

## High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

1. Schools may register a maximum of **three** teams for the 2024 competition. *Reminders about 3<sup>rd</sup> teams below:*
  - a. Third teams may be required to compete **anywhere in the state**, regardless of distance.
  - b. Schools with a total of three teams will be matched at random and **will not receive any protection** against playing themselves.
  
2. Eligibility Requirements for 2nd and 3rd teams
  - a. Schools wishing to field a second or third team must have a minimum of 9 students on their first team before a second/third may be added.
  - b. If for any reason, including illness or other reasons, the preceding team(s) roster fall below nine students prior to the start of the district competition, the school will forfeit the ability to field the additional team(s).
  - c. Schools fielding more than one team will not be eligible to apply for the exception to doubling for any roster with nine or more students.
  - d. The maximum team size will be increased to 12 students, to permit space for additional alternates.
  
3. Updated scoresheet for clarity and ease of use for judges
  - a. Scoring criteria, performance areas, and point totals remain the same
  
4. Rule change for communication during post-trial objections
  - a. Until closing arguments have concluded, team attorneys may communicate only with each other
  - b. During the post-trial objection phase of the trial, attorneys may communicate with any *rostered* team member or advisor.
  - c. However, none of the performing team members may communicate in any way with any other observers or individuals not appearing on the official roster once the judges enter the courtroom and the bailiff opens the court. This restriction includes breaks during the trial.

5. Invention of Fact and Outside Research Update

- a. The rule has been clarified to indicate that the team against whom an invention of fact or outside research object has been made can rebut the objection by indicating where in the case file the information exists

6. Additional hearsay exception for 2025 season

- a. Due to the extent of commentary on an individual's reputation within the community, an additional 803 exception to hearsay has been added covering reputation.