

# Summary of OOCMT Tournament Guide and Rules Revisions for 2019

- Previous “Tournament Guide” split into two separate documents: the new Tournament Guide and the Official Rules.

The Tournament Guide is general info about the tournament, how to set up a team, preparation advice, and the large section of evidence and procedural advice, intended for teachers and students.

The Official Rules is for students, teachers, and volunteer lawyers and judges. The rules have been reorganized to read more logically and are numbered more clearly – simply Rule 1 to Rule 49.

- New Tournament Guide includes:
  - Preparation advice for lawyer and witness roles, which was previously in a separate document.
  - Explanatory section dealing with expert witnesses to the “Evidence and Procedure” section as we have an expert witness in this year’s case.
- Changed time chart (which is reproduced in both Guide and Rules) to reduce time allotted for closing arguments from six minutes to five for both teams. The two minutes gained are re-allocated to a two-minute prep period before closing arguments for both teams at once.
- New or modified rules (as numbered in new Official Rules):
  - Rule 17, Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices continues to be discouraged but not banned; added passage to clarify that participants using a device due to a disability should inform organizers or judges before round, so they are not unfairly prejudiced in case judges take issue with device use.
  - Rule 27, Preparation Time for Closing Arguments: Codifies time allocation change to allow prep period, noted above.
  - Rule 28, Role of Timekeepers: Timekeepers now required to keep and signal time for both teams, not just their own. Previously, they only

“monitored” the other team’s timekeeper. It should be easier and more transparent if both timekeepers keep time all the time.

- Rule 29, Keeping Track of Time: Clarifies that timekeepers must clearly show the “stop” sign when time is up and signal end of time, and that counsel must ask for extra time if they want it. This corrects an issue where a team runs over and their timekeeper doesn’t keep indicating “stop”. Together with the change in Rule 28, this should resolve the issue, as the opposing timekeepers have not felt comfortable breaking in to signal that time is up.
- Rule 38, Witness “Stalling”: New rule to clarify what is allowed for witness answers. Witnesses can give the answer they want, but stalling that is obviously calculated to waste time is not allowed.
- Rule 45, Responding to Objections: States that when an objection is raised, and the counsel speaking can’t answer it, any member at the counsel table can answer.