



NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION Timekeepers' Responsibilities and Instructions

I. BEFORE THE TRIAL

- A. Be sure to have the following items:
 - a) 1 Timekeeping Sheet for each round;
 - b) 1 Time Card Chart;
 - c) 2 stop watches provided by team (1 stopwatch for each side); and,
 - d) 1 set of Time Cards (provided on NSBF website)
- B. If space allows, please sit in first row of jury box by the opposing team's timekeeper. Timekeepers must always be seated together and can never sit in such a way to see the scoring judges' scoresheets. Timekeeping each trial is a function of both teams' timekeepers working together.

II. DURING THE TRIAL

- A. Enter the Round Number Team Names and Color/# in the spaces provided on the timekeeping sheet.
- B. Remember the following when timekeeping:
 1. RESET stopwatch to zero **only** at the following times:
 - a) at the beginning of each side's opening statement;
 - b) at the beginning of each side's direct examination;
 - c) at the beginning of each side's cross examination; and,
 - d) at the beginning of each side's closing argument.
 2. **DO NOT** reset stopwatch to zero at any other time.
 - a) **DO NOT** reset stopwatch to zero at the end of direct and cross examinations, since you will need to resume direct examination timing for redirect questioning, and cross examination time for re-cross questioning;
 - b) **DO NOT** reset stopwatch to zero at the end of the plaintiffs closing argument, since you will need to resume the plaintiffs closing argument timing for the plaintiff's rebuttal.
 3. Start timing only when the actual opening statement/closing argument or questioning begins. **Do not start timing when an attorney asks to reserve time for rebuttal or when a witness is sworn in.**
 4. STOP timing during objections, responses to objections, and questioning by the judge.
- C. Display time cards to the student attorneys and witnesses at the intervals set out in the Time Card Chart.
- D. Display the STOP card to the presiding and scoring judges.
- E. Timekeepers cannot verbalize or use any hand gestures other than raising the time cards.
- F. **Time limits are mandatory and strictly enforced.**
- G. A presiding judge has final discretion and may allow a student to finish even if time has elapsed.
- H. At the conclusion of the trial, if either side informs the court that it wishes to file a dispute and a dispute hearing is granted, see Rule 22.