



Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition

INDIVIDUAL AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

The TBA Young Lawyers Division presents 12 individual awards at the State High School Mock Trial Competition:

- Best Advocate for the Plaintiff/Prosecution – First, Second & Third Places
- Best Advocate for the Defense – First, Second & Third Places
- Best Witness for the Plaintiff/Prosecution – First, Second & Third Places
- Best Witness for the Defense – First, Second & Third Places

In order to be eligible for an award in a category, a student must receive at least one ballot and a number score in that category from a presiding judge. A ballot is the presiding judge's determination of who the best lawyer/witness was for that round. The number score is a separate determining factor based on a range of 1 to 100, with 100 being the highest and best number attainable.

Ballot Score

For each ballot received, a student will be awarded 10 points. The "Ballot Score" is calculated by multiplying the number of ballots received by 10.

Number Score

The student's number score(s) for the category are added together and then divided by the total number of ballot(s) received in that category by the student during the competition. This calculation results in an average score for the competition known as the "Average Number Score."

Combined Score

The Ballot Score and the Average Number Score are added together to determine the total points in a category, or the "Combined Score." The student with the highest combined score in each category is named the winner of that category. Second and third place winners are those with the second and third highest scores.

Example

A student receives two ballots during the competition for a Ballot Score of 20. The student receives number scores of 85 and 92. The two number scores are added together for a total of 177 and then divided by 2 (the number of ballots received), resulting in an Average Number Score of 88.5. The Ballot Score of 20 is then added to the Average Number Score of 88.5 for a Combined Score of 108.5.

Breaking a Tie

In the event of a tie between students' Combined Scores, the first determining factor will be which student received the greater number of ballots (*i.e.* 2 ballots versus 1 ballot). In the event the ballot number is the same for the students, the award will go to the student on the team that has the higher power matching ranking after four rounds.

Interpretation of Guidelines

In the event that individual scoring decisions require additional interpretation or an unexpected occurrence arises that is not covered by these guidelines, it will be the duty of the Mock Trial Chair to determine how to proceed. His or her determination will be binding on the participants.