

YMCA NATIONAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE 2022 FAQs

General Conference

Q: What will be the protocol for participants who are not able to attend or changes to teams during the conference?

A: The conference planning team recognizes the challenges a team faces if a member becomes ill or otherwise unable to compete. One of the goals of NJC is to hold the national competition and that will be a main priority. Teams will be allowed to compete once they arrive to the best of their ability with the team members who are present. Other questions or issues that arise will also be responded to with these goals in mind.

Q: What is the rule on electronic devices?

A: Digital devices can be used to read notes from during trials. Note that needing to search through notes to answer questions during trial will impact evaluation of preparedness and preparation. All other rules apply for example, communication with anyone besides co-counsel on the bench with you is not permitted, so one cannot text or otherwise communicate with others using a device during trial. Using devices in violation of any other rules is not permitted.

Q: How long is travel supposed to take?

A: We will travel between the hotel in Minneapolis to the Capitol Complex in St. Paul each morning by light rail. This will take approximately 40 minutes.

Q: How many times will we compete?

A: The NJC Mock Trial competition allows for each team to compete 4 times. NJC Appeals teams will participate in at least 6 of the 8 rounds of competition, they may participate as attorneys or Associate Justices during these 6-8 rounds of competition.

Mock Trial

Q: On page 16, the 1st line refers to "Kyle's running genes." Should that not be "Casey's running genes"?

A: Yes.

Q: On page 4 of the rules--# 29 addresses timing with limitations on statements, direct, and cross. However, the rule is silent on whether the clock should be stopped for objections. This should be clarified.

A: Objections will be timed based on the speaker. Ex. Defense attorney objects during direct examination of Plaintiff witness. Judge will switch the time to the defense for description of the objection, switch back for response from the plaintiff and then rule on the objection.

Q: Do you implement the red book (or other state rule book) when the NJC rules aren't clear?

A: No individual state rule books are used. Judges will use their best judgment based on the rules provided only in the NJC case packets

Q: Is Exhibit 5 the attachment for Exhibit 3? Or was the list of signs of steroid use not attached to Exhibit 3?

A: "The Warning Signs of Anabolic Steroids" is the attachment referred to in Exhibit 3 - the November 12th letter. It is labeled Exhibit 5. It may be entered as a whole as Exhibit 3 or separately as Exhibit 5, however the attorneys entering the evidence choose to use it.

Q: After a witness has provided an answer, if the answer is objectionable, can the testimony be stricken from the record?

A: The attorney should clarify that they are objecting to the answer. "Objection, your honor. The answer contains hearsay." If we had a jury, the Judge possibly would instruct the jury to disregard the objectionable statement.

Q: In the rules and procedure packet it only has a few objections like lack of relevancy and hearsay. Do state rules and objections like leading, compound, argumentative also apply?

A: Individual state rules packets do NOT apply; only the objections listed in the closed NJC packet apply. Regarding leading, compound an argumentative, Rule 611 encapsulates several standard objections related to the form of questions and method of questioning. (a) Narrative, (b) Nonresponsive Answer, (c) Compound Question, (d) Ambiguous Question, (e) Asked and Answered, (f) Argumentative, (g) Assumes Facts not in Evidence, (h) Badgering/Harassing.

Q: On page 30, it states that 30 students were expelled during 2016 - 2017. A few lines later, it references 12 students expelled for the same year. I believe the second reference should be 2017-2018.

A: Correction has already been made on the published case update to reflect 12 students.

Q: What happens at NJC if a witness is impeached?

A: The purpose of impeaching a witness is not to force the witness off the stand, but rather to challenge the testimony provided by the witness or the actual witness themselves. If "impeached" the witness remains on the stand and should complete their testimony as the attorneys see fit.