



Tips for Time Keepers

- Each time keeper should use a stop watch or similar timing device. Some teams prefer two stop watches.
- Time limits are mandatory and strictly enforced.
- Time will stop for objections.
- Only non-participating student timekeepers are allowed to keep time.
- Student timekeepers on both teams will need to synchronize stop watches and work together.
- Timekeepers may raise time discrepancies only at the end of each segment of the trial presentation.
- Each time keeper should have time keeping place cards that do not exceed 8 ½ X 11” in size.
- Place cards should be made in increments: 20 minutes, 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, 40 seconds and 20 seconds.
- When time is up, yell “time is up” as opposed to “stop.”
- A presiding judge has final discretion and may allow a student to finish even if time has elapsed.
- Scoring panelist use their discretion when scoring a student performance when time has elapsed.

Rules for Time Keepers

Rule 6.4 Time Keeping

Time limits are mandatory and will be strictly enforced. Only non-participating student timekeepers are allowed to keep time for teams.

When a student timekeeper displays the time remaining to a student performer, the student timekeeper also shall display the time remaining to the presiding judge. Both student timekeepers should track time for both sides and show their time cards during the trial round. Both student timekeepers should confer with each other after each trial segment to ascertain time discrepancies. If student timekeepers have a time discrepancy greater than 15 seconds, they should notify the presiding judge. When time runs out for a specific segment of the trial, the student timekeepers must stand and say "STOP" in a voice loud enough to be heard by the performing student, the presiding judge and the scoring panelists. Failure to do so may subject the violating team to disqualification. The following time limits shall be used.

Opening statement	5 minutes per side
Direct examination and optional re-direct	25 minutes per side
Cross examination and optional re-cross	20 minutes per side
Plaintiff/Prosecution closing argument and	
Optional rebuttal argument	Up to 5 minutes (depends on reserved time)
Defense closing argument	Up to 5 minutes (depends on reserved time)

Rule 6.4.1 Time Extensions

The presiding judge shall not grant time extensions.

If time for a specific segment of the trial has expired and an attorney continues, the scoring panelists will determine individually the impact on the individual's performance score.

Rule 6.4.2 Timing Objections, Delays or Bench Conferences

Time for objections, extensive questioning by the presiding judge or administering of the oaths will not be counted as part of the allotted time during examination of witnesses, opening statements or closing arguments.

Time does not stop for introduction of exhibits.

Time shall stop for bench conferences. Please see Rule 5.2.

Rule 6.4.3 Time Keeping Aids

Student timekeepers should use time keeping place cards. These cards may not exceed 8 1/2 X 11" in size. Additionally, student timekeepers should use a stopwatch or similar timing device. All timekeepers should have time keeping place cards in the following increments: 20 minutes, 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, 40 seconds, and 20 seconds. Teams may use additional place cards at different increments at their discretion.

Rule 6.4.4 Discrepancies in Time Between Team Timekeepers

If timing variations of 15 seconds or more occur at the completion of any segment of the trial, timekeepers are to notify the presiding judge that a time discrepancy has occurred.

The presiding judge will rule on any time discrepancy before the trial continues. Timekeepers will synchronize stopwatches to match the presiding judge's ruling (for example if the Plaintiff/Prosecution stopwatch indicates 2 minutes left on a direct examination and the Defense stopwatch indicates time is expired, the presiding judge might decide to split the difference in the timing variation and give Plaintiff/Prosecution 1 minute to conclude the direct examination. Defense would adjust timing to allow for the 1 minute timing decision.)

Any discrepancies between timekeepers less than 15 seconds will not be considered a violation.

Timekeepers may raise time discrepancies only at the end of each segment of the trial presentation. No time disputes will be entertained after the trial concludes. The decisions of the presiding judge regarding the resolution of timing disputes are final.