

Mock Trial Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: The opposing School has forfeited. Where does this leave our School now?

A: Your School will get the 3 points for a win and if in the Elimination Rounds will proceed to the next round

Q2: How does the score system work?

A: During Round Robin (first four rounds) Schools are rostered against other Schools according to proximity. Schools get 3 points for a win and 1 point for a loss. Schools are scored on the difference mark between the two marks:

School A 291

School B 281

School get 3 points for the win School B gets 1 point for the loss. The difference mark is $(291 - 281) + 10$ for School A and -10 for School B

After the top 64 is determined, the rounds are based on a knock-out basis.

Q3: How do Schools get into the Elimination Rounds?

A: At the end of round 4, the top 64 Schools progress into the Elimination Rounds.

Q4: Is travel required?

A: If allocated as the Defence Team, you are required to travel to your allocated Prosecution Team. During Round Robin we try and match schools according to proximity, however, as we enter the knockout rounds it is expected that some schools may have to travel outside their region.

Q5: My School has a bye. What points will we get?

A: Your school will receive 2 points where it is allocated a bye.

FAQ

Q6: My school has participated in the past three mock trials, and we continue to receive conflicting information from magistrates, as to whether a witness may change conversations into direct speech, before the opposing team objects.

A: No. it should not be changed until the other school objects -thus allowing them the objection.

Q7: Do we have to present all of the evidence in the witness statement in Examination in Chief or can we be strategic with the questions we ask and only elicit the information supporting our case?

A: Yes -If your team does not present all the evidence, the opposing team won't have anything to cross examine your team on, and therefore cannot earn any points.

- "Witnesses must appear in the order in which they appear in the script. There is no choice in the order of witnesses....."
- "The witnesses' statement are included amongst the material prepared by the Law Society and must be adhered to strictly. There must be no additional material used. -no expansion material, no deletions, additional material ie maps, diagrams, plans, exhibits apart from the ones provided....."
- "The witness' statement must be recited in the order given. There must be no deletion, additions etc."
- "If a witness is not reciting the statements in the order given, or deleting or adding to the statements, or there is any inconsistency whatsoever, the opposing team may request a ruling from the Magistrate....."

Q8: In the Legal Notes attached to the scripts - there are often precedents mentioned. For instance: Regina v Williams (etc), are the details supplied are the only bits of information we can use during the mock court case.

A: The case can be researched, but in the opening & closing statements and during the trial, reference only is given to the cases. As we are dealing with school children and not law students, they are not expected to do much research or use it in the trial. The rules on script are very explicit and NOTHING else is to be introduced in the trial.