

# ***Princeton Mock Trial***

## **PREAMBLE**

*Objectives...*

Princeton Mock Trial proclaims that it has been founded and is dedicated to promoting and encouraging, amongst its members:

- I. a nurturing environment for students to learn and cultivate public speaking, analytical, and critical thinking skills; as well as interpersonal qualities such as confidence and team-building that students can carry onto their future career and personal paths;
- II. a healthy, competitive environment for students to compete in the activity of mock trial with other schools at a local, regional, and national level; and
- III. an inclusive environment for students to build community and find support in one another.

## **ARTICLE I**

### ***Princeton Mock Trial***

**Section 1.** The name of this student organization shall be “Princeton Mock Trial.”

**Section 2.** The words "*PRINCETON MOCK TRIAL*” shall not be used by any individual or group of individuals without the consent of the officers or the organization as a whole.

## **ARTICLE II**

### ***Membership***

**Section 1.** Application for membership in this organization will be extended to all undergraduate students at Princeton University who demonstrate an interest in membership.

**Section 2.** No person who has expressed interest in membership shall be denied the opportunity to apply for membership.

## **ARTICLE III**

### ***Board Members and Captains***

**Section 1.** There shall be an Executive Board of Officers, which shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall be empowered to:

- I. Conduct the business and affairs of the organization during periods between meetings of the members;
- II. Act as arbiters in cases of disagreement among members, when appropriate (see *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* for policies surrounding what students can and cannot arbitrate);
  - A. The privacy of members involved must be prioritized; concerns should not be brought to other Board members' or organization members' attention without the permission of the member who raised the concern
  - B. If it is unclear whether or not the issue is under the jurisdiction of the Board, the Board or the Board member must consult the Whig-Clio program coordinator and/or ODUS;
- III. Represent the organization in cases of liability, responsibility, and honors; and
- IV. Agree among themselves, with the guidance of former Board members' Standard Operating Procedures, prior to each semester what duties each Board member shall be responsible for and stay committed to.

**Section 3.** Meetings of the Executive Board, captains, or the entire organization shall be held whenever necessary, upon the call of the President or at the request of the majority of board members or captains.

**Section 4.** There shall be two captains per team per semester.

**Section 5.** Captains shall be empowered to:

- I. Conduct team practices and arrange team events;
- II. Act as liaison between members and the Executive Board whenever necessary;
- III. Represent their respective teams at competitions; and
- IV. Agree among themselves prior to the start of a competitive season what duties should be delegated between each person.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### ***Elections and Appointments of Officers***

**Section 1.** Election of the Executive Board:

- I. Board members shall be elected by the organization at the end of the Spring semester by individual, secret ballot of the majority of all eligible voting members, for a term of one year or until the successor for each respective position has been duly elected and has qualified for the said position; if no candidate receives a majority of the vote, a run-off will be held between the two candidates who received the highest amount of votes.
- II. Elections shall be held for the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- III. A vote is rendered valid if votes are submitted by a majority of all eligible voting members.
- IV. A non-participant in the election will preside over all election proceedings and will moderate the discussions. The Secretary will tally all votes; if the Secretary is participating in a specific election, the subsequent officer of the Board will tally all votes.
- V. Each candidate will have two minutes to present a speech while the other candidates leave the room; after the speeches have been given, all candidates will exit the room and the moderator will call for a vote by secret ballot.
- VI. A member shall be awarded a proxy vote with valid reason subject to the approval of the Executive Board. A deadline must be set by the Executive Board by which votes can be submitted, and it is only after this deadline that votes can be tallied and positions can be announced.
- VII. Candidates for each position can either nominate themselves or be nominated by another member.
  - A. A deadline must be set by the Executive Board by which people can choose to run, people can nominate candidates, and final candidacies are announced.
  - B. Members can submit unlimited nominations anonymously.
  - C. Candidates shall release written statements prior to elections.
  - D. Members should only be able to nominate themselves or be nominated for one position, but during elections, they may "drop down" to subsequent positions and run for those.
  - E. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that each position has candidates by the deadline.
- VIII. Members are eligible to vote if they:
  - A. are an active competitor;
  - B. completed their active competitor's responsibilities in the last academic year in which they were enrolled;
  - C. hold an officer position; or
  - D. have attended at least 50% of program-wide events.
- IX. Members are eligible to run for an Executive Board position if they:
  - A. completed their active competitor's responsibilities for at least one semester in the past academic year;
  - B. held an officer position in their last academic year; or
  - C. have attended at least 75% of program-wide events.

**Section 2. Appointment of captains:**

- I. Fall captains shall be nominated by members and appointed by the Executive Board at the end of the Spring Semester.
- II. Spring captains shall be nominated by members and appointed by the Executive Board at the end of the Fall Semester.
- III. Executive Board officers are not eligible to serve as captains.
- IV. Captains must nominate at least two people other than themselves, with whom they have competed, for the following semester.
- V. Fall captains must nominate at least one person other than themselves, who is on their fall team, for the following fall.
- VI. Members should be able to submit anonymously names of those who they would have concerns about if that person/those people were to serve as captains.

**Section 3.** Appointment of other officers and creation of officer positions:

- I. Before each semester, the Executive Board should evaluate the program and determine if additional officer positions are necessary.
- II. The following positions (and additional ones up to the yearly discretion of the Board) should be subject to application/nomination:
  - A. Recruitment Directors
  - B. Spring Tournament Directors
  - C. Moot Court Directors
  - D. Social chair

**Section 4.** When an officer position becomes vacant, elections can be held outside of the typical election period, and all established procedures must be followed, including nominations, speeches, and absentee ballots. The vacant role should be filled within a month.

**Section 5.** Recall elections:

- I. Members may call for a recall election where an Executive Board position is challenged and a new election is held, following the processes outlined in Section 1 of this Article.
  - A. The incumbent officer is able to participate in the new election.
- II. Members must put forth a petition with signatures of at least 40% of the active competing membership, in order for a recall election to occur.
  - A. This petition must outline the reasons for calling for the recall election.

**ARTICLE V**  
*Accountability and Safety*

**Section 1.** Reporting mechanisms

- I. Before each semester, the Executive Board must make it known to the program of existing reporting mechanisms, that are not in conflict with University policies, including:
  - A. an anonymous reporting route to the Board (officers are not mandatory reporters but this would not be confidential)
  - B. an anonymous reporting route to captains (officers are not mandatory reporters but this would not be confidential)
  - C. the SHARE office (staff and peers are not mandatory reporters and information is confidential within the office)
  - D. the Whig-Clio program coordinator, who is a mandatory reporter and agent of the University

**Section 2.** Accountability

- I. Team members should submit feedback forms evaluating their captains or co-captain at the end of each competitive semester, to keep captains accountable.
- II. Captains should submit feedback forms evaluating the commitment and participation of their team members at the end of each competitive semester, to keep members accountable to the time and community commitment they pledged to at the beginning of the semester.
- III. A member's pledge must be signed at the beginning of each competitive semester, in which competing members commit to the required time and community commitments, including judging moot court in the spring and competing all year round barring exigent circumstances.
  - A. A member is subject to removal on a case-by-case basis—where there is no quantifiable requirement but what is considered are only the enumerated responsibilities in the pledge— and only if proposed by a member.
  - B. This “removal” means the removal of competing status.

**Section 3.** This constitution shall be readily available to all members and accessible to the public.

**ARTICLE VI**  
*Amendments and Review*

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire voting membership.

- I. Members are able to raise a motion for an amendment at any time, including the meeting to elect new officers.
- II. At the beginning of each semester, the Executive Board shall set pre-established checkpoints where all submitted amendments are reviewed.
- III. Amendment motions must have obtained signatures from at least 40% of the competing membership.
- IV. The higher number of signatures a motion has, the earlier it is discussed and voted on.
- V. Amendment motions can be raised with the option of anonymity.

**Section 2.** This constitution shall be reviewed every two years.

- I. This “review” shall take place through open discussions held among all members of the program.

## **ARTICLE VII** *Ratification*

**Section 1.** This constitution will take effect following a two-thirds majority vote by the entire voting group.

**Section 2.** This constitution will take effect following the approval of Whig-Clio trustees.

## **ARTICLE VIII** *Extra Articles Specific to the Activity of Mock Trial*

**Section 1.** Movement between teams

- I. A request to switch teams can be submitted by a competing member, to their captains, Exec, or the Whig-Clio program coordinator.
- II. The privacy of members involved must be prioritized; so too the numbers of competing members on each team and potential alienation of members who are not involved should be considered.
- III. This decision cannot be forced onto an individual.

- IV. A member may only permanently switch teams during cases of significant conflicts, on a case-by-case basis.
- V. This decision is made by the Executive Board and is not subject to a vote from other members.
- VI. This decision must be announced to all teams involved before the movement between teams occurs.
- VII. This decision must be used as a last resort; other potential accommodations should be considered first.

## **Section 2. Tryouts**

- I. The general structure of tryouts will be as follows:
  - A. There shall be one initial tryout, open to the entirety of the Princeton University undergraduate student body.
  - B. Following the initial tryout, Captains and the Executive Board will together determine a single list of individuals to participate in a second tryout, a callback.
  - C. Final discussions and captains' decisions shall commence soon after the callback and shall become final after candidates have been notified of their acceptance into the program.
- II. The Recruitment Committee is responsible for the format of tryouts every year.
- III. Princeton Mock Trial shall not, on the basis of personal beliefs or characteristics—such as political views, religion, national or ethnic origin, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability—unrelated to program requirements, deny persons the benefit of admittance to Mock Trial or in any other way subject persons to discrimination during the tryout process.
  - A. Formal discussions of candidates shall not include any information on the candidate from outside of their tryout and/or formal recruitment process, nor shall they include comments of any of the above characteristics.
  - B. The Executive Board must formally remind all captains of this clause before the tryout process begins.
  - C. To deter discriminatory practices, the Executive Board will be required to report any violation of this clause to the Whig-Cliosophic Society Program Coordinator.
- IV. Fall teams are “unstacked”, meaning that there is no hierarchy of skill between the three teams, until the spring when they are reorganized to become “stacked.”