

Read and discuss the following rules and reminders with your team. Adherence to these rules will ensure that the finals run as smoothly as possible and that everyone has a good experience. Infraction of the rules and improper behavior may result in disqualification of the student and possibly that team from the competition.

#### Important Courthouse Reminders

- **Do** respect the courthouse. All students, teachers, coaches, family, and friends **MUST** be quiet while in the hallways, place trash in trash bins, and recyclables in recyclable bins.
- **Do** respect the courtrooms. All teachers, coaches, family, and friends **MUST** leave the courtrooms exactly how they found them.
- **Do** designate one team backpack for quicker entry to the courthouse.
- **Do** remember to eat regularly and drink plenty of water! The quality of your experience and performance is linked to your nutritional balance. Only water is allowed in the courtrooms.
- **Do Not** touch or take anything that does not belong to you.
- **Do Not** adjust chair heights or disturb court papers. You must leave the room in its original condition and ensure all furniture and courtroom items are replaced to their original positions. Note that not every courtroom will have a jury box, podium or easel.
- **Do Not** enter the judges' chambers or clerks' offices under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES!**
- **Do Not** roam the building, go on floors or in areas not being used for the competition.
- **Do Not** bring to the courthouse a change of clothing or extra pair of shoes, any swiss army knives, aerosol hairspray, scissors, knitting needles, metal finger files, screwdrivers, tools, wallet chains, handcuff keys, or any items that may be possibly used as a weapon.
- **Do Not** bring food/drinks (except for water) in the courtroom at any time.
- **Do Not** bring any gum. Gum chewing is **not allowed** in the courthouse.
- **Do Not** bring valuables or large amounts of money. Neither Teach Democracy nor the courthouse is responsible for lost or stolen articles.

#### Rule 1.2 — Code of Ethical Conduct (from 2023-2024 Team Rulebook)

All participants (including coaches and attendees/observers) are bound by all sections of this Code and agree to abide by the provisions.

- A. All student competitors, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and attendees/observers will show courtesy and respect for all participants, including their student opponents, all courthouse staff, judges, scoring attorneys, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, volunteers, and mock trial staff.
- B. All student competitors, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and attendees/observers will show dignity and restraint, irrespective of the outcome of any trial. Trials, contests, and activities will be conducted honestly, fairly, and with civility.
- C. All student competitors, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and attendees/observers will conform to the highest standards of behavior. All student competitors, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and attendees/observers may not employ tactics they believe to be wrong or in violation of the Rules. All student competitors, teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and attendees/observers will not willfully violate the Rules of the competition in spirit or in practice. All student competitors, teacher coaches, and attorney coaches are responsible for ensuring that all observers are aware of the Code.

- D. Teacher coaches agree to focus on the educational value of the Mock Trial Competition. They shall discourage willful violations of the Rules and/or this Code. Teachers will instruct students as to proper procedure and decorum and will assist their students in understanding and abiding by the letter and the spirit of the competition's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct.
- E. Attorney coaches agree to uphold the highest standards of the legal profession and will zealously encourage fair play to focus on the educational value of the Mock Trial Competition. Attorney coaches are reminded that they must serve as positive role models for the students. They will promote conduct and decorum among their team members and fellow coaches in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the competition's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct and will demonstrate the same through their own behavior. They will emphasize the educational value of the experience by requiring that all courtroom presentations (e.g., pretrial, questions, objections, etc.) be substantially the work product of the student team members.
- F. By participating in the program, students, teacher coaches, and attorney coaches are presumed to have read and agreed to the provisions of the Code. Violations of this Code of Ethical Conduct may be grounds for disqualification from the competition and/or suspension or expulsion from the program.