 minutes after that trial begins. The all-loss time will be determined by the AMTA Representatives.

Rule 5.6 is amended for RR as follows: The pairings for first rounds will be determined at Opening Ceremonies. 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 5.7-5.11 do not apply for RR and are replaced with the following:

Teams will conduct Captains’ Meetings in their respective Zoom breakout rooms for their trials according to the schedule.

Rule 5.12 does not apply to RR and is replaced with the following:

If there is a waitlist, the first team on the waitlist will serve as a bye bust team. If there are no more teams on the waitlist, 5.12 will apply to RR.

Rule 5.13 is amended for RR as follows: If a spectator or competitor elects to watch a round for teams that the spectator has no affiliation, that spectator may not then 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*.

Rule 5.17(2) is amended for RR as follows: A *10-minute* review period shall begin immediately upon the conclusion of closing ceremonies.

Rule 5.18 is amended for RR as follows: AMTA will produce the tabulation summary for RR and will be responsible for distributing it to participating teams.

Chapter 6 – Roles and Duties of Participants

Rule 6.15 does not apply to RR.

Rule 6.26 is amended for RR as follows: The RR Committee has discretion to determine the number of scoring judges at any point prior to the beginning of the first round.

Rules 6.30 is amended for RR as follows: RR ballots will be *electronic*. Participants will receive instructions from RR’s AMTA Representatives regarding how to access electronic copies of the ballots.

Chapter 7 – Trial Procedures

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

Rule 7.3 does not apply to RR and is replaced as follows:

Display Names (Attorneys):

Each attorney’s display name is only their side, a dash, and their first and last name: e.g., Plaintiff - Kelly Doos; Defense - Alex Silva.

Display Names (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 - Kirby Doolittle (Adam Selcov)).

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

Rule 7.5 is amended for RR as follows: Each participant may *stand or remain seated* for statements, examinations, and arguments in their discretion and within the preferences of the

presiding judge. Exhibits or demonstratives shown to a witness via *screen sharing* for identification purposes shall be deemed to be shown outside the presence of the jury.

Rule 7.19 does not apply to RR.

Chapter 8 – Additional Rules Governing Virtual Competitions

Rules 8.4 – 8.7 do not apply to RR.

Chapter 9 – Rules Violations, Penalties, and Sanctions

Rule 9.10 is amended for RR as follows: Complaints of egregious improper invention should be brought to the AMTA Representatives in the Tab Room. An allegation of an egregious improper invention during the Plaintiff’s 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 arguments begin. The Panel has the authority to impose *any* appropriate penalty or sanction, including but not limited to dismissal from the tournament.

NOTE: The RR Dispute Panel will comprise a combination of the AMTA Reps, Case Authors and/or Rookie Rumble Chair

The Panel's duties are to:

- a) Issue in-tournament penalties (as listed in Rule 9.3) for sanctionable conduct under Rule 9.6(2);
- b) Resolve any disagreements between the AMTA Representatives under Rule 9.4(3);
- c) Hear any appeals from a ruling of the AMTA Representatives under Rule 9.5;
- d) Interpret rules as authorized by Rule 9.8(2);
- e) Resolve all claims of egregious improper invention under Rule 9.10.

Rule 9.11 does not apply to RR.

Chapter 10 – Rules Applicable to All Sanctioned Tournaments

Rule 10.13 is amended for RR as follows: Each team shall have no more than ten spectators in any round. These spectators may include anyone (coaches, family members, friends, etc.). Any spectator (including coaches) watching the round must change their name to: “[Team Number] – Spectator [First Name]”. If multiple spectators share the same first name, those spectators must also add the initial of their last names.

Rule 10.14 is amended for RR as follows: The January 1 deadline set forth in the rule is changed to July 1 for RR.

Rule 10.17 does not apply to RR. Rising seniors will be allowed to judge if they do not meet eligibility requirements.

Rule 10.19 is amended for RR as follows: Championship-style high-high pairing as set forth in the Tabulation Manual will be used for RR. Further, each ballot will call for judges to rank the best three attorneys and best three witnesses; a #1 rank will equate to 5 rank points, a #2 rank will equate to 4 rank points, a #3 rank will equate to 3 points, and a #4 rank will equate to 2 rank points.

Rule 10.20 applies to RR to the maximum extent possible. Judges will be asked to self-report conflicts with participating individuals as well as the schools from which the participants have graduated.

Rules 10.21 and 10.22 are amended for RR as follows: the RR Committee will provide all training and materials for judges.

Chapter 11 – Regional Tournament Specific Rules

Chapter 11 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR.

Chapter 12 – Championship Series Bids

Chapter 12 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR.

Chapter 13 – Opening Round Championship Tournament Specific Rules

Chapter 13 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR.

Chapter 14 – National Championship Tournament Specific Rules

Chapter 14 of the AMTA Rulebook does not apply to RR.

Chapter 15 – Policies of the AMTA Board of Directors

Chapter 15 of the AMTA Rulebook does not impact or otherwise affect RR.