

2023/2024
Additional Information
for Teachers, Attorneys,
Students and Parents

(Section 4 of 4)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS, ATTORNEYS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

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COLLEGIATE MOCK TRIAL PARTICIPATION (Nationwide)

Interested in Mock Trial beyond high school?

Visit..... www.collegemocktrial.org/



What is the difference between High School Mock Trial and Collegiate Mock Trial?

High School Mock Trial programs do not allow teams to choose which witnesses they call. Case-writers create six witnesses and specify which three are for the Defense and which three are for the Prosecution/Plaintiff. In college, the case-writers develop somewhere around ten different witnesses and allow each side to choose which three of these witnesses they call in the minutes before a trial. With this set-up, opposing sides can strategize to “steal” the witnesses that their competitor may want. For this reason, every team needs extensive back-up plans and a lot of improvisational ability. Thinking on your feet is one of the best parts of Mock Trial.

How people perform as witnesses also differs from high school to college. The High School Mock Trial program has regulations that prohibit witnesses from using costumes. In college, not only do these regulations not exist, but it is almost a requirement that every witness transform into a character that the presiding judge remembers and likes to include accents, costumes, and one-liners make witnesses entertaining and fun to play.

2022/23 High School Mock Trial Participation

Here is a list of high schools that competed in 2023.

Columbia

AC Flora High
Dreher High
Dutch Fork High
Eau Claire High
Governor's School for Science and Math
Lexington High
Richland Northeast High
Ridge View High
Spring Valley High
Trinity Collegiate
WJ Keenan High
Wilson High

Georgetown

Academic Magnet High
Beaufort Academy
Berkeley High
Cane Bay High
Charleston County School of the Arts
Conway High
Fort Dorchester High
Goose Creek High
Lucy Beckham High
Scholars Academy
Summerville High

Conway Region

N/A for 2023

Greenville Region

Bob Jones Academy
Chapin High
Fort Mill High
Green Upstate High
Greenville Classical Academy
Greenville Sr. High
Greenwood High
Indian Land High
Nation Ford High
Powdersville High
Spring Hill High
Strom Thurmond High

Lexington Region

NA for 2023

Please note that this list is last year's participants. Regional assignments can vary from year to year based on participation and number of regions.

Regional assignments for the current High School Mock Trial participants are not released until January 2024.

2022 Middle School Mock Trial Participation (Statewide)

Here is a list of middle schools that competed in 2022.

Columbia Region

Bob Jones Academy
Blythewood Middle
Chester Middle
Dent Middle
Forest Creek Middle
Green Charter Middle
Hand Middle
Longleaf Middle
Pleasant Knoll Middle
WA Perry Middle

Conway Region

N/A for 2022

Greenville Region

N/A for 2022

Georgetown Region

Buist Academy
Cario Middle
Moultrie Middle
Palmetto Academy
Phillip Simmons Middle
St. Andrews Catholic
Ten Oaks Middle
Whittemore Park Middle

Lexington Region

Chapin Middle
Dutch Fork Middle
Irmo Middle
Jackson Magnet Middle
JET Middle
Kennedy Middle
Liberty Middle
Seneca Classical

Please note that this list is last year's participants. Regional assignments can vary from year to year based on participation and number of regions.

Regional assignments for the current Middle School Mock Trial participants are not released until early October 2023.

Competition Schedule Samples

Please note the agendas below are examples. Participants should rely on information provided directly to the teams for exact competition specifics for their location assignment as it can change depending on the needs/availability of a regional location.

Regional Agenda - Saturday	
8:00	Team Registrations
8:15	Arrival Deadline
8:45	Round #1 <i>(must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)</i>
11:00	Team Lunch <i>(teams on their own, no eating at restaurants– only time for lunch)</i>
12:00	Pairings Posted
12:15	Round #2 <i>(must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)</i>
2:45	Team Break <i>(snack break only, no eating at restaurants, late penalties apply)</i>
3:15	Pairings Posted
3:30	Round #3 <i>(must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)</i>
6:15	Departure <i>(teams on their own for dinner)</i>
Closing Assembly – Monday	
7:00	Virtual Closing Assembly for all Regional Competitions

State Agenda	
Friday	
11:00	Team Registrations
11:30	Arrival Deadline
11:45	Round #1
2:00	Team Break <i>(teams on their own, snack break only, no restaurants, late penalties apply)</i>
3:00	Pairings Posted
3:15	Round #2
6:00	Departure <i>(teams on their own for dinner)</i>
Saturday	
8:15	Team Check-In
8:45	Round #3
12:15	Awards Assembly
12:45	Dismissal of All Teams Not Advancing to the Championship Round
12:45	Box Lunch for Top Two Championship Teams and Their Guests
1:30	Championship Round #1
4:00	Team Break
4:15	Championship Round #2
7:00	Closing Assembly and Presentation of Gavel
7:45	Departure <i>(teams on their own for dinner)</i>

HOURS TRACKING CHART FOR TEACHERS

(Hours for studying, practicing, and competing should be included.)

Date	Brief Explanation	Hours
TOTAL HOURS		

WHAT PARENTS AND VISITORS SHOULD KNOW

- Parents and all guests are referred to as visitors.
- Parents meet with your student's teacher coach to learn about practice schedules, transportation to/from the competition, snacks for practices, snacks/lunch for the competition, dress attire for students, travel plans, where to meet for the competition, competition schedule, arrival times, departure time estimations, etc.
- Parents and visitors are welcome to attend the competitions. Competing students, teacher coach(es) and attorney coach(es) wear separate "team" badges. Teams are provided a maximum number of 24 "visitor" badges to watch their team. Visitors cannot view any round without the matching visitor badges which are noted with two coded letters, e.g. "AB." The codes mean nothing. It is a system in place to keep the teams anonymous from the presiding judges, scoring judges, and opposing teams. Visitors receive visitor badges from the lead teacher coach after the teacher registers the team on the day of the competition. All badges are expected to be returned at the end of the competition.
- The team's school, to the extent possible, is kept confidential from the scoring judges. Visitors are not to wear or bring school names, logos, or colors on any items brought into the courtroom. Also, the teams and their visitors only identify themselves by their assigned team codes for the competition, not by the school name.
- Seating is limited in various courtrooms throughout the state. Teams with a large number of visitors will be required to have visitors take turns observing students perform using the limited number of visitor badges provided.

For example, Johnny is only performing for the Defense side, but the Prosecution/Plaintiff side is currently performing. Parents and visitors associated with Johnny sit out this round if space were limited, so that parents and visitors of the students on the Prosecution/Plaintiff side could watch. The same courtesy is extended when sides switch, should that courtroom present space constraints.

- Know that teachers receive the order of the performing sides for the first round seven business days prior to the competition; which helps visitors plan for attendance and/or seating space constraints. However, if teams drop out during the seven business days prior to the competition, agendas do change to include the morning of the competition should a team "no show." The agenda is always subject to change.
- Everyone is asked to respect the arrival times, competition round times, breaks and lunchtime by never being late. Students are to be in their respective courtrooms 15 minutes prior to each round for competitions. Many of the courthouses require security to operate the metal detectors for the competitions, which requires additional time for gaining access into the building. (The more pockets, purses, briefcases, bags, etc. that have to be examined, the longer the entry time.) It is suggested for lead teacher coach to have a bag for all things that students absolutely need to bring in the courthouse and the students bring nothing other than their notes. This process speeds up entry into the courthouse.
- All late arrivals present a hardship on the teams. In the event a visitor arrives late, there is staff to assist in finding the assigned courtroom for each team. However, entering or exiting the courtroom should only occur during transitional periods taking place in the

courtroom. For example, enter when a witness is getting off the witness stand and not during an opening, direct, cross, or closing. Each team should have one person stand outside their courtroom and assist in ensuring late arrivals or people leaving during the trial only enter and exit during transitions. This process ensures there is less distraction for the students during the trial.

- An agenda with “approximate” times is provided to the lead teacher coach in advance and on the day of the competition to share with visitors. Times are “approximate” and a round could end earlier or later than estimated, thus causing subsequent breaks, lunch, rounds and awards to be impacted by this shift in time. Even if the round a visitor views ends “on time,” all teams must wait to begin the next round until all teams have completed the same round in order for power matching for the next round to take place. This wait time may be as much as one hour for the teams that finish the earliest.
- If a visitor knows in advance that s/he is only coming to see the one round his/her student is performing in, plan to arrive 15 – 30 minutes prior to the “approximate” start time to ensure a seat in the courtroom as times are not “fixed” and can vary. Visitors planning on arriving for only one round are strongly encouraged to leave their cell phone number with the lead teacher in case the agenda changes on the morning of the competition.
- Visitors are not allowed to move around the courtroom during a trial or participate in any way to include asking about time used, signaling, passing notes, mouthing to students, raising disputes, or arguing a dispute on behalf of the student(s).
- It is strongly encouraged that cell phones are not brought to the courthouse and/or Mock Trial facility. Some courthouses prohibit the possession of cell phones and are confiscated by security personnel. Should a cell phone be permitted into the courthouse, it is asked for all cell phones be turned off while in the courtroom. Cell phones or any other technology is not permitted in front of the bar.
- Video cameras may be used during the competition only with the consent of the host facility, the presiding judge and with the consent of the opposing team. The presiding judge asks for consent from both teams prior to beginning the trial. Flash pictures may not be taken during the competition at any time. (In the past, some teams have nominated one parent from a team to film all of the rounds and share the video with everyone on that team following the competition.)
- The SC Bar promotes each competition statewide and sends press releases to all media outlets. Media may be on-site at a competition.
- Teams are notified in advance in the event that there are an odd number of teams participating in a given regional competition that requires a team to become a “bye” team during a round. See information about a bye round in the rules section of the Mock Trial Competition Handbook (Rule 5.9 – Bye Round).
- In general, there are very few, if any, restaurants within walking distance of the competition locations. Students stay on the competition grounds and visitors either bring prepared lunch or have lunch delivered to the team.

- The presiding judge allows a five-minute recess for students and judges in front of the bar to take a quick restroom break between the Case-in-Chief presentations. During these five minutes, no one behind the bar may leave the courtroom or communicate with any of the competing team members that were performing in front of the bar. There is an additional 2 minute recess prior to closings and no one may leave the courtroom or communicate while the teams in front of the bar prepare for their closing arguments. All students in front of the bar remain in the courtroom and do not communicate with anyone behind the bar. Students in front of the bar may talk amongst themselves as they prepare for closing arguments.
- Any concerns, issues or feedback discussed with the State and/or Regional Mock Coordinator is to be made solely by the lead teacher coach and/or the lead attorney coach. Any communication not from either of these two coaches is considered to be in non-compliance and is subject to penalties according to Rule 3.9 Communication with Mock Trial Coordinators and Rule 6.4 Discipline for Non-Trial Rules Violations. This rule is in place before and during the competition. All post-competition communication is solely by the lead teacher coach and/or attorney coach directed to the State Coordinator only. There is no reaching out to judges or Regional Coordinators post competition. Any post-competition communication not directed to the State Coordinator subjects the team to penalties up to disqualification the following school year.
- All teams leave after their last round of the day. There is no longer an on-site closing assembly. There will be a virtual closing assembly Monday evening via Zoom.
- During this virtual closing assembly, the most effective attorney and most effective witness from each round nominated by the scoring judges are announced. The Professionalism and Civility Award (determined by team nominations) from each region will be awarded. The virtual closing concludes with the announcement of the teams in each region to advance to the state competition. There are a total of 12 teams that advance to the state competition to include a winner from each regional competition and the remaining slots are filled with the next highest wins, ballots, points, and point spread out of all the regional competitions.
- All scoresheets are confirmed and the official teams advancing to the state competition are announced by 5pm the Tuesday following the regional competitions.
- Teams along with their visitors should block their calendar with the state competition dates in the event their team advances to the state competition – even if it is a first-year team. Should a team be selected to advance to the state competition, it is very important that the team stays together when advancing to the next level of competition. Should the team not be able to advance to the state competition due to not enough team members available, the team forfeits its slot and is awarded to the next highest placing team in the state. For this reason, three back-up teams are announced along with the top twelve advancing teams.



What to Expect at Regional Mock Trial Competitions

The Basics: What is Mock Trial?

A *Mock Trial* is a pretend trial and involves either civil or criminal cases, just like a real court. Federal rules and procedures are modified to simplify the process of Mock Trial. In Mock Trial the students present the case and act as the main characters in the courtroom. The purpose of Mock Trial is to learn about courtroom procedures and the people and rights involved with the legal system. It also teaches how to evaluate both sides of an issue and resolve conflicts in a nonviolent manner. A Mock Trial follows the trial procedure of the lower courts.

By incorporating Mock Trial, students learn about the basis of our American judicial system and the mechanics of litigation. In addition, students are encouraged to learn and understand the meaning of good citizenship in a democracy. Mock Trial is exciting to share in any classroom or club and it easily stimulates participation, critical thinking, speaking skills, and teamwork. Mock Trial is also available in many elementary, middle schools, high schools, and colleges throughout the state. Graduating High School Mock Trial students are eligible for High School Mock Trial scholarships when continuing with higher education.

Nametags:

There is a maximum number of 24 visitor badges allotted per team. No one can view any round without matching visitor badges. All team members and visitors are identified accordingly with their respective team badges. Students have white pin-on name badges with two coded letters representing their team to keep the school anonymous. The students' respective visitors, teachers, and attorney coaches are assigned the same two coded letters on their badges, but with their respective titles (visitor, teacher, or attorney coach). Note that if there are more than 16 students on a team, the remaining students wear visitor badges. There are only 24 visitor badges total available to a team. Announcements at the awards ceremony begin after all badges have been collected.

Late Arrivals: Must obtain a nametag from the Regional Coordinator prior to entering a courtroom.

Transitioning In and Out of Courtrooms: Visitors are asked to be respectful of both teams competing and only enter or exit the courtroom during a transition. A transition is when a witness is getting on or off the witness stand. Reentering the courtroom is to be done when the witness is leaving the witness stand.

Judging/Scoring:

Each trial has a presiding judge overseeing the trial and a minimum of two and maximum of three scoring judges serving as the jury. The scoring judges use the Mock Trial scoresheet to determine how each team performs their knowledge and understanding of the case itself and the trial process, not guilt or innocence. The scoring judges also determine the most effective witness and most effective attorney for each round. Should there only be two judges serving as jury members or an emergency with the third scoring judge, the scores are averaged for a third scoresheet and the presiding judge determines which team wins the third ballot. Scoresheets are sent electronically following all regional competitions and after all scoresheets have been verified. Scoresheets cannot be picked up in person.

Introductions:

Once teams are in their respective courtrooms, students are asked to address the presiding judge and scoring judges providing only their names and roles in the competition (not their school name) at the beginning of each round.

Communication:

Any communication that takes place over the bar subjects the team to a strong point deduction or even disqualification. Visitors, coaches, and non-competing team members are to refrain from all communication with competing team members unless directed by the presiding judge. Any communication with the State and/or Regional Mock Trial Coordinators is made solely by the lead teacher/attorney coach. Any communication not from the lead teacher/attorney coach to the Regional and/or State Coordinator is considered to be in non-compliance of Rule 3.9 (Communication with Mock Trial Coordinators) and is subject to Rule 6.4 (Discipline for Non-Trial Violations). This rule is in place before and during the competition. All post-competition communication is solely by the lead teacher coach and/or attorney coach directed to the State Coordinator only. There is no reaching out to judges or Regional Coordinators post competition. Any post-competition communication not directed to the State Coordinator subjects the team to penalties up to disqualification the following school year.

Recesses:

During the competition there are two recesses. Anyone behind the bar may not leave or communicate during either recess. The recesses are intended for the competing students and judges to leave during the first recess for a restroom break and the second recess is time for the students to adjust their closing arguments.

Photography/Videography:

Video cameras and non-flash photography may be used during the competition only with the consent of the presiding judge and the opposing team. Flash pictures may not be taken during the competition. Upon approval, persons may take stationary pictures from the seated position. No movement in the courtroom for pictures is permitted. Team pictures are taken during the day by the lead teacher coach and texted to the regional coordinator during the day of the competition.

Number of Rounds:

If there is an even number of teams in a region, then there are three rounds with all teams competing in all three rounds. If there is an odd number of teams at a competition, see Rule 5.8 (Effect of Bye Round). Bye round means that one team is sitting out every round since there is an uneven number of teams. Bye teams may use this round time to prepare for their next competitive round. A round intended for a team to sit out cannot be attached to a lunch period. This mechanism is in place to ensure all teams have equal treatment. Students found roaming the halls during a round that they are not competing in are subject to penalties, as respect and silence is needed for the other teams competing. Working diligently to keep the hallways as quiet as possible is greatly appreciated.

Lunch / Snacks:

There is no eating permitted in most courthouses unless specified by the court. Teams are also notified in advance that there is an undetermined start time for lunch, but teams need to plan for lunch at the first break only. The second break is shortened and intended for snacks only. There are very few, if any, restaurants within walking distance of the competition locations. Teams are to stay on the competition grounds and coaches/visitors either bring prepared food for lunch or go and pick up lunches for the team. Remember when planning for this lunch, students are to be seated in their respective courtrooms 15 minutes prior to each round and should plan on allowing time to re-enter the courthouse security. For virtual, teams should be online and registered 30 minutes prior to the next round.

Closing Assembly:

After competing in the rounds, everyone leaves for the day and signs into the Virtual Closing Assembly on Monday evening following the competition day.

During this virtual closing assembly, the most effective attorney and most effective witness from each round nominated by the scoring judges are announced and concludes with the announcement of teams advancing to the state competition. In addition, the Professionalism and Civility Award (determined by team nominations) will be awarded. There are a total of 12 teams that advance to the state competition to include a top team from each regional competition and the remaining slots are filled with wild card teams. Wild card teams are the teams with the next highest wins, ballots, points, and point spread out of all the regional competitions.

There is a separate registration fee of \$150 for teams competing in the state competition. Lodging the Friday night of the competition may be needed for some teams as the competition takes place over two days. Teams are on their own for meals and lodging. Should a school not be able to afford the expenditures associated with this competition and forfeit their slot, the slot is offered to the next team according to rankings in the entire state. A school cannot forfeit their slot past the drop deadline date provided each year.



What to Expect at State Mock Trial Competitions

Teams / Visitor Badges: Note that there are only 24 visitor badges allotted per team. (Teacher and attorney coaches have separate team badges.) Also note that if there are more than 16 students on a team, the remaining students need to wear visitor badges. There are only 24 visitor badges total available to each team. Teams should not feel like they must use all 24 visitor badges as the courtrooms have limited seating and vary in size with each courtroom assignment. Like the regional competitions, a team's visitors cannot view a round without visitor badges that match their team's code.

Pairing/Room Assignments and Power Matching: The state competition has three rounds for all teams. After the third round, the top two teams are announced. The top teams will compete in two championship rounds alternating sides. All teams are seeded and power matched in the first round by using teams' final standing earned at the regional competitions. Power matching is a form of pairing teams that mirrors the National High School Mock Trial, which cannot take place until all teams have completed a round. All subsequent rounds are power matched based on the results of each round performed. When determining pairings for the subsequent rounds, it is possible that a team may perform a particular side more than once consecutively. It is guaranteed; however, that both sides of each team will have performed by the third round. Detailed information about rankings and power matching can be found in the case materials. Lead teachers are texted on their cell phone no later than 10pm Friday night indicating the side of their third round performance for Saturday morning and their time for arrival and re-registration. Teams need to be seated in their assigned courtroom 15 minutes prior to each round beginning for in-person competitions and 30 minutes prior for virtual competitions. To reduce congestion, teams are asked to send a representative to check the boards and not have entire teams in the hallways checking boards.

Communication: Any communication that takes place over the bar subjects the team to a strong point deduction or even disqualification. Visitors, coaches, and non-competing team members are to refrain from all communication with competing team members unless directed by the presiding judge. Communication is directed solely to the State Coordinator and is made only by the lead teacher and/or attorney coaches. Any communication during the competition or post-competition not from the lead teacher and/or attorney coaches is considered to be in non-compliance of Rule 3.9 (Communication with Mock Trial Coordinators) and is subject to Rule 6.4 (Discipline for Non-Trial Violations). Everyone except the lead teacher coach is encouraged to have cell phones off at all times while in the courtroom. Coaches are strongly discouraged from discussing rounds with other coaches during the state competition weekend.

Photography/Videography: Video cameras and photography are permitted in this courthouse. Use of these devices will be approved by both teams in each round. Permission in one round, does not guarantee permission in remaining rounds. All photos and videos are taken from a seated position and without devices blocking or distracting views of others.

Late Arrivals: Must obtain a nametag from the Regional Coordinator prior to entering a courtroom.

Transitioning In and Out of Courtrooms: Visitors are asked to be respectful of both teams competing and only enter or exit the courtroom during a transition. A transition is when a witness is getting on or off the witness stand. Reentering the courtroom is to be done when the witness is leaving the witness stand.

Judging/Scoring: Each trial has a presiding judge overseeing the trial and a minimum of two and a maximum of three people serving as the jury. Should there only be two judges serving as jury members or an

emergency with the third scoring judge, the scores are averaged for a third scoresheet and the presiding judge determines which team wins the third ballot. The scoring judges score each team on how well they perform, their knowledge and understanding of the case itself and the trial process, not guilt or innocence. The scoring judges also determine the most effective witness and most effective attorney for each round in addition to the most effective determined by each team's opponent after each round. The championship rounds should have a larger scoring jury.

Recesses:

During the competition there are two recesses. Anyone behind the bar may not leave or communicate during either recess. The recesses are intended for the competing students and judges to leave during the first recess for a restroom break and the second recess is time for the students to adjust their closing arguments.

Snack Breaks: As mentioned in the state letters, Friday's break allows teams to have snacks and beverages outside of the courthouse. No snacks or beverages are provided. Food and beverages (including water) are not to be brought into the courthouse. There will be an additional snack break between the two championship rounds on Saturday. Please dispose all garbage in trash cans.

Closing Assembly / Championship Round / Selection of Sides for Championship

Round: The Closing Assembly starts with the presentation of the regional advancement plaques. The most effective witnesses and attorneys are recognized from each round. At the conclusion, the top two teams competing in the two championship rounds are announced. Each of the top two teams' designated team members and lead teacher coaches come to the front of the award area for the official coin toss to determine sides performed prior to their first championship round. Once the coin toss is completed, the top two teams immediately leave the Closing Assembly and proceed to the designated room for lunch. Guests associated with both teams join the two teams once the Closing Assembly is over. Guests associated with both teams do not need to re-apply visitor badges.

Saturday's Lunch: After the top teams are announced and the remaining ten teams are dismissed, a catered lunch will be provided to the top two teams and their guests. Both teams and their guests must eat in the designated room and not in the hallways. Guests of both teams are asked to allow team members to eat their lunch and meet with their coaches without interruption during this allotted time for lunch.

Announcing of State Winner: The proposed winner of the State Mock Trial Competition is announced approximately 15 to 20 minutes following the championship round. Scoresheets are reconfirmed following the competition day and the official team is announced the following Tuesday by 5pm on the SC Bar Web site. Until certified by the SC Bar, the State Mock Trial Champion is not finalized. The SC Bar reserves the right to correct any errors or omissions; therefore, any announcement of a team as the state champion and advancing to the next level of competition is subject to correction. Upon confirmation, the State High School Mock Trial Champion represents South Carolina at the 2023 National High School Mock Trial competition May 2 – 4, in Wilmington, Delaware. There is no national competition for middle school.

Presentation of Traveling Championship Cup: The presentation of Traveling Championship Cup will be presented to the team along with state championship certificates at the school's awards ceremony at the school's awards assembly. The State Championship Team and their respective school are responsible for the upkeep/security of the cup, while it is on display at the school. The traveling cup is returned at the following year's Regional Mock Trial competition.

Mock Trial Case Release Date

The Mock Trial case for 2023/24 is released online
at www.scbar.org/lre no later than 5 p.m. on:

**Middle School and High School
August 8, 2023**