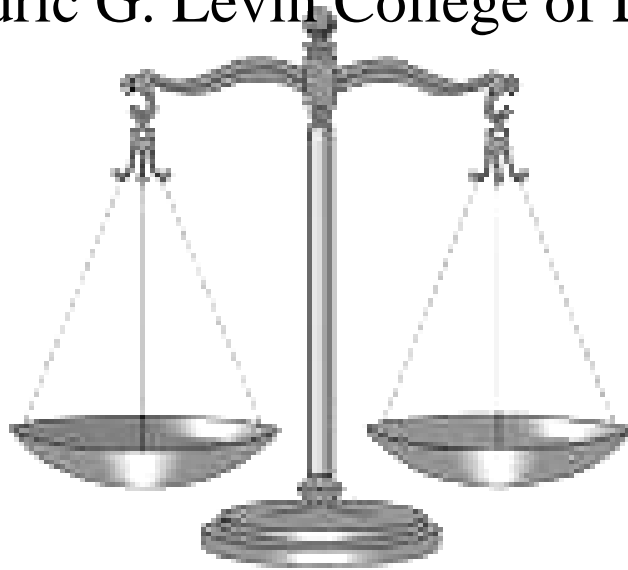


University of Florida
Fredric G. Levin College of Law



Trial Team Constitution

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Trial Team Constitution

University of Florida

Fredric G. Levin College of Law

ARTICLE I

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of Florida Trial Team is to develop trial advocacy skills and to successfully represent the University of Florida's College of Law in state, regional and national trial team competitions.

ARTICLE II

ETHICS

The highest ethical conduct is expected of all Trial Team members. This includes avoiding the appearance of impropriety. All Trial Team members have an affirmative duty to report any potential ethical violation to the Executive Board for their consideration.

ARTICLE III

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. GENERALLY

The Executive Board shall act as the governing body of the Trial Team. The Executive Board will facilitate communication between the faculty membership, and other law students. The Executive Board will consist of one President, three Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition (one Senior Vice-President for Intramural Competition and two Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition), one Vice-President for Intermural Competition, two Vice-Presidents for Publicity, one Vice-President for Administration, one Vice-President for Alumni-Affairs, two Vice-Presidents for Member Education, one Office Manager and one Vice-President for Communications.

B. BYLAWS

The Executive Board shall establish Bylaws to facilitate administration of Trial Team activities and to implement the Constitution. The Bylaws are binding on all Trial Team members. Any Trial

Team member may challenge a Bylaw at a general meeting. A Bylaw may be repealed or amended upon a majority vote at a general meeting. (See Art. VI, Meetings.).

C. DESCRIPTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1. *PRESIDENT*

The President acts as the chairperson of the Executive Board. In that capacity, the President assigns additional responsibilities to the other Executive Board Officers, organizes and presides over all Executive Board and Trial Team meetings, appoints ad hoc committees, presides over all Executive Board Members and Chairpersons, and generally supervises the work of all other officers. In addition, the President acts as a liaison between the Trial Team, the Faculty Advisors(s), the law school administration, and the public. The President will supervise the Judicial committee and enter a tie-breaking vote in that committee if necessary.

2a. *VICE-PRESIDENT FOR INTRAMURAL COMPETITION*

The Vice-President for Intramural Competition will organize and be responsible for all aspects of the Intramural Competition in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Trial Team. The Vice-President for Intramural Competition shall delegate the responsibilities for the Intermural Competition as set forth in the Constitution. The Vice-President for Intramural Competition may delegate additional responsibilities to the Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition. The Vice-President for Intramural Competition, along with the President, shall have the authority to make decisions regarding any sudden changes in the Intermural Competition, including, but not limited to, the numbers of new members selected for the team, along with the Executive Board.

2b. *JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT FOR INTRAMURAL COMPETITION*

The Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition will be under the direct supervision of their Vice-President for Intramural Competition. The Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition shall be available for all facets of the Intramural Competition to assist the Vice-President throughout Intramural Competition. Specifically, the Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition duties will be divided as follows; one Junior Vice-President for Intramural Competition shall be responsible for 1) obtaining and presenting all food and concessions for the three intramural rounds and 2) compiling judges packets for the Intramural Competition; the second Junior Vice-President for Intramural Competition shall be responsible for 1) recruiting attorneys and judges to judge the intramural competition and 2) corresponding and providing support to attorneys and judges that will judge the competition. The Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition, along with the President and the Vice-President for Intramural Competition, shall have the authority to make decisions regarding any sudden changes in the Intermural Competition, including, but not limited to the numbers of new members selected for the team, along with the Executive Board.

3. *VICE-PRESIDENT FOR INTERMURAL COMPETITIONS*

The Vice-President for Intermural Competitions will be responsible for the overall operations of the Trial Team's away Competitions. The duties will include, but not be limited to: (1) finding and researching national and local competitions for Trial Team participation in both the fall and spring semesters; (2) developing proposals to the law school administration and private entities for the funding of competitions; (3) managing all paper work and deadlines regarding competitions; and (4) selecting intermural competition coaches. The Vice-President for Intermural Competitions will supervise the Intermural Competition Committee.

4. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

There shall be two Vice-Presidents for Publicity and Special Events. The Vice-Presidents for Publicity and Special Events will be responsible for promoting all aspects of the Trial Team to the public, including, but not limited to, the Team's Intramural and Intermural activities. These Vice-Presidents for Publicity and Special Events will also be responsible for planning banquets, luncheons, and other social events as the President assigns. All publicity shall be timely, prominent, and of impressive quality. Congratulatory publicity regarding the intramural competitions will be posted within 48-hours of the results. The Vice-Presidents for Publicity and Special Events will supervise the Publicity and Special Events Committee.

5. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Vice-President for Administration will perform secretarial and administrative functions, including, but not limited to: (1) recording and promptly posting the minutes of Executive Board and general team meetings; (2) maintaining records of attendance and participation credit for each member; and (3) maintaining a smooth and orderly process for the collection and reimbursement of funds and expenses for the Team. Moreover, the President, the Vice-President for Administration, and the Dean will meet in regards to strict budget oversight.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS

The Vice-President for Alumni Affairs and will ensure that the team receives support from law school alumni and other legal professionals. The duties will include, but not be limited to: (1) maintaining communication between team and alumni through an alumni newsletter and other means; (2) maintaining and updating an alumni information database; (3) organizing events featuring alumni or other professionals for the ultimate purpose of increasing financial and lobbying support for the Team; (4) organizing an annual Trial Team alumni reunion tailgating event during a football weekend (notice may be given to Trial Team Alumni by means of a newsletter under subsection (1)). This Vice-President for Alumni Affairs will assist the Vice-President for Intermural Competitions. The Vice-President for Alumni Affairs will supervise the External Affairs and Alumni Support Committee.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBER EDUCATION

There shall be two Vice-Presidents for Member Education. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education shall maintain an electronic data base and hard copies of Trial Team reference materials. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education will be responsible for furthering the advocacy knowledge and awareness of current Trial Team members and those individuals competing in the first three rounds of the Intramural Competition. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education will organize a skills workshop for the entire Trial Team, especially designed for educating the new members. The skills workshop will include, but not be limited to, performing effective openings, closings, directs, and cross-examinations in order to sharpen team skills. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education shall provide a workshop for all Intramural Competition Judges to discuss what the Trial Team is looking for in terms of new members. The Faculty Advisors will work with the students in setting up the workshop. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education will supervise their committee members in scheduling these events. The Vice-Presidents for Member Education, along with the President, shall arrange speakers for the Litigation Enrichment Series.

8. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

The Vice-President for Communications will be responsible for continuously updating the Trial Team Website and the TWEN website a minimum of one time per week. The updates should include but not be limited to a calendar of events, participating competitions, recent linked news articles, current membership information, recent pictures of intramural/intermural competitions, newsletters and competition results. The Vice-President for Communications should keep in mind that the purpose of the website is to serve as an information medium for all law students, alumni, existing Trial Team members and the public at large.

9. OFFICE MANAGER

The Office Manager's duties will include but not be limited to organizing the Trial Team Office a minimum of one time per week; ensuring that the Trial Team office is equipped with supplies; and posting awards and trophies in a timely manner. The Office Manager will also be responsible for coordinating the awards distributed at the Trial Team end-of-year and final four banquet.

D. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any officer may be removed from the Executive Board for failing to properly fulfill duties, violating University rules or regulations, for committing ethical violations or for committing any other conduct which brings disruption to the Trial Team. Any member may directly petition the Judicial Committee (See Art. VIII) for removal of any other officer. The identity of the member shall be left confidential by the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall notify the officer who is the subject of the petition for removal that the petition has been made with in 5 business days after the petition has been filed. The Judicial Committee shall present the petition for removal, on behalf of the "confidential" petitioner, to the general body no later than 14 days after the petition is filed. The officer shall be removed if a majority of the general body votes in favor of the removal.

E. VACANCIES

Upon a vacancy in any office the President shall temporarily appoint a replacement to fill the vacant position until the next general body election.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTIONS

A. EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

Elections for all Executive Board Officers will be held during a general Trial Team meeting in November and April of each year. All members present at meetings should have one vote. Absentee ballots will be accepted via e-mail only if the following protocol is followed:

- a. Any Trial Team member who will be absent from the election may send an e-mail to the Vice-President for Administration or the designated representative detailing the nature of the Absentee Voter's vote;

- b. The Vice-President for Administration or designated representative will check his or her e-mail account exactly on the day and time the election is supposed to start;
- c. The Vice-President for Administration or designated representative will check the dates of received email and utilize the latest e-mail from each particular absentee voter;
- d. The Vice-President for Administration or designated representative will print the e-mails/absentee ballots;
- e. The Vice-President for Administration or the designated representative will log in who sent an absentee ballot via e-mail and when the e-mail was received;
- f. The Vice-President for Administration or designated person will give the printed e-mail/absentee ballots to the Vote Counter;
- g. The Vote Counter will use the e-mail/absentee ballots to tally the total votes;
- h. The Absentee Voter understands that e-mail is not 100% reliable and assumes the risk of a failed or incomplete transmittal; and
- i. Persons having access to the e-mail/absentee ballot will keep confidential the name of the voter and the votes cast.

Nominations for Executive Board Officers shall be taken and the officers will be elected in this order:

- (1) President
- (2) Vice-President for Administration
- (3) Senior Vice-President for Intramural Competition
- (4) 2 Junior Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition
- (5) Vice-President for Intermural Competitions
- (6) Vice-President for Alumni Affairs
- (7) 2 Vice-Presidents for Member Education
- (8) 2 Vice-Presidents for Publicity and Special Events
- (9) Vice-President for Communication
- (10) Office Manager

Note: *Unsuccessful candidates for one office may run for another office.*

Newest members of the team are eligible for the following four positions: Vice President for Publicity, Vice President for Communications, Office Manager, and Junior Vice President for Intramural Competition.

ARTICLE V

INTRAMURAL COMPETITION

A. GENERALLY

1. The Intramural Competition occurs in both the Fall and the Spring Semester. During the Intramural Competition, Members are selected for the Trial Team followed by a Final Four Competition.

B. ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Board will promulgate the Intramural Competition rules. The Vice-Presidents for Intramural Competition will implement and, if necessary, interpret the Intramural Competition rules.

C. ELIGIBILITY FOR NEW MEMBER SELECTION

To be eligible to become a Member, a student must:

1. Be in good standing with the Levin College of Law and the University of Florida;
2. Be selected by advancing to the qualification round of the Intramural Competition;
3. Have successfully completed two semesters of law school but no more than four semesters. For the purposes of this section, a semester is defined as only fall or spring semesters; summer sessions are specifically not included in the definition of a semester. A fifth semester student may be eligible if the student provides a written petition outlining exigent circumstances as to why the student did not try out during his or her third and/or semester; the President, Faculty Advisor and Assistant Dean, upon a majority vote may approve or decline the written request upon majority vote; and
4. Have earned at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of competing for Membership.
5. Sign a New Member contract.

D. SELECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

The Trial Team will make reasonable efforts to ensure cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity in the selections process at each stage, including the panels judging the participants and the final team selections; and publicizing Team tryouts to various organizations.

Round 1:

Competitors: Competitors will randomly be assigned to rooms and assigned competitor numbers. Competitors will perform closing arguments for the side determined by the Vice-president of Intramurals. The scores will be on a 1-10 scale, spreading out the scores and creating larger breaks between competitor scores. Score sheets will be collected by the room leader after each competitor finishes and transferred to the Junior Vice Presidents for Intramural Competition.

Selections: The executive board will participate in making the selections. Members who have competed will judge along with an attorney assigned to each panel of students. New Members (those selected the prior term) will not judge, but will participate as time-keepers, score-keepers, etc., so that they will experience all the trials. The judges' score sheet will include the following question, is this person a good candidate for the trial team, why? The Faculty Advisor will aid in selecting the attorney to judge in each round.

After all competitors have performed, the Vice Presidents for Intramural Competition will tally the scores and publish the scores to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will convene to determine which competitors have advanced to the next round. This determination will be made at the discretion of the Executive Board with consideration of the natural break in the scores and the mathematical average of the scores. The Vice Presidents for Intramural Competition will present those making the selections with the scores arranged from the highest to the lowest score, absent names and competitor numbers. After the Executive Board determines the scores good enough to survive the first cut, the Vice Presidents for Intramural Competition will match the scores back to competitors number. The advancing competitors will then be assigned to a room by distributing them in a manner which distributes the

scores evenly.

Round 2:

Competitors: The competitors will perform a closing argument for the opposite side performed in Round 1. Team members who have participated in away competitions (as advocates and/or witnesses) plus attorneys (minimum of 2 per panel) will judge this round of selections. Score sheets will be collected by the room leader after each competitor finishes.

Selections: The executive board will participate in making the selections. Members who have competed will judge along with an attorney assigned to each panel of students. New Members (those selected the prior term) will not judge, but will participate as time-keepers, etc., so they will experience all the trials. The judges' score sheet will include the following question, is this person a good candidate for the trial team, why? The faculty advisor will aid in selecting the attorney to judge in each round.

After all competitors have performed, the Vice Presidents of Intramural Competition will tally the scores and publish the scores to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will convene to determine which competitors have advanced to the next round. This determination will be made at the discretion of the Executive Board with consideration of the natural break in the scores and the mathematical average of the scores. The Vice Presidents of Intramural Competition will present those making the selections with the scores arranged from the highest to the lowest score, absent names and competitor numbers. After the Executive Board determines the scores good enough to survive the second cut, the Vice Presidents of Intramural Competition will match the scores back to competitor numbers. The advancing competitors will then be assigned in a fair and reasonable manner at the discretion of the Vice President of Intramural Competition.

Round 1 and 2 Alternative:

As determined by the Vice President of Intramurals and the President, Rounds 1 and 2 shall proceed as follows:

Round 1 shall be held during 2 consecutive days. Competitors will randomly be assigned to rooms and assigned competitor numbers. Competitors will perform closing arguments for the side determined by the Vice President of Intramurals. The scores will be on a 1-10 scale, spreading out the scores and creating larger breaks between. There will be a minimum of 2 local attorney judges per night. The same two local attorneys shall serve both days unless an emergency occurs. At least 3 Trial Team members who have competed in a competition, either Away or Final Four, shall judge both nights. All competitors shall be judged by the same panel on both nights unless an emergency occurs. Competitor selections will be determined in the same way as outlined in the Round 1 Selections provision above.

Round 2 shall be held during 2 consecutive days. The competitors will perform a closing argument for the opposite side performed in Round 1. Competitors will be randomly placed in a time slot on either day. There will be a minimum of 2 local attorney judges per night. The same two local attorneys shall serve both days unless an emergency occurs. At least 3 Trial Team members who have competed in a competition, either Away or Final Four, shall judge both nights. All competitors

shall be judged by the same panel on both nights unless an emergency occurs. Competitor selections will be determined in the same way as outlined in the Round 2 Selections provision above.

Round 3:

The competitors will all perform an opening statement, direct examination, and a cross examination. The competitors will be paired and the sides will be determined by the Vice President of Intramural Competition. Competitors may or may not be permitted to discuss the case with opposing counsel at the discretion of the Vice President of Intramural Competition. Trial Team members may only participate and be present in the competition room by judging, timekeeping, or playing a witness role. The away coaches, faculty advisor, and three trial team members will judge all remaining competitors, keeping in mind the cultural, ethnic and gender diversity desired. Trial team members shall nominate three senior members of the team to serve as Round 3 judges. Senior members must have competed in at least one away competition and exhibited great leadership skills in their trial team activities. Trial Team members shall vote for three senior members and the highest three vote earners will act as judges. The three trial team members score sheets will be added together and divided by three. This will result in the three trial team members score sheets only counting as one score sheet in the selection process. The away coaches, faculty advisor, and three trial team members will recommend new trial team members using the same methodology as used in Round 1 and 2. The Executive Board will vote by majority to confirm the recommendations of the Round 3 judges.

Round 4 [Final Four]:

The four competitors with the top score in Round 3 will compete in final four. Should any of the top four competitors not be able to compete, the competitor with the next highest score will compete in Final Four. All Trial Team members shall participate in this round. Lawyers, coaches, and local judges will judge all remaining competitors in accordance with the aforementioned procedures.

E. NEW MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

1. After being selected as a Trial Team Member, New Members must take Trial Practice the following semester (unless the member has already taken Trial Practice). Each new Trial Team member will have registration preference for Trial Practice in the student affairs office. All Trial Team Members must have taken Trial Practice and have competed in an Away Competition as a witness or researcher before competing as an advocate in Intermural (Away Competition) Competitions.
2. However, upon a showing of good cause, coaches may petition the Vice-president of Intermural and the Faculty Advisors to enlist a Trial Team Member who has not yet met the requirements set forth in subsection 1 to compete. (See also Bylaw III).
3. To attend a new member orientation and to sign a new member contract.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

A. FREQUENCY AND LOCATION

Trial Team general meetings will be held at least 3 times each semester at a time/place designated by the President. The first general meeting shall be held during the first half of the semester. The President will hold at least one executive board meeting each semester.

B. NOTICE

Trial Team general meetings require at least 3 days advance notice either by posting notice on the Trial Team bulletin board, by telephone, or by electronic notice to all members. Emergency meetings require at least 24 hours notice.

C. ATTENDANCE

Trial Team general meetings are mandatory for all Trial Team Members.

D. EMERGENCY MEETINGS

Emergency Trial Team meetings may be called by the President, the Faculty Advisors, or by petition of a majority of Trial Team Members.

E. QUORUM

1. Four officers will constitute a quorum of Executive Board meetings.
2. Fifty percent of all Members constitute a quorum for Trial Team meetings.

F. MINUTES

Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be posted in the Trial Team office or distributed in a reasonably expedient manner to all Trial Team Members who request such minutes.

ARTICLE VII

FACULTY ADVISOR

A. APPOINTMENT

The Trial Team Faculty Advisors will be appointed by the Dean of the Levin College of Law.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Faculty Advisors' responsibilities include:

1. Approving academic credit for Trial Team work in accordance with the Membership Point Requirements set forth in the Bylaws.

2. Selecting the coaches for the intermural competition teams along with the Vice-president of Intermurals.
3. Serving as the Team liaisons with the College of Law administration and community
4. Assisting the Trial Team in obtaining funds for competition activities.
5. Advising the President and overseeing Trial Team Activities.

ARTICLE VIII

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **Judicial Committee**—means a committee consisting of 5 members. Four of the members shall be randomly selected by the Executive Board from a pool of volunteers. Of these four, whenever possible there shall be one representative from each semester class within the Trial Team. If there are no volunteers from a semester class, the vacancy shall be filled by one of the volunteers from another class. The fifth member shall be the President of the Trial Team. Other than the president, no member of the Executive Board shall be eligible to volunteer for, or be a member of, the Judicial committee.
2. **Point Deduction**—means a reduction in the number of points earned by a Member or a New Member during a semester pursuant to the Bylaws.
3. **Suspension**—occurs when a Member is barred from participating in Trial Team activities for one semester. During the semester of suspension, a Member shall not represent himself or herself to employers as a Team Member in good standing. Such suspension does not preclude the Executive Board from assigning tasks to the suspended Member, although such tasks will not be credited toward points for that semester.
4. **Expulsion**—occurs when a Member is removed permanently from Trial Team Membership.

B. PROCEDURE FOR EXPULSION OF REMOVAL

The Executive Board, upon majority vote, shall refer to the Judicial Committee any Member who has violated the Trial Team Constitution or the Trial Team Bylaws. No Member shall experience disciplinary action except through the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall be the body, which determines the disciplinary action to be imposed on any team member.

C. HEARINGS

The Judicial Committee shall meet no later than 14 business days after receiving a complaint

from the Executive Board. The Committee shall provide written notice of the hearing to the Trial Team Member involved. The notice shall be given not less than 7 days before the day of the hearing. Any member to be disciplined must be informed of the charges and the proposed disciplinary action to be imposed against that Member. That Member shall be given an opportunity to answer the charges brought before the Judicial Committee by presenting any relevant evidence relating to the charge.

D. DECISIONS OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

1. COMMITTEE VOTE

All decisions of the Judicial Committee shall be by a majority of the 5 members of the Committee. All committee members must participate in the hearing, investigation and deliberation of the matter, unless, a committee member has a conflict of interest or justifiably cannot attend the hearing. As a result, if there is only an even number of members on the judicial committee able to participate in the hearing, then the Executive Board will temporarily appoint a non-executive member to participate in the hearing as part of the judicial committee. After the hearing, the Committee may decide to take no further action, suspend, expel, or deduct points from the member.

2. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The President shall notify the Executive Board and the affected Member not less than one business day after the Judicial Committee rules on the complaint.

3. APPEALS

Filing an Appeal

1. The affected Member desiring an appeal must file a petition not later than 7 business days after receiving notice of the Judicial Committee's decision.
2. If 7 business days elapse after the Judicial Committee has rendered its decision and no appeal has been filed, the decision is final.

E. COMPOSITION OF THE APPELLATE COMMITTEE,

The Appellate Committee shall consist of the entire membership of the Trial Team.

F. DECISIONS OF THE APPELLATE COMMITTEE,

The Appellate Committee shall act only by a two-thirds vote of the Team Members who participated in the hearings of the appeal.

G. EFFECT OF APPEALS

All decisions of the Appellate Committee are final.

ARTICLE IX

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Trial Team does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

ARTICLE X

RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

The Constitution shall be ratified or rejected as a whole. A two-thirds vote of the Members present at a meeting will be required to ratify and amend this Constitution.

BYLAW I MEMBERSHIP POINT REQUIREMENT

A. POINT SYSTEM

1. <u>Mandatory Points</u>	<u>Value</u>
General Meetings	= 5 each
Committee Meetings	= 5 each
Intramural Judging / Viewing (Rd. 1 &2)	= 5 each
Skills Workshops	= 5 each
Attending Final Four Competition	= 10
Banquet	= 5
2. <u>Discretionary Points</u>	<u>Value</u>
Holding an Executive office	= 15
Special / Extra Meetings	= 5 each
Committee Participation	= 5 each
Researcher/Witnessing (Intramural)	= up to 10 each
Timekeeping (Intramural)	= 5 each
Intermural Participation	= 15
3. <u>Semester Point Requirements:</u>	
Point requirement for credit	= 60

Note on point system: A member is allowed to take a trial team credit if the member has 60 or more points. The Vice-President of Administration keeps track of all points and reports to the President of any trial team member who is not in good standing or who has not earned a trial team credit. The Vice-President of Administration and the President will inform student affairs of any trial team member who took a trial team credit who did not accumulate the necessary 60 points for that semester.

B. EXPLANATION OF POINT CLASSES

THERE SHALL BE TWO CLASSES OF POINTS:

1. Mandatory points, and
2. Discretionary points.

The designation of these two point classes does not denote differing values, it merely outlines the way in which the points are earned. Further, mandatory and discretionary points will combine into one point total for each Trial Team member. Members will maintain and check their own points periodically throughout each semester.

1. MANDATORY POINTS

Mandatory points are awarded for participation in those events that the Team considers to be mandatory in nature. As each Trial Team member is assumed to be committed to the Team and its various purposes and goals; and as each Trial Team member is committed to be faithful in

attending all mandatory events, these mandatory points are awarded through out each semester.

2. *DISCRETIONARY POINTS*

Discretionary Points are awarded for participation in events which the Team considers to be important, but not mandatory. Discretionary points are awarded as they are earned throughout the semester. It is duty of the Vice-President under whose authority the points are earned to report such points to the Vice President for Administration so he or she may compile the necessary record of the points.

BYLAW II REGISTRATION FOR CREDIT

A. POINT REQUIREMENTS

1. All members of the Trial Team are required to remain in good standing during the entirety of each semester.
2. All Trial Team members are considered to be in good standing when they maintain a total of 60 or more points.
3. Every Team member who intends and/or expects to receive a passing grade for that semester must earn and maintain a total of 60 points or more during that semester.

B. POINT DURATION

Points, both mandatory and discretionary, are not cumulative over the duration of a Team member's tenure. Thus each member is responsible for earning his or her points each semester.

BYLAW III SPECIAL POLICIES – INTERMURAL COMPETITIONS

1. **RULE 1:** Every Trial Team member **MUST** participate in an away competition in at least 2 semesters during their tenure on the Trial Team. One of the semesters required must be the first semester following a member's selection to the Team.

PURPOSE: These requirements are necessary to fully indoctrinate new members on away competitions from the start of their tenure as a Trial Team member. Additionally, these requirements will maintain the cohesive working unit known as a TEAM. These requirements will both benefit the members of an Away Competition Team as well as the Away Competition coaches.

2. **RULE 2:** Once a member's selection to an Away Team as a worker, witness or advocate is finalized as defined by the Intermural Competition Committee, that member cannot resign from his/her position.

PURPOSE: This rule is designed to eliminate disruption to Away Competition Teams and to avoid rewarding a Team member who leaves his/her Team at a detriment.

3. **RULE 3:** Any Member who resigns from an Intermural Competition Team, after that Team has been finalized will be penalized 15 points and is also subject to further disciplinary action if the Executive Board upon majority vote reports the violation to the Judicial Committee and the Judicial Committee decides to impose a penalty beyond the fifteen (15) points.

PURPOSE: See Purpose for Rule 2.

4. **RULE 4:** Any Member who finished a semester in bad standing, as defined in the Trial Team Constitution, will be unable to participate as an advocate in an away competition the following semester.

PURPOSE: Any Member who has not shown dedication and commitment to the Team should not be able to benefit from the privileges of being an advocate.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Gerald T. Bennet Outstanding Service Award

This award is named for our former Faculty Advisor, Gerald T. Bennett, who gave years of dedication and service to the Trial Team. Trial Team Members vote on the recipient of this award each semester. This award goes to the member who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and service to the University of Florida Trial Team. Any member of the Trial Team may receive this award.

The Order of Barristers

The Order of the Barristers is a national honor society that recognizes graduating law students who have excelled in trial advocacy, moot court, and other advocacy programs. Each semester, team members nominate to the Order two graduating seniors who have attained a high standard of participation and performance in at least two of the following areas: intramural competition, intermural competition, and service toward the development of the Trial Team. Trial Team Members vote to select which two graduating seniors will be nominated by the Trial Team.

Outstanding Graduates

This award goes to the two graduates who have demonstrated commitment to the Trial Team while they have been members. Areas of consideration include service to the team, intramural competitions, and intermural competitions. Members vote on the recipients of this award as well.

Unsung Hero

The Unsung Hero award goes to the member who has demonstrated commitment and service to the team, but has yet to be rewarded for such service. This member usually does an immense amount of work behind the scenes. Team members vote on the recipient of this award. Any member is eligible for this award.

Final Four Best Advocacy

The Best Advocacy is selected by judges during the Final Four Competition. The Best Advocate is the member the judges feel is the best competitor.

Final Four Best Team

The Best Team is selected by the judges during the Final Four Competition. The Best Team is the team the judges feel has demonstrated the best overall effort.

TRIAL TEAM RESOURCES

A. OFFICE POLICIES

1. Use of Office Equipment. Priority is given to Trial Team members who are currently competing in away competitions and using the equipment for such and/or for official Trial Team business.

B. OFFICE RESOURCES

1. Office. The Trial Team Office is available for use to all members at all times unless it has been reserved for a meeting. Members may use the office to study or to relax between classes.
2. Telephone. The telephone in the office may be used by all members to make local calls. No long distance calls may be made unless they are for official Trial Team business. No 411 calls maybe made.
3. Computers. The computer may be used by members at all times. The computer is available on a first come basis. However, a member conducting official Trial Team business has priority use. Westlaw and Lexis printing must be limited to printing cases and materials for Trial Team business.
4. Copy Machine. The copy machine located in the Law Review office may be used by Trial Team members for all official Trial Team business. Anyone using the machine must sign the log on the shelf next to the copy machine.
5. Supplies. Office supplies are for use by members inside the office. Please do not remove any supplies. If supplies are needed, inform the Office Manager.
6. Library. Trial Team members may use the Law Review library for all Trial Team research. Anyone using the library must reshelv all books.
7. Books. There are a number of books in the Trial Team office available for use by all members. If there is only one copy of a book in the office, members should not remove the book for more than 24 hours.
8. Refrigerator. The refrigerator is for use by Trial Team Members only. The refrigerator is small so please do not bring items that will take up too much space. (Donated by Trial Team Member, Class of 2000).
9. Reference File. The reference file will include reference materials for every step in the trial process (i.e. opening, closing) and materials from previous competitions.