

**FIRST UPDATE MEMORANDUM**  
**2026 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational**

*River Knox v. Lincoln Adventure Co., LLC*

1/6/2026

**Question No. 1.** River Knox's affidavit says in line 1 on page 34 that River is 46 and in line 2 says that River began running ultra-marathons 12 years ago. However, on line 16, River says that they did not start running seriously until 40. There seems to be a time/age discrepancy there. Was this intentional or a typo?

**Answer:** The problem will stand as written.

**Question No. 2.** Given that Exhibit 3 is an unsigned waiver, is Harper McFinch familiar with it as a race participant? It is not explicitly referenced in the affidavit, although Harper does mention reading about the dangers.

If the answer is no, does that mean the waiver was not provided to all participants?

**Answer:** The problem will stand as written. Participants are reminded that this is a closed universe problem. Ergo, the absence of something like this should not lead you to the supposition of an entirely new fact.

**Question No. 3.** [Note: there were two similar questions asked about Exhibit 15 that are collectively addressed in this Answer.]

In Exhibit 15, four runner emails are shown. For 3 of them, there is no record of them running the race in Exhibit 16. Is this intentional or an oversight?

In Exhibit 15, the first names of the authors match runners in the race, but the last initials do not match up with the runners that have those first names. Is this erroneous, or intentional?

**Answer:** The problem will stand as written. For clarity, the emails used the first name and middle initial of the participant. In other words: Avery L. Ryan finished 17th, Casey T. Miles finished 26th, Drew P. Jordan finished 40th, and Jordan M. Morrison finished 46th.

**Question No. 4.** In Illinois, organizations are considered responsible for the conduct of their volunteers, following the principle of "respondeat superior." Any problems with using this concept in our preparation (as it is not mentioned in the case problem)?

**Answer:** The problem will stand as written. Teams are encouraged to review Court Instruction 15 and may present appropriate evidence using the law provided therein. As stated above, the mock trial problem exists in a closed universe. **Any law, facts, etc. that may exist in the real world that are not referenced in the problem may not be referred to by any team.**

**Question No. 5.** Based on the title on page 2, are we correct in assuming that Exhibit 12 shows course flags for runners to follow, and not the "warning sign" to walk in the scramble zone?

**Answer:** The problem will stand as written.

**Question No. 6.** The "statement of the case" on page 3 says that rocks dislodged by River Knox struck a runner below. This is also a statement made in the affirmative defenses. We haven't found any other reference to this. Is this information that is unintentionally missing from any statement?

**Answer:** This is an inadvertent omission. Harper McFinch's affidavit, Page 59, line 63, should be changed to add "...I did see River Knox lose control on the loose rocks, some falling down onto other runners below, and fall."