

POWER PAIRING MEMORANDUM

(Revised 2/16/16)

What is Power Pairing? Power Pairing describes the process, adopted by the Steering Committee, by which the Tournament Administrator determines which schools your school will compete against during the preliminary and elimination rounds of the Santa Clara County Mock Trial Tournament. The goal of power pairing is to help ensure that your school competes against schools that have a comparable win-loss record during each of the preliminary rounds. Not only does power pairing serve an educational purpose, it also helps ensure that the eight strongest teams advance to the elimination rounds, and that the two strongest teams advance to the final round. It also minimizes the discretion afforded to the Tournament Director to determine pairings. The twin purposes of this memorandum is to enhance transparency in the administration of the tournament and to educate future Tournament Administrators.

Preliminary Rounds: The first preliminary round match-ups will be completely random except that the Tournament Administrator has the discretion to adjust side assignments to facilitate power pairing in subsequent rounds. Beginning in Round Two, schools will face other schools with similar win-loss records and will be divided into separate brackets (e.g., the 1-0 bracket and the 0-1 bracket). All schools with comparable win-loss records will be seeded based upon their cumulative average percentage scores. The top seed in each bracket will face the bottom seed, the second highest seed will face the second lowest seed, etc. If necessary, and subject to side constraints, a bracket may be adjusted to include higher seeded teams in the next lowest bracket with the possible exception of round four. In round four, the 2-1 bracket shall TJ (-) If the (0-1) 2 (a) 3 (a) 4 (a) 5 (high)

preliminary rounds will advance to the quarter final ro

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Administrator in applying power pairing principles in making assignments should be immediately brought to the attention of the Tournament Administrator so that corrective action before the round can be made if necessary and appropriate.