



Tournament Information

Local Tournaments

Tournament Assignments: After registration closes, teams will be assigned to local tournaments based on geography and local bar association resources. Some teams may be assigned to different local tournaments to create an even number of teams for the tournament. See Rules / Tournament format.

Minimum Number of Teams: A regional tournament should have at least six teams registered with the CBA to advance a team to the state tournament. A tournament may be held with fewer than six teams at the discretion of the Committee. The CBA Public Legal Education Committee reserves the right to determine the geographical boundaries for any local tournament, as well as to determine the number of teams local tournaments may advance to the state championship tournament.

Minimum Number of Schools: A regional tournament must have at least two high schools represented to advance a team to the state tournament. A tournament may be held with only one high school involved; however, such a tournament would not be allowed to advance a team to the state tournament.

Tournament Structure: Tournament coordinators are encouraged to structure their tournaments to include the following:

- a. Four rounds of program, with a random first-round draw and subsequent rounds paired using power-matching based on the following criteria used, in descending order: wins/losses; total number of ballots won; point-spread—margin of victory/defeat; and total points earned;
- b. An optional championship round;
- c. Keeping the results of individual rounds confidential until completion of the tournament; and
- d. State tournament procedures regarding composition of scoring panels, judging, and scoring considerations.

Tournaments may be scheduled over several weekdays, over a weekend, or during weeknights to take advantage of local resources (*e.g.*, judges, courtrooms, and scoring panelists).

Regional tournaments must be scheduled to conclude no later than two weeks prior to the state tournament.

Tournament coordinators are encouraged to provide judge and scoring panelist training prior to each round in the tournament. Areas to emphasize include: scoring ranges and definitions, disputes, performance vs. merit-scoring, technical vs. performance-scoring, unfair extrapolations, witnesses bound by statements, and material omissions.

Regional tournament coordinators should restrict gallery attendance of the championship round to teams (members and coaches) that will NOT be advancing to the state tournament, and family, friends, and supporters of the competing teams.

Tournament coordinators are encouraged to send copies of score sheets to the competitors following the conclusion of their tournaments.

Tournament coordinators will notify the CBA Mock Trial Subcommittee of the teams they are advancing to the state tournament, as well as which team is their number one seed by certification.

Certification requires that the tournament coordinators collect an official team roster (submitted at the start of the local tournament) from each team competing in a local tournament. The official team rosters of those teams advancing to the state tournament must be forwarded to the State Coordinator immediately upon completion of the local tournament. This procedure will verify that only the team members listed on the local tournament roster will be allowed to compete in the state tournament.

Tournament Coordinators are encouraged to provide students with certificates of participation.

Local bar associations may deviate from these guidelines as required by limitations on local facilities and volunteer resources. Deviations from these guidelines should be approved by the CBA Mock Trial Subcommittee prior to the commencement of the local tournament.

State Tournament

Maximum Number of Teams: The number of teams advancing to the state tournament will be determined after the total number of teams competing at the local levels throughout the state has been solidified. If a school/team that has earned the chance to compete at the state tournament chooses not to advance to the state tournament, the host of the local tournament will select the team next in line of succession to advance to the state tournament.

Maximum Number of Teams from One School: No more than two teams from any one school may advance to the state tournament.

Tournament Structure: The state tournament shall be conducted as follows:

- a. Four rounds of competition, with a random first round draw (with the exception that no regional number one seed will be paired against another

regional number one seed) and subsequent rounds paired using power matching based on the following criteria used in descending order: wins/losses; total number of ballots won; point spread—margin of victory/defeat; and, total points earned;

- b. A championship round;
- c. The results of individual rounds will be kept confidential until completion of the tournament;
- d. State tournament procedures regarding composition of scoring panels, judging, and scoring considerations; and
- e. The winner of the championship round will be eligible to represent Colorado at the National High School Mock Trial Tournament in May.

Tournament Dates: The state tournament will be a two-day tournament, preferably Friday and Saturday, with two trial rounds of competition on Friday afternoon and two rounds of competition and the championship round on Saturday.

Tournament Results: Copies of score sheets and final team standings will be mailed to the competitors following the conclusion of the competition.

Advancement to Nationals: If, for any reason, the Colorado champion cannot participate at Nationals, the second place team will be eligible. If neither of these teams can participate, the CBA Mock Trial Subcommittee may select a representative team.

Team Composition at Nationals: At the national tournament, each state is limited to eight students (six participating as witnesses and attorneys, and two alternates). The Colorado Bar Association, thanks to a grant from the Colorado Bar Foundation and the Colorado Bar Litigation Section, normally will make a financial donation to the team participating in the national championship to help defray travel expenses; however, the team and its school will be primarily responsible to raise funds as needed.

