

GUIDELINES FOR ATTORNEY ADVISORS - 2009

1. The Rules of Evidence (Pa. Mock Trial Version) are fashioned after the Federal Rules of Evidence but have been modified and simplified for the purposes of this mock trial tournament. Other more complex rules are not to be raised during the trial enactment.
2. Tournament procedures permit the direct, re-direct, cross and re-cross examination of each witness.
3. Attorneys and witnesses may neither contradict the "witness statement" sheets for the case, nor introduce any evidence not included in the packet of materials.
4. Experience has shown that students and teachers alike develop a better understanding of the case, and learn more from the experience, if the attorney advisors do not dominate the preparation phase of the tournament.
5. The preparation phase is intended to be a cooperative effort of students, teacher coach and attorney advisor. For such cooperation to occur, it is important for attorneys to avoid even the appearance of "talking down" to students and/or stifling discussion through the use of complicated "legalese."
6. A minimum of ten (10) hours must be spent by the attorney(s) in preparing the team for the competition.
7. The first session with a student team should be devoted to the following tasks:
 - Answering questions which students may have concerning general trial practice;
 - Explaining the reasons for the sequence of events/procedures found in a trial;
 - Listening to the students' approach to the assigned case; and
 - Discussing general strategies as well as raising key questions regarding the enactment.
8. Second and subsequent sessions with students should center on the development of proper questioning techniques by the student attorneys and sound testimony by the witnesses. Here, an attorney can best serve as a constructive observer and critic teacher ... listening, suggesting, and demonstrating to the team. **The attorney should not do the work of the students.**