

CRF MOCK TRIAL JUDGE'S CHEAT SHEET

This sheet will point out the main differences between real trials and the CRF Mock Trials.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Remind the teams not to disturb anything in the courtroom, and that after the trial they should put the courtroom back the way they found it (chairs, podium, etc.).

PRE-TRIAL ARGUMENTS

- Questions from the bench are an integral part of the arguments and are encouraged.
- Both sides are entitled to 2 minutes of rebuttal argument (in addition to their 4 minutes of main argument).

WITNESS EXAMINATION

- There is no re-cross allowed – just direct, cross and redirect.
- The cross-examiner may ask any questions without regard to being outside the scope of direct.
- Objections are limited to those listed in the mock trial packet. (Outside the scope of direct is **not** an allowable objection on cross, but outside the scope of cross **is** an allowable objection on redirect.)
- A witness who is not an expert witness may not be compelled to testify to facts contained in another witness's statement. If attempted, the court should consider sustaining an objection that the question seeks to "create a material fact" not in the record.

OPENING STATEMENTS & CLOSING ARGUMENTS

- Do not interrupt the attorneys' opening statements or closing arguments with questions or otherwise.
- Objections are not permitted during opening statements or closing arguments.
- Both sides are entitled to exactly one minute of a rebuttal closing argument.
- There should be no recesses during the trial, or before the verdict.

SPECIAL RULES

- At the conclusion of both the pre-trial motion arguments and the closing arguments, but before the ruling or the verdict, the teams are entitled to take 30 seconds to consult with their coaches on any possible rule violations or irregularities.
- After the verdict is announced, allow up to a total of 10 minutes of comments by the scorekeepers and judge.
- If a team runs out of time on direct examination and fails to call a witness, the direct attorney and the witness each get a zero score, and the cross-examining attorney gets a 5 score.