

ADVOCATES

at

university of houston law center

2019 Hippard Novice Mock Trial Competition Rules

1. Any UHLC student who has completed less than a year on the any competition team, has not competed with the mock trial team, and has not taken Evidence or any Trial Advocacy is eligible to compete in Hippard Novice.
2. Preliminary rounds will be held Friday, February 1st, and Saturday, February 2nd. The top eight teams will advance to quarterfinals on Monday, February 4th at 6:30 p.m. The winner of each quarterfinal round will advance to the semifinals on Tuesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. The winner of each semifinal round will advance to the final round on Thursday, Friday 7th at 6:30 p.m. A team must compete in all of its preliminary rounds to be eligible for the elimination rounds.
3. Please leave the room as you found it. If you move anything, please move it back after your round.
4. No outside case law is permitted in this tournament.
5. Teams are permitted to use flip-charts, poster boards, blackboards, easels, and enlargements of exhibits or documents from the fact pattern, so long as they are enlarged as exact duplicates of the original. No team may use electronic forms of display. Any exhibit created by the team (with the exception of enlargements) must be created during the round and not before.
6. Rounds are limited to 60 minutes per side (not counting objections) plus an additional 5 minutes per side for housekeeping and/or motions in limine. Either student lawyer on a team may perform the Opening Statement or the Closing Argument, but the same student lawyer may not perform both duties in the same round. Both student lawyers on a team must each perform one direct examination and one cross examination per round. The division of Housekeeping and Motion In Limine responsibilities are left to the discretion of the team.
7. The trial will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Evidence.
8. Oral motions in limine may be offered as a pretrial matter. However, no written motions, briefs, or other memoranda may be submitted to the judge during the trial.
9. **CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:** To obtain 1 credit for Hippard Novice, you must put forth a good faith effort in all of your competition rounds. You may not forfeit any round. You must also email 3 of 5 of the following to Teri Russell (tmrussel@central.uh.edu) no later than 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 10th: motion in limine, opening statement, direct exam, cross exam, or closing argument.
10. In order to petition for credit, the competitor(s) must apply for credit through Blakely Advocacy Institute. The credit petition is now directly available online at: <https://www.law.uh.edu/blakely/credit-petition.asp>.
11. If a team misses any scheduled a competition round for any reason, the team members are not eligible to receive course credit. Competition rounds include elimination rounds.

12. Please do not reveal other teams' trial strategies. The goal is to simulate real trial and to create a fair competition based on advocacy skills.
13. You may not ask your judge for the results of the round. Ballots are to remain confidential until all rounds of the tournament are completed.
14. You must show respect for your judge. This includes dressing professionally for your rounds. Our judges are attorneys who volunteer their time and expertise, and the competition could not happen without them. If you have any questions about what to wear, please contact Teri Russell (tmrussel@central.uh.edu).
15. All entrants must put in a good faith effort. Judges will be asked whether competitors put in a good faith effort to safeguard the integrity of the competition.
16. **Teams are responsible for recruiting and preparing their own witnesses.** Witnesses are permitted to make reasonable inferences about the information in their witness statements with regard to non-material facts. Competitors are held responsible for the actions/statements of their witnesses. **If a witness makes a statement that would alter material facts, the team supplying the witness must immediately correct the error with the "court."** Failure to do so may result in the team being docked points. If you feel that a team has failed to correct a situation of this nature, you must inform the competition director within 24 hours of the round.
17. If a judge feels that a team has gone beyond reasonable inference, he/she may lower their score accordingly. In the event of a violation of this rule, competitors are to use the following language to discourage the use of improper inferences and to alert the judge of a possible violation of this competition's rules: *"This is new information that is beyond the scope of the material provided to me for this trial. Consequently, I am not prepared to address it at this time."*
18. Any further questions should be directed to the competition director, Teri Russell (tmrussel@central.uh.edu).