

## TRIAL SCORING & DEDUCTION OF POINTS

TRIAL SCORING: Winners are determined by which team earns the most judges' ballots (score sheet). A Mock Trial team has the opportunity to receive three (3) ballots during each trial. The presiding judge and the two (2) performance judges all complete a ballot. Do NOT add the two performance judges' team totals together to determine the trial winner.

Each of the performance judges should total their scores separately. If an individual judge's team totals are the same for both teams, that judge shall indicate on the line - ***If my total scores are tied, the win goes to "X"***, which of the teams s/he feels gave the best overall performance. The team which earns the greatest number of points on a judge's score sheet (or receives the judge's vote if the numbers were tied) wins that judge's ballot. TO WIN A TRIAL, A TEAM MUST WIN AT LEAST TWO JUDGES' BALLOTS.

In other words, if each of the performance judges has awarded the greatest number of points to the same team, that team is the winner. If the performance judges have made a "split" decision (i.e., each awarded the most points to a different team) then the presiding judge's ballot will determine the winner based on which team gave the best overall performance.

### Example A:

Judge Smith's:	Team #1	<u>83</u> points &	Judge Jones'	Team #1	80 points &
score sheet shows:	Team #2	<u>76</u> points	score sheet shows:	Team #2	<u>78</u> points

In Example A, **Team #1 is the clear winner** because both performance judges gave them a greater number of points than the judges gave to Team #2 -- 83 and 80 versus 76 and 78.

### Example B:

Judge Smith's:	Team #1	<u>83</u> points &	Judge Jones'	Team #1	<u>79</u> points &
score sheet shows	Team #2	<u>76</u> points	score sheet shows:	Team #2	<u>80</u> points

In Example B, Judge Smith has chosen Team #1 as the winner. Judge Jones has chosen Team #2 as the winner. Even though one team has more total points than the other, it is the number of judges' ballots **NOT** the total points which determines a trial winner. Therefore, this is a situation in which the performance judges have given a "split" decision. The presiding judge must determine the winner based upon overall team performance. In example B the team which earns the presiding judge's vote/ballot is the trial winner.

DEDUCTION OF POINTS: Performance judges may, at their discretion, consider subtracting points from an individual's score because of rule violations. For example, if a team violates its time limits, the performance judges MAY decide to reduce the points.

Performance judges may wish to deduct points brought to the judges' attention during a dispute resolution (see Rules 22 and 28-30).

**Whatever rule violations are brought to the attention of the judges, it is entirely within the judges' discretion whether or not they will deduct points from any participant's score. The decision of the judges is final.**

Nebraska follows the National High School Mock Trial Championship Power Matching as modified for the 12 teams at the State Championship. Rankings are determined by 1) win/loss record, 2) total number of ballots received and 3) cumulative points.