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OHIO MOCK TRIAL CONFERENCE

September 15, 2026



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OHIO MOCK TRIAL

2027 Case Release &
Rule Changes



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SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES

High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

Team Eligibility Changes - The rules regarding Community teams have been moved to their own section for clarity.

1. Community Teams

- A student from a school that has a team may compete on a community team provided that no more than 50% of the students on the community team are from a school with a team. No student may participate on both a school and a community team.

High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

Eliminating the Play-In Round of the Competition - Adjustment

- If fewer than eight teams win both trials, advancing teams will be selected from amongst the teams with a 1-1 record as indicated below:
 - First, the percentage of ballots won (i.e., judges scoring that team as the winner) at the first day of state competition will be calculated. The number of teams needed shall be taken from that pool, in order of percentage of ballots won.
 - If teams tied for the percentage of ballots won, the percentage of ballots won (i.e., judges scoring that team as the winner) at all levels of competition will be calculated. The number of teams needed shall be taken from that pool, in order of percentage of ballots won.
 - If teams are tied for the percentage of ballots won, the average point total from across all levels of competition will be used to break the tie.
 - If a tie still persists, the remaining vacancies will be drawn at random from among the tied teams.

High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

Clarification on Material Rule Violation

- A Material Rule Violation is a violation of a competition rule that *affects the fairness of the trial*. Whether or not something is a Material Rule Violation is determined by a two-factor test:
 - I. The violation must have occurred
 - II. The violation must have materially impacted the fairness of the outcome of the trial.
 - a. If the majority agrees that a competition rule was violated, but that it did not affect the fairness of the trial, it is **not material** and, therefore, no deduction will be taken.
 - b. If a majority of the judges agree that a Material Rule Violation has occurred, a 5-point penalty shall be deducted from the offending team's score on **each** judge's score-sheet.
 - c. Examples of a Material Rule Violation which a panel **may** find to be material are a witness using notes during examination, a team using three attorneys instead of the designated two attorneys or a team persistently exceeding time limits.

High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

Changes to Timekeeper Rules

1. Timekeepers will give a verbal indication when time has elapsed, accompanying the STOP card with a verbal statement of "Time."
 - This does not count as an objection during opening statements and closing arguments.
2. Judge comments will be limited to 3 minutes per judge.
 - The presiding judge will instruct the time keeper to put 3 minutes on the stopwatch. The timekeepers will guide the judges' comments by showing a 1:00 minute card and a STOP card at the appropriate time.
 - The STOP card will be accompanied by a verbal statement of "Time."
 - This will repeat for each judge.

High School Mock Trial – Rule Change Summary

Rules of Evidence Change

1. **RULE 611. Mode and Order of Interrogation and Presentation**
 - **(A) Control by court.** The court shall exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of interrogating witnesses and presenting evidence including compound, argumentative, or repetitive questions. (i.e., questions that have already been asked and answered, questions, questions not seeking truth, etc.)



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2027 OHIO MOCK TRIAL CASE CAPSULE VIDEO

