



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Mock Trial Team Rulebook

SJCOE ADDENDUM

3.2A The San Joaquin County Mock Trial high school competition will be a jury trial.

3.2B When the trial begins the presider will ask the team members, teachers, and attorney coaches to introduce themselves. Team members may communicate with scoring attorneys as if they were a jury and when distributing team rosters or proffering exhibits. Coaches may not communicate with scoring attorneys at any time during the trial.

3.3B The Mock Trial Competition is a Jury trial. Attorneys and witnesses are allowed to verbally address the scoring attorneys as if they are a jury.

3.6 A All reproductions can be as small as the original size found in the case materials, with no size limit.

3.8 I-K Because scoring is subjective, it is up to the individual scorer to make a determination of whether a point deduction is required.

3.11 Artists official judging will only be **Round 2** submissions

3.11F journalist contestants must write their articles based on their teams **Round 2**

Rule 4.4 Rankings and Power Matching

Round 1 Pairing:

We will randomly draw for Round 1. The pairing will be shared the week before the competition.

Pairing Rounds 2-4

We will rank teams based on Ballots won, Strength of Schedule, and Percentage Points earned. We will pair teams high v high. You will never play the same team twice in the preliminary rounds.

Round 2

Your team will flip sides (If you were just Defense for round 1 you will be Prosecution for round 2). We rank all teams that need to go P and those that need to go D and then pair them (highest P v highest D), (next highest P v next highest D), etc.

Round 3

This is a pure high v high match-up (sides don't matter). We rank all of the teams in the competition and then pair them (high v high), (next high v next high), etc.

Round 4

Same as round 2 pairing. We rank all of the teams that must go P and those that must do D and then we pair teams (highest P v highest D), (next highest P v next highest D), etc.

Pairing for Quarterfinals – Top 4 teams

Top 4 teams will be ranked highest to lowest using B, SOS, and PP from preliminary rounds. Teams will be paired high v low, next highest v next lowest: (1v4), (2v3). If teams have already faced each other they will switch sides. Otherwise, a coin toss determines sides and the team with the most ballots will call the coin.



Pairing for Final Rounds

Winners from both Semifinal rounds will face each other in the Final round. Losers from Semifinal rounds will face each other in the consolation round to determine 3rd & 4th place. If teams have already faced each other they will switch sides. Otherwise, a coin toss determines sides and the team with the most ballots will call the coin.

Ranking of Teams during the Competition

Ballot system will be used to score the competition. Instead of referring to a team's win/loss record we will look at how many judges ballots each team has received. This will mean a change in reports and how we rank teams for pairing. Below is a summary of what the ballot system is, how it works, and how we will pair teams for the competition rounds.

About the Ballot System:

- Each attorney/scorer uses the same 10-point scale to evaluate each role/performance on the score sheet as they have in the past.
- The computer adds up all of the scores for each judge and assigns a ballot to the team with the most points for that judge.
- There are 3 ballots possible for each round. There are 12 ballots possible for the four preliminary rounds.
- If there are 2 scorers in a room – then the ballots would be pro-rated.
 - A 2-ballot victory would translate into 3 ballots to one team and zero to the other.
 - A split of 1-1 would be counted as 1.5 ballots per team.
- If there are 4 scorers (presiding judge) then the presiding judge score would not be used. This would allow him or her to focus on running the trial.
- If a scorer produces a tied score – each team would get .5 of a ballot.

Why the Ballot System:

The way we did it in the past allows one scoring judge to alter the outcome of the trial. If it is a weak scorer and they really favor one team over another the following could occur.

Team A:	Judge <u>1</u> - 89	Ballot	Team B:	Judge 1 - 84
	Judge <u>2</u> - 87	Ballot		Judge 2 - 83
	Judge <u>3</u> - 80			Judge 3 - <u>97</u>
Total	256		Total	<u>264</u> Winner using traditional method

Definitions:

Ballots (B)

- Your record is based on the number of ballots your team wins. Note this is not “round wins”

Strength of Schedule (SOS)

Strength of your opponents

- To calculate SOS, we look at the number of ballots that your opponents have captured.
- We keep a running tally of your SOS throughout the competition which you can view.

Percentage of Points (PP)



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The margin of your wins/losses

- Receiving a larger average of total points by judges is another factor in ranking your team.
- We keep a running tally of your PP throughout the competition which you can view.
- Averages are added together so numbers often get higher than one. For instance – R1 you received a .5343 and R2 you received a .5102 for a total PP of 1.045.

SEMI FINALS/FINALS

Ballots (B)

- Your record is based on the number of ballots your team wins. Note this is not “round wins”

Strength of Schedule (SOS)

Strength of your opponents

- To calculate SOS, we look at the number of ballots that your opponents have captured. We keep a running tally of your SOS throughout the competition which you can view

Judges Tie-Breaker

- Judges Tie breaker for semi-final and final to break tie if needed.

Rule 4.7 Awards

Student Recognition-

MVP Round Certificates- After each round (1-6) teams will present the opposing team with a MVP Certificate provided by SJCOE. Coaches are responsible for picking up the certificate at check in before each round.

Each team coach will present a Top Prosecution and Top Defense Certificate. If a school has two teams, each team will receive certificates.

Scores taken from Rounds 1-4 will determine the following. The number of student participants will determine the number of students recognized in each category (except artist and journalist).

Top Pre-Trial Prosecution

Top Pre-Trial Defense

Top Clerk

Top Bailiff

Top Attorneys

Top Witnesses

Best Artist

Best Journalist

Judge Cruickshank Award- Scoring attorneys from Rounds 1-4 will vote for one student to receive the Judge Cruickshank award. This award goes to a student who displays enthusiasm, integrity, and teamwork.

Advancing to State Competition

The first-place team will be invited to the Mock Trial State Competition. The San Joaquin County Office of Education Educational Foundation will contribute to the cost of State registration, hotel stay and transportation. After the county competition, no new students may be added to the team.



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The health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff, and our communities remain top priorities of the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCCE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SJCCE works closely with our public health experts and will keep you informed should activities and events need to be modified, canceled, or postponed. This may include a change in dates, times, locations, and delivery methods (in-person vs. virtual).