



Rhode Island Legal Education Foundation (RILEF)
P.O. Box 8608 • Warwick, RI 02888 (401) 263-6171

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

THE MISSION OF THE TOURNAMENT

The purpose of the Mock Trial Tournament is to teach secondary school students important life skills while introducing them to the American judicial system.

Although the trial process is competitive, the principal objective of the tournament is educational. The program strives to improve students' speaking,

listening, reading, and reasoning skills by providing them with the opportunity to perform in a unique academic setting. In addition, it provides opportunities for the interaction of students of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and interests; and it promotes effective communication and cooperation between the educational and legal communities.

THE RILEF DEFINITION OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

To ensure compliance with the spirit and intent of the Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament and its Rules, Rhode Island Legal Education Foundation (RILEF) expects all students, teachers, lawyers, and others working with a mock trial team to read and abide by the Code of Ethical Conduct.

§ 1 — Students promise to participate with the highest standards of deportment. They will show respect for fellow-students, opponents, judges, evaluators, attorney-coaches, teacher-coaches, mock trial officials and RILEF staff. Trials will be conducted with civility, fairness, and old-fashioned sportsmanship to reflect tournament principles. Students will avoid *all* tactics and actions they know are in violation of the Rules. Furthermore, students will

not willfully violate the Rules of the tournament in spirit or in practice even at the behest of a coach or another authority figure.

§ 2 — Teacher-coaches agree to focus on the *educational* value of the tournament. They shall discourage willful violations of the Rules, including the use of unfair tactics and strategies. Teachers will instruct students on the proper procedure and decorum and will assist their students in understanding and abiding by the tournament's Rules and Code of Ethical Conduct

§ 3 — Attorney-coaches agree to uphold the highest standards of the legal profession and to zealously encourage fair play. They will promote conduct in accordance with the tournament's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct. Attorney-coaches are reminded that they are in a position of authority and thus must serve as positive role models for the students.

§ 4 — All participants and observers are bound by this Code and agree to abide by its provisions. Teams are responsible for insuring that observers are aware of the Code and the Rules that pertain to observers. All participants will strive to accept defeat and success with dignity and restraint.

§ 5 — Students, teacher-coaches, and attorney-coaches are required to sign a copy of this Code. The signature will serve as evidence of knowledge and agreement to the provisions of the Code. Violations of this Code of Ethical Conduct may be grounds for reductions in scores. It is the responsibility of each participating school administration, and not the responsibility of RILEF, to ensure

that every participant signs and returns this form to the Executive Director of RILEF.

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A twenty-point penalty may be assessed to any team which fails to uphold this Code.

Each team, prior to its first trial, must submit a copy of the Code of Ethical Conduct that has been read and signed by the coach, or coaches, and lists every team members' name and address. If new students are added later to the team, an amended copy of the Code of Ethical Conduct must be submitted.

Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a twenty (20) point deduction from a team's highest score. Violations of the Code of Ethical Conduct by team members, coach/s or others will end the team's participation in the 2024-2025 tournament and jeopardize future participation in the program.

SCHOOL

NAME

We, the undersigned, have read and understood the Code of Ethical Conduct and we agree to uphold the Code in spirit and intent throughout the 2024-2025 Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament.

STUDENTS:

Print Name

Signature

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FACULTY COACH

ATTORNEY COACH

Print Name

Mobile Telephone

Print Name

Mobile Telephone

Signature

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