

Bridgewater State University Mock Trial Club Constitution

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Bridgewater State University Mock Trial Club, hereinafter: Mock Trial Club.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this club is to provide students with the opportunity to engage in trial advocacy through mock trials, workshops and performance.

This club seeks to:

- Develop members critical thinking, logical reasoning, and public speaking skills.
- Cultivate an environment where members can prepare and practice in realistic court settings and mock cases that include hearings, trials and evidentiary arguments.
- Create a deeper interest and understanding of the law through real world application where members can actively engage with it.
- Offer members the chance to participate in independently run mock trials as well as the possibility of future regional tournaments.
- Build a selective and dedicated group of members willing to commit to understanding law and the legal system.

Article III: Membership

1) Eligibility:

- Membership is open to all undergraduate students currently enrolled at Bridgewater State University.

2) Selection process:

- Admission shall be selected by an **application, interview and audition** process held at the beginning of each semester; once admitted you retain your position unless you a) graduate the university or b) decide to leave the club.
- The president and vice of Bridgewater State University Mock Trial Club will oversee the application process and conduct interviews/auditions with potential club members. Interviews and auditions may include case analysis, opening/closing statement argument or witness examinations.
- Memberships shall be offered to those who demonstrate strong potential commitment and professionalism capping at 12-14 members.

3) Membership Status:

- Members are expected to attend practices, events, and mock trials.

- Failure to meet the attendance or conduct expectations may result in removal from the club by a two/thirds vote of the E-Board.

Article IV: Officers

- **President:** Oversees the origination and serves as the official representation of the club on campus.
- **Vice President:** Manages logistics and scheduling of the club as well as external communication to members.
- **Treasurer:** Handles the finances and organizational budgets of the club.
- **Secretary:** Maintains records and internal communication in an organized manner
- **Captains (2):** There may be up to 1 captain per team, and a maximum of 2 teams and thus 2 captains. The president and vice president will be captains unless they decide otherwise-in which case they will be chosen by vote of the E-board. In order to be nominated for captain, a member must be in the club for a minimum of 1 semester, if neither President or vice President qualify, the remaining e-board picks the captain(s) via majority vote.

Article V: Elections

1) Schedule of Voting Elections:

- Elections of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will all be held at the end of the spring semester of the academic calendar.

2) Voting Eligibility:

- All members of Bridgewater State University Mock Trial Club (including officers) are eligible to vote in the annual elections.

Article VI: Handling of Funds

- No dues will be mandated by members of the club.
- All funding will be sought through SGA and managed by the Treasurer of Mock Trial Club.

Article VII: Amendments

1) Amendment Process

- A quorum of more than one half of eligible voters must be present to amend the constitution. Of those present, a vote of more than two thirds is required for the passage of an amendment. Amendments may be tabled for a vote at a later meeting.

2) Advance Notice

- Proposed amendments must be announced one week prior to the vote on their inclusion in this document.

3) Timing of Proposals

- Any voting member may propose an amendment for consideration at the time of the regular officer election as set forth in Article V, Section 1.
- A member of the officer board may propose an amendment at any time during the regular academic year, excluding the summer quarter, pursuant to the other Sections of this Article.

Article VIII: Miscellaneous

1) Attire (Joeseph Rizzo Memorial Rule)

- Appropriate Western Business attire must be worn to all official mock trials and dress run-throughs, with the exception of witnesses with prior permission from the e-board. Persistent inappropriate attire will be grounds for membership revocation. Regular practices do not require this.

2) Closing Argument Mandate

- At the end of every semester (not including summer session) a volunteer member must deliver out-loud a summary/retelling of the events of the semester. Delivery is allowed to be dramatic and exaggerated given it follows courtroom structure. Visual aids are allowed but must be introduced as evidence following courtroom procedure.

3) School Compliance

- Membership statements: Membership shall be open to all BSU students and must comply with the BSU non-discrimination rules.

4) Witness Protection Program

- A member portraying a witness role may at any time declare themselves to be ‘in witness protection,’ requiring the team to assign them a comically vague alias for the remainder of practice.