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MOCK TRIAL

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL



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About High School Mock Trial in Michigan

Welcome!

*Thank you for exploring High School Mock Trial.
This document will guide you through a few of the more frequently asked
questions regarding Mock Trial as well as options of how to best start a
program.*

*Please let us at MCCE know how we can support you through Mock Trial.
Welcome to civic and law-related education community!*

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Introducing Mock Trial

Mock Trial allows students to use simulated courtroom documents to transform themselves into attorneys and witnesses. In the process, Mock Trial becomes much more than a courtroom activity by inspiring confidence, civic knowledge, legal appreciation, collaboration skills, and more. Those skills are transferable into a lifetime of success.

Mock Trial provides opportunities to engage whole communities in learning. Together, students gain legal knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the American judicial system. Students engage the legal system by enacting complex legal cases as lawyers and witnesses in front of legal experts. Showcase and competitions are available for those who wish to participate beyond the classroom. Furthermore, volunteers and teachers mobilize students to see the best in themselves as they practice skills for civic life. Moving beyond the courtroom, communities come together to celebrate and advance the accomplishments of the emerging legal advocates!

MCCE is committed to supporting teachers, coaches, and communities. To do so, we offer an annual Mock Trial community clinic, optional local clinics, regional competitions, state competition, and support to the Michigan team which qualifies for the national championship.

Currently both showcase and competitive options are available for High School Mock Trial. Middle School Mock Trial showcases are also available.

Michigan High School Mock Trial is expanding to include Courtroom Artistry and Courtroom Journalism competitions. Courtroom Artistry and Journalism allows students to utilize the courtroom procedures to practice and exhibit their skills in illustration and reporting. The top placing Artist can represent Michigan at the National High School Mock Trial Championship. There is not currently a Courtroom Journalism program at the National level.

How Mock Trial Benefits Students

More than a courtroom procedure, Mock Trial transforms students into efficacious, confident, and collaborative people. Working through case materials, questioning, and character development, students see themselves as part of a team and community while honing skills that will benefit them in all aspects of life.

According to Street Law, “Mock trials provide students with knowledge of the judicial system, legal process, and courtroom procedures. Mock trials help to: develop students’ questioning skills, critical thinking, and oratory skills; demonstrate the roles of various actors in the legal system; and provide the class with exposure to legal resource people, such as judges, attorneys, and law school students.” Mock Trial programs promote civil conversations while emphasizing the importance of the rule of law in our democracy. These skills equip students to feel a sense of civic belonging and civic efficacy.

Student Testimonial -

“Over two decades ago, I was a sophomore in high school in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The teacher coach of the high school’s Mock Trial team took an interest in me and encouraged me to audition for the Mock Trial team. I come from a lower economic demographic; my parents barely finished high school and I had never been exposed to any professional communities. Nevertheless, I agreed to try-out, made the team and continued to compete until graduation. The skill sets I developed and the relationships established have followed me throughout my entire academic and professional career. I eventually graduated from law school and passed the bar. One of the attorney coaches of my high school Mock Trial team sponsored my admission to the Michigan Bar and I now work for one of the same firms of the same attorney coaches that taught, mentored and guided me in high school over 20 years ago. So, when I describe the positive impact this program can have on our students, it’s not hyperbole, it’s not embellishment; it’s my reality and the reality of 87 thousands of students who have had the privilege of participating in this power packed program for the past three decades.”

-James Liggins, Senior Counsel with Warner Norcross + Judd
Michigan Mock Trial Coordinator with MCCE

More testimonials to be found in the High School Mock Trial Testimonial packet.

High School Mock Trial in Michigan

The Michigan High School Mock Trial season includes showcase and competition options early in the spring.

Check out <https://www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial/> for up to date information about this year's season and follow us on Facebook at @miciviced.

Generic Michigan Schedule

November 1	MCCE releases the case materials for the year. Team registration begins. Volunteer registration is available online at: www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial/
December	A community clinic, open to all, is offered at the Hall of Justice in Lansing. Additional clinics may be added with interest and support.
Early January	Team registration closes.
Late January	Team Rosters are Due Courtroom Artist and Courtroom Journalism Registration is Due Middle School Mock Trial Showcase Registration is Due
Late February through Mid March	A series of regional competitions is offered.
Late March	A State Finals competition is held. Middle School showcase is held.
Early May	National competition is held. The team and artist who finish first, have the opportunity to represent Michigan at Nationals.

National Championship -

The Michigan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) is the official sponsor of High School Mock Trial in Michigan. Therefore, both the Michigan State Championship team and artist qualify to represent our state at the National High School Mock Trial Championship (NHSMTTC) - typically held early-mid May in cities rotating across the country. The 2020 National High School Mock Trial Championship will be held in Evansville, Indiana on May 6-9, 2020. For more information regarding the 2020 NHSMTTC in Evansville, please visit <http://indianamocktrial.com>.

Additional information on the National Championship can be found on page 17.

Also, save the date!



**MOCK
TRIAL**

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP
KALAMAZOO, MI
MAY 6-8, 2021



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Accompanying Programs

Courtroom Artistry -

Interested in creating the visual memory for a round? Illustrate the courtroom proceeding! Students interested in the Courtroom Artistry program are invited to the competition dates above. Students may illustrate during a designated regional round or at state finals for consideration for judging. Their illustration must be done using the requirements listed in the guidelines. The state champion will be eligible to attend the national finals as part of Team Michigan. See the guidelines for Artist participation [here](#), at www.miciviced.org, or at <http://bit.ly/MICourtroomArtist>).

Courtroom Journalism -

Students interested in reporting and courtroom proceedings may join us in a Courtroom Journalism competition. Student Journalists will report on details during a designated round at Regionals and/or a designated round at State Finals for consideration for judging. Their report must be done using the requirements listed in the guidelines. See the guidelines for Journalist participation [here](#), at www.miciviced.org, or at <http://bit.ly/MICourtroomJournalism>).

Middle School Showcase -

Currently, there is a separate court case for the middle school showcase; however, it will be civil or criminal to coincide with the high school case (in other words, if the high school case is criminal, the middle school case will be as well). Middle school teams will be invited to showcase during the High School Mock Trial State Finals. In years to come, the Middle School Showcase may move to the fall season.

The Middle School Showcase may be judged by a variety of community members as well as High School Mock Trial students.

Please see current event dates online at www.miciviced.org/programs/mocktrial.

Starting a Program: How Can I Get A School or Organization Involved?

As a School Administrator, Educator, or Community Group Leader - Starting a Team

Welcome. We are glad you value the program, and are interested in offering this opportunity to further your students' education and development.

Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to participate in Michigan High School Mock Trial; teams from community organizations such as 4H, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and homeschooling groups are welcome.

To officially be a High School Mock Trial school, you need to register a team for a Regional Competition. It is as easy as that! Registration opens early November.

Running a Team

There are many variations on how schools provide High School Mock Trial opportunities. MCCE does not require any specific structure to be involved. Below are a variety of configurations we see in Michigan and throughout the country. This is not a fully inclusive list, nor is it meant to recommend a particular structure. This list is simply to demonstrate what variations are seen most often.

- **Afterschool Club/Team.** This model appears to be the most common. In this model, a teacher/school sponsors a club or team. Typically a schedule B or related arrangement, a teacher/coach oversees their team and functions as a supervisor taking care of logistics.
- **Classroom.** There is a wide array of courses with which a High School Mock Trial team may be affiliated. Classes ranging from civics, current events, law, criminal justice, and more can be a place where a teacher draws a team for participation.
- **Additional Variations.** This approach may be a hybrid of the two or a model outside the traditional school structure. While not eligible for the national championship, organizations could also sponsor mock trial events.

MCCE does support teachers and community coaches being paid and recognized for their work in their district.

As a Parent -

Would you like to see your student involved in Mock Trial? Many programs begin because parents wish to bring the value of the Mock Trial program to their students, and work with teachers and administrators to make it happen. For more details, contact James Liggins, Michigan Mock Trial Coordinator, or Ellen Zwarensteyn, MCCE Executive Director (c: 248.321.4842.) The Michigan Center for Civic Education is the official sponsor of High School Mock Trial in Michigan. We work with schools on an individual basis as well as provide resources online.

Support from MCCE

MCCE wants to see you and your community celebrate civic education. We will be by your side to support you however we can.

The Michigan Center for Civic Education is the official sponsor of High School Mock Trial in Michigan. We can assist administrators and/or teachers in establishing a High School Mock Trial team in their school and in finding legal professionals in their community to act as coaches. Oftentimes, it is a call to the local bar association which results in wonderful partnerships.

After a team is created, MCCE can work with schools on an individual basis, provide resources online, and offer clinics for coaches and students.

Community Clinics -

Currently, we provide a community clinic with our friends at the Hall of Justice in December. This is open to everyone - secondary students, potential coaches, teachers, administrators, and other interested persons. The goal of the clinic is to provide fundamentals regarding litigation basics. The clinic utilizes a smaller, more generic case. Lessons learned at the clinic can be applied to any set of courtroom documents.

Please see the website for the current clinic date.

MCCE loves to host additional clinics and workshops to meet the needs of local schools and coaches. Contact us if we can provide additional assistance, tailored to meet your individual needs.

Connecting Teams and Coaches -

MCCE is also pleased to work with the State Bar of Michigan. We ask their members if they are interested in volunteering and connect them to schools. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that the volunteer is an appropriate fit. As we receive names of volunteers and interested schools, we will try to facilitate the meeting.

Online Resources

MCCE is also in the process of updating the website to provide video tutorials (or links to other video tutorials) regarding best practices across the country. Please stay tuned as we continue that process.

Getting Involved as a Supporter

As a Legal Professional -

Tournaments happen thanks to the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. All volunteers are welcome from legal professionals, law students, and interested community members. Here is a sampling of how to get involved!

Judging and Time Keeping

We have many volunteer opportunities available, but those perhaps of most interest to legal professionals (and legal students) during High School Mock Trial events are judging and time-keeping during the rounds. We welcome volunteers who are able to make to only one event per season, as well as those interested in volunteering at multiple, or even all events in a season. Judges provide the scoring of the trials and time keepers help facilitate the accuracy of the score cards, enforce the time limits, and ensure all people are in the correct courtroom at the right time.

Coaching

Many teams benefit from legal professionals generously donating their time to coach the students. This is a great opportunity for legal professionals looking to give back to their community in a longer term volunteer opportunity - encouraging and mentoring high school students. We can help place those interested in coaching with a team in their area.

Hospitality and Logistical Support.

MCCE hopes all its schools and volunteers leave feeling supported, nourished, and celebrated. Volunteers are needed to ensure all people have a smooth and enriching experience. People who help with directions, ensure the coffee is ready for our volunteers, help with the awards, take photographs, and so much more are essential to the program's success.

As a Community Supporter -

In addition to spreading knowledge of the Mock Trial program, the two biggest needs are:

Financial support

MCCE appreciates each and every donor. Financial support means we don't lose our current programs and will hopefully expand until the mission to impact each and every student in Michigan positive experiences in civic community is met. Donations may be mailed to the office at: Michigan Center for Civic Education, 306 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933.

Volunteer support

Tournaments happen thanks to the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. All volunteers are welcome from legal professionals, law students, and interested community members. Here is a sampling of how to get involved! Please consider signing up to volunteer. Please also consider joining our committees as well to share the love of High School Mock Trial. Sign up is available at www.miciviced.org.

For more details, contact Ellen Zwarenstejn, Executive Director, at the Michigan Center for Civic Education (c: 248.321.4842.)

Thank you!

Frequently Asked Questions

ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL IN MICHIGAN

How many teams currently compete in Michigan?

The competitive Mock Trial season currently reaches over 700 high school students in Michigan. An average of 50 schools participate in the competitions.

We are also expanding to include Middle School Mock Trial, Courtroom Illustration, and Courtroom Journalism. We hope to impact all K-12 students to ensure they are engaged in civic community.

What if I don't know my team roster in November?

No one really does! The registration process between November and January is a commitment from your school to participate in a specific regional. This allows us to ensure we have adequate facilities and logistics in place (and alert a team if we need to move them to their second choice should we be already at capacity at certain regionals).

Your team roster is due late January/early February. While your roster is due at that time, we also understand that life happens and there is an occasional switch. As long as MCCE staff is alerted of changes and all participants meet eligibility rules, we will make it work.

How do we know what the case is about? When is the case released?

MCCE adopted a new practice in 2018. The case will be made available to the entire community for free (no registration required). The MCCE Board made this decision to provide a greater service to the community and do what they could to provide a more equitable competitive field. This also allows all people to access the material hopefully providing more material for more access to Mock Trial.

Beginning November 1, the case will be available as a download. You will input your email and school to receive the free download. If there is ever an issue with the technology, please email us at mocktrail@miciviced.org and we will happily email you a pdf version.

(Answer continued on the next page.)



	<p>MCCE also has an update for 2019. The rules and guidelines information packet will be separated from the case. This way the rules are available to everyone with year round access.</p>
<p>But I don't want to wait for the new case? What else can I do?</p>	<p>We have you covered! There are numerous cases available for your use on the website. These cases cover a wide range of topics as well as age appropriate ranges.</p> <p>Our counterparts in other states also have many cases available online along with our friends at both StreetLaw and the National Constitutional Rights Foundation.</p>
<p>What can I do in elementary schools to incorporate Mock Trials?</p>	<p>MCCE provides resources online to begin early incorporation of Mock Trial. Trials reference stories such as the Big Bad Wolf or Goldilocks to introduce ideas of the legal system and development of character witnesses.</p> <p>Currently, MCCE does not have a season or showcase dedicated for elementary schools. We would love to host one and see what you do! If you do incorporate or do Mock Trials at the elementary school level, let us know! We want to celebrate you and your students!</p>
<p>What can I do in middle schools to incorporate Mock Trials?</p>	<p>Join us! Starting in the fall of 2019, MCCE will make a middle school case available. The case will be the same 'type' (civil or criminal) as the high school case. The fact patterns will likely be different.</p> <p>Middle school teams are all invited to attend the state finals to view a High School Mock Trial round and to showcase their work against other schools! We hope to involve high school students as judges in the middle school trials.</p>
<p>What are the associated costs for Mock Trial participation?</p>	<p>MCCE collects registration fees - one fee per team participating at the regional showcase and competition. The fees cover courtroom use, volunteer refreshments, volunteer materials, website enhancements, certificates, and related usage fees MCCE incurs. 2019 costs are \$260 per team (if paying by check) or \$270 if paying via PayPal (to cover PayPal fees). To be fully registered, a team must be paid in full.</p> <p>There is also a small per person cost for clinic attendance. (Answer continued on the next page.)</p>



	<p>Please see the current cost online at www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial.</p> <p>To attend the national championship as the legal team, artist, or journalist, MCCE will help with registration costs. Travel and related expenses are currently responsibilities of the team and individuals who qualifies.</p>
<p>How can I participate in Courtroom Artistry?</p>	<p>Interested in creating the visual memory for a round? Illustrate the courtroom proceeding! Students interested in the Courtroom Artistry program are invited to the competition dates above. Their illustration must be done using the requirements listed in the guidelines.</p> <p>Students may illustrate during a designated regional round or at state finals for judging. Students may be affiliated with a school (with a Mock Trial team) or compete independently with approval from school administrators at states (independently) per the guidelines.</p> <p>The state champion will be eligible to attend and compete in the National Finals as part of Team Michigan. To compete in Michigan, registration is \$10 per student and must be registered by the team deadline (2019-2020 - January 10, 2020).</p> <p>See the full guidelines for Artist participation here. Registration will be available online at miciviced.org starting on November 1st.</p>
<p>How can I participate in Courtroom Journalism?</p>	<p>Students interested in reporting and courtroom proceedings may join us in a Courtroom Journalism competition. Student Journalists will report on details during a designated round at Regionals and/or a designated round at State Finals for consideration for judging. Their report must be done using the requirements listed in the guidelines.</p> <p>See the full guidelines for Journalist participation here. Registration will be available online at miciviced.org starting on November 1st.</p>
<p>What can we expect at a Regional?</p>	<p>Regionals are single day events on a given Saturday. Registration will open by 8 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Answer continued on the next page.)</p>



	<p>There will be 2 trial rounds in the morning and one after lunch. Lunch is currently 'on your own.' There are designated areas in the courthouses for people to eat.</p> <p>The results will be announced in the late afternoon, around 4:30 p.m. with dismissal usually around 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>MCCE strives for each team to have at least one round as the prosecution/plaintiff and one round as the defense in the morning (unless extenuating circumstances prohibit). In the afternoon, a team could be either one. Typically this is decided randomly in the tabulation room. In the event of an odd number of teams, a team will have a bye which will impact the number of prosecution/plaintiff and defense rounds.</p> <p>In 2019, MCCE began assigning teams to their trials by number in a random draw. The draw occurs in the morning at registration. This draw will determine the sides and the opposing teams. If a school has more than one team, there is a chance their teams compete against each other.</p> <p>Judges know teams by their codes only.</p>														
<p>What is a typical Regional schedule?</p>	<p>Tournament Day Itinerary</p> <p>The schedule will alter slightly depending on number of teams, site specific issues, and other considerations. Please see your pre-tournament memo for a specific agenda.</p> <p>A typical schedule might look like:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>7:30 – 8:15 a.m.</td> <td>Team Registration and Team Number Draw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8:30 – 10:30 a.m.</td> <td>First Round</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:45 – 12:45 p.m.</td> <td>Second Round</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:45 – 2:00 p.m.</td> <td>Lunch (on your own)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2:00 – 4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Third Round</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:30 p.m.</td> <td>Announcement of Community Awards, Great Moments, Reflections, and Advancing Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5:00 p.m.</td> <td>Dismissal</td> </tr> </table>	7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Team Registration and Team Number Draw	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	First Round	10:45 – 12:45 p.m.	Second Round	12:45 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Third Round	4:30 p.m.	Announcement of Community Awards, Great Moments, Reflections, and Advancing Teams	5:00 p.m.	Dismissal
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<p>Is lunch provided at competitions?</p>	<p>Food is not currently provided for teams. Please bring lunches with you or arrange to have food delivered to your team during the lunch break.</p> <p>Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided for volunteers.</p>														



Can I watch other teams compete?

This depends. If you are affiliated with a school, you may watch only the rounds in which your school participates. So family, friends, and other supporters of a team are allowed only in courtrooms where their team is located. There is a rule against scouting other teams. This applies to all regionals.

If you wish to observe the competition for the purpose of exploring Mock Trial and are unaffiliated with a competing team, you are welcome to watch with notice and approval from MCCE. You will be given a special nametag which permits you entry into the courtrooms. To request this status, please contact Ellen Zwarenstejn at 248.321.4842.

Please see the rules document for photo and video information. The rules document will be available at www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial.

I've heard of both Mock Trial and Moot Court. What is the difference?

Mock Trial and Moot Court are different types of trials - both within the legal system.

Mock Trial is a practice in trial advocacy. This means students will review courtroom documents and perform the roles of attorneys and witnesses using the simulated 'primary documents' of a court case. These may include witness statements, exhibits, police statements, and more. Students develop both a plaintiff/prosecution as well as a defense strategy. In Michigan Mock Trial, there are typically three witnesses per side and three attorneys.

Moot Court is a practice in appellate advocacy. This is a case being argued on appeal. There is usually one person per side and they discuss the merits and/or process of the decision based on facts of a decided case from a lower level court.

MCCE currently offers Mock Trial. Our friends at the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center offer a summer program for students to delve into Moot Court.



Are there rules for process and procedure and etiquette guidelines?

Yes. The rules for Mock Trial outline a range of rules and guidelines. Michigan tends to follow the rules outlined by the National High School Mock Trial Championship group so there is consistency between teams participating in Michigan and at the National Championship. This means the rules typically follow the federal rules of evidence.

Additional rules and procedures are available at www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial.

How are the competition rounds scored?

MCCE champions participation at all levels, be it competing or showcasing. If your school chooses to compete, there are several judging forms available. Those can be viewed at www.miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Who is the NHSMTTC, and what is the Championship?

The Michigan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) is the official partner with the National High School Mock Trial Championship organization. The National High School Mock Trial Championship is the group that governs national championship hosting. Their goal is to promote understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through academic competitions. States pay both membership and registration fees to be a part of the organization, making the state eligible to send one team to compete at the National Championship. The competition now includes Courtroom Artistry and Courtroom Journalism.

How does a Michigan team qualify for the National Championship?

The top finishing team at the State Finals which meets the NHSMTTC criteria qualifies to represent Michigan at the National Championship. While this will typically be the State Champion, MCCE recognizes that there may be a team (perhaps sponsored by a community organization rather than a school) that may win in Michigan, but be ineligible to compete in the National Championship under NHSMTTC rules. For the full list of National Championship rules, please visit <http://www.nationalmocktrial.org>.

<p>Where is the National Championship located?</p>	<p>The National Championship does not have one fixed location. Instead it rotates around the country. The groups that run Mock Trial in their state are eligible to bid for the opportunity to host the National Championship in their state. If their bid is approved, that group is responsible for funding, planning, and running that National Championship. The benefit to hosting is to celebrate the legal community in that state, to showcase the state to the whole country, and the chance to bring a second team to the National Championship if there is an odd number of participating teams.</p>
<p>Will Michigan ever host a National Championship?</p>	<p>Yes! MCCE and the State Bar of Michigan are thrilled to report that Michigan will be hosting for the first time in 2021! The 2021 National High School Mock Trial Championship will take place in Kalamazoo on May 6-8.</p> <p>For more information about this, please see the information packet on Nationals.</p>
<p>How many teams attend the National Championship?</p>	<p>Between 48 and 52 teams are expected each year. The National High School Mock Trial Championship organization outlines the procedure at http://www.nationalmocktrial.org.</p>
<p>How many people attend the National Championship each year?</p>	<p>Over 1,200 people from across the country - as well as some from other territories and countries - are expected to attend the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Over 600 students are expected to compete. ● Over 500 teachers, coaches, and team supporters are expected to be in attendance. Over 200 esteemed volunteers, plus the National High School Mock Trial Championship Board of Directors, will also be present.
<p>Where do I find information about the 2020 Championship?</p>	<p>The 2020 NHSMTTC will be hosted in Evansville, Indiana on May 6-9. For more information, please visit our friends over at http://indianamocktrial.com/.</p>
<p>Where do I find information about the 2021 Championship?</p>	<p>We will be hosting the 2021 NHSMTTC in Kalamazoo, MI on May 6-8. For more information about the 2021 Kalamazoo Championship, please visit our website at www.miciviced.org for more information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Answer continued on the next page.)</p>



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Please also feel free to contact Ellen Zwarenstejn at 248.321.4842 if you are interested in volunteering, funding, or providing another form of support for the 2021 Kalamazoo NHSMTC.

Save the Date!

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP
KALAMAZOO, MI
MAY 6-8, 2021



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