

**THE 2025 ILSA / HAMILTON LUGAR INTERNATIONAL LAW
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

OFFICIAL RULES

**THE OFFICIAL RULES OF
THE 2025 ILSA / HAMILTON LUGAR INTERNATIONAL LAW
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

Table of Contents

DEFINITIONS..... 1

RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION 2

 1.1. Administration2

 1.2. Interpretation of Rules.....2

RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY 2

 2.1. Team Composition2

 2.2. Team Member Eligibility.....2

 2.3. Outside Assistance to Teams2

 2.4. Assistance from Team Advisors3

 2.5. Assistance to Other Teams3

 2.6. Practice Matches3

 2.7. Confidentiality of the Bench Memorandum4

 2.8. Anonymity of Teams.....4

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION..... 4

 3.1. Team Registration.....4

 3.2. Team Advisor Registration5

 3.3. Team Number as Identification5

 3.4. Changes to Registration Information5

RULE 4: JUDGES AND ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE..... 5

 4.1. Determinations of Eligibility.....5

 4.2. Law Students5

 4.3. Team Advisors.....5

 4.4. Anonymity of Teams.....6

 4.5. Judge Conflicts of Interest6

 4.6. Prior Viewing of Teams.....7

 4.7. Bench Memorandum.....7

 4.8. Commentary by Judges.....7

RULE 5: MATCHES..... 7

 5.1. General Procedures7

 5.2. Extension of Time at Judges’ Discretion8

 5.3. Three Judge Panels8

 5.4. Order of the Pleadings8

 5.5. Rebuttal and Surrebuttal8

5.6.	Scope of Pleadings	9
5.7.	Ex Parte Procedure.....	9
5.8.	Courtroom Communications	9
5.9.	Oral Communication in the Courtroom	10
5.10.	Written Communication	10
5.11.	Spectators.....	10
5.12.	Scouting.....	10
5.13.	Audio and Video Recording and Transmission.....	11
5.14.	Anonymity of Teams.....	11
5.15.	Computers, Mobile Phones, and other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms.....	12
5.16.	Timekeeping Devices in the Courtroom.....	12
RULE 6: COMPETITION STRUCTURE		12
6.1.	Structure	12
6.2.	Scheduling Conflicts	12
6.3.	Preliminary Rounds.....	12
6.4.	Pairings for the Preliminary Rounds	13
6.5.	Elimination Rounds.....	13
6.6.	Quarterfinal Round.....	13
6.7.	Semifinal Round and Championship Round.....	13
6.8.	Pairings for Elimination Rounds.....	13
6.9.	Pleading Option in the Elimination Rounds.....	13
RULE 7: COMPETITION SCORING		14
7.1.	Basis for Scores.....	14
7.2.	Calculation of Points.....	14
7.3.	Raw Scores	14
7.4.	Round Points.....	14
7.5.	Two-Judge Panels	14
7.6.	Determining the Winner of a Match.....	15
7.7.	Preliminary Round Rankings.....	15
7.8.	Tie-Breaking Procedure.....	15
7.9.	Ranking of Oralists	16
RULE 8: PENALTIES		16
8.1.	Penalties.....	16

8.2	Deduction of Penalties by Judges Prohibited	16
8.3	Activity Subject to Match Penalties	16
8.4	Notice and Appeals.....	17
8.5	Discretionary Penalties	17
8.6	De Minimis Rule.....	17
8.7	Complaints About the Conduct or Result of a Match	17
RULE 9: AWARDS.....		18
9.1	Other Awards.....	18
RULE 10: ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS.....		18
10.1	Accommodation Requests.....	18

DEFINITIONS

The following terms as used in these Rules have the corresponding meanings.

“Applicant” means the side of the Team arguing on behalf of the Applicant state at any given point in the Competition.

“Administrator” means the Executive Director of the International Law Students Association, or any person to whom the Executive Director has delegated authority with respect to a particular task.

“Bench Memorandum” means the memorandum of law and authorities concerning the Competition Problem prepared by the Executive Office for the exclusive use of Competition judges, as described in Rule 2.7. *Note that the Bench Memorandum of the 2017 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, which broadly covers some of the same topics, is publicly available.*

“Competition” means the 2025 ILSA / Hamilton Lugar International Law Moot Court Competition.

“Competition Problem” means the official Problem of the Competition.

“Elimination Rounds” means the Championship Round, Semifinal Round, and Quarterfinal Round.

“Match” means a single oral presentation between two Teams, one representing Applicant and one representing Respondent.

“Official Schedule” means the official timetable of the Competition, setting forth all relevant events and deadlines associated with the Competition.

“Penalty” means the consequence of a Rules violation, pursuant to Rule 8.

“Preliminary Rounds” means a set of Matches which form the first stage of the Competition, where each Team competes against four other Teams, twice as Applicant and twice as Respondent.

“Respondent” means the side of the Team arguing on behalf of the Respondent state at any given point in the Competition.

“Rules” means these Official Rules of the Competition.

“Team” means a team of eligible students recognized by the Executive Office that registers to compete in the Competition pursuant to Rule 3.

“Team Advisor” means an individual, who has responsibility for advising or training a Team.

“Team Number” means the official 3-digit number assigned by the Executive Office to each fully registered and paid Team in accordance with Rule 3.1.

“Team Member” means an eligible student who is registered on a Team.

RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1.1. Administration

The Competition is presented by the International Law Students Association (ILSA) and Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies and is administered by the Administrator. All materials developed for the Competition, including, without limitation, the Rules and the Competition Problem, are the sole property of ILSA. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than participation in the Competition without the express and prior written consent of the Administrator.

1.2. Interpretation of Rules

The Administrator shall serve as arbiter of the implementation and interpretation of these Rules, and may promulgate any other measures for the orderly conduct of the Competition or to correct deficiencies in the Competition.

RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Team Composition

(a) A Team is composed of two Team Members who attend the same tertiary educational institution. Team Members must satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth in Rule 2.2 and must be registered in accordance with Rule 3.1. Substitutions, replacements or additions of Team Members may only be made in accordance with Rule 3.4.

(b) A Team may have one Team Advisor. Each Team must register its Team Advisor in accordance with Rule 3.2. Team Advisors are not and cannot be Team Members. Team Advisors are restricted by and are subject to the outside assistance rules contained in Rules 2.3 through 2.6.

2.2. Team Member Eligibility

A person may be a Team Member if they:

- (a) are enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at an accredited U.S. tertiary educational institution, which institution has not registered more than five (5) Teams in total; and
- (b) have not earned a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any jurisdiction.

2.3. Outside Assistance to Teams

(a) All work product for the Competition must be the exclusive work of the Team Members. Team Members must research, write, edit, and develop the legal and factual arguments without the assistance

of persons who are not Team Members. Any Team that receives assistance for, or any other contribution to, its legal or factual arguments in contravention of this Rule may be penalized or disqualified from the Competition.

- (b) Team Advisors may only provide assistance as permitted by Rule 2.4.
- (c) Resources and training sessions provided to Teams by ILSA are not prohibited by this Rule.

2.4. Assistance from Team Advisors

Team Advisors may provide advice to a Team, provided such advice is restricted to:

- (i) general instruction on the basic principles of international law;
- (ii) general advice on research sources and methods;
- (iii) general advice on oral advocacy techniques;
- (iv) advice on the organization and structure of arguments in the Team's oral pleadings;
- (v) general commentary on the quality of the Team's legal and factual arguments;
- (vi) advice on the interpretation and enforcement of these Rules; and
- (vii) advice as to pleading options or similar strategic decisions.

2.5. Assistance to Other Teams

Team Members and Team Advisors from any Team, including Teams that have been eliminated from the Competition, may not provide assistance in any way to any other Team. Prohibited assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following: giving the Team's notes to a Team still in the Competition; posting the Team's arguments online; engaging in practice Matches against a participating Team; and providing recordings of previous Matches, whether practice Matches or Competition Matches, to a Team still in the Competition.

2.6. Practice Matches

- (a) Teams may not engage in practice Matches against other Teams or involving oralists who are not Team Members. No Team Member may observe the practices of another Team, and any Team or Team Member who does view another Team's practice Match, or a Team which permits them to do so, may be disqualified by the Administrator.
- (b) Team Advisors may, at any time, serve as judges in practice Matches for the Team they advise.
- (c) An individual who is not a Team Member or Team Advisor may serve as a judge in a Team's practice Matches if they:

- (i) are not formally affiliated with any other Team in the Competition;
 - (ii) have not obtained access to the Bench Memorandum;
 - (iii) confine their feedback to general commentary on the advocacy style and technique of the oralists, and to commentary respecting the general rules of international law; and
 - (iv) refrain from offering substantive answers or suggestions respecting specific arguments made in the Match that go beyond the general rules of international law.
- (d) No person who has judged a practice Match should disclose any information about that Match to any other Team in the Competition.

2.7. Confidentiality of the Bench Memorandum

- (a) The Bench Memorandum is strictly confidential. The Administrator will disqualify any Team that makes use of the Bench Memorandum. Teams that obtain a copy of the Bench Memorandum should immediately inform the Administrator and either destroy it or return it to the Administrator without examining the contents, as the Administrator may request.
- (b) Individuals with access to the Bench Memorandum may not judge practice Matches.

2.8. Anonymity of Teams

- (a) Except as permitted in (b), Teams must not reveal the identity of their institution to judges at any time. The Administrator may impose a Penalty (up to and including disqualification) against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently violates this Rule, whether or not such disclosure occurs during a Match. All instances of disclosure shall be reported to the Administrator.
- (b) Posting pictures of or comments relating to a Team or Team Member(s) on social media or a publicly available website is permitted, provided that the Team Number is not disclosed, identification of the Team, if included, is limited to the institution that the Team represents and Team Member names, and the posts are not directed at or specifically shared with judges.

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION

3.1. Team Registration

- (a) Each Team must register with the Executive Office by completing a registration form online at <https://www.ilsa.org/IHL/> and paying the appropriate registration fee by the deadline in the Official Schedule. Each Team Member must provide a valid email address at registration.
- (b) Teams are expected to regularly check their registered email address. A Team may not validly

complain that it was not given proper notice of a rule change or update, when that change or update was emailed to the Team Members' registered email address.

3.2. Team Advisor Registration

The name of each Team Advisor for a Team must be registered with the Executive Office by the Team registration deadline in the Official Schedule. Team Advisors must be registered via the online registration form. An individual sitting only as a practice Match judge pursuant to Rule 2.6 need not register as a Team Advisor.

3.3. Team Number as Identification

Once a Team has completed registration, including paying in full the appropriate registration fee, the Team will be assigned an official Team Number.

3.4. Changes to Registration Information

Once Team Members are registered, Teams may not make substitutions of Team Members without permission from the Administrator. A Team must request such change by submitting a description of the change and a justification to moots@ilsa.org. The Administrator may permit substitution of Team Members only in exceptional circumstances.

RULE 4: JUDGES AND ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE

4.1. Determinations of Eligibility

The Administrator will determine the eligibility of persons to serve as judges in any part of the Competition, subject to the provisions of this Rule.

4.2. Law Students

Law students who have not already completed a first degree in law may act as Competition judges only if they (a) previously competed in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, and (b) are not directly affiliated with any Team.

4.3. Team Advisors

Team Advisors, or others directly affiliated with a Team, may not act as Competition judges until the Team they advise has been eliminated from the Competition.

4.4. Anonymity of Teams

Judges should not attempt to ascertain the school of origin of any Team before or during a Match. This includes searching for information about Team Members or Team Advisors on the Internet or social media platforms.

4.5. Judge Conflicts of Interest

(a) For purposes of this Rule,:

- (i) an “Affiliation” means a personal or professional relationship between a judge and an institution, Team Advisor, or Team Member.
- (ii) a “Conflict of Interest” means an Affiliation that would, in the eyes of a reasonable observer, create an inference that the judge would be unable to be impartial as to the conduct or result of the Match.

(b) The Administrator should avoid placing a judge into a Match in which they have a Conflict of Interest. In the event that the Administrator is unable to avoid a Conflict of Interest, the Administrator should take reasonable steps to mitigate the effects of the Conflict of Interest on the Match. Such steps might include: obtaining a waiver of the Conflict of Interest from both Teams; informing the other members of the panel of the judge’s Affiliation; adding to the panel a judge with a proportional Affiliation with the opposing Team; and assigning a neutral official to observe the Match and the deliberations to determine whether the Conflict of Interest affected the outcome of the Match.

(c) Any Conflict of Interest may be cured by the express oral or written waiver, either before or after the Match, of both Teams. In this event, neither Team may later file a complaint on the basis of the Conflict of Interest. In addition:

- (i) If a Team is aware of an Affiliation before the commencement of a Match and fails to report it, as required under Rule 4.5(e), before the Match begins, it shall waive any alleged Conflict of Interest.
- (ii) If a Team becomes aware of an Affiliation during or after the completion of a Match and fails to report as required under Rule 4.5(e), it shall waive any Conflict of Interest.

(d) It is the duty of a judge to report any Affiliations at the time they register to judge or subsequently directly to the Administrator in advance of the Match. The Administrator shall investigate any reported Affiliation (whether self-reported by a judge or otherwise) and shall determine whether such Affiliation constitutes a Conflict of Interest.

(e) If a Team believes that an Affiliation exists which may constitute a Conflict of Interest, it shall promptly inform the judge serving as President during the Match, who shall take appropriate steps to inform the Administrator where appropriate and, if the Administrator determines that a Conflict of Interest exists, to eliminate or mitigate it. A Team's failure to timely inform the President of an Affiliation of which it is aware will constitute waiver under Rule 4.5(c).

4.6. Prior Viewing of Teams

(a) Subject to Rule 4.6(b), judges should not view a Team that they have viewed in a previous Match.

(b) In extraordinary circumstances, the Administrator may permit judges to view one or more Teams that they have previously judged, if such viewing serves the best interests of the Competition. If a judge must view a Team twice, the Administrator should ensure that they view the Team's opposite side.

4.7. Bench Memorandum

Judges must keep the contents of the Bench Memorandum strictly confidential and may not disclose them to Team Members or Team Advisors.

4.8. Commentary by Judges

Judges are encouraged to provide direct feedback to Teams regarding their performance at the completion of a Match. In providing such feedback, judges must abide by the following:

(a) In the Preliminary Rounds, Judges may not provide any feedback that would reveal the contents of the Bench Memorandum, the scores given to individual oralists, or the result of the Match.

(b) In the Elimination Rounds, Judges may not provide any feedback that would reveal the contents of the Bench Memorandum or scores given to individual oralists. The results of the Match may be revealed to the Teams only if the judges are instructed to do so by the Administrator.

RULE 5: MATCHES

5.1. General Procedures

Each Match consists of 40 minutes of oral pleadings. Applicant and Respondent are each allotted 20 minutes. Oral presentations during the Match must be made by two, and only two, members from each Team. Prior to the beginning of the Match, the Team arguing as Applicant must indicate to the bailiff

which Team Member will act as its first oralist and second oralist and how it wishes to allocate its 20 minutes among (a) its first oralist, (b) its second oralist, and (c) rebuttal. After Applicant has made its determinations, its opponent Team must indicate to the bailiff which Team members will act as its first oralist and second oralist and how it wishes to allocate its 20 minutes among (a) its first oralist, (b) its second oralist, and (c) surrebuttal. Teams may not allocate more than 15 minutes, including rebuttal or surrebuttal, to either oralist. Time allocated to but not used by one oralist may not be used by the other oralist or saved for rebuttal or surrebuttal. Any Team Member may act as an oralist during any Match in the Competition and need not always argue the same side.

5.2. Extension of Time at Judges' Discretion

The President may, at their discretion, extend total Team oral argument time beyond the 15-minute allocation, and oralists asked by the judges to expand upon arguments may, in this instance, exceed the 10-minute individual limit.

5.3. Three Judge Panels

In each Match, the Administrator shall employ three judges whenever possible, and may employ more than three judges in Elimination Rounds. In extenuating circumstances, the Administrator may authorize panels of two judges, but this should be done only as a last resort. In no case may a Match be presided over by a single judge. The Administrator may nominate one of the Judges on a panel to act as President. The President shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the Match in accordance with the Rules.

5.4. Order of the Pleadings

The order of the pleadings in each Match is: Applicant 1, Applicant 2, Respondent 1, Respondent 2, Rebuttal (Applicant 1 or 2), and Surrebuttal (Respondent 1 or 2). Once an oralist has completed their main pleading, that oralist may not make any additional argument except for rebuttal or surrebuttal. This applies irrespective of whether the pleading Team uses all of the time it has allocated for its main pleadings. Time not used in the main pleading may not extend the time allocated to rebuttal or surrebuttal.

5.5. Rebuttal and Surrebuttal

Each Team may reserve up to three minutes for rebuttal or surrebuttal. As a courtesy to the judges,

Teams should announce at the beginning of their oral argument whether they have reserved time for rebuttal or surrebuttal and how much time they have reserved, although a failure to do so will not entail waiver of the right to rebuttal or surrebuttal. Only one of the two oralists participating in the Match may deliver the rebuttal or surrebuttal, but the Team need not indicate in advance which of the two oralists will do so. The rebuttal shall immediately follow Respondent 2, and the surrebuttal shall immediately follow the rebuttal. Teams may waive their rebuttal or surrebuttal. If the Applicant waives rebuttal, then surrebuttal is waived as well.

5.6. Scope of Pleadings

The scope of the Applicant's rebuttal is limited to responding to the Respondent's primary oral pleadings, and the scope of the Respondent's surrebuttal is limited to responding to the Applicant's rebuttal. Although judges are admonished to enforce the limits on the scope of rebuttal and surrebuttal, and may take a violation of this Rule into account in evaluating an oralist's performance, there is no discretionary or non-discretionary Penalty for exceeding the scope of rebuttal or surrebuttal.

5.7. Ex Parte Procedure

(a) In extreme circumstances, such as when a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Match, the Administrator, after waiting 15 minutes, may allow the Match to proceed *ex parte*. In an *ex parte* proceeding, the attending Team presents its oral pleadings, which are scored by the judges to the extent possible as if the absent Team had been present. In such a case, the Team that fails to appear for its scheduled Match forfeits all six Round Points.

(b) The Administrator may schedule an additional *ex parte* proceeding for the absent Team later in the Competition, if time and administrative concerns permit. The scores from the absent Team's *ex parte* proceeding do not affect the scoring of the original Match and are used only for purposes of calculating individual oral pleading scores.

(c) A Team will be deemed to have failed to appear if only one Member from a given Team appears for the Match. In such an event, the absent Team's single oralist shall be allowed to plead and receive an individual score for purposes of calculating individual oral pleading scores, even though their Team forfeits all six Round Points.

5.8. Courtroom Communications

Except as described in Rule 5.9, no communication is permitted between any persons without

permission from the President other than (1) orally, between a judge and an oralist at the podium or (2) in writing, between any two persons sitting at counsel table. In particular, no written communication or exhibits may be presented or delivered by any Team Member to any judge.

5.9. Oral Communication in the Courtroom

Each oralist may communicate with the judges, and the judges may communicate with that oralist, only during their allotted time, save as permitted by this Rule. The judges may, where necessary, communicate directly with an oralist, any Team Member at counsel table of either Team, and with any other person present in the courtroom to ensure the orderly conduct of the Match (for example, to clarify the spelling of an oralist's name or to request that a person or persons remain quiet).

5.10. Written Communication

Communication at the counsel table between Team Members may be in writing only. Team Members at Counsel Table may not communicate in writing with judges, the oralist, or spectators (including Team Members and Team Advisors seated in the audience) during a Match and no other person may communicate with them.

5.11. Spectators

- (a) All Matches are presumptively open to the public. Teams may agree in advance, and after consultation with the Administrator, to limit the number of spectators in a room during the Preliminary Rounds. The presence of Team Advisors or other spectators affiliated with the Team is permitted in the courtroom during a Match in which the Team is competing. Teams are responsible for ensuring that their spectators do not engage in any disruptive behavior and shall ensure that spectators do not disclose to judges the identity of their institution or country.
- (b) Spectators may not communicate with Team Members at counsel table, an oralist, or judges during a Match.
- (c) The Administrator may limit the number of spectators or others who may be present at a Match for reasons of public health or safety or the fair and efficient conduct of the Match.

5.12. Scouting

- (a) Team Members or persons directly affiliated with any Team may attend only Matches in which that Team is competing. Violation of this Rule should be brought to the attention of the Administrator

immediately, without disturbing the Match, or immediately after the Match has finished.

(b) There are two types of scouting, both of which are prohibited. “Direct Scouting” occurs when a Team attends a Match involving one or more Teams against which it will compete in a future Match. “Indirect Scouting” occurs when a Team attends a Match involving two Teams against which it is not scheduled to compete in the Preliminary Rounds, or when a Team, through any other means, obtains or attempts to obtain information about another Team regardless of whether the Team seeking the information will compete against the Team(s) for which information is sought.

- (i) A Team that commits Direct Scouting forfeits all six Round Points in each future Preliminary Round in which it competes against a Team it scouted.
- (ii) A Team that commits Indirect Scouting shall forfeit one Preliminary Round Match. For example, if the Team won four Preliminary Round Matches, its total number of wins shall be reduced to three, without other adjustment to its Total Raw Points or Total Round Points. (If a Team that commits Indirect Scouting wins no Preliminary Round Matches, there shall be no such adjustment.) This adjustment shall occur prior to the determination of final Preliminary Round rankings described in Rule 7.7.

(c) During the Elimination Rounds, any Team that is still competing in the Competition is forbidden from attending any Elimination Rounds Matches not involving that Team. Any Team which commits scouting during the Elimination Rounds will forfeit the Match in which the scouting occurred and, as a consequence, any subsequent Match in which the Team competes. In the event that scouting is discovered only after subsequent Matches have been held, the resulting forfeit(s) shall not retroactively affect the seeding of subsequent Elimination Rounds.

5.13. Audio and Video Recording and Transmission

No audio or video recording or transmission of a Match is permitted without the advance permission of the entire panel of judges, the two participating Teams, and the Administrator. In no circumstances may participating Teams view or listen to any video or audio recording of a Match until after the completion of the Competition.

5.14. Anonymity of Teams

During a Match, participants may not directly or indirectly indicate their school of origin to the judges or bailiff, including through the wearing of name tags, pins, logos, or other signifiers, 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 spectators affiliated with the Team.

5.15. Computers, Mobile Phones, and other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms

During a Match, oralists at the podium and Team Members seated at counsel table may not operate, for any purpose, mobile phones, laptop computers, tablets, or any other electronic devices, including but not limited to those which are internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant messaging capabilities. All such devices must be turned off and removed from sight as soon as the bailiff first enters the courtroom and must remain off and out of sight until the conclusion of the Match (including the judges’ deliberations and feedback). A Team that violates this Rule may forfeit up to six Round Points; the Administrator shall determine a Penalty that corresponds to the severity of the violation.

5.16. Timekeeping Devices in the Courtroom

The official time of the Match shall be indicated by the bailiff. No one other than the bailiff may display timecards or otherwise signal to the oralist how much time is left. Teams may use silent digital or analog watches at the podium or at counsel table. However, the use of any such device which, in addition to keeping time, is capable of either (a) sending or receiving data to another person or to the Internet, or (b) storing text data, shall be prohibited at counsel table and at the podium as a violation of Rule 5.15, even if such functionality is turned off.

RULE 6: COMPETITION STRUCTURE

6.1. Structure

The Competition shall consist of (i) the Preliminary Rounds and (ii) the Elimination Rounds.

6.2. Scheduling Conflicts

No later than one week prior to the Preliminary Rounds, Teams must notify the Administrator in writing of any potential schedule conflicts owing to religious observances or similar concerns. The Administrator will make every effort to make appropriate accommodation.

6.3. Preliminary Rounds

The Preliminary Rounds consist of four Matches, with each Team pleading twice as Applicant and twice as Respondent.

6.4. Pairings for the Preliminary Rounds

- (a) The Administrator shall establish the pairings for the Preliminary Rounds by random draw. The Administrator may modify the draw to ensure that two Teams from the same institution do not face each other in the Preliminary Rounds.
- (b) Pairings will be distributed to Teams on the date indicated on the Official Schedule.
- (c) The Administrator may subsequently modify the pairings to account for absent Teams or other unforeseen contingencies. In such case, the Administrator will notify affected Teams as soon as possible.

6.5. Elimination Rounds

The Elimination Rounds consist of the the Quarterfinal Round, the Semifinal Round, and the Championship Round. The eight highest-ranked Teams at the end of the Preliminary Rounds shall participate in the Elimination Rounds.

6.6. Quarterfinal Round

The Quarterfinal Round consists of four pairings of the eighth- through first-ranked Teams after the Preliminary Rounds.

6.7. Semifinal Round and Championship Round

The Semifinal Round consists of two pairings of the four Teams that win in the Quarterfinal Round. The two winning Teams from the Semifinal Round advance to the Championship Round.

6.8. Pairings for Elimination Rounds

In each Elimination Round except the Championship Round, the pairings shall be determined by use of “power-seeding,” *i.e.*, the highest-ranked Team shall compete against the lowest- ranked Team; the second highest-ranked Team shall compete against the second-lowest-ranked Team, *etc.* For the purposes of this Rule, all rankings shall be determined by the final standings at the end of the Preliminary Rounds.

6.9. Pleading Option in the Elimination Rounds

- (a) In the Quarterfinal Round, the higher-ranked Team at the end of the Preliminary Rounds shall have Pleading Option.

(b) The Administrator shall choose a means of random decision for determining the Pleading Option for the Semifinal Round and the Championship Round.

(c) The Team with the pleading option has five minutes to decide which side it wishes to plead. If that Team fails to select, then the opposing Team has five minutes to do so. If the opposing Team fails to exercise its Pleading Option within a five-minute period, the higher-ranked Team will argue Applicant and the lower-ranked Team will argue Respondent.

(d) Once the sides have been determined, the Administrator will immediately notify both Teams. The Teams will then be granted a reasonable time to prepare for the Match.

RULE 7: COMPETITION SCORING

7.1 Basis for Scores

Each Match judge will score each oralist on a scale of 50 to 100 points. Judges are instructed to judge the Teams on the overall quality of their performances, not on the underlying merits of the case.

7.2 Calculation of Points

Two categories of points shall be awarded to Teams in each Match: Raw Score and Round Points.

7.3 Raw Scores

(a) Raw Score: In each Match, a Team's Total Raw Score is the sum of the scores of the three judges for each of its two oralists.

(b) The calculation of Raw Scores shall be subject to the deduction of Penalty points under the provisions of Rule 8.

7.4 Round Points

(a) In each Match, a total of six Round Points is awarded based on a comparison of combined oral argument scores. The sum of each judge's score for Applicant's two oralists is compared to the sum of that judge's scores for Respondent's two oralists. For each judge, the Team with the highest combined oralist score is awarded two Round Points. If in any such comparison, the two Teams' scores are equal, each Team is awarded one Round Point.

7.5 Two-Judge Panels

If only two judges score a given Match, the Administrator shall create a third score and scoresheet by

averaging the scores of the two judges.

7.6 Determining the Winner of a Match

In any given match, the Team receiving more of the six available Round Points wins the Match. If the two Teams each receive three Round Points, the Team with the higher total Raw Score wins the Match. If the two Teams have an equal number of Round Points and an equal Raw Score, the Match is a draw.

7.7 Preliminary Round Rankings

- (a) Teams shall be ranked by number of wins in the Preliminary Rounds, from highest to lowest.
- (b) If two or more Teams have the same number of wins, the Team having the higher number of draws shall be ranked higher.
- (c) If two or more Teams have the same number of wins and the same number of draws, the Team having the higher Total Raw Score from the Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked higher.
- (d) If two or more Teams have the same number of wins, the same number of draws and the same Total Raw Score, the Team with the higher Total Round Points from the Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked higher.

7.8 Tie-Breaking Procedure

- (a) If two or more Teams are tied after application of Rule 7.7, and the outcome of the determination does not affect (i) any Team's entry into the Elimination Rounds, or (ii) the pairing of any Teams in the Elimination Rounds, the Teams shall be ranked equally. If, however, further determination is necessary, the rankings shall be accomplished according to sections (b) and (c) of this Rule.
- (b) If only two Teams are tied and if the tied Teams have faced each other in the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of that Match shall be ranked higher.
- (c) If two or more Teams are tied and the Teams have not faced each other in the Preliminary Rounds, the Administrator shall break the tie according to the following methods, starting with the first and working down only if the prior method does not break the tie:
 - (i) the Team whose opponents won more Matches wins, calculated by adding the number of wins of the Teams' opponents and for this purpose only, counting a draw as one-half of a win;
 - (ii) the Team wins whose opponents scored higher, calculated by adding the Total Raw Scores of the Teams' opponents;

- (iii) the Administrator determines a method to break the tie, taking into account the interests of the Teams and the Competition as a whole.

7.9 Ranking of Oralists

Individual oralists shall be ranked from highest to lowest average oral score. An oralist’s average oral score is the average of the scores awarded to that individual by each judge during the Preliminary Rounds, excluding the single lowest score awarded to the oralist. Additionally, any average scores from a two-judge panel) will not be included in an oralists average oral score calculation.

RULE 8: PENALTIES

8.1 Penalties

The Administrator shall impose a Penalty, if necessary, after consultation with the judges, bailiff, Teams, and/or spectators.

8.2 Deduction of Penalties by Judges Prohibited

Judges may not deduct any Penalty points from the scores of the oralists. Judges shall score the Match as if no violation occurred, and may take an infraction into account only if so instructed by the Administrator.

8.3 Activity Subject to Match Penalties

Penalties may be assessed for violations during a Match by reference to the following table. The Administrator shall deduct the Penalty amount from each judge’s combined score (the sum of the judge’s score for oralist 1 and oralist 2) before determining the Round Points.

Rule	Summary	Penalty
5.9 & 5.10	Improper courtroom communications	Up to 10 points
5.12	Scouting	Forfeiture of one preliminary Match if indirect; forfeiture of all six oral Round Points if direct scouting, to be deducted in the Match against the Team that was scouted. Forfeiture of Elimination Round in which scouting and forfeiture of prior Elimination Round victories with no retroactive effect on seeding.

2.8 & 5.14	Violation of anonymity in courtroom	Up to 15 points, or disqualification.
------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

8.4 Notice and Appeals

The Administrator shall notify affected Teams of a decision regarding imposition of a Penalty as soon as practicable.

8.5 Discretionary Penalties

(a) In addition to the Penalties listed in Rule 8.3, the Administrator may assess up to 15 points in Discretionary Penalties for other violations of the letter or spirit of these Rules. The size of the Penalty shall correspond to the degree of the violation in the judgment of the Administrator. Discretionary Penalties may be imposed upon a Team for conduct of its Team Members or of persons affiliated with the Team, such as:

- (i) poor sportsmanship;
- (ii) submitting multiple frivolous complaints against other Teams;
- (iii) inappropriate behavior at the counsel table during a Match;
- (iv) blatant disregard for the procedures or requirements outlined in the Rules.

(b) Other conduct seriously contrary to the integrity of the Competition (for example, inappropriate *ex parte* communications with judges either before or after a Match) may, at the sole discretion of the Administrator, result in a Team being disqualified from the Competition.

8.6 De Minimis Rule

The Administrator may waive or reduce the penalty for a *de minimis* Rule violation.

8.7 Complaints About the Conduct or Result of a Match

(a) If a Team believes that a violation of the Rules has occurred during a Match, the Team must inform the Administrator as soon as reasonably practicable after the violation becomes known to the Team, and in any event within 15 minutes of the completion of the Match. The Administrator may request that the complaint is reduced to writing (if not already in writing) and may set a reasonable time limit for so doing. Any complaint not raised or reduced to writing within the time stipulated is waived. No written complaint may exceed 500 words without the express permission of the Administrator.

(b) A Team shall not discuss its complaint with any judges or other witnesses to the alleged violation(s) until after the final decision on the complaint is determined by the Administrator and any

appeal to the Administrator has been determined.

(c) If a judge believes that a violation of the Rules has occurred during a Match, the judge shall notify the Administrator as soon as possible, without discussing the matter with either Team.

(d) A Team's allegation, however well supported, that the judge(s) of a Match reached the wrong conclusion or gave an incorrect score cannot be the basis for a complaint.

(e) The Administrator will timely reply to a complaint, notifying the complainant and the affected Team(s). The Administrator will devise and implement appropriate remedies to address complaints regarding the conduct of a Match, but only if the Administrator determines that the outcome of the Match has been materially affected.

RULE 9: AWARDS

9.1 Other Awards

The Administrator shall arrange for appropriate recognition of the following: the Team that wins the Championship, highest ranked oralists, and Teams that advance to the Elimination Rounds.

RULE 10: ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

The Administrator shall aim to provide reasonable accommodations and support to participants, empowering them to fully participate while upholding the fairness and integrity of the Competition.

10.1 Accommodation Requests

(a) Participants have the right to request reasonable accommodations to ensure their full and equal participation in the Competition.

(b) Accommodation requests must be made in writing to moots@ilsa.org or directly to the Administrator before the date indicated in the Official Schedule.

(c) The accommodation request should include a detailed description of the requested accommodation(s).

(d) The Administrator shall evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis, considering the requested accommodation and the feasibility of implementation, and communicate a final decision to the participant who requested the accommodation.