



## STATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION Instructions for Judges

### Before the Round Starts

1. To prevent a conflict, you will be given an opportunity to view the competitors and attendees of each round before it begins. If you recognize anyone you know, whether they are competing or not, inform us immediately so we can place you in another competition room. **Important Note:** If you are judging more than one round, make sure you do not judge the same competitors more than once.
2. Please do not ask which law school a team is from. They have been instructed not to answer.

### During the Round

3. Each team has 30 minutes to argue. The Appellant may reserve up to 5 minutes for rebuttal. A team does not have to reserve rebuttal time from the podium. Rebuttal time is reserved with the bailiff before the round starts.
4. Each team has provided a bailiff who will keep track of each speaker's time.
5. When the bailiff indicates that the speaker's time has expired, *at your discretion, you may grant a speaker additional time to answer a question or conclude.* This is not deducted from a team's time.
6. **Please engage in a dialogue with the speakers.** Competitors are scored on their ability to answer questions.

### Scoring Ballots

7. All judges are required to submit electronic ballots via their phone or an ipad or laptop. You can find the ballot link on the website at: [www.tylasmc.com/judges](http://www.tylasmc.com/judges).
8. You may use a paper ballot for your own note-taking convenience, but this ballot will not be submitted to or accepted by the TYLA SMC Committee. All ballots must be submitted electronically. **Please return this ballot to a TYLA SMC Committee Member or take home for disposal. Please do not dispose of the ballot in a trashcan accessible by the competitors.**
9. At the end of the round, the bailiffs will excuse all competitors and observers. Please wait until all competitors and observers have left the room to complete your ballot.
10. Score each speaker within the minimum and maximum scores listed on the ballot.
11. The scoring should be done independently. Do not confer with other members of the panel until all ballots are completed.
12. **The scoring should be based ONLY on the speaker's advocacy skills, not on the merits of the case.**
13. At the bottom of the ballot screen, you can click "calculate" next to each team's final score to see your points added up. Please make sure that your scores for the two teams are not tied. **If your scoring results in a tie, add or subtract a point from one of the teams.**
14. When you are satisfied with your score, which do not result in a tie, please click next.
15. The bailiffs will wait outside the room until all judges have finished their ballots. When all judges have finished submitting their ballots electronically, please inform the bailiff. The bailiffs will inform the TYLA Committee of submission, and the TYLA Committee will confirm that all ballots have made it into our scoring system. The TYLA Committee Will then deliver the winner of the round to the bailiffs to deliver to the Chief Justice/Presiding Judge.

### After Scoring

16. Please do not leave until the bailiffs return with the identity of the round's winning team.
17. While you are waiting on the bailiffs, you may offer comments to each speaker about his or her strengths and weaknesses (to keep the competition running on time, please keep your combined comments to 15 minutes or less). The critique is an important part of the round because this is a learning experience for the advocates.
18. The bailiffs will bring the Chief Justice/Presiding Judge the result. Please announce the winner after completing your critique.

### Other

19. Please return the bench memorandum to the TYLA Committee after the round or take it home with you to dispose of it there. **Please do not throw the bench brief into trash cans accessible by the teams.**
20. If any other questions arise, please notify a bailiff, who will contact the TYLA Committee.

**Thank you for your time and effort!**