

New Hampshire High School Mock Trial State Championship

Checklist for Presiding Judges

I. Before the trial

- Ask that attorneys distribute ballots and rosters to the jury and the bench. Make sure that all jurors have a ballot.
- Introduce yourself and ask jurors to introduce themselves.
- Remind teams and spectators that no communication is allowed between the student participants and spectators at any time during the trial, including any recesses if they are called.
- Ask if both teams are present and ready to proceed.
- Ask if either team has pre-trial or housekeeping matters to discuss. Some common pre-trial matters are asking permission to move freely about the court, asking to swear-in witnesses at one time, or asking to state appearances for the record.

II. After the trial

- After closing argument,ask “does either team have any serious reason to believe that a material violation of the mock trial rules has occurred?” *If any student replies in the affirmative, send a timekeeper to the jury deliberation room to get the State Coordinator immediately and instruct the teams that while they wait they are not to speak to their coaches, teachers, parents, or friends because the trial is not over.*
- If no team believes a material rules violation has occurred, have the spectators and competitors applaud the great trial you have just watched.
- Ask the jurors to complete their ballots and hand them to the timekeepers, who will take them to the jury deliberation room.
- While the jurors complete their ballots, begin comments. Total comments from all evaluators should not exceed 15 minutes.