Contra Costa County Mock Trial
Local Rules (2027)

1. When there is a difference between the Local Rules and the State Rules, ***the County rules shall apply***. Students may cite both the Local and State Rules during the course of the trial, when necessary.
2. Addressing the Court/Scorers:
   a. **This is a bench trial**. Students should address themselves as follows, "Good evening your honor…." or "Good evening your honor and scoring attorneys…." This is the only time student may address the scorers.
   b. Coaches will not be introduced at the beginning of competitions.
   c. The Presider will score.
3. Timing:
   a. Cell phones, tablets, etc., **are allowed** for timing as long as they are set on silent. However, NO phones, etc. are allowed at counsel table.
   b. State rule 3.9 H says, "The time will not stop while an attorney or witness approaches an exhibit." We are clarifying that when an attorney asks the **Bailiff** to rearrange the exhibits or put them up, this **NOT** what the rule refers to. Time **IS** stopped while the **Bailiff** fixes an exhibit. Suggestion: Attorneys or the Bailiff should fix the exhibits **before** questioning a witness.
4. **Exhibits: CCCOE is providing the exhibits. Teams are prohibited from taking them home. The Courtroom Coordinator will pick them up and return them to the scoring room.**
5. Pretrial attorney scores will be multiplied x3 (instead of x2).
6. When possible, rule violations shall be brought to the attention of the Presiding Judge when they occur. This is similar to the *shadow timer* raising a time discrepancy as soon as it becomes apparent
7. To decide if a rule violation has occurred, the Presiding Judge shall use the criminal law standard of proof by ***clear and convincing evidence.*** The burden to prove a violation rests with the team raising the violation. CRF Rules give the scorers discretion in how many points, if any, to deduct. We are following that rule.
8. Case Packets: All teams will use the **1/?/27** case packet. TBD when the revised packet comes out
9. Scoring: we go by **ballots first then total points.**
10. We are **deviating** from Rule 3.5B (which prevents attorneys from going into the well except to show exhibits). Instead: students will ask the judge for permission to enter the well and will abide by the judge's ruling.
11. We are **deviating** from Rule 2.2 A though D. We are using our county's new scoresheet/roster and will not deduct any point for failure to follow Teach Democracy's rules on this point.
12. Rule 1.5 ***Scouting*** (pages 3–4 of the Team Rulebook) is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. In particular, ¶ E (making false accusations about scouting) will be strictly enforced.
    a. Any issue that might arise may only be brought to the attention of the CCCOE and must come from the team coach. Students are not permitted to contact CCCOE directly.
    b. Director Marcus Walton shall have the final say on all issues and his word is final.
13. Per our agreement with the Court staff;
    a. No photography, etc. is allowed in the courthouse except by CCCOE staff. (Daniel will be videotaping some of the trials for marketing purposes).
    b. We must be out of the courthouse by **8:30 so you need to finish and be out of the courtroom by 8:15.**