



CIVICS FIRST
Advancing Democracy & Law Education in Connecticut

Updates on 2022 Mock Trial Competition

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

As a reminder, the virtual trials will be held on the following days and times. *Every team must participate on both days*, as the tournament scoring is aggregated across all four rounds.

Friday, January 28, at 9 AM and 2 PM (trials to follow tech checks/roster confirmations).

Friday, February 4, at 9 AM and 2 PM (trials to follow tech checks/roster confirmations).

Sadly, because of the effects of the Omicron variant, we will not be able to hold the planned in-person playoff tournament to follow the virtual statewide tournament. We simply can't get the courthouses because they're short-staffed and trying to minimize the number of people entering the buildings on any given day. Many of you are reporting potential transportation issues as well (along with real-time impacts to your team because of Omicron). Crossing our fingers and hoping to be back in court for real next year.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED:

The registration deadline has been extended to Wednesday, January 12, 2022. As a reminder, this year's fee is \$350 per team, which reflects the greater expense to Civics First associated with a virtual tournament. To register, please click this [link to the CBA's Registration System for High School Mock Trial](#).

For help with the CBA's registration system, please click [HERE](#).

Please note that your spot in the competition is not secure until we receive payment. If you are choosing to pay by district check, please let Civics First know at civicsfirstdebate@gmail.com or contact Jon Weiner at JWeiner27@gmail.com. We'll work with you and the CBA to secure your spot in the competition pending payment.

COMPETITION UPDATES/RULES GUIDANCE:

The revised rules have been posted on the Civics First website. As a reminder, nothing has changed other than:

- (1) In recognition of the fact that our teams are back in school this year, we eliminated the "own device" rule that was intended to facilitate at-home competition. If your IT department can assist and space permits, you may set up a virtual courtroom using a wide-angle web cam that allows attorneys and witnesses from the same team to be on screen together. *We have received questions about this, and emphasize that having all participants on screen together is optional; you retain the discretion to have each participant be on their own device, and you may find it advantageous to do so given masking requirements, quarantines, and students. We urge you do whatever is best for your team, and judges will be instructed not to take camera choice into account during scoring.* If all participants are in school together, you will likely find it helpful to put attorneys and witnesses into separate rooms at your school in order to minimize distracting Zoom feedback.
- (2) We are instituting a new three (3) hour "All Stop" rule. This means that *both* the trial and post-trial commentary from the judges must be concluded no later than three real-time hours from the trial start time, unless the delay is the result of a technological or other emergency (i.e., sudden illness of a competitor). If the trial is not concluded within the three hour limit, it will be scored a tie for both teams.

Like last year, your team roster must be finalized on the Monday before you compete (for example, January 24 for January 28), and submitted to Civics First via a link to PROcess that will be provided. That link will send you to a web form that records the name, role, e-mail address, and telephone number for all participants, including coaches and spectators who choose to watch live. We need this information in order to expedite getting your teams into your trial breakout rooms.

UPDATES TO CASE/ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

Please note that we have received the following questions/suggestions with respect to the problem. It has been updated accordingly.

Editorial Changes:

- 1) Page 12, paragraph 14: The reference should be to allegations in paragraph 14 (not 13).
- 2) Exhibit 2: The date of injury should read 5/8/19 (not 5/18/19).
- 3) Exhibit 5: The soccer team affiliation should be changed from North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) to the Connecticut Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) throughout.

Substantive Questions:

- 1) Under [Rule 6.4 of the Competition Rules](#), for sequestering of witnesses, can an opposing team sequester our witnesses (for clarification purposes, could the Defense sequester the Plaintiff therefore limiting Dr. Register's testimony to only his/her affidavit and allowing testimony on what Casey Rapinoe and Tobin O'Reilly testify during the trial?)

ANSWER: The judge's sequestration order would apply to all witnesses except those listed under the exceptions to the rule (party-witnesses, officer/employee of party to the case when the party is not a natural person, and person authorized to be present by a statute provided in the case material).

- 2) For clarification purposes, in Casey Rapinoe's affidavit, is the "CDC High School Student Athlete Fact Sheet" referring to Exhibit 7?

ANSWER: No, it refers to Exhibit 6.

FURTHER QUESTIONS:

Contact Civics First Board President Jon Weiner at JWeiner27@gmail.com with any questions about the competition.