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YMCA NATIONWIDE JUDICIAL COMPETITION FAQs

Appellate Division

Q: What happens in the event we are not able to make to one of our judging sessions?

A: Please make every effort to attend your scheduled judging sessions, since our systems rely on everyone participating fully. If you cannot, check in on the first day with conference leadership to see if your team can be reassigned or swapped with another team. If, ultimately, you miss a session, you will not receive scores and your overall rankings may be affected.

Q: Are we required to refer to all of the cases in the supporting case law pdf for one issue? Will we lose points if we only refer to, for example, 3 out of the 5 cases in issue 1 and then 3 cases in issue 2?

A: You may refer to as many or as few of the supporting case materials as you feel necessary to craft a strong argument. Scoring is based in the quality of arguments, use of case law and several other factors but there is no specific requirement to use a certain number of the supporting cases. It all comes down to HOW the case materials are used – it is conceivable to score low even when referring to every single supporting case and to score high without using all of them.

Mock Trial Division

Q: Will time stop during objections?

A: No, time will not stop during objections, but the bailiff should track amount of time spent on objections using the time sheet. Participants should give and respond to objections succinctly. The presiding judge will determine if a participant is using too much time to respond to or give an objection. Excessive use of objections by a team will be considered in the score as indicated by the rubric.

Q: Can students screen share exhibits during the trial?

A: No, students will not need to screen share during the trial. Each Mock Trial courtroom will have a tech support volunteer to screen share exhibits as they are requested by attorneys.

Q: Certificate from train a pit is for May 24th, 2009, even though Decker states he got Angel in 2017.

A: The date on the certificate is incorrect. The Train-A-Pit certificate should be listed as completed in 2017, the same year Pat Decker got Angel.

Q: In Terry Gibson's affidavit, on page 16, it mentioned a person named "Terry Decker."

A: The second full paragraph on page 16 refers to Terry Decker, this is a typo, Pat Decker is the one be referenced in the paragraph in reference to Pat Decker bringing Angel to the football games.

Q: The rules say the delegates cannot Voir Dire in aid of objections. This does not mean they cannot Voir Dire at any point in the trial?

A: Teams may not Voir Dire witnesses at any point. The phrase Voir Dire means "to speak the truth." Voir Dire refers to either the process for selecting a jury or the process whereby a Judge makes a decision on the admissibility of evidence. In a real trial, when evidence is offered, the side opposing admissibility would be provided time to question the sponsoring witness regarding the evidence. For YAG, this process is not accounted for in the time frame available for the trials. You can still make a legal objection to the admissibility of the evidence and also challenge the weight of the evidence when it is your turn to question the witness.

Q: Will the evidence be pre-marked or pre-entered?

A: The evidence is pre-marked, no matter the order it is admitted the exhibits should be referred to by their marked letters. Attorneys need to offer the evidence by

A) Laying the foundation through questioning of the appropriate witness(es) and

B) Moving to enter the exhibit through the Presiding Judge.