

## **2021 Maryland Youth and the Law (MYLAW) Playoff Rules**

These rules shall govern which teams advance to the State Playoffs for the 2021 Maryland Youth and the Law (MYLAW) High School Mock Trial Competition. These rules apply only for the 2021 season.

### 1. Divisions

There are three “sub-competitions” in the 2021 MYLAW Competition: the Zoom Competition, the Google Meet Competition, and the Microsoft Teams Competition.

The Zoom Competition is divided into six (6) divisions.

The Google Meet Competition is divided into seven (7) divisions.

The Microsoft Teams Competition is divided into one (1) division.

## 2. Playoff teams

There shall be eight (8) playoff teams in the Zoom Competition. Each division champion will be guaranteed to advance to the playoffs. There will be either 1 or 2 “wild card” teams who also advance to the playoffs. In the event the Microsoft Teams Competition Champion opts to join the Zoom Competition for the playoffs, there will be a maximum of one (1) wild card team in the Zoom Competition playoffs.

There shall be eight (8) playoff teams in the Google Meet Competition. Each division champion will be guaranteed to advance to the playoffs. There will be either 0 or 1 “wild card” team who also advance to the playoffs. In the event the Microsoft Teams Competition Champion opts to join the Google Meet Competition for the playoffs, there will be zero (0) wild card teams in the Google Meet Competition playoffs.

There shall be zero (0) playoff teams in the Microsoft Teams Competition. The winner of the Microsoft Teams Competition shall be given the option to compete in the Zoom Competition or Google Meet Competition for the playoffs. If the winner of the Microsoft Teams Competition elects not to join either of the other Competition, they shall be declared the winner of the Microsoft Teams Competition.

### 3. Tiebreak Procedures

These tiebreak procedures apply for deciding the winner of each division as well as the winner of any “wild card” playoff spots.

When the regular season competition has concluded, each team will be ranked within their assigned division using the following order:

1. Winning percentage of total ballots, where a tied ballot shall count as 0.5 wins<sup>1</sup>
2. Head to head record, if only two teams have an identical winning percentage and faced off head to head. If more than two teams have an identical winning percentage, this tiebreak shall not apply.
3. Trial wins (meaning the team who won a higher percentage of total trial rounds)<sup>2</sup>
  - a. If the tied teams have competed in the same number of regular season trials, this shall mean “whichever team won more trials.”
  - b. If the tied teams have competed in a different number of regular season trials, this shall mean “whichever team won a higher percentage of trials.”
4. Point differential:
  - a. If the tied teams have competed in the same number of regular season trials, this shall mean “running” point differential throughout the season. This shall be calculated by adding or subtracting the margin of all of each team’s ballots.
  - b. If the tied teams have competed in an uneven number of regular season trials, this shall mean “average” point differential throughout the season. This shall be calculated by averaging out the margin of all of each team’s ballots.
5. A flip of a United States coin observed by both teams.

The team ranked highest in each division shall be given an automatic spot in the playoff field. If that team declines their spot, the spot will convert to a “wild card” spot.

When the regular season competitions have concluded and the division champions have been determined, all remaining teams in the Zoom Competition and Google Meet competition shall be ranked within their competition, with the division champions excluded from that ranking. The remaining Microsoft Teams Competition schools shall also be ranked within both Competitions. Those rankings will use the following order:

1. Winning percentage of total ballots, where a tied ballot shall count as 0.5 wins
2. Head to head record, if only two teams have an identical winning percentage and faced off head to head. If more than two teams have an identical winning percentage, this tiebreak shall not apply.
3. Trial wins (meaning the team who won a higher percentage of total trial rounds)

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<sup>1</sup> For example, a team with a record of 9-2-1 has won 9.5/12 ballots and has a winning percentage of 0.7916, while a team with a record of 8-2 has won 8/10 ballots and has a winning percentage of 0.800.

<sup>2</sup> A “trial win” is when a team wins the majority of ballots in a trial. A sweep of both ballots is a trial win, as is a win and a tie. If the two ballots are split, this is never a trial win, even if the margin of victory for one team is larger on one ballot than the margin of victory for the other team on the other ballot. For example, a Prosecution +14, Defense +1 ballot split is not a “trial win” for the Prosecution.

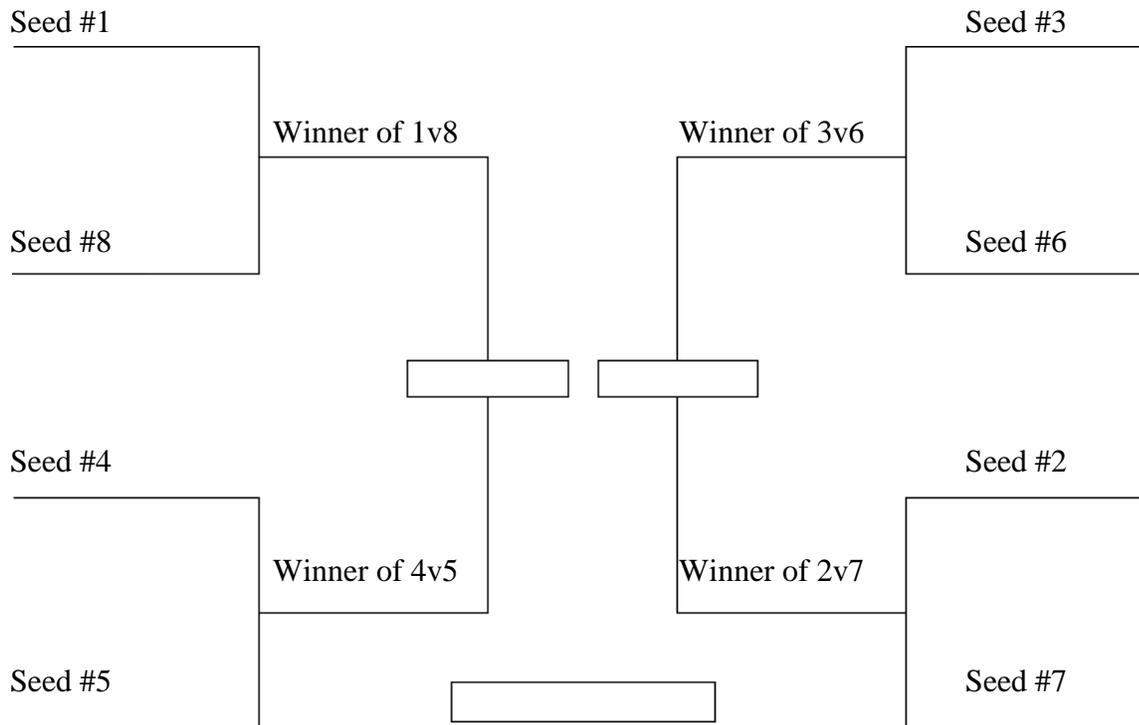
- a. If the tied teams have competed in the same number of regular season trials, this shall mean “whichever team won more trials.”
  - b. If the tied teams have competed in a different number of regular season trials, this shall mean “whichever team won a higher percentage of trials.”
4. Point differential:
    - a. If the tied teams have competed in the same number of regular season trials, this shall mean “running” point differential throughout the season. This shall be calculated by adding or subtracting the margin of all of each team’s ballots.
    - b. If the tied teams have competed in an uneven number of regular season trials, this shall mean “average” point differential throughout the season. This shall be calculated by averaging out the margin of all of each team’s ballots.
  5. A flip of a United States coin observed by both teams.

In the event either the Zoom Competition or the Google Meet competition has “wild card” spots available in the manner noted above, the team(s) ranked highest using the aforementioned method shall be offered those wild card spots. In the event a team declines a “wild card” spot, the spot will be offered to the next team on the list until all remaining spots have been filled.

In the event a Microsoft Teams Competition school is the next team on the list for a wild card spot in either Competition, the Teams school shall be offered that spot using either Zoom (if the spot is in the Zoom Competition) or Google Meet (if the spot is in the Google Meet Competition). If the Teams school is unable to accept that spot, it will be offered to the next team on the list until all remaining spots are filled.

#### 4. Champions and Unified championship

Upon selection of the eight (8) teams for the playoffs in the Zoom Competition and the eight (8) teams for the playoffs in the Google Meet Competition, each set of eight (8) teams shall be seeded from 1 to 8 using the same tiebreak system enumerated above. Once those teams are seeded, they shall begin the playoffs in a standard “bracket” style competition, set up as follows:



The teams will not be re-seeded after each round but will maintain their seed for the entirety of the playoffs and will advance through the bracket as depicted above.

The winner of the championship in the Google Meet Competition and the winner of the championship in the Zoom Competition shall be Maryland State Co-Champions.

Once Co-Champions have been determined, the two Co-Champion teams shall be given the opportunity to compete in a unified State Championship. The unified championship shall be a double-header, with both teams competing on both sides of the case. One trial shall take place on Google Meet and the other shall take place on Zoom.

In the event the unified championship occurs, both teams shall remain State Co-Champions. The winning team will earn the privilege of being listed first on the list of champions displayed in the case booklet. The unified championship is not required and either team may opt out if they are unable to participate. In the event the unified championship does not occur, the Co-Champions shall be listed in alphabetical order on the list of champions.