

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
ATTORNEY ADVISOR GUIDELINES

1. Read the materials, paying particular attention to the Rules of the Competition and the Federal Rules of Evidence (Mock Trial Version). Rules of Evidence that are not included in the case packet are not to be used by the students and are not permitted in the trial.
2. Meet with the team 6 – 8 times for approximately an hour each prior to the competition if possible. This would be an ideal amount of time spent by the attorney advisor. Some schedule team meetings each day for at least a month prior to the tournament. All meetings should be approved by school district personnel. **Scheduling meetings, of course, is a discretionary decision of the individual attorneys and teams.**
3. Assist the team with “technical” legal questions; provide legal expertise; and help students understand, be able to use and recognize legal terminology.
4. Provide information about proper courtroom attire and demeanor, trial presentation and procedure, and adapting presentation to various juries.
5. Demonstrate and help develop effective trial techniques in trial sequence: opening statements, direct and cross-examination, and closing arguments.
6. Demonstrate and help develop effective techniques in the following:
 - Proper foundation for entering documents into evidence
 - Entering documents into evidence
 - Use of objections and responding to objections
 - Impeaching witnesses
7. Be available for the team throughout the trials in which they compete; and, if possible, attend the rounds. Help team prepare for both winning and losing. Remind the team to keep the competitive spirit at a reasonable level and in accordance with the Code of Ethical Conduct. Help team members to understand the reality of our adversary system and to accept the outcome of the trial gracefully and in a mature manner (this applies to adults, as well), again, in accordance with the Code of Ethical Conduct.
8. Coaches are not permitted to communicate with their team during the trial. Do not communicate with your team during a recess, in the event one occurs.
9. Permit the students to develop strategies for each side of the case before you make your first visit. Convey to the students that they are responsible for the “substance” of the preparation; you are providing “technical” assistance.
10. Discuss extrapolations, and, in particular, “unfair” extrapolations. Discuss appropriate ways of handling unfair extrapolations during the course of the trial.