



# NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP



## Timekeeping Rules

### Rule 4.5. Trial Sequence and Time Limits

The trial sequence and time limits are as follows:

- 1) Opening Statement (5 minutes per side)
- 2) Direct and Redirect (optional) Examination (25 minutes per side)
- 3) Cross and Re-cross (optional) Examination (20 minutes per side)
- 4) Closing Argument (5 minutes per side)

The Prosecution/Plaintiff gives the opening statement first. The Prosecution/Plaintiff gives the closing argument first; the Prosecution/Plaintiff may reserve a portion of its closing time for a rebuttal. The Prosecution/Plaintiff's rebuttal is limited to the scope of the Defendant's closing argument.

Attorneys are not required to use the entire time allotted to each part of the trial. Time remaining in one part of the trial may not be transferred to another part of the trial.

### Rule 4.6. Timekeeping

- a) Each team is required to provide one student who will serve as the official timekeeper for that team. This timekeeper must meet the requirements of Rule 1.4. Timekeepers are responsible for fairly and accurately keeping and reporting the time during the trial presentation and during any disputes under Rule 6.2. During the rounds of the competition, timekeepers are to act as a neutral entity. Timekeepers are not to communicate with their respective teams during the course of the trial presentation, recesses, or during any dispute procedure, except to display the time remaining cards and indicate (as directed by the presiding judge) how much time is remaining during a particular part of the trial.
- b) Time limits are mandatory and will be enforced. Time runs from the beginning of the witness examination, opening statement, or closing argument until its conclusion. Introduction of counsel or witnesses prior to the opening statement shall not be included in the time allotted for opening statements. However, if counsel or witnesses are introduced once the opening statement has commenced, such time shall be included in the time allotted for the opening statement. Time stops only for objections, questioning from the judge, or administering the oath. Time does not stop for introduction of exhibits.
- c) Timekeepers should display the applicable "Time Remaining" cards simultaneously. At the end of each task during the trial presentation (i.e. at the end of each opening, at the end each witness examination, at the end of each cross examination and at the end of each closing argument) if there is more than a 15 second discrepancy between the teams' timekeepers, the timekeepers must notify the presiding judge of the discrepancy. The presiding judge will then rule on the discrepancy, the timekeepers will synchronize their stopwatches accordingly and the trial will continue. Any discrepancies between timekeepers less than 15 seconds will not be considered. No time disputes will be entertained after the trial concludes. The decisions of the presiding judge regarding the resolution of time disputes are final.

### Rule 4.7. Time Extensions and Scoring

The presiding judge has sole discretion to grant time extensions. If time has expired and an attorney continues without permission from the Court, the scoring judges may determine individually whether or not to discount points in a category because of over-runs in time.