

JESSUP 2021: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Why are the Jessup 2021 Global Rounds being held virtually?

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, continued uncertainty about the months ahead, and our need to coordinate with more than 100 different countries and jurisdictions, ILSA's Board of Directors approved a plan for a fully virtual Jessup Competition in 2021. Many of our teams and judges would be unable to travel to Washington, DC for in-person International Rounds because of local conditions, school or governmental regulations, and personal health reasons. Furthermore, current travel restrictions and prohibitions on large gatherings make holding a large international event in Washington, DC or most other locations impossible at this time. Although we will miss meeting in person, the health and safety of the Jessup Community remains a top priority.

Read the [Official Announcement](#) from the ILSA Executive Office.

2. What exactly are the Global Rounds? What changed?

The Global Rounds are a one-of-a-kind, fully global online event, in which each and every team that registers and submits memorials will be invited to compete. Although National Rounds will still take place (virtual or in-person, depending on circumstances) and participation is strongly encouraged, they will not be mandatory, and all Teams will be eligible for the Global Rounds.

The Global Rounds will be spread over a [five-week period](#) beginning in mid-March 2021, with each team competing against opponents from around the world. Each team will compete in four preliminary round moots against opponents from diverse countries. After these preliminary rounds, the top 150-200 teams (see the [Official Rules](#) for details) will move on to the White & Case Advanced Rounds, where they will compete in an additional four moots to determine which teams will move on to the single elimination moots and, ultimately, compete for the Jessup Cup.

3. Why isn't a hybrid model viable for Jessup 2021, where those who are able to attend in-person can and others can attend virtually?

We carefully considered all options for Jessup 2021 including a hybrid model in which students and judges could participate either virtually or in-person. We consulted with experts and members of the Jessup Community, as well as many law schools. We concluded that a hybrid model would not be feasible for the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds for a number of reasons, including the complicated logistics of combining in-person and virtual rounds, the inability to provide a fair experience to all teams, issues with arranging a hybrid model with judges, and the ongoing restrictions on large in-person events.

4. Will the Jessup Competition continue to be virtual in the future?

We hope to return to an in-person competition for Jessup 2022 and are committed to returning to in-person in the future, consistent with global and local health and safety regulations.

5. Did the Official Rules change for the 2021 Jessup Competition?

Yes. Although many of the Jessup Rules remain the same, some Rules have been changed to accommodate an online competition. All competitors, coaches/advisors, and judges should thoroughly review the 2021 Jessup Rules. Questions regarding the Rules may be sent to jessup@ilsa.org.

Major rule changes include Rule 7 (Online Moots) and Rule 9 (Global Rounds). Please review the [2021 Official Jessup Rules](#) in their entirety to familiarize yourself with all of the competition rules.

II. 2021 GLOBAL ROUNDS

6. What is the structure of the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds?

The Global Rounds will take place over a five-week period, beginning on 9 March and ending on 17 April with the 2021 White & Case Jessup Cup World Championship match. All teams will compete in two Exhibition matches (once as Applicant and once as Respondent) followed by four Preliminary Round matches. The top 150 Teams (with the potential for more Teams pursuant to Rule 9.8(a)) will advance to the White & Case Advanced Rounds; 48 Teams will advance to the Eliminations Rounds. From there, Teams will proceed through knock-out rounds until only two Teams remain to compete for the Jessup World Championship. Please see the [Official Jessup Schedule](#) and Rule 9 of the [Official Jessup Rules](#) for more information.

7. How will a Team's Competition Schedule be determined?

According to Rule 9 of the Official Jessup Rules, no team will be required to compete before 8:00 am or after 8:00 pm (in their local time zone of choice) during the Exhibition, Preliminary, and White & Case Advanced Rounds. However, Teams may elect to compete earlier or later if they prefer. We will not be able to guarantee the same schedule preferences during later elimination rounds. We understand that Teams may have exams, holidays, or other conflicts at some point during the Global Rounds. Please keep in mind that most Teams will be competing only once or twice a week for approximately 2 hours per match.

All Teams will be required to provide their time zone and availability during the weeks of the Global Rounds. A request for this information will be sent via email to the Team Contacts. Prior to the start of the Global Rounds, all Teams will receive their Exhibition and Preliminary Match Schedules via email.

8. When will the 2021 Jessup World Championship be held?

The 2021 Jessup World Championship Match is scheduled for Saturday, 17 April 2021. A more precise starting time will be announced soon. For all dates, please see the [Official 2021 Jessup Schedule](#).

9. Will the Global Rounds include social events?

Yes. We expect to have opportunities for competitors, judges, and other members of the Jessup Community to take part in virtual social and networking events. We will share more details about these events closer to the 2021 Global Rounds.

10. What Awards will be presented during the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds?

ILSA will present oralist and memorial awards as well as recognition for progressing to the White & Case Advanced Rounds and the Elimination Rounds. We currently expect to present more awards than in a typical year as a result of the number of teams competing at the Global Rounds, but additional details will be provided in advance of the Global Rounds. Awards will also include the Spirit of the Jessup, the Steven M. Schneebaum Awards, and the Pam Young Award.

III. VIRTUAL ROUND INFORMATION

11. What virtual platform will be used for the 2021 Global Rounds?

Announcements regarding the platform for the Global Rounds will be forthcoming. Students and judges will receive virtual training, instructional guides, and opportunities to practice using the platform prior to the start of the Global Rounds.

12. Do I need specific equipment to participate?

We strongly recommend all competitors and judges have access to high-speed internet for their rounds. We will provide additional guidance and details regarding band-width and other recommendations or requirements in the weeks to come.

13. How should competitors and judges set up for virtual Rounds?

Rule 7.16 sets out the basic requirements for camera angle and configuration. It requires that oralists' faces appear in the frame while presenting their oral arguments and requests that judges do the same. Oralists may be sitting or standing and may elect whether or not to use a podium. Oralists should have the ability to mute their microphone when not speaking. Additional guidance and specific requirements for virtual rounds will be published prior to the Global Rounds.

14. Can oralists use a teleprompter or other similar technology during the Global Rounds?

Yes. Oralists may use a teleprompter during oral arguments at the Global Rounds. Please review the [Official Jessup Rules](#) for more information about virtual oral arguments.

15. Will virtual National Rounds use the same platform as the Global Rounds?

At this time, we are not sure if the platform for the Global Rounds will be available for National Rounds. We will be providing more information to National Administrators and Competitors in the coming weeks.

IV. NATIONAL ROUNDS

16. Will National Rounds take place in 2021?

The ability to hold National Rounds -- whether virtual or in-person -- varies widely from country to country. While we encourage countries to hold National Rounds and teams to compete in them, they will not be used to qualify teams to advance to the Global Rounds. Additional information on National Rounds will be released on our website as the information is made available to the Executive Office.

17. Will National Rounds be virtual or in-person?

National Rounds may be held either in person or virtually. We have asked National Administrators to announce their decision no later than 27 November 2020 so that teams will have time to make any necessary plans. These decisions will be based on factors such as government recommendations or regulations, size of the competition, and ability of teams and judges to travel. Information about National Rounds including administrator contact information, dates, location, and format will be posted on the ILSA website when available.

View the [National Round Schedule](#).

18. If my country does not hold a National Round, will my team have the opportunity to practice elsewhere?

ILSA will be working with National Administrators and teams to determine if friendly matches or other practice rounds will be possible. We will make every effort to provide opportunities for teams to participate in organized practice rounds prior to the start of the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds. At this time, we cannot guarantee that every team will participate in national, friendly, or other approved practice rounds. However, all teams taking part in the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds will participate in two exhibition matches (one as Applicant and one as Respondent) before beginning the scored portion of the competition.

19. If countries are able to hold National Rounds, why will they not determine Teams who qualify for the Global Rounds?

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the global pandemic, ILSA decided that all Teams will participate in the virtual Global Rounds this year. The ability to hold National Rounds this year – whether in-person or virtual – varies widely from country to country, and there may be issues that impact National Rounds at the last minute. We do not want some Teams to be denied the opportunity to compete if, for example, their National Rounds cannot take place or their schools do not allow them to travel. Teams who take part in National Rounds will be recognized for their achievements at the national level and we anticipate that many National Rounds will recognize champions and present awards.

20. Does my team have to attend National or Regional Rounds prior to attending the Jessup Global Rounds?

No. All Teams who complete their registration by the deadline, pay the registration fee, and submit memorials will be invited to take part in the 2021 Global Rounds. However, we strongly encourage teams to participate in National Rounds where they are being organized. Teams will have the opportunity to win awards, practice their arguments and otherwise benefit from the valuable experience of a National Round.

V. TEAM REGISTRATION

21. How is registering a team this year different than in prior years?

All teams will register online using the Team Registration Form. The registration and fee payment systems have not changed. However, teams will not be asked to provide a team roster during the initial registration process. Teams will receive an email in October requesting information about team members and advisors. It is especially important that the contact emails provided by Teams during the registration process are checked regularly. Teams will receive a number of important updates throughout the Jessup season, many of which will be time sensitive.

22. What does my 2021 Jessup Registration Fee cover?

Even though the Jessup Global Rounds are taking place virtually, significant time and resources will go into the organization of the competition. Registration fees go towards the development of an accessible virtual competition platform for all teams, the organization of networking and social experiences for competitors, and many other costs associated with running a virtual competition for more than 600 teams. Although we will miss seeing teams in person, we hope that the absence of travel costs this year will make the Jessup experience more accessible for many schools and competitors.

In addition to the opportunity to participate in the world's largest moot court competition, competitors will be given access to online educational content (advocacy training videos, law lectures and the like) and special virtual networking opportunities. Teams, depending on location, may also receive free access to several legal research platforms including Hein Online, Lexis Nexis, Oxford University Press, and Jus Mundi.

View the [2021 Fee Schedule](#).

23. My team is having a difficult time paying our registration fee this year. Can we apply for a reduced fee?

Reduced registration fees will be offered only to teams in the most exigent circumstances. ILSA is able to offer a limited number of fee reductions for teams this year where they have exhausted all options for fundraising and sponsorship. If you believe that your Team may qualify for a reduced fee and you have exhausted all avenues of alternative support, please fill out the form located on your team homepage.

24. My team does not have a reliable internet connection. What should we do?

We will be providing more information as the season progresses and will be asking all competitors, advisors, and judges to test their internet connections prior to the Global Rounds. If you do not believe that your internet will support video calls, we recommend that you consider the following options: speak to your university about providing access to reliable internet; reach out to local nonprofits, law firms, government offices or businesses that have reliable internet and ask if you can utilize their offices for your rounds; and research alternative internet options in your country or region.

VI. JUDGES

25. When will judges be selected for the 2021 Jessup Global Rounds?

Judge selection for the Global Rounds will take place on a rolling basis beginning in December 2020. It may take several weeks for the Executive Office to evaluate and approve judges, so we appreciate your patience with the process. If you have questions about your application, please email jessup@ilsa.org.

26. What qualifications are necessary to judge the Global Rounds?

Judges are evaluated on a number of criteria including their prior participation in the Jessup and their legal experience, particularly in the field of international law. We encourage anyone applying to judge to respond completely to all questions on the online Judge Registration Form. Each year, we have a limited number of judge positions available. If you are not selected as a judge for the 2021 Global Rounds, we encourage you to gain additional Jessup experience by judging at National and Regional Competitions.

27. Will Judges receive training on the virtual platform?

Yes. Once individuals have been approved as judges for the 2021 Global Rounds, they will be provided with more information and instructions for accessing training videos and/or live training sessions on using the virtual platform. Judges will also be given an opportunity to access the platform and test their internet connections prior to the start of the competition.