MockXMarket

ADVISOR SETUP GUIDE

Set up a DECA practice league in about 15 minutes

How to run a Stock Market Game practice portfolio for your chapter on MockXMarket: create it from the DECA preset, get teams joined, set your deadlines, and grade every team, including the ones that do not qualify for ICDC.

Steps match the MockXMarket app as of October 27, 2026. Rule details are from the DECA Guide 2026-27.

Before you start

- **An instructor account.** Sign up at mockxmarket.com as an instructor. New instructor accounts are reviewed before they can create portfolios; we set this up when we arrange your free practice challenge or chapter plan.
- **Student sign-ins.** Portfolio practice lasts weeks, so each student signs in with an email address. Suggest first names or nicknames for display names.
- **Your dates.** Decide when practice starts and ends. A pre-season league can run before the official game opens; a parallel league can run alongside it.

STARTING CASH	FEE	POSITION CAP	BENCHMARK
$100,000	**$5**	**30%**	**SPYG**
per team portfolio	per trade	blocks a buy above it	S&P 500 Growth ETF

Create the practice portfolio

1. **Open Investing.** Sign in and click **Investing** in the top menu. You land on the page to create a new portfolio.

2. **Pick the DECA preset.** Under **Quick start (optional)**, click the card **DECA Stock Market Game (practice)**. It fills in:
   - Name "DECA Stock Market Game Practice" and course label "DECA" (change either if you like).
   - $100,000 starting cash and the SPYG benchmark.
   - Under **Advanced settings**, which opens by itself: a $5 commission per trade, a 30% max single-name weight, short selling on, $10,000 diversification minimums for stocks, mutual funds and bonds, and **Teams of up to 3**.

3. **Set your dates.** Choose a **Start Date** and an **End Date**. The end date is required.

4. **Set the diversification deadline (recommended).** In **Advanced settings**, under **Diversification Minimums**, fill in **Meet by**. To mirror the official game, use a date a few weeks into your league; students then see a countdown.

5. **Optional: adjust grading weights.** Also in Advanced settings, **Grade Rubric Weights** sets how the performance grade is built. The default is Return 40, Risk-adjusted (Sharpe) 30, Diversification 20, Capital deployed 10. Rules and weights are set at creation, so decide now.

6. **Click Create Portfolio.** You land on the portfolio's management page. The **Join code** tile shows a 6-character code with a **Copy** button.

7. **Click Activate Portfolio** when you want trading to count. New portfolios start as drafts. Students can join a draft, but orders only fill for an active portfolio.

Get students and teams joined

1. **Share the join code.** Students sign in, click **Investing**, and use the **Join a Portfolio** box: enter the code and their name, then press **Join**. You can also send a link in the form **mockxmarket.com/invest?code=YOURCODE**, which fills the code in for them.

2. **One captain per team joins first.** With teams on, the first student to join becomes the team's captain and owns the shared portfolio. Have only captains use the class join code.

3 **Captains invite teammates.** The captain's dashboard shows **Invite your teammates** with an 8-character **Team code** and a **Copy invite link** button. Teammates enter that code in the **Team code** field and press **Join team**. Up to three students share one portfolio.

4 **Check the roster.** On the **Class** tab, the roster lists each team with its captain and teammates. Use **Remove** next to a teammate's name to fix a wrong join.

Tip: match practice teams to your official Stock Market Game teams so the trade history and rationales carry straight into the pitch deck if a team qualifies.

Deadlines and rules: what the app does

RULE	WHAT STUDENTS SEE IN PRACTICE
30% in one security	A buy that would take one holding above 30% is blocked when the order is placed. Holdings that grow past 30% are kept.
$10,000 per asset class	A **Diversification Checklist** on the student dashboard shows progress for stocks, mutual funds and bonds, with days left to your Meet by date. It warns and never blocks a trade.
End-of-day pricing	Orders queue and fill at the official daily close, then settle automatically each evening. Nothing runs live.
$5 per transaction	Charged on each filled trade.
Ranked against S&P 500 Growth	Return against SPYG updates after each daily close.
End of the competition	Click **End Semester** on your portfolio page to freeze final standings and stop new orders. This cannot be undone.

For the official 2026-27 dates, see the season calendar.

During the season

- **Class tab:** **Rank class** ranks teams by return or by performance grade. **Standings over time** charts each team week by week against the benchmark.
- **Click a team** in the roster to see its holdings, equity, max drawdown, realized P&L, and recent trade rationales.
- **News tab:** post a headline to every student's dashboard, for example a reminder about the diversification deadline.
- **Assignments tab:** add a **Trade requirement** (a minimum number of trades per week or in total) or a **Written thesis**, each with an optional due date.
- **Learning:** share the free investing basics lessons; each ends with a self-checking exit ticket.

Grading the teams that do not qualify

Only the top teams in each region move on, but every team can finish with a grade and feedback. Here is a simple rubric you can adapt, with where to find the evidence in MockXMarket.

COMPONENT (SUGGESTED POINTS)	WHERE THE EVIDENCE IS
Rule discipline (20)	Click the team to see its holdings and allocation by class. Students see the same $10,000 checks on their Diversification Checklist, so a screenshot on your Meet by date works as evidence too.
Trade rationales (25)	Recent trade rationale in the team detail. **AI-review rationale** gives a draft assessment you can accept or ignore; the grade is your call.
Written reflection (30)	Add a **Written thesis** assignment such as "What worked, what did not, what we would change". **AI-review thesis** suggests a score; enter your own and click **Save grade**.
Performance grade (15)	The performance grade combines return, risk-adjusted return, diversification and capital deployed. See it with **Rank class** by Grade.
Participation (10)	A **Trade requirement** assignment, for example at least 2 trades per week.

- **Export:** **Export gradebook (CSV)** downloads every team's grade, equity, return and assignment progress. Brightspace users can use **Export for Brightspace (D2L)**. **Equity history (CSV)** gives the daily values.

- **Practice a mini pitch:** ask every team to present a five-minute version of the pitch deck outline using the **Pitch Pack** on their dashboard. It is good practice for next season.

Supporting qualifying teams

- Students open **Pitch Pack** from their portfolio dashboard. It lays out their practice data in the DECA presentation outline, with space for their own words, a rubric coach that gives feedback without writing for them, and **Print / Save as PDF**.
- The official pitch deck must use the team's official Stock Market Game results. Practice data is for rehearsal and for showing the reasoning behind decisions.
- Read the pitch deck guide and the fictional sample deck together with your team.

What practice does not model

- **Margin:** the official game allows borrowing up to 50% of equity; practice is cash only.
- **Individual bonds:** practice uses bond funds and bond ETFs for the bond class. In the official game, all ETFs (bond ETFs too) count as stocks, so teams need real bonds there.
- **ESG category** and SIFMA's exchange, share-price and order-size rules are not modeled.
- **Rankings:** practice results never count toward DECA rankings. Only the official SIFMA game does.

Questions? Contact us and we will help you set up your league.

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