



IBA ICC MOOT COURT

Organised by the Grotius Centre

RULES OF PROCEDURE

11 June – 18 June 2025, The Hague

International Bar Association International Criminal Court
Moot Court Competition

12th Edition



Grotius Centre
for International
Legal Studies



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



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Chapter 1: General Rules

Art. 1 - Organization

- a. The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (hereinafter “the Competition”, the “IBA ICCMCC”), consisting of the Preliminary Round, Quarter-final Round, and Semi-final Round, is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies – Leiden University (“Grotius Centre”) and the International Bar Association (“IBA”) (www.iccmoot.com).
- b. The 2025 IBA ICCMCC International Round shall be conducted in The Hague, The Netherlands. There is no possibility to participate online.
- c. All materials developed by the Organizing Committee and Board of Advisors of the Competition, including, without limitation, the Rules of Procedure, and the Competition Case, are the sole property of the IBA ICCMCC. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than participation in or administration of the Competition without the express and prior written consent of the Board of Advisors of the Competition.
- d. The Final Round of the Competition will, if possible, be organized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on location in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Art. 2 - Object

The present Rules of Procedure (“Rules”) govern the IBA ICCMCC 2025, held in the English language, organized by the Grotius Centre and by the IBA (hereinafter “the Organization”).

Art. 3 - Subject

All Teams participating in the Competition are presumed to have knowledge of and shall be subject to these Rules.

Art. 4 - Interpretation of the Rules

- a. The Organization has the authority to interpret and amend the provisions contained in the Rules.
- b. The Organization reserves the right to make changes at any time before the commencement of the International Oral Round if deemed necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the participating teams on the website of the Organization (www.iccmoot.com).

Art. 5 - Aim of the Competition

The Competition aims to encourage university students to improve their knowledge of international criminal law in practice and in particular of the ICC’s mandate and its jurisprudence, by simulating ICC proceedings through arguing a hypothetical case. The Competition seeks to enhance knowledge about the Rome Statute, especially within countries that have yet to ratify it. In addition, the Competition provides Participants with the opportunity to become familiar with international institutions based in The Hague.

Chapter 2: Participation and Eligibility

Art. 6 - Participation

- a. All educational institutions offering a degree, or similar graduate or postgraduate qualification or training, in law or in a field related to international law, or in international relations, are eligible to participate in the Competition.
- b. Each institution may enter one Team, regardless of the number of colleges, departments, faculties, or schools within that institution, and the team may include students from one or more of its colleges, departments, faculties, or schools.
- c. Each country, including the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, the Special Administrative Region of Macau, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, may be represented by a maximum of **five (5) Teams**, regardless of how many Teams from the same country register. In case that **more than five (5) Teams** register from the same country, the Teams will have to participate in a Qualifying Round in order to determine the five (5) Teams that will participate in the International Round of the Competition (cf. [Art. 7](#)).
- d. The Organization retains the discretion to allow more than five (5) Teams from each country to participate in the Competition.

Art. 7 - Qualifying Rounds

- a. When more Teams than allowed from one country are seeking registration for the Competition, a special procedure in the form of a Qualifying Round may take place. The Qualifying Round may take the form of (1) a National/Regional Round or (2) a Problem-solving Question Round.
- b. If there is no official National/Regional Round in the concerned country/region yet, it may be organized by one of the competing universities, or an independent body, such as an NGO, academic association, or other. Their organization must be approved by the Organization beforehand.
- c. If no National/Regional Round exists in the concerned country or region by the following date, each Team from that country shall receive a Problem-Solving Question from the Organization by **25 November 2024**.
- d. Each Team concerned must submit its answer to the Problem-Solving Question by **2 December 2024, by 11:59pm CET at the latest**. An answer submitted after the specified deadline renders that Team's registration automatically invalid.
- e. Each Team will be notified of the result of its performance in this Qualifying Round and its eligibility to participate in the International Round of the Competition by **9 December 2024 @ 5:00pm CET**.
- f. All National/Regional Rounds must be completed by **17 March 2025**.

Art. 8 - Organization of National/Regional Rounds

- a. The Regional Round for the Americas and Caribbean is held in White Plains, New York, in the United States of America and is organized by Pace University Law School (<https://law.pace.edu/icc>).
- b. The National Round for Brazil is organized by the Universidade Federal do Paraná and Unicritiba - Centro Universitário.
- c. The National Round for China is organized by the China University of Political Science and Law (<https://gifxy.cupl.edu.cn/sytzgg.htm>).

- d. The National Round for Germany is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, in cooperation with the German participating universities.
- e. The National Round for India is organized by the National Law University, Delhi (www.nludelhi.ac.in).
- f. The National Round for The Netherlands is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies.

Art. 9 - Team Composition

- a. Each Team will be comprised of three (3) **speakers**. Additionally, the Team may include two (2) **researchers** and two (2) **coaches**: one Leading Coach and one Assistant Coach. The amount of Team Members **may never exceed seven (7)** at any moment in the Competition.
- b. Registration forms may be amended at any time before **31 March 2025 @ 5:00pm CEST**. Submitted registration forms can only be amended with prior approval from the Organization. To receive approval, please send your reasoned request to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- c. The Organization reserves the right to allow changes in a Team's composition after this deadline in consideration of exceptional circumstances, or in the interests or fairness of the Competition.
- d. Teams that qualified through the Problem-Solving Question Round or a National/Regional Round are not allowed to change more than one Team Member after their qualification. Teams are allowed, however, to cancel the participation of Team Members. In exceptional circumstances the Organization may accept more than one change of Team Member.
- e. The Coach or a Team Member appointed by the Team, represents both the university and the Team before the Organization (the 'contact person'). Communications from the Organizing Office will be made directly to teams' designated contact person.
- f. Any changes made to the details of the contact person must be communicated via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

Art. 10 - Team Member Eligibility

- a. Only actively enrolled students in Bachelor, Master or Juris Doctor Programs are eligible to participate. Exchange students may participate on behalf of their host university.
- b. Non-law students may be considered eligible, provided that they have the requisite legal knowledge. It is each Team's responsibility to ensure that its Members have a level of legal knowledge suitable for the Competition.
- c. Students admitted to practice, including by having taken and passed the bar exam, are prohibited to participate.
- d. These restrictions shall not apply to the Leading and Assistant Coaches.

Chapter 3: Team Registration

Art. 11 - Team Registration

- a. Teams can register via the Competition's website (www.iccmoot.com) or directly **[here between 16 September and 18 November 2024 by 11:59pm CET](#)**.
- b. A confirmation of participation will be sent to the Teams that advance straight to the International Round by **25 November 2024**.
- c. Universities can register without submitting the names of the Team Members right away. The contact person's details must be included, otherwise the registration is not considered valid.
- d. Details of the Team Members must be submitted **[via this digital form](#)** by **6 January 2025 @ 11:59pm CET**. Should details of the Team Members not be completed by the deadline, the registration of the university will be rendered invalid.

Art. 12 - Registration Fee

- a. The registration fee for participation in the International Rounds is based on the World Bank List of Economies (FY 2024-2025). The registration fee for teams from countries qualified as **high-income** countries is €1900, teams from countries qualified as **upper middle-income** countries €1600, and teams from **lower-middle, or low-income** countries €1100. The [World Bank List of Economies](#) (FY 2024-2025) can be found in [Annex 3](#).
- b. The registration fee covers the participation of seven (7) team members. Even if the Team consists of less Team Members, it is not possible to pay a reduced fee.
- c. The Organization will issue an invoice for payment of the registration fee to eligible Teams between **January and February 2025**. The invoice will be sent via email to the contact person listed on the registration form, under 'invoice details'.
- d. Each Team must pay their registration fee within thirty (30) days of receiving the invoice.
- e. Incomplete payment of the registration fee renders that particular registration invalid.
- f. The registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.

Art. 13 - Team Identification

- a. In the interest of fairness and objectivity, each Team shall be assigned a Team Number upon their registration. This Number will be emailed to each Team by the Organization. This Number becomes the Team's main identifier throughout the Competition.
- b. Any further communications with the Organization must be done under the denotation of this Team Number.
- c. Teams must not reveal the identity of their institution or their country of origin to the Judges at any time during the Competition.
- d. The Organization may disqualify or impose a penalty against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently discloses its school or country of origin to a Judge during the Competition, regardless of whether such disclosure occurs during an Oral Round.

Chapter 4: Judging in the Competition

Art. 14 - International Panel of Evaluation

- a. The International Panel of Evaluation (IPE) shall be tasked with the grading of the Memorials.
- b. All participating Teams shall **nominate two (2) duly qualified persons** to be a Member of the IPE. Each Member of the IPE will evaluate three (3) anonymous Memorials (excluding the Memorials of the nominating Team).
- c. Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds are exempted from nominating Members to the IPE unless they wish to do so.
- d. The nominated persons may in no way be involved with the nominating Team or its preparation.
- e. The Team must inform the persons they wish to nominate and receive their consent for the nomination before submitting their details with the Organization.
- f. Participating Teams must submit the names, contact details, position and affiliation of their nominees by **24 February 2025 at the latest** via the [online nomination form](#).
- g. A Coach or Assistant Coach of a participating Team can under no circumstance be nominated as an Evaluator.
- h. The Organization may waive a Team's duty to nominate IPE Members. The authority and discretion to grant waivers lies entirely with the Organization.
- i. Non-compliance with this article will result in ten (10) penalty points, to be deducted from the nominating Team's total Memorial score.
- j. If one or both of a Team's nominee does not submit the scores for the Memorials that were allocated to them by **30 April 2025 @ 11:59PM CEST**, the nominating Team will be penalized with ten (10) points, to be deducted from the nominating Team's total Memorial score.
- k. The Organization shall also invite duly qualified persons to act as Members of the IPE.
- l. Qualified persons may apply to become Evaluators in the Competition via the [online application form](#) before **14 March 2025 @ 11:59PM CET**.

Art. 15 - Members of the Oral Round Judging Panel

- a. The Organization shall invite duly qualified persons to act as Members of the Judging Benches during the Preliminary, Quarter-Final, and Semi-Final Rounds. Duly qualified persons include, but are not limited to, lawyers, academics in a field of law, legal advisors, legal officers, and court personnel.
- b. Qualified persons may apply to become Judges in the Competition via the [online application form](#) before **16 April 2025 @ 11:59PM CEST**.

Art. 16 - Eligibility

- a. The Organization will determine the eligibility of persons to serve as Evaluators and Judges in the Competition.
- b. A person may act as an Evaluator and/or a Judge if they hold at least a Master's degree in law in any jurisdiction or a Master's degree in an international law-related field. Experience in the practice of law is accepted in lieu of a Master's degree.
- c. Subject to the provisions below, a Judge may not judge a team with whom that Judge is affiliated.

- d. A Coach or Assistant Coach of a participating Team can under no circumstance be appointed as an Evaluator or as a Judge.
- e. An 'affiliation' means a professional or close personal relationship between an Evaluator and/or Judge and an institution, Coach, or Team Member participating in the Oral Round in which the Judge is to serve on the Bench.
- f. The existence of a professional relationship between an Evaluator and/or Judge and a Team shall not preclude the Judge from judging in the Competition when — in the determination of the Organizers— that Judge is not in a position to discover whether or not such an affiliation exists.
- g. The existence or non-existence of a professional or a close personal relationship shall be determined by the Organization.
- h. It is the duty of the Evaluator and/or Judge to report any known affiliations at the time they register directly to the Organization in advance of the Competition. The Organization shall investigate any reported affiliation (whether self-reported by a Judge or otherwise) and determine whether such affiliation constitutes a conflict of interest.

Chapter 5: Competition Structure

Art. 17 - Case Publication

- a. Teams will be provided with a fictional Case, intended to enable the students to familiarize themselves with the law and practice of the ICC. The Competition Case (hereinafter: "the Case") will be made publicly available on the [Competition's website](#).
- b. Each Team may request clarifications and corrections to the Case by **2 December 2024 @ 11:59PM CET**. All requests must be submitted via the [online submission form](#).
- c. Each Team may submit a maximum of five (5) questions and/or requests for clarification.
- d. The Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds shall submit the questions and/or requests for clarification with the National/Regional Round Organizer.

Art. 18 - Preliminary Round

- a. The Preliminary Round of the Competition shall consist of two (2) consecutive phases, each independently graded: a written round (Memorials) and an oral round (Hearings).
- b. Each Team shall address the Case in the roles of (1) **Counsel for the Prosecution** (or Prosecution Counsel), (2) **Common Legal Representative of the Victims** (or Victims' Counsel), and (3) **Counsel for the Defense** (or Defense Counsel) and shall submit one (1) Memorial per role, totaling a number of three (3) Memorials per team.
- c. Each Team shall participate in six (6) Hearings before the Bench in the roles of (1) Counsel for the Prosecution, (2) Common Legal Representative of the Victims, and (3) Counsel for the Defense, and plead twice per role.
- d. The written and oral phases of the Preliminary Round are independently assessed. The sum of the scores obtained in both phases after the deduction of any penalty points will qualify the twenty-seven (27) best Teams for the Quarter-Final Round. Both phases, the written and oral rounds, count for 50% of the total score each. If

two or more Teams rank at number 27, the Team with the highest total score in the oral phase of the Preliminary Round will proceed to the Quarter-Finals.

- e. Teams must notify the Organizing Office via email at ICCMCC@leidenuniv.nl of any potential scheduling conflicts by **1 May 2025**.
- f. In the event that a team withdraws or forfeits during the Preliminary Round, hearings will proceed with the remaining allocated teams.

Art. 19 - Quarter-Final Round

- a. The top twenty-seven (27) Teams of the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the Quarter-Final Round.
- b. The Quarter-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary Round will not be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Quarter-Final Round.
- c. Quarter-Final matchups will be predetermined by the Preliminary Rounds ranking:
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 1 : 1, 18, 27th place Teams
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 2 : 2, 17, 26th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 3 : 3, 16, 25th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 4 : 4, 15, 24th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 5 : 5, 14, 23rd place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 6 : 6, 13, 22nd place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 7 : 7, 12, 21st place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 8 : 8, 11, 20th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 9 : 9, 10, 19th place Teams.
- d. In the event that a Quarter-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the team ranked 28th in the Preliminary Rounds to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Quarter-Final, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope that the designated Team Member draws is the role the Team will represent in the Quarter-Final Round.
- f. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team in the Quarter-Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary Rounds.
- g. The winning Team of each of the nine (9) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. **Ties in scores are not permitted**. The winning Team in each match-up of the Quarter-Final Round shall advance to the Semi-Final Round.

Art. 20 - Semi-Final Round

- a. The nine (9) winning Teams of the Quarter-Final Round will proceed to the Semi-Final Round.
- b. The Semi-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round will not be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Semi-Final Round.
- c. Semi-Final matchups will be predetermined by the order of the advancing Teams in the rankings from the Preliminary Rounds:

- Semi-Final Matchup 1 : 1, 6, 9th place Teams.
 - Semi-Final Matchup 2 : 2, 5, 8th place Teams.
 - Semi-Final Matchup 3 : 3, 4, 7th place Teams.
- d. In the event a Semi-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Quarter-Finals that did not advance to the Semi-Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
 - e. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Semi-Final, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope the designated Team Member draws, is the role that Team will be representing in the Semi-Final Round.
 - f. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team at the Semi-Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round.
 - g. The winning Team of each of the three (3) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. **Ties in scores are not permitted.** The winning Team in each match-up of the Semi-Final Round shall proceed to the Final Round.

Art. 21 - Final Round

- a. The winner of each match-up of the Semi-Final Round will proceed to the Final Round.
- b. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Final Round, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope the designated Team Member draws, is the role that Team will be representing in the Final Round.
- c. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team at the Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary-Round, Quarter-Final Round, or Semi-Final Round.
- d. In the event that a Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Semi-Finals that did not advance to the Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. The Bench of the Final Round will announce the winner of the Competition (to be picked at the discretion of the Bench). The Team winning the Final Round will be the winner of the Competition, regardless of the scoring of the Memorials and the results of the Team in the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, and Semi-Final Round.
- f. The Final Round of the Competition will, if possible, be organized by the ICC on location in The Hague, The Netherlands. It will consist of an oral phase only.

Chapter 6: Memorial Provisions

Art. 22 - Submission of Memorials

- a. All Teams, excluding the Teams participating in National or Regional Rounds, must submit their three (3) Memorials for each role by email to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl **prior to 16 March 2025 @ 11:59PM CET**.
- b. Memorials which are not submitted by this deadline will be subject to penalty points. A reduction of three (3) points for each 24-hour period, or part thereof, that exceeds the deadline, per Memorial, will be imposed. Receipt of a Memorial five or more days after the deadline without seeking prior permission from the Organization, will result in the disqualification of the Team.
- c. Submission must occur in a single email message with all three (3) Memorials attached as separate files titled “##P”; “##V” and “##D”, respectively (where “##” is the official Team Number assigned). Failure to comply with this provision will be penalized with **one (1) penalty point** per violation.
- d. Each Team must submit its Memorials in both Microsoft Word and PDF format. Failure to do so will be penalized with **two (2) penalty points** per Memorial.
- e. The organizers of the National and Regional Rounds will submit the Memorials of the participating Teams to the Organization, **without giving the qualified Teams the opportunity to change the Memorials after their participation in the National or Regional Round**.

Art. 23 - No Identification in Memorials

- a. Each Team must omit the following references in their Memorials and in the metadata of the files:
 - The names of Team Members;
 - The Members’ and/or the university’s country of residence;
 - Its nationality; and
 - The name of its university.
- b. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with **ten (10) penalty points** per violation.

Art. 24 - Memorial Format

- a. Each Team must submit its Memorials in size 12 Times New Roman font style. This requirement applies to all pages of the Memorial, including the cover page.
- b. Each page must have a margin of 2 cm on every side of the text.
- c. Memorials must be continuously page-numbered, with each page being numbered.
- d. The line spacing for all parts of the Memorial is to be 1.5 lines.
- e. Headings and subheadings of more than one line in length must be single spaced.
- f. A Memorial may not contain tracked changes that have not been properly accepted or comments that have not been properly removed prior to submission.
- g. Violations of this article are sanctioned with **one (1) penalty point** per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article is considered as one violation in total.

Art. 25 - Word Limit

Each Memorial must not exceed 10.000 words (**including footnotes**). Violations of this article are sanctioned by **five (5) penalty points per 400 words**. The 10.000 words include the

statement of facts, issues, summary of arguments, written arguments, submissions, and (optional) annexes, and exclude the front cover, title page, table of contents, list of abbreviations, and index of authorities.

Art. 26 - Order of Content

- a. Each Memorial shall include the pages/sections below and shall be presented in the following order:
 - Front cover;
 - Title page;
 - Table of contents;
 - List of abbreviations;
 - Index of authorities (list of sources);
 - Statement of facts;
 - Issues;
 - Summary of arguments;
 - Written arguments;
 - Submissions;
 - *Optional: Annex (max two (2) pages)*; and
 - Back cover.
- b. Violations of this article are sanctioned by **two (2) penalty points** per violation. The swapping of two sections will be sanctioned by **one (1) penalty point**.

Art. 27 - Front Cover Requirements

- a. The front cover (page) must contain the following information:
 - Team number;
 - Role (Prosecution Counsel, Victims' Counsel, or Defense Counsel)
 - Title of the Competition (IBA ICC Moot Court Competition in the English language);
 - Year; and
 - Total word count.
- b. The front cover (page) must be colour coded accordingly:
 - Green for Prosecution Counsel.
 - Blue for Victims' Counsel.
 - Red for Defense Counsel.
- c. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with **one (1) penalty point** per violation.

Art. 28 - Footnotes

- a. Footnotes must be in Times New Roman font style, size 10 font. Footnotes of more than one line in length must be single-spaced.
- b. The spacing between each footnote shall be single.
- c. Consistency in the reference to sources throughout the Memorial is required. One referencing style only may be used throughout the Memorial.
- d. All the sources included in the Index of Authorities, must be included in the footnotes as well.

- e. Full citation of a source must be used in the footnotes the first time a source is cited. Abbreviations of sources within footnotes are allowed thereafter. The abbreviation must be announced in the Index of Authorities.
- f. Incorrect/fictional footnotes generated by AI tools are not permitted.
- g. Violations of this article are sanctioned with **two (2) penalty points** per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article will be considered as one violation in total.

Art. 29 - Scoring Structure Memorials

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall quality of the memorial.
- b. Memorials are scored by two (2) or three (3) Evaluators. In the event there are only two (2) evaluations, a third score will be generated by averaging the scores of the two (2) Evaluators.
- c. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and use of rules and principles of law: max 20 points.
 - Proper and articulate analysis of the facts and law: max 18 points.
 - Logic and reasoning: max 15 points.
 - Extent and use of research: max 13 points.
 - Clarity and organization: max 12 points.
 - Evidence of original thought and creative argumentation: max 10 points.
 - Persuasiveness: max 7 points.
 - Grammar and style: max 5 points.
- d. Members of the IPE (evaluators) must submit their memorial scores by **30 April 2025 at 11:59pm CEST**.
- e. Score sheets will be emailed to each Team upon the cessation of the Competition.
- f. An example of the score sheet is provided in Annex 1.

Art. 30 - Use of AI Tools

- a. ChatGPT and other forms of generative AI are permitted as an aid in researching, writing, and editing your submissions.
- b. If AI is used, Teams should be careful about confirming their citations to authority since there has been a history of fictional or incorrect citations generated by AI.
- c. Use of incorrect/fictional citations generated by AI will be penalized in accordance with [Art. 28](#).

Art. 31 - Memorial Penalties

- a. Memorial Penalties shall be deducted from each of the individual Evaluators' scores of a Team's Memorial.
- b. The Organization shall notify all Teams by **1 May 2025 @ 5:00PM CEST** about their penalty points. Any written appeals against the decision to impose penalties should be submitted **prior to 9 May 2025 @ 11:59PM CEST** via email to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

Chapter 7: Oral Round Provisions

Art. 32 - General procedures

- a. Each Team shall participate in six (6) Hearings during the Preliminary Round, representing each role twice.
- b. Each Hearing shall take up to two (2) hours, with each Team being allotted a total of thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments.
- c. Each Team scheduled to appear has a maximum of thirty (30) minutes from the start of the scheduled time to appear before the Bench.
- d. The Competition will proceed on an *ex parte* basis at the expiration of the thirty (30) minutes for appearance. The Organization may decide to delay the start of the Hearings or reschedule the session, in exceptional circumstances.
- e. Electronic devices may **not** be used by the speaker as support for their pleadings. The counsel and co-counsel may **not** use electronic devices to take notes during the opposing parties' pleadings.
- f. Communication between the counsel and co-counsel is strictly prohibited during the Team's pleadings. The counsel and co-counsel may communicate in writing only during the pleadings of the opposing parties.
- g. No written communication or exhibits may be presented or delivered by any Team Member to any judge.
- h. Communication with the audience/coaches/other team members is strictly prohibited.
- i. Counsels and co-counsels are prohibited from using any type of phone/mobile phone and smartwatches. A Bench Clerk will be tasked with timekeeping throughout the pleading.
- j. The audience may use their mobile phones/smartwatches in a proper manner.
- k. Improper courtroom communication may result in the deduction of up to 10 penalty points.

Art. 33 - Order of Appearance and Time Division

- a. The order of the pleadings in each Hearing is:
 - Presentation by Prosecution Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Presentation by Victims' Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Presentation by Defense Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Prosecution Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Victims' Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Defense Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes
- b. Any other time division is strictly forbidden. Time not used in the presentation may not be allocated to the rebuttal, and time not used in the rebuttal may not be allocated to the presentation.
- c. Questions posed by the Judges are included in the speaking time of the presentation and of the rebuttal, respectively.

Art. 34 - Speakers

- a. Each Team will have three (3) individual speakers. Every individual speaker of a Team will represent in their pleadings the Prosecution Counsel, or the Victims' Counsel or

the Defense Counsel. The rebuttal must be presented by the same speaker as the main presentation.

- b. Researchers are not allowed to present at any stage of the Competition.
- c. Each Team must submit the role allocation within the Team **by 14 May 2025 @ 11:59PM CEST at the latest** (i.e. Team member X will undertake X role, where the role is to be understood as: Prosecution Counsel, Victims' Counsel, or Defense Counsel). Failure to do so will be sanctioned with twenty (20) penalty points.
- d. The role allocation must be submitted via our [online submission form](#).
- e. Only two (2) members of each Team, two (2) speakers, or one (1) speaker and one (1) researcher, are allowed to be present before the Bench. The person acting as co-counsel does not need to be the same person in each Hearing.
- f. Each speaker will present in accordance with the time allocated under Article 32.

Art. 35 - Scope of Pleadings

- a. A Team's oral pleadings are not limited to the scope of the Team's Memorial. Teams may refer directly to the opposing Teams' memorials in their main argument.
- b. Speakers are not allowed to introduce new issues in their rebuttal. All arguments and issues raised by opposing counsels during both the presentation and rebuttal may be discussed during the rebuttal.
- c. Objections regarding the substantive content of the pleadings are under no circumstances allowed at any moment during the proceedings.
- d. Objections regarding procedural issues (i.e. time allocation) are permitted.

Art. 36 - Bench Composition

- a. Each Bench will be composed of one (1) or two (2) Judge(s) and one (1) Presiding Judge (appointed by the Organization or by consensus by the Judges participating in the Hearing) and shall be assisted by a Bench Clerk.
- b. If only two (2) Judges score a given Hearing, a third score will be generated by averaging the scores of the two Judges.
- c. The organization may appoint a fourth Judge. In the event that four (4) Judges score a given Hearing, the score that is furthest from the average of all four (4) scores, and the scoresheet on which it appears, will be disregarded.
- d. Judges in the Hearings do not have access to the Teams' Memorials.
- e. Judges are not permitted to give their individual opinion outside the deliberation room regarding the quality of the presentations and results of the participating Teams. Furthermore, Judges are not allowed to give the participating Teams any substantive feedback on details of the Case.
- f. During the oral rounds, the Bench shall ensure respect for the Rules of Procedure and will assess the quality of the arguments. The Judges are encouraged to intervene with appropriate questions during the oral pleading to further assess the knowledge and the preparation of the speakers.
- g. The Bench will follow its own Rules of Procedure within the framework of accepted norms of judicial practice, and with regard to questions of doubt or dispute in the procedure or facts. A decision of the Presiding Member of the Bench shall be final.
- h. The Judges shall mark the oral arguments in accordance with the scoring criteria provided for in these Rules.

- i. Team objections to the composition of the Bench due to conflict of interest or prior relationship must be disclosed and communicated to the Bench Clerk prior to the commencement of the Hearing.

Art. 37 - Role of the Bench Clerk

- a. The Bench Clerk is nominated by the Organization.
- b. The Bench Clerk is responsible for:
 - briefing and advising the Bench Members on the Rules of Procedure contained herein;
 - keeping the order during the Hearing;
 - facilitating the sessions' development;
 - ensuring that no electronic devices are being used by counsel and co-counsel before the start of the Hearing;
 - timekeeping;
 - any other task within their scope of responsibilities as requested by the Organizing Office or Bench.

Art. 38 - Scoring

- g. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall performance of the Team during each pleading. The presentation and the rebuttal shall be awarded with one score only.
- h. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Organization, structure, and time management: max 20 points.
 - Knowledge and use of rules and principles of law: max 20 points.
 - Knowledge and use of the facts: max 20 points.
 - Questions and rebuttal: max 20 points.
 - Persuasiveness and style of presentation: max 20 points.
- i. Score sheets will be emailed to each Team upon the cessation of the Competition.
- j. An example of the score sheet is provided in Annex 2.

Art. 39 - Rules of Conduct

- a. All participants should maintain the fullest dignity and decorum, not only in the Courtroom, but during the entire Competition. Inappropriate behaviour or blatant disregard for the Rules of Procedure may result in deduction of up to 15 penalty points for teams, and in extreme cases, to their disqualification.
- b. Any form of discrimination or harassment is strictly prohibited. The Organizing Office reserves the right to remove participants (i.e., team members, judges, bench clerks) from the Competition in case of violation of these rules.
- c. Participants may not directly or indirectly indicate their Jurisdiction, nationality, or school of origin to the judges, including through the wearing of name tags, pins, logos, scarves, uniforms, or other signifiers (including university colours), or the placement of folders, files, library books, or other materials identifying their school on counsel table. For the purposes of this Rule, the term "participants" includes Team Members, Team Advisors, and observers affiliated with the Team. Blatant disregard for this rule may result in deduction of up to 15 penalty points, and in extreme cases to the disqualification of the Team.

- d. Complaints and alleged violations of the Rules of Procedure can be informed to the Organizing Office at ICCMCC@lawleidenuniv.nl. Complaints will be treated confidentially.

Art. 40 - Recording of the Hearing

- a. Members of the presenting Team may (voice) record their own Team Members during their presentation and/or rebuttal. However, it is strictly forbidden to (voice) record the opposing Teams during their presentation and/or rebuttal.
- b. Recording of the pleadings as per Art. 39(a) ROP may only take place upon prior approval from all the Judges and the Organization.
- c. Violations of this article are sanctioned with fifty (50) penalty points.

Art. 41 - Scouting

- a. Scouting is forbidden at all times during the Competition.
- b. Scouting is defined as:
 - when a Team or one or more of its Members attend a Hearing in which they are not participants;
 - instances where students, coaches, or spectators discuss with or pose questions of substantive issues of international (criminal) law to the Judges.
- c. Violations of this article will result in disqualification. A Team’s disqualification is final and irrevocable.

Chapter 8: The Awards

Art. 42 - Categories of the Awards

- a. The following Awards will be given by the ICC after the Final Round:
 - **Winner;**
 - **First Runner-up;**
 - **Second Runner-up;**
 - **Best Oralist.**
- b. The following Awards will be given by the Organization in accordance with the scores obtained by Teams in the Preliminary Round of the Competition:

(i) Memorial Awards

Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial	Best Defense Counsel Memorial	Best Victims’ Counsel Memorial
First Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial	First Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Memorial	First Runner-up Best Victims’ Counsel Memorial
Second Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial	Second Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Memorial	Second Runner-up Best Victims’ Counsel Memorial
The IBA Award for Best Memorial Overall		

(ii) **Speaker Awards** – the speakers with the highest average score awarded per role

Winner Ben Ferencz Award for Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	Winner Best Defense Counsel Speaker	Winner Best Victims' Counsel Speaker
First Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	First Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Speaker	First Runner-up Best Victims' Counsel Speaker
Second Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	Second Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Speaker	Second Runner-up Best Victims' Counsel Speaker
The IBA Award for Best Speaker Overall		

(iii) **Team Awards** – the Teams with the highest total score awarded in the written and oral round of the Preliminary Round

Best Prosecution Counsel Team	Best Defense Counsel Team	Best Victims' Counsel Team
First Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Team	First Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Team	First Runner-up Best Victims' Counsel Team
Second Runner-up Best Prosecution Counsel Team	Second Runner-up Best Defense Counsel Team	Second Runner-up Best Victims' Counsel Team
The IBA Spirit of the Competition Award Honors a team that has demonstrated exceptional commitment and fully embodied the values of the Competition		
The IBA Award for Best Newcomer Team A team is considered 'newcomer' if it represents a university that is participating for the first time ever in the Competition		
Best Regional Team Awards Africa; The Americas (Central, North and South) & Oceania; Asia; Europe		

c. Upon completion of the entire program, each Participant shall receive a **Certificate of Participation**.

Chapter 9: Friendly Rounds

- a. Friendly Rounds and exchange of Memorials are completely prohibited unless prior approval has been given by the Organization. Please contact the Organization if you wish to organize/participate in Friendly Rounds.
- b. Only Teams that do not participate in a National/Regional Round will be permitted to organize/participate in Friendly Rounds.
- c. Separate Rules of Procedure for Friendly Rounds can be found in Annex 4.

Annex 1: Memorial Score Sheet Sample 2024-2025



IBA ICC MOOT COURT
Organised by the Grotius Centre

IBA ICC MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2025
MEMORIAL SCORESHEET

Evaluator's Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Team number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Role: Choose an item.

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Knowledge of Facts and Law <i>0-20 points</i>	16-20 Exceptional understanding of facts and law, comprehensive and accurate.	11-15 Strong grasp with minor gaps in understanding.	6-10 Adequate but with noticeable gaps.	0-5 Limited knowledge with major gaps or errors.
Proper and articulate analysis <i>0-18 points</i>	16-18 Thorough, well-structured analysis, articulated with precision.	11-15 Proper and articulate analysis with minor improvements needed.	6-10 Somewhat proper and articulate analysis.	0-5 Lacking proper articulation and clarity.
Logic and reasoning <i>0-15 points</i>	13-15 Impeccable logic and reasoning, arguments flow seamlessly.	10-12 Strong logic and reasoning, arguments flow well.	5-9 Reasonable but with noticeable flaws.	0-4 Severely flawed logic and reasoning.
Extent and use of research <i>0-13 points</i>	11-13 Comprehensive, expertly integrated sources, including insightful secondary materials.	8-10 Considerable sources, minor omissions, commendable depth, effective support.	4-7 Constrained, gaps, moderate depth, relevant but less integration.	0-3 Significantly lacking, irrelevant, weak foundation, severe overall weakness.
Clarity and organization <i>0-12 points</i>	10-12 Exceptionally clear and meticulously organized.	7-9 Well-structured with minor room for improvement.	3-6 Somewhat unclear with noticeable issues.	0-2 Lack of clear organization and difficult to follow.
Evidence of original thought <i>0-10 points</i>	8-10 Exceptional originality in thought, presenting unique perspectives.	5-7 Displays original thought and fresh perspectives.	2-4 Some evidence of original thought but not consistently apparent.	0-2 Lacks any meaningful evidence of original thought.
Persuasiveness <i>0-7 points</i>	6-7 Compelling arguments, clear reasoning, and strong evidence.	4-5 Convincing arguments, room for improvement in reasoning or evidence.	2-3 Lacks strong persuasion, arguments less compelling, crucial support missing.	0-1 Weak arguments, lacking evidence and coherence.
Grammar and Style <i>0-5 points</i>	4-5 Impeccable grammar and style, enhancing professionalism.	2-3 Generally strong with minor lapses affecting readability.	1 Noticeable issues affecting readability.	0 Severely lacking, difficult to read, or unprofessional.

Score		
	Knowledge of Facts and Law	0
	Proper and Articulate Analysis	0
	Logic and Reasoning	0
	Extent and Use of Research	0
	Clarity and Organization	0
	Evidence of Original Thought	0
	Persuasiveness	0
	Grammar and Style	0
	Total*	0

**The total score must be between 50 and 100 points.*

Annex 2: Oral Round Score Sheet Sample 2024-2025



IBA ICC MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2025
ORAL ROUNDS SCORESHEET

Judge's Name:		
Date:	Time:	Courtroom:
Team #:	Role: Prosecution / Victims' Counsel / Defense Counsel	
Speaker's Name:		

Criteria	Excellent (16-20)	Good (11-15)	Fair (6-10)	Poor (0-5)	GRADE
Organization, Structure, and Time Management	The speaker's presentation follows a logical roadmap with impeccable flow. Arguments are exceptionally concise and to the point.	The presentation is well-structured and easy to follow, with minor areas for improvement. Arguments are generally concise.	The organization is somewhat unclear, with challenges in following the flow. Arguments lack conciseness.	The presentation lacks organization and structure, making it difficult to follow. Arguments are lengthy and unclear.	/20
Knowledge and Use of Rules and Principles	Rules of law are expertly stated and applied. Arguments are strongly supported by authoritative sources. Cited sources are highly relevant.	Rules of law are generally well-stated and applied, with some room for improvement. Arguments have sufficient support. Most cited sources are relevant.	Rules of law are occasionally unclear or misapplied. Arguments lack strong support. Some cited sources may not be entirely relevant.	Rules of law are consistently unclear or misapplied. Arguments lack support. Cited sources are largely irrelevant.	/20
Knowledge and Use of the Facts	The speaker demonstrates a deep understanding of the facts and effectively compares them with real-world precedents.	The speaker accurately interprets the facts and compares them to real-world precedents with minor issues.	The speaker's grasp of the facts is occasionally uncertain, with occasional gaps in comparisons.	The speaker's grasp of the facts is consistently uncertain, with significant gaps in comparisons.	/20
Questions and Rebuttal	The speaker skillfully answers questions posed by judges and delivers a strong rebuttal addressing opposing arguments.	The speaker effectively responds to questions and offers a rebuttal, with some minor room for improvement.	The speaker struggles to answer questions and rebut opposing arguments convincingly.	The speaker fails to respond adequately to questions and provide a meaningful rebuttal.	/20
Persuasiveness and Style of Presentation	The speaker exudes formality, respect, and professionalism, demonstrating confidence and eloquence with consistent eye contact.	The speaker maintains formality and professionalism but may display minor lapses in confidence or eye contact.	The speaker's style is somewhat informal or lacks professionalism. Confidence and eye contact are inconsistent.	The speaker's style is highly informal or disrespectful, lacking professionalism. Confidence and eye contact are notably absent.	/20
TOTAL					/100

**Based on previous experience, an average score of about 88 or above in the oral pleadings will be necessary for a team to advance to the Quarter-Final Round, and an average score of about 96 or above will be necessary for an advocate to win one of the top speaker awards.*

COMMENTS

Judge's signature:

Annex 3: World Bank List of Economies 2024-2025*

**Last updated: 1 July 2024, information from [WorldBank.org](https://www.worldbank.org)*

Afghanistan	Low income
Albania	Upper middle income
Algeria	Upper middle income
American Samoa	High income
Andorra	High income
Angola	Lower middle income
Antigua and Barbuda	High income
Argentina	Upper middle income
Armenia	Upper middle income
Aruba	High income
Australia	High income
Austria	High income
Azerbaijan	Upper middle income
Bahamas, The	High income
Bahrain	High income
Bangladesh	Lower middle income
Barbados	High income
Belarus	Upper middle income
Belgium	High income
Belize	Upper middle income
Benin	Lower middle income
Bermuda	High income
Bhutan	Lower middle income
Bolivia	Lower middle income
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Upper middle income
Botswana	Upper middle income
Brazil	Upper middle income
British Virgin Islands	High income
Brunei Darussalam	High income
Bulgaria	High income
Burkina Faso	Low income
Burundi	Low income
Cabo Verde	Lower middle income
Cambodia	Lower middle income
Cameroon	Lower middle income
Canada	High income
Cayman Islands	High income
Central African Republic	Low income
Chad	Low income
Channel Islands	High income
Chile	High income

China	Upper middle income
Colombia	Upper middle income
Comoros	Lower middle income
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Low income
Congo, Rep.	Lower middle income
Costa Rica	Upper middle income
Côte d'Ivoire	Lower middle income
Croatia	High income
Cuba	Upper middle income
Curaçao	High income
Cyprus	High income
Czechia	High income
Denmark	High income
Djibouti	Lower middle income
Dominica	Upper middle income
Dominican Republic	Upper middle income
Ecuador	Upper middle income
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Lower middle income
El Salvador	Upper middle income
Equatorial Guinea	Upper middle income
Eritrea	Low income
Estonia	High income
Eswatini	Lower middle income
Ethiopia	Low income
Faroe Islands	High income
Fiji	Upper middle income
Finland	High income
France	High income
French Polynesia	High income
Gabon	Upper middle income
Gambia, The	Low income
Georgia	Upper middle income
Germany	High income
Ghana	Lower middle income
Gibraltar	High income
Greece	High income
Greenland	High income
Grenada	Upper middle income
Guam	High income
Guatemala	Upper middle income
Guinea	Lower middle income
Guinea-Bissau	Low income
Guyana	High income
Haiti	Lower middle income
Honduras	Lower middle income

Hong Kong SAR, China	High income
Hungary	High income
Iceland	High income
India	Lower middle income
Indonesia	Upper middle income
Iran, Islamic Rep.	Upper middle income
Iraq	Upper middle income
Ireland	High income
Isle of Man	High income
Israel	High income
Italy	High income
Jamaica	Upper middle income
Japan	High income
Jordan	Lower middle income
Kazakhstan	Upper middle income
Kenya	Lower middle income
Kiribati	Lower middle income
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	Low income
Korea, Rep.	High income
Kosovo	Upper middle income
Kuwait	High income
Kyrgyz Republic	Lower middle income
Lao PDR	Lower middle income
Latvia	High income
Lebanon	Lower middle income
Lesotho	Lower middle income
Liberia	Low income
Libya	Upper middle income
Liechtenstein	High income
Lithuania	High income
Luxembourg	High income
Macao SAR, China	High income
Madagascar	Low income
Malawi	Low income
Malaysia	Upper middle income
Maldives	Upper middle income
Mali	Low income
Malta	High income
Marshall Islands	Upper middle income
Mauritania	Lower middle income
Mauritius	Upper middle income
Mexico	Upper middle income
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Lower middle income
Moldova	Upper middle income
Monaco	High income

Mongolia	Upper middle income
Montenegro	Upper middle income
Morocco	Lower middle income
Mozambique	Low income
Myanmar	Lower middle income
Namibia	Upper middle income
Nauru	High income
Nepal	Lower middle income
Netherlands	High income
New Caledonia	High income
New Zealand	High income
Nicaragua	Lower middle income
Niger	Low income
Nigeria	Lower middle income
North Macedonia	Upper middle income
Northern Mariana Islands	High income
Norway	High income
Oman	High income
Pakistan	Lower middle income
Palau	High income
Panama	High income
Papua New Guinea	Lower middle income
Paraguay	Upper middle income
Peru	Upper middle income
Philippines	Lower middle income
Poland	High income
Portugal	High income
Puerto Rico	High income
Qatar	High income
Romania	High income
Russian Federation	High income
Rwanda	Low income
Samoa	Lower middle income
San Marino	High income
São Tomé and Príncipe	Lower middle income
Saudi Arabia	High income
Senegal	Lower middle income
Serbia	Upper middle income
Seychelles	High income
Sierra Leone	Low income
Singapore	High income
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	High income
Slovak Republic	High income
Slovenia	High income
Solomon Islands	Lower middle income

Somalia	Low income
South Africa	Upper middle income
South Sudan	Low income
Spain	High income
Sri Lanka	Lower middle income
St. Kitts and Nevis	High income
St. Lucia	Upper middle income
St. Martin (French part)	High income
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Upper middle income
Sudan	Low income
Suriname	Upper middle income
Sweden	High income
Switzerland	High income
Syrian Arab Republic	Low income
Taiwan, China	High income
Tajikistan	Lower middle income
Tanzania	Lower middle income
Thailand	Upper middle income
Timor-Leste	Lower middle income
Togo	Low income
Tonga	Upper middle income
Trinidad and Tobago	High income
Tunisia	Lower middle income
Türkiye	Upper middle income
Turkmenistan	Upper middle income
Turks and Caicos Islands	High income
Tuvalu	Upper middle income
Uganda	Low income
Ukraine	Upper middle income
United Arab Emirates	High income
United Kingdom	High income
United States	High income
Uruguay	High income
Uzbekistan	Lower middle income
Vanuatu	Lower middle income
Venezuela, RB	Lower middle income
Vietnam	Lower middle income
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	High income
West Bank and Gaza	Lower middle income
Yemen, Rep.	Low income
Zambia	Lower middle income
Zimbabwe	Lower middle income

Annex 4: Friendly Rounds Rules of Procedure

Art. 1 - General

- a. Friendly Rounds and exchange of Memorials are completely prohibited unless prior approval is given by the IBA ICCMCC Organization.
- b. The Friendly Rounds do not constitute a qualifying round for participating in the International Round of the IBA ICC Moot Court Competition.
- c. No rights regarding the International Round of the Competition can be derived from participating/not participating/organizing a Friendly Round.
- d. Friendly Rounds will only be allowed to take place between Teams that do not participate in National/Regional Rounds.
- e. Teams participating in the Problem-Solving Round are not precluded from participating in a Friendly Round.
- f. Each Team can only participate in two (2) Friendly Rounds and can only take up one role per round.
- g. The Friendly Rounds can take place either in one geographic place or virtually or a combination of both.

Art. 2 - Registration

- a. Each Team that wishes to participate in the Friendly Rounds must submit a written request to the IBA ICCMCC Organization via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- b. The participation of a Team in a Friendly Round will only be approved if the Team has paid the fee and confirmed their participation in the International Round.

Art. 3 - Organization

- a. The Organization will have no involvement in the organization of the Friendly Rounds.
- b. The Organization will publish the organization of the Friendly Round on the Competition's website so that Teams may join it.
- c. The Rules of Procedure of the International Round will apply strictly to the format of the oral pleadings of the Friendly Rounds.
- d. Teams participating in the Friendly Rounds can only exchange opposing Memorials in accordance with the role they will be representing in the Friendly Round. The exchange of Memorials can only take place one week before the Friendly Round.