

# Mock Trial Coaches Questions and Answers

1. Do you know how many teams are currently signed up and who they are?

a. **26 Teams**

| School:                          | Team Name:                              |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Adolfo Camarillo High School     | Scorpions                               |
| Agoura High School               | Agoura                                  |
| Calabasas High School            | Calabasas Coyotes                       |
| Channel Islands High School      | Channel Islands                         |
| Fillmore High School             | Fillmore Flashes                        |
| Grace Brethren High School       | Grace Brethren                          |
| La Reina Highschool              | La Reina Highschool                     |
| Newbury Park High School         | Newbury Park Gold                       |
| Newbury Park High School         | Newbury Park Panther                    |
| Oak Park High School             | Oak Park Black                          |
| Oak Park High School             | Oak Park Gold                           |
| Oaks Christian School            | Oaks Christian Lions                    |
| Pacifica High School             | Pacifica High School                    |
| Rio Mesa high school             | Spartan Law                             |
| Royal High School                | Highlanders                             |
| Santa Paula High School          | Cardinals                               |
| Santa Susana High School         | Holmes                                  |
| Santa Susana High School         | Watson                                  |
| Simi Valley High School          | Simi Valley High School                 |
| St. Augustine Academy            | St. Augustine Academy                   |
| THOUSAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL        | LANCERS                                 |
| Trinity Pacific Christian School | Trinity Pacific Christian School Blue   |
| Trinity Pacific Christian School | Trinity Pacific Christian School Silver |
| Ventura High School              | Ventura High                            |
| Westlake High School             | Westlake High School                    |
| Nordhoff High School             | Law Rangers!                            |

2. Can people actively performing in trial serve as back-ups? So if a prosecution attorney has WiFi issues, can another prosecution attorney fill in?

a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 2.2 – Team Composition: G. – L.**

3. If an attorney has technical issues and cannot do an examination, are they unable to participate during the rest of the trial? For example, if a closing attorney misses an examination, are they not able to do closing?

a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 2.2 – Team Composition: K. – L.**

4. If prosecution is currently in trial, can defense witnesses/attorneys be their back-ups, since there is only one trial going on?

a. **Yes, a Prosecution Team member may be an Alternate for a Defense Team member and vice versa.**

5. Are back-ups one designated role? Meaning if someone is a backup, can they not have any other role besides being a back-up?

a. **Yes, you designate Alternates at the beginning of each Trial, and that person remains the alternate for the duration of the Trial.**

6. In the rules, it says that a backup is not needed if a camera does not work, and that a person (if necessary) can compete if their camera is not working? We were wondering if points would be deducted due to a camera not working?
  - a. **No, points will not be deducted.**
7. How will we be able to communicate with the opposing team regarding their witness genders?
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 1.3 – Trial Procedures: P.**
8. The exhibit procedures appear to be different than what we have done in the past. In the rules, it states that the opening attorney does not have to mark the exhibits into evidence. However, this is something we have continuously done in the past, so we wanted to verify that this is correct?
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 3.2 – Physical Evidence: C. - E.**
9. Also for exhibits, it mentions that we have to offer them in the middle of an examination (also something we haven't done in the past?) We wanted to verify that as well.
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 3.2 – Physical Evidence: D.**
10. Regarding exhibits as a whole, we are overall very confused, do you mind asking Mr. Tarkany to summarize how exhibits should be marked/offered/submitted?
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 3.2 – Physical Evidence: A. – H.**
11. Also for exhibits, do attorneys present them or do witnesses present them? Or does everyone have a printed copy that they hold up when prompted to?
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 3.2 – Physical Evidence: C.**
12. Is there a released change in verbiage for bailiff roles? For example, they can't do the 'All Rise,' or 'follow me to the witness stand?'
  - a. [Ventura County Virtual Mock Trial Rules & Guidelines](#): **Rule 3.8 – Clerks/Timing: O. - R.**
13. Will the competition be on Zoom? Not some other platform?
  - a. **The competition will use Zoom as the video platform in conjunction with PROcess software.**
14. Does Mr. Tarkany have a preference for standing or sitting during statements and examinations?
  - a. **Attorneys may elect to stand or remain seated while giving their opening statement, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments. Attorneys must turn on their video and unmute their microphone when presenting.**
  - b. **The pretrial attorneys may elect to stand or remain seated while giving their pretrial argument.**
  - c. **The bailiff may elect to stand or remain seated.**
15. Does the defendant always have to stay on screen?
  - a. **NO, only when they are called for examination**
16. How should our attorney coaches sign into PROcess? We don't mind that they see scores but we don't want them to have access to adding students (that should remain with teacher advisors).
  - a. **I would suggest that you have include them as an observer.**
17. For two team schools only: God forbid this should happen but let's say either Katie or I have major technical difficulties, can we have each other on each other's team as coaches so the one who is online can assist the other team if needed? (I am thinking if we have two different browser types going or a second device for the 2nd team this might be possible). This would only be for supervisory purposes.
  - a. **A coach can affiliate with more than one team in PROcess**

18. Are we releasing ballots at county level then advisors can decide if students and/or attorney coaches can see them?
- a. **YES, we will release the ballots.**
19. In PROcess, will we have the "Enter Witness Call Order for ..." button when round pairings are announced? Also the team line up button?
- a. **Yes, to both**
20. In the county rulebook, pg. 14, G-L, if we have to substitute someone due to technical difficulties, can that substitute be from that side of the team or do they have to be from the other side of the team? Example:
- Def Witness 1 has a black out so Def Witness 2 takes over (even though they will also be testifying at Def. Witness 2)
  - Def Witness 1 has a black out so Pros Witness takes over (even though they are not normally on Defense)
  - Both A&B, just have someone ready.
- a. **They will either be a designated Alternate, or they will be from the other side of the team**
21. Can our observers have a link to the live feed/zoom courtroom? If so can they be automatically muted?
- a. **We plan on doing YouTube live streaming for observers to avoid using up all of the Zoom bandwidth.**
22. What chat feature is going to be used so that student attorneys can chat with each other during competition? This would be like showing notes to each other that they have done in the physical trial. PROcess mentioned making private Zoom chats?
- a. **This is up to each team, you can use the Zoom Chat feature, text, create a team Slack account, etc...**
23. How do we register a dispute form? In the past we had a form at a table we filled out.
- a. **The first step is to apply Rule 4.1 – Rule Interpretation. The Presider will rule on the dispute. If for some reason the Presider does not rule then you will notify the Blue Shirt assigned to your room that you will be submitting a dispute. The Blue Shirt will then notify myself and the Tab Room that we have a dispute.**
24. If Prosecution Goes in Round 1, is Defense guaranteed to go in Round 2 and vice versa?
- a. **Yes, side presentation will flip from round to round.**
25. So we were going through what we as a team need to do when one member has technical difficulties. One question came up: what about the clerk? True we can replace that person with a sub however we will not have the time sheet s/he has.
- a. **Each team needs to have a timekeeper in the event that one or the other gets bumped out of Zoom. The Clerk will be the Primary Timekeeper.**
  - b. **The Blue Shirt will stop the Trial and attempt to get the Timekeeper back before resuming the trial.**
  - c. **Timekeepers will be able to use the Zoom Chat feature to confer with each other on timing.**
  - d. **Timesheets will not be turned in. If there are any timing disputes they will be settled in the virtual courtroom.**