From:	Carey Shoufler
To:	Carey Shoufler
Cc:	Gregory Dickison (gregory@dickison.net); Shay Krainock
Subject:	MT Rules of Competition
Date:	Monday, October 26, 2026 5:36:08 PM
Attachments:	Idaho Mock Trial Rules of Competition & Procedures.pdf

Hi Coaches.

Our Idaho Mock Trial Rules of Competition & Procedures have gone through a major overhaul. They have been rewritten and reorganized to be clearer and easier to navigate. I also compared the rules to the National Mock Trial Rules and made some adjustments so that our rules are in alignment with theirs.

Whether you are a coach for a returning team or are new to mock trial, please read the Rules in full, and make sure all the students and coaches are well versed in the contents. Even if you have competed for years, do not assume you already know what is in them. Several rules have changed, and some are in a different place than you remember.

With this much time before the first competition, not knowing a rule will not be an excuse for breaking one. We would rather you spend the time now than find out in the middle of a round.

There are a few items I want to draw your attention to since they represent a significant change from how we have operated in the past:

1. **Bye Rounds:** In previous years if we had an uneven number of teams and could not address it with a zero round, each team who took a bye on competition day received a win and two ballots. That will no longer be the case. The details are in Rule 9.2: Uneven Number of Teams. The reason we decided to make this change is that in some cases a team that received a bye round automatically placed higher than a team who participated in all their rounds and we wanted to level the playing field.
2. **Alternates:** If a qualified team withdraws from the state competition, competition staff will invite the next-ranked team that did not advance. See Rule 1.7.3: Alternates for more information.
3. **Artist & Journalist Submissions:** Starting this year artists and journalists will submit their work on the first day of the state competition instead of the second day of the competition. This change is to allow us the time to judge the submissions and announce the winners at our awards ceremony on the second

day of state, allowing us to make the artists and journalists feel like a more integral part of our program.

I'm attaching the Rules to this email. I will also add them to our mock trial website. For those of you who are new this year, we house all our materials here.

Carey Ann Shoufler | Development & Law Related Education Director
Idaho Law Foundation
P.O. Box 895, Boise, ID 83701
(208) 334-4500 | idaholawfoundation.org | idahomocktrial.org

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