



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# MAKE YOUR CASE, RAISE THE BAR

Youth and Government Virtual Judicial Competition  
August 3 - August 6, 2020



# WELCOME

Welcome to the Texas Youth and Government Virtual Judicial Competition!

The Y provides thousands of youth with the skills they need to engage, act and advocate for social issues through state-organized Youth and Government programs. We are looking forward to an exciting and new experience this week as we host both Appellate and Trial Court teams virtually.

While we do miss being in Chicago for what would have been the 7<sup>th</sup> National Judicial Competition hosted by Y-USA, we are grateful to the Youth and Government teams that have come together for this week to still be able to showcase your skills and experience the judicial process in a new environment.

Please be sure to thank your adult advisors, coaches, volunteer evaluators, and other advocates that are supporting the Virtual Judicial Competition. Many of these adults are volunteers using their personal time to make this opportunity available to you.

## Conference Planning Committee

Angela Castilleja –Texas

Tyler Atkinson – Texas

Suzanne Mabie –Texas

Erin Cook - Texas

Orville Lindquist – Minnesota

Ken Hussey – Missouri

Breanna Tuck – Texas

Jose Tovar – Texas

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# MONDAY SCHEDULE

**August 3, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
1 PM – 2:30 PM CST	Team Check-in and Orientation	Zoom Room for Mock Trial Zoom Room for Appellate
1 PM – 2:30 PM CST	Judge/Justice Check-in and Training	Zoom Room for Mock Trial Zoom Room for Appellate
3 PM – 4:30 PM CST	Opening and Kick-Off Event	Main Zoom Room (TBD)

## TEAM LEADERS

Team leaders should attend their team's orientation and are responsible for supervising their delegation at all times during competition. Please be sure your delegates are at the orientation meetings, openings and check in 15 minutes before their round to ensure technology is working properly.

## PARTICIPATING STATES

Delegation	Count	Appellate Teams	Mock Trial
Delaware		2	
Illinois		2	
Kentucky		2	1
Minnesota		1	1
Missouri		5	
Oklahoma			1
Texas		4	2

# TUESDAY SCHEDULE

**August 4, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
10:15 AM– 10:45 AM CST	Morning Briefing (Appellate and Mock)	Zoom Room
11:00 AM –4:00 PM CST	Trials and Hearings • see competition schedule below for details	Assigned Zoom Rooms
4:15 PM – 4:45 PM CST	Leadership Committee De-Briefing	Zoom

## TUESDAY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Mock Trial	
11:00AM – 1:00PM CST	Round 1
1:00PM – 1:30PM CST	Break
1:30PM – 3:30PM CST	Round 2

Appellate	
11:00AM –12:00PM CST	Round 1
12:10PM –1:10PM CST	Round 2
1:10PM –1:40PM CST	Break
1:40PM – 2:40PM CST	Round 3
2:50PM – 3:50PM CST	Round 4

# WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

**August 5, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
10:15 AM– 10:45 AM CST	Morning Briefing (Appellate and Mock)	Zoom Room
11:00 AM –4:00 PM CST	Trials and Hearings • see competition schedule below for details	Assigned Zoom Rooms
4:15 PM – 4:45 PM CST	Leadership Committee De-Briefing	Zoom Room
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM CST	Group Social Activities/Games/Discussion	Zoom Rooms

## WEDNESDAY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Mock Trial	
11:00AM – 1:00PM CST	Round 3
1:00PM – 1:30 PM CST	Break
1:30PM – 3:30PM CST	Round 4

Appellate	
11:00AM – 12:00PM CST	Round 5
12:10PM – 1:10 PM CST	Round 6
1:10PM – 1:40PM CST	Break
1:40PM – 2:40PM CST	Round 7
2:50PM – 3:50PM CST	Round 8

# THURSDAY SCHEDULE

**August 6, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
10:15 AM– 10:45 AM CST	Morning Briefing (Appellate & Mock)	Zoom Room
11 AM – 1:00 PM CST	Power Match Rounds–Mock/Appellate	
1:00 pm – 1:30 PM CST	Closing Session and Recognition	

## THURSDAY POWER MATCH SCHEDULE

Mock Trial	
11:00AM – 1:00PM CST	Round 5

Appellate	
11:00AM – 12:00PM CST	Round 9
12:10PM – 1:10PM CST	Debrief

# Virtual Procedures

Courts around the globe are grappling with how to conduct hearings and trials virtually in an attempt to protect court staff and members of the public from COVID-19. The Supreme Courts of most states have given wide latitude to individual Judges authorizing them to modify in person rules to work with a virtual court environment. Likewise, for our Virtual Competition, Judges are being called upon to conduct a bench trial where all participants are remotely presenting their arguments to the court. Basic rules such as “rise when talking to the Judge” obviously do not make sense in a virtual environment. Also, tendering evidence to opposing counsel for consideration does not work virtually. As such, the students are being asked to embrace the flexibility needed for this competition to be successfully.

## Mock Trial:

- For the Zoom calls, each speaker will need to be on a separate connection. For example, an attorney and the witness they are questioning will need to be on two separate devices for the examinations. They cannot be side-by-side on a single Zoom session window. However, if allowed by your school and parents, the witnesses can share a single Zoom session window and the co-counsel attorneys can share a single Zoom session window. The bailiff will need to be on their own connection though.
- The bailiff will have time cards available to print out so they may hold them up to their camera as an attorney’s time elapses.
- If an attorney needs to address the court, the attorney should state their concern like in a regular court hearing (ex: “Objection!”), but they should also hit the “raise hand” button on Zoom so that the Judge can see who is addressing the court.
- For the offering of evidence, the attorney simply needs to make their intention know to all participants. “I am holding pages 38-40, which I have marked as State’s Exhibit 1. Mr. Witness, could you please reference these pages? Do you recognized what has been marked as State’s Exhibit 1? .... Your honor, I offer State’s Exhibit 1.” There is no need for tendering to opposing counsel or approaching the bench. We approach the bench to bring things to the Judge or quietly address things outside the presence of the jury. With a Zoom bench trial, our Judge is right in front of us on the screen and there is no Jury.
- Judges must wear a black shirt.
- Attorneys must have their names on Zoom in the following format: Attorney, Last Name, First Name. EX: Jane Smith will be Attorney, Smith, Jane. Students that are a witness will use the name of the witness in Zoom. EX: If Jane Smith was playing the role of Kate Riley, her name in Zoom will be Kate Riley.

## Appellate:

Because there is little movement during an appellate argument, your rules do not need to be altered much. Attorneys should attempt to limit reading their arguments. There is no great way to monitor whether competitors are simply reading their arguments off their screen. You should still work to memorize your arguments as much as possible. There is no ban on having resources pulled up on your computer screen. However, you will be scored lower if you are scrolling through pages to answer questions. You should try to limit your resources to two side-by-side word documents. Both attorneys can share the same webcam stream if they wish. If a justice has a question, they have control to interrupt arguments still, but they should "raise hand" on the zoom meeting so that the attorney knows which justice to address.

- For our competition, Justices may have to make calls on amending certain rules on the fly if needed for the proper administration of their courtroom. Justices should not make changes that substantially impair an attorney's ability to present their case. Pre-competition, if participants have a question about how a rule would work in a virtual courtroom, please send an e-mail to Angela, Breanna or Jose and we can work on getting an answer to everyone.
- Justices must wear a black shirt.
- Attorneys must have their names on Zoom in the following format: Role (Justice, Appellant, or Respondent), Last Name, First Name. EX: Jane Smith is the Appellant so her Zoom name is Appellant, Smith, Jane.

# DRESS CODE

**All attendees, including adults, are expected to wear appropriate attire during all events as follows:**

- Monday: Casual clothing, YMCA or School Club T-Shirt is appropriate for all meetings.
- Tuesday & Wednesday Rounds: Business Casual attire, appropriate nice dress, no logo unless, suit & tie are optional and will be given higher marks by evaluators. Judges and Justices need to wear a black shirt.
- Wednesday Evening: Casual attire YMCA or School Club T-Shirt is appropriate for all meetings.
- Thursday Morning: Casual Business Casual attire, appropriate nice dress, no logo unless, suit & tie are optional and will be given higher marks by evaluators. Judges and Justices need to wear a black shirt.

## APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Appropriate attire must be worn at all times. Clothing with vulgar language, obscene gestures, racial slurs, or anything that contributes to a hostile environment or would be considered inappropriate in a YMCA facility or program is not allowed. Appropriate tops and bottoms should be worn.

- Visible undergarments and bare midriffs are not appropriate at anytime.
- Hats are only permitted in social session on Wednesday evening.
- Pajamas, slippers or any other sleeping attire is not appropriate to be worn.

# PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

It is important that our student members, participants and guests feel welcome at the YMCA and in our programs. The code of conduct embodies the spirit of the Y, and is intended to help everyone feel comfortable and thrive. As a YMCA youth participant or guest, we ask you to agree to follow this code of conduct which is rooted in our **YMCA Core Values**: Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.

These requirements also serve as an extension and supplement to any codes of conduct students and participants must abide by for their local or state YMCAs and Youth and Government programs.

## 1. Appropriate Video Call Etiquette

- When registering/signing-in for any video call or meeting, please use your **First & Last Name** (not a random username), as well as your **state abbreviation** in parentheses. **Example:** Clement Duran (NY). This helps us to ensure the privacy of our meetings.
- Please find a quiet area and call-in at the scheduled time so you can be fully present. If you are able/willing to use the camera on your device, we encourage those participants to use their video function so we can see and hear you.
- Please do your best to keep background noise or distractions to a minimum.
- Please do not take your phone or computer to the bathroom.
- Photos and videos of others without their expressed consent is prohibited.

## 2. Appropriate Language

Vulgar language, including swearing, name-calling or shouting/yelling at others is prohibited. When communicating in the chat box, please do not send links or information that is not aligned with our YMCA values.

## 3. Creating a Welcoming Environment

Respect others' cultures and personal way of being. We strive to create a safe emotional and physical space. We encourage participants to honor diversity in all dimensions and respect opinions or perspectives. The YMCA stands up against all forms of bullying, discrimination and racism.

## 4. Appropriate Conduct

Any other conduct of an inappropriate, threatening or offensive nature will be investigated/evaluated by YMCA leadership. Teens that do not abide by this agreement may be prohibited from participating in future virtual events or in person activities.

## 5. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

The use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs (including e-cigs/ tobacco-like products) is not permitted in or outside of ALL virtual calls. Participants that show, obtain, see in the background, make references to or use during the virtual calls will be removed from meeting and removed from future virtual and in-person events. Law enforcement may be involved if necessary.

## Report an Issue

If a member, participant or guest feels uncomfortable in confronting someone directly about offensive behavior or other issues that are in violation of this code of conduct, we ask that you please report the behavior or issue to [angela.castilleja@austimymca.org](mailto:angela.castilleja@austimymca.org) to be addressed by YMCA staff.

To create and maintain a space that embodies our core values, the Y is serious about being clear regarding activities that are not allowed. If you violate this code of conduct, consequences can include termination of program privileges, being sent home (at the expense of the parent/guardian) and involving appropriate legal authority. The YMCA reserves the right to make situational decisions based on our policies, mission and values. All student participants, along with their parent/guardian, must submit their digital signature agreeing to this code of conduct prior to participating in all virtual YMCA programming.