

Frequently asked questions

When is my Regional heat taking place?

You can find a list of the dates of the regional heats in the resources section of the website. Please note that these dates may be subject to change, you will be notified immediately if this occurs.

When will I be told the details of my Barrister volunteer?

The barrister volunteers are currently being finalised details will be sent out to you at the end of September.

I have not been issued a barrister volunteer why is this?

We rely heavily on volunteers for the competition and these are not available in all areas, please be advised that you will not be at any disadvantage if you do not have a barrister the Project Officer at the Citizenship Foundation, who has legal qualifications, is available to give you advice over the telephone and email.

What help can the barrister give?

The barristers are advised not to guide the students as to what to say or write any scripts. The barristers can provide hints and tips on court procedure and the structure of your arguments.

How many members can I have in a team?

Your team should be made up of no more than 15 members (16 in Scotland) the roles for each case are as follows;

- 2 Prosecuting barristers
- 2 Defending barristers
- 4 Witnesses
- 1 court clerk who is also the usher
- 6 Jurors

You are free to mix the roles around between cases 1 and 2.

Are the court reporter and press officer included in the 15 students required for the competition?

No the court reporter and press officer are separate.

Are my team prosecuting or defending?

Your team will prosecute and defend case 1 at the regional final in rounds 1 and 3. You will either prosecute or defend case 2 in round 2. This is subject to change due to schools withdrawing. You should be prepared to present the other side of the case if you get through to the final round on the day.

Why don't I get my deposit back if I withdraw?

The deadline for withdrawals was the 10th September 2009 if you withdraw after this date you will not receive your deposit back, this is due to the considerable administration which is involved in withdrawing a team, and is stated in the terms and conditions.

Where do I find information on the draws?

The draws for each of the regional heats will be posted online in October please check the website regularly using your login details.

What information do I need to provide the Citizenship Foundation with?

During October you will be asked to send us a name list and registration details of any cars which you will be taking to the court on the day of the regional heat. This information is essential for clearing security. If you do not provide this information, the court may refuse you entry on the day.

How many guests can we take?

We ask schools to keep guests to a minimum for security reasons. If we are not informed of the names of any guests then they may not be able to enter the court on the day of the heat.

How long will the day last?

Schools should arrive at the court no later than 9.15, there is a short prize giving ceremony at 4.00 and the day should be finished by 4.15.

Is lunch provided?

Only at certain courts that have the facilities to cater for the schools, information will be given in due course.

What happens if a team doesn't turn up?

If a heat is one school short, the odd team in the league will sit out and be awarded one point for a bye. They will be given 0 points difference.

Can the overall outcome be challenged?

No, the judges decision is final.

Can students use take notes into the trial?

Student may take some notes into the trial but should not read excessively from notes or speak from memorised scripts. Judges give more marks for spontaneity.