

2008 Rule Waiver

The Mississippi High School Mock Trial Committee ("Committee") has been advised that some teams may have scheduling conflicts as a result of the statewide competition being moved from February 29th and March 1st to March 7th and 8th. Please understand this change was due to the scheduling conflict with the courthouses used to host the statewide competition. We apologize for this necessary change. Further, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

In order to alleviate the conflict to the teams advancing to the statewide competition, the Committee is making the following waiver to Rule 7(a) of the 2008 Rules of the Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition. The last two sentences of Rule 7 (a) will be suspended for the 2008 statewide competition only. Thus, the following language will not be in force this year: *The students who compete at the regional competition must be the SAME six (6) to eight (8) students who advance to the statewide competition. No substitutions or alternates will be allowed after the regional competitions.*

Thus, teams who advance from the regional competition to the statewide competition may substitute or use an alternate to comprise a team in order to compete at the statewide competition. If a team competing at regionals has more than 6 members, the substitutes must be pulled from the additional team members. This is based upon the minimum number of participants for each team is 6 students. If your school has two teams competing at regionals, the substitution must be done in a like manner. If there are more open spots on a team created due to the conflict than can be filled from the additional team members, those spots will be filled as follows:

- If the school only has one team competing at regionals, the substitutes will be selected from the student body at large;
- If the school has two teams competing at regionals and both advance to state, the substitutes will be selected from the student body at large;
- If the number of vacancies occurring on the two teams due to conflicts with the statewide dates, the school may choose to merge the two teams to form one team. However, this will result in only one team advancing to the statewide competition. As a result another school will be selected as an alternate to fill this spot at the statewide competition; and
- If the school has two teams competing at regionals, but only one of those teams advances to the statewide competition, substitution may be made from the non-advancing team. However, no more than two (2) students from the non-advancing team may be selected to fill roles on the advancing team. Any additional substitutions will need to be made from the student body at large.

This is to ensure fairness of the competition for schools that may only have one team participating in the competition and is forced to look for a substitute or alternate from its student body at large, as opposed to its other team. Further, this will allow the school with both teams advancing from a regional to continue fielding two teams.

Please be advised that the team wishing to avail itself to this waiver will need to provide written notice to the Committee as soon as practicable after the regional competition has been held, but in no event no later than February 20, 2008. This notice shall provide the name of the team members from the regional competition, the role or roles they played, the reason for the conflict and the name of the student that will be filling this role at the statewide competition. This date is necessary in order to allow other schools sufficient time to prepare for the statewide competition should they be selected as an alternate.