

High School Mock Trial Timeline/ Procedures and Expectations 10/2020

NOVEMBER:

- **November 2:** Announcements begin at schools. **Previous 10-12th grade participants MUST register by Nov. 16.**
- **Parent Informational Video:** for students new to high school mock trial (including 9th grade students) is available at: <https://youtu.be/wpevH2shpjM>
- **November 16:** Registration for New and Returning participants is due.
- **New Participant Training:** Every effort will be made to find a team for all interested members, but the student must also check jdragonmail regularly for updates and be willing to talk to others about options. A new participant training video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/GP9rnlxZhrA>

Teams organize in Nov. or Dec. and may begin meeting regularly. After team and coaches meet, the \$175 team cost is turned in to Ms. McConnell/Mrs. Cline.

DECEMBER: Case released on iowabar.org around the end of December.

DECEMBER 21: FINAL DATE for Teams to MAKE PAYMENT FOR ANY TEAM. .

Before registering as a team: The team, coach(es) and team sponsor MUST determine practice times and philosophy. Members must understand the expectations of the coaches before deciding to commit to a team. Each team member and coach will sign the team registration form and submit it to Ms. McConnell/Mrs. Cline with the \$175 program fee (check to JSCD). Final Team names / registrations are sent to State Mock Trial Coordinator by Ms. McConnell.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

Teams Practice for Competition: Practices may be held both virtually, or in person if team members are comfortable. Team Coaches/Parents may set up practice times at the HS by contacting JCS D Community Education or at public libraries or other locales where adult supervision is available. All coaches will be notified regarding team contacts, so scrimmages can be set up.

Final team roster submitted to Ms. McConnell, who will notify teachers of school absence. Requests for enlargements to Mrs. Cline.

MARCH: check school calendar for any updates

District Mock Trial: TBA

Run-offs: TBA

State Mock Trial: TBA

It is possible that this year's mock trial competition will be held virtually. Ms. McConnell will let the teams know about the trial format and dates as soon as they are made available.

Procedures/Expectations

Team composition: Students and coaches, along with program coordinator, will determine team members. Students NEW to the program should attend the orientation program in November. Initially, students will sign up as available to join any team **or** already on a specific team. The team coach will finalize the team list, and may seek information from the program coordinator to fill the roster. However, each team must have 10 members or Ms. McConnell may add members. A team may have a member who is a timer or alternate only. No new members should be added after the December deadline for teams without contacting Ms. McConnell. All are required to fill out registration form, which also has parent permission.

Role of Mock Trial Program Coordinator: (Ms. McConnell)

Communicate with coaches, building coordinator, team parents, coaches and students at start of season. Develop and maintain list of team contract/members. Set up list of interested students in the program and help to form teams as needed. Secure easels, clipboards, and stopwatches. Work with team coaches and parents to locate judges for competition. Secure bus transportation to the competition at district level. Attend competitions when possible.

Role of Mock Trial Building Coordinator(s): Mrs. Cline

Disseminate material (contracts, sign up sheets, permission sheets, cases, etc.) to students. Create lists/group address forms for teams. Check in with students / be available for students to discuss issues. Work with teams to get copies of any visuals from the AEA. Attend competitions when possible.

Role of Mock Trial Volunteer Coach: (Attorney or Interested Adult) Attend as many practices as possible, including initial meeting with team where you set expectations and have students sign the Mock Trial contract. Determine roles for trials. Assist with editing and development of team roles. Encourage and support students. Work with team parent to secure a judge for competition for a minimum of two rounds. Work with other coaches to set scrimmages. Support all Johnston teams. It is often helpful to have a combination of coaches, with expertise in the law and/or communication/drama.

Role of Adult Team Sponsor: Ensure team has enlargements of visuals/exhibits as needed, organize food for practice and competitions as needed, assist to get gift for coaches, work with coach to set practices. Be at practice or ensure adult (over 21) supervision in any non-public location. Work with coaches to provide a judge for competition for minimum of 2 rounds. Ensure any team shirts or other materials are approved by the program coordinator/building principal.

Role of Student Team Captain:

Serve as the liaison between your team and the program/building coordinator. Notify coach of any issues. Work with team parent and coach to distribute practice schedule and team updates.

Role of Mock Trial Team Member: Return permission forms to the designated location. Be an active team member by recognizing the time and effort needed to participate. Understand that if you don't fully participate, you will be replaced. Attend first meeting (IF unable to attend, MUST communicate with coach and sign team contract) and commit to practice schedule. Provide payment for your share of the entry fee. If there are any financial issues, simply let Coordinator know, financial support is available. Attend practices regularly and support others on the team and within the school. Expect to spend from 3-4 hours a week on practice, with increased time before each tournament.

Program History and Philosophy: High School Mock Trial has a strong history in Johnston. When the program began at the state level in 1983, Johnston had one team. The program has a tradition of excellence due to the efforts of the students and coaches. At least one team has qualified for state every year, with many teams placing in the top 10 in the state. Three teams have won the state tournament and placed nationally, including 4th place in 1993 and 1997. While the trophies are a tangible reward for effort, the program provides opportunity for students to develop lifelong communication, team-building, and critical thinking skills through development of a legal case.