

ABA NAAC SUPPLEMENTAL RULES 2021
FOR ONLINE COMPETITIONS

Article S1—Generally

All NAAC Regionals will be online via Zoom technology. Regional administrators will use Zoom rooms for team and judges’ meetings, competition rounds, and scoring. Regionals are based on time zones rather than geographical location, and the schedules for each regional are based on the local time for that region (e.g., East Coast Regionals will use EST, Midwest Regionals CST, and West Coast Regionals PST). Teams competing in a regional using a time zone different from that used where the team is actually located will need to adjust their schedules accordingly.

Article S2—Mandatory Team Meeting and Check-In

The regional administrators will conduct a MANDATORY Team Meeting and Check-in **Wednesday** (the day before the regional begins) at 6:00 p.m. local competition time. **All teams competing in the regional MUST check-in** during the meeting. **All coaches/advisors and bailiffs MUST attend this meeting.** The regional administrators will review the virtual schedule and procedures for the regional as well as distribute brief scores for each team. Instructions for joining the Team Meeting and Check-in will be provided to all registered teams the week of the regional.

Article S3—Virtual Argument

1. Procedures for Virtual Competitions
 - a. **Virtual team meetings.** As with in-person competitions, the regional administrators will conduct team meetings via Zoom after rounds 2, 3, 4, and 5 to announce results and handle pairings and party selection.
 - b. **Virtual team information forms and brief results.** At or before the initial team meeting, teams will complete an online form that provides contact information for coaches, bailiffs, and advocates. At the meeting, brief results will be distributed electronically **to the coach or team member who completes the online form.** Teams will have an opportunity to confirm that the scores are correctly calculated
 - c. **Virtual round-scheduling whiteboard.** In advance of each round, the schedule for each argument will be posted online or, if the online system is not working, transmitted to teams by email. The schedule will include a link to the virtual courtroom—the Zoom meeting room—where the argument will be conducted.

- d. **The virtual bailiff worksheet.** Before each round, the bailiff for each team will provide, in electronic form, the information called for in the Bailiff's Worksheet in Appendix G of the NAAC Rules. The form will include the following information: the advocates' names, speaking order, issue arguing, and time allotment for each of the team's advocates. This information will be used to help judges properly complete their online ballots.
- e. **Conducting virtual rounds.** The bailiffs will welcome judges when they arrive in the Zoom room, ensure that judges are able to access their online ballots, ensure that judges rename themselves and that their cameras and microphones work, start the arguments by calling the court to order, and serve as timekeepers for their teams.
- f. **After a virtual argument ends.** Once arguments end, bailiffs should remind judges to mute their audio and shut off their video/cameras as they complete the electronic ballot. When all judges have unmuted and indicated that they have transmitted their ballots, bailiffs should leave the virtual courtroom and check in to the Zoom scoring room. Judges will provide the advocates with feedback. After feedback, advocates and coaches should leave the Zoom courtroom.
- g. **The virtual scoring room.** After all rounds, except round 5, bailiffs will be directed to a Zoom score-tallying area. Each pair of bailiffs will be given secure access to the judges' scoring ballots, and they will work together to confirm that the score tally is correct. Once bailiffs confirm a round's results and leave the scoring area, they will be able to share those results with their coaches and/or advocates.

After the bailiffs have confirmed a round's results and have left the scoring room, the NAAC subcommittee will not consider any protest regarding mathematical errors in a judge's ballot or tabulation overlooked by the bailiffs. However, the NAAC subcommittee, within its discretion, may correct a mistake to prevent a team from inadvertently benefitting from such an error.

2. Technical Details for Virtual Arguments

- a. All advocates, bailiffs, coaches, and advisors should have a Zoom account and should download the most recent version of the Zoom client to their device. It is not necessary for participants to have paid Zoom licenses.
- b. Advocates should edit the name displayed with their Zoom image to **reflect speaking position and Team Number (e.g., Pet. 1 Team 22; Resp. 2 Team 30, etc.)** and ensure that it does not contain identifying information about their school or location. Coaches/bailiffs should edit the name displayed with their Zoom image to reflect their position (e.g., Coach

team 35; Bailiff team 101).

- c. All participants—particularly advocates and bailiffs—should use a device that enables them to participate by video as well as audio. But participants should keep a phone available to use as a backup if their internet connection or primary device fails.
 - d. Advocates should use—and bailiffs should instruct judges to use—Zoom’s “Gallery View” as opposed to “Speaker View.” This will allow the advocates to see all the judges at once, and it will allow advocates to see bailiffs as they hold up timecards. We suggest that participants select “Hide Non-Video Participants” to avoid cluttering their screens.
 - e. Bailiffs should provide a clear visual signal of time remaining to advocates and judges by holding up timecards on camera. We suggest that, at other points in the argument, bailiffs keep their camera/video off.
 - f. Minor technical difficulties, like momentary video freezes or audio distortion, are a normal part of Zoom communication and should not be cause for stopping a round. Regional administrators will instruct judges to roll with minor technical issues.
 - g. If a more significant technical issue occurs, such as a judge or advocate being dropped from the Zoom meeting, bailiffs can stop the clock on the round until the problem is resolved. If a technical issue cannot be resolved with reboots and reconnects, bailiffs should contact regional administrators immediately.
 - h. Regional administrators will use a secure interactive website to collect information from and distribute information to teams as the competition unfolds, including scoring data that bailiffs will use to confirm the outcome of a round. Regional administrators will instruct team contacts and bailiffs about how to access and use the site. If it becomes unavailable during the competition, administrators will use phone, email, and Zoom to handle these communications.
3. Rules Specific to Virtual Arguments
- a. Advocates are expected to wear professional attire.
 - b. Except for the device used to participate in a round, all coaches, advisors, and team members must turn off all accessible communication devices during a round, including, but not limited to, cell phones.
 - c. Virtual backgrounds may not be used during a round. Nothing in a room used for argument may identify a team member’s school or geographical location. Violation of this rule shall result in a penalty, up to and including

disqualification.

- d. Advocates may choose whether to sit or stand during their argument.
- e. Advocates may use headsets and microphones.
- f. No argument may be recorded or otherwise preserved.
- g. The two team members arguing in a round may be physically present in the same room, using the same computer. No one else, including coaches, advisors, or other team members, may be physically present in the same room. Team members in the same room may communicate with each other during the round but may not communicate during the round with any coach/advisor or other team member. Team members in the same room are expected to comply with their school's Covid-19 protocols and social distancing rules.
- h. The two team members participating in a round may elect to participate from different locations, using separate computers. Team members arguing from different locations shall mute themselves when not arguing but leave their cameras/video on and remain visible to the judges. No one else, including coaches, advisors, or other team members, may be physically present in the room from which a team member is arguing during a round. Team members not arguing from the same physical location may communicate with each other during the round only by electronic mail. Team members not arguing from the same physical location may not communicate during the round with any coach/advisor or other team member.
- i. Coaches, advisors, and non-arguing team members may join a round of their team via Zoom but must have their cameras/video off and microphones muted. Coaches, advisors, and other non-team members may not communicate during a round with team members who are arguing that round.
- j. **ADVOCATES:** Before the first regional in February, the NAAC subcommittee will make available online an Advocates instruction video for review by coaches and advocates.
- k. **BAILIFFS:** Before the first regional in February, the NAAC subcommittee will also make available online a Bailiffs instructions video for review by coaches and bailiffs as well as an Online Competition Supplement to "Article 13 – Bailiffs" of the NAAC Rules. During the week of each regional, NAAC Administrators will be available by region on Zoom at a designated time to provide additional guidance and support for bailiffs (and coaches) and to answer questions about the bailiff's role for each team during the regional.

- I. SCOUTING: Nothing in these Supplemental Rules shall be construed to override or displace the prohibitions on scouting set out in Article 22 of the NAAC Rules.

- m. PROTESTS: Article 15 of the NAAC Rules continues to apply to protests arising out of oral argument. All such protests are waived unless brought to the attention of the regional administrators before the beginning of the judges' critiques. Use phone or email to communicate any protest to regional administrators.