

The Steering Committee  
Renmin University  
January 21, 2024

**Qualifying Tournament in China for  
The 2024 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court  
Competition**

**NATIONAL RULES SUPPLEMENT**

This Qualifying Tournament is held in China among teams wishing to participate in the International Tournament in order to choose the top teams that shall be designated as the National Representatives.

This Qualifying Tournament shall be presided over by Renmin University, and the Steering Committee (the Committee) shall take charge of administration.

The oral pleadings shall be held in Renmin University from February 17 to February 20, 2024. The eight teams that advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds will be designated National Representatives of China to the International Rounds. In addition, the top losing team in the Round of 16, as determined by Preliminary Round ranking, will be designated a National Representative of China to the International Rounds.

**1. Team Composition**

In the Qualifying Tournament, each Team shall be composed of two (2) to five (5) student members, who will obtain the certificates endowed by the Chinese Steering Committee.

**2. Judge Panels and Eligibility of Judges**

In the preliminary rounds of competition, the panels will be formed with two or three judges, but the three-judge to seven-judge panels shall be utilized in the Round of 16, Quarterfinal Rounds, Semifinal Rounds and the Championship Round depending upon the number of the judges available.

Judges will be selected according to the Official Rules of the 2024 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Official Rules).

**3. Anonymity of Participants**

Participants must not reveal their school to judges through direct or indirect means at any time during the competition. The Administrator may disqualify or impose a Penalty against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently discloses its school to judge, whether or not such disclosure occurs during an Oral Round. The

term “participants” includes Team Members, Team Advisors, and spectators affiliated with the Team.

#### **4. The Oral Pleading Procedure**

##### **4.1 Preliminary Rounds**

Each Team shall compete four times in the Preliminary Rounds of the Qualifying Tournament, twice as Applicant and twice as Respondent.

The pairings for the Preliminary Rounds shall be done with the assistance provided by the ILSA. At the General Meeting before the Competition begins, Teams shall be notified of the side it shall argue for and both teams shall be granted a reasonable time for preparation. Memorials of the opposite sides will be provided immediately upon the notification.

In case that Team do not appear at the start of the Tournament, the Committee shall have the power to revise the pairings or authorize *ex parte* proceedings.

##### **4.2 Rounds of 16**

The Rounds of 16 shall be held among the sixteen (16) highest ranking teams from the Preliminary Rounds in order to determine which Teams shall advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds.

In the Rounds of 16, the pairing shall be determined by “power-seeding” as follows: the sixteenth-ranked Team versus the first-ranked Team, the fifteenth-ranked Team versus the second-ranked Team, the fourteenth-ranked Team versus the third-ranked Team, the thirteenth-ranked Team versus the fourth-ranked Team, the twelfth-ranked Team versus the fifth-ranked Team, the eleventh-ranked Team versus the sixth-ranked Team, the tenth-ranked Team versus the seventh-ranked Team, the ninth-ranked Team versus the eighth-ranked Team.

In the Rounds of 16, each Team argues only once as Applicant or as Respondent to determine the winning Team.

##### **4.3 Quarterfinal Rounds**

The Quarterfinal Rounds shall be held among the eight (8) winning teams from the Eighth final Rounds in order to determine which Teams shall advance to the Semifinal Rounds.

In the Quarterfinal Rounds, the pairing shall be determined by use of ‘power-seeding’, i.e., the highest-ranked remaining Team shall compete against the lowest-ranked Team. The rankings to be used will be the final rankings from the Preliminary Rounds.

In the Quarterfinal Rounds, each Team argues only once as Applicant or as Respondent to determine the winning Team.

##### **4.4 Semifinal Rounds**

The Semifinal Rounds shall be held among the four (4) winning teams from the Quarterfinal Rounds in order to determine which Teams shall advance to the Championship Round.

In the Semifinal Rounds, the pairing shall be determined by use of ‘power-seeding’, i.e., the

highest-ranked remaining Team shall compete against the lowest-ranked Team. The rankings to be used will be the final rankings from the Preliminary Rounds.

In the Semifinal Rounds, each Team argues only once as Applicant or as Respondent to determine the winning Team.

#### **4.5 Championship Round**

In order to upgrade national competitive competence, there will be a Championship Round between the top two Teams from the Semifinal Rounds.

#### **4.6 Pleading Option**

In the Rounds of 16, Quarterfinal Rounds and Semifinal Rounds, the higher-ranking Team from the Preliminary Rounds shall have the right to choose which side it will argue. This right is called the “pleading option”.

In the Championship Round, the side a team would argue for in the Championship Round shall be decided by “Tossing a Coin” according to Official Rules 8.

### **5. Competition Scoring**

#### **5.1 Preliminary Rounds**

Scoring of the Preliminary Rounds shall consist of two parts: the scoring of the written Memorials, and the scoring of the Oral Rounds.

Two (2) categories of points shall be awarded to Teams in each match: Raw Score and Round Points.

##### **5.1.1 Raw Scores**

(a) In each match, the Total Memorial Score for each team is the sum of three (3) Memorial judges’ scores for the side the team argued in that Oral Round. A team’s Total Competition Memorial Score is the sum of the six (6) scores for its Applicant and Respondent Memorials.

(b) Oral Raw Score: In each match, a Team’s Total Oral Raw Score is the sum of the scores of the three (3) judges for each of its two oralists. A team’s Total Competition Oral Score is the sum of the twenty-four (24) score for per team, twice as Applicant and twice as Respondent.

(c) Total Raw Scores: In the Preliminary Rounds, a team’s Total Competition Raw Score is the sum of the team’s Total Competition Memorial Score and the team’s Total Competition Oral Score.

##### **5.1.2 Round Points**

(a) Memorial Round Points: In each match, a total of three (3) Round Points will be awarded based on a comparison of the highest, middle, and lowest scores on Memorials. If four-judge panels are used to evaluate Memorials, the score furthest from the mean will be discarded and the three remaining scores will be used as the Memorial’s highest, middle, and lowest scores. The Memorials to be compared should correspond to the side that the Teams argued in that match. In other words, the scores of the Applicant Team’s Applicant

Memorials should be compared against the scores of the Respondent Team's Respondent Memorials. For each comparison, the Team with the higher score is awarded one (1) Round Point. Hence, the highest score given by a memorial judge for one Team is compared to the highest score given the other Team, and then one round point is awarded to the Team with the higher of these two scores. In a similar fashion, the two middle scores, and then the two lowest scores, are compared to determine which Team receives the second and third round points. If in any such comparison the two Teams' scores are equal, each Team is awarded one-half (0.5) of a Round Point.

(b) Oral Round Points: In each match, a total of six (6) Round Points will be awarded based on a comparison of combined oral argument scores. For each judge, the sum of the judge's score for Applicant Oralist 1 and Applicant Oralist 2 is compared to the sum of the judge's scores for Respondent Oralist 1 and Respondent Oralist 2. For each judge, the Team with the highest combined oralist score is awarded two (2) Round Points. If in any such comparison, the two Teams' scores are equal, each Team is awarded one (1) Round Point.

(c) Total Round Points: In each Round, a Team's Total Round Points is the sum of the Team's Memorial Round Points and Oral Round Points.

### **5.1.3 Determining the Winner of a Preliminary Round Match**

In any given match, the Team receiving the greater of the nine (9) available Round Points wins the match.

If the two Teams each receive 4.5 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 Total Raw Score, the match is a draw.

### **5.1.4 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 Competition 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 Competition Raw Score, the Team with the higher Total Competition Round Points from the Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked higher.

### **5.1.5 Tie-Breaking Procedure**

If two or more Teams are tied after application of Rule 5.1.4, and the outcome of the determination does not affect (a) any Team's entry into the Advanced Rounds, or (b) the pairing of any Teams in the Advanced Rounds of the competition, the Teams shall be ranked equally. If, however, further determination is necessary (under either (a) or (b) above), the rankings shall be accomplished as follows:

(a) 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.

(b) If only two 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) tie goes to the Team with the higher total oralist and memorial score average, calculated by adding the Team's Total Competition Oral Raw Score divided by twenty-four (24) and the Team's Total Competition Memorial Raw Score divided by six (6);

(ii) tie goes to the Team whose opponents won more matches, calculated by adding the number of wins of the Teams' opponents and for this purpose only, counting a draw as one-half (1/2) of a win;

(iii) tie goes to the Team whose opponents scored higher, calculated by adding the Total Raw Scores of the Teams' opponents;

(iv) tie goes to the Team with the higher total oralist score average calculated by dividing the Total Competition Oral Raw Score by twenty-four (24);

(v) a method determined by the Administrator, taking into account the interests of the Teams and the Competition as a whole.

## **5.2 The Rounds of 16, Quarterfinal Rounds, Semifinal Rounds and the Championship Round**

The decision regarding the winner of the Rounds of 16, Quarterfinal Rounds, Semifinal Rounds and the Championship Round shall be by majority vote of the judges. No ties are allowed.

## **5.3 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 oralist by each judge during the Preliminary Rounds, excluding the single lowest score awarded to the oralist. If an oralist argued in only one (1) Preliminary Round, he or she is not eligible for ranking. The top twenty (20) oralists are the **Best Oralists**.

## **5.4 Ranking of Memorials**

Total Applicant and Respondent Memorial scores for each Team shall be determined by adding the Total Raw Score of a Team's Applicant Memorial and the Total Raw Score of the Respondent Memorial respectively, for a total of three (3) judges' scores in each side. Team Memorials shall be ranked from the highest Total Memorial score to the lowest. Ties are permitted. This score shall be used to determine **Best Memorial Awards**, three (3) for the Best Overall Applicant Memorial and three (3) for the Best Overall Respondent Memorial.

## **5.5 Two (2) Judge Panels**

If only two (2) judges score a given Memorial or a given Oral Round, the Administrator shall create a third score by averaging the scores of the two judges.

## **6. Clarifications of the Competition Problem or Rules**

The Chinese National Rules Supplement has been promulgated by the Chinese Steering Committee with the approval of the Executive Director. This Rules Supplement is intended to facilitate the proceeding of the Chinese National Division Qualifying Tournament. The Rules Supplement completes, and wherever necessary, replaces the Official Rules.

The 2024 Chinese National Division Timetable, which will be announced in February 2024, is deemed to be an integral part of the Rules Supplement. The dates appearing in the Chinese National Division Timetable replace the dates appearing in the Official Rules.

The Executive Office is the final arbiter of implementation and interpretation of the National Rules Supplement.

Teams may submit written requests for clarifications of the National Qualifying Tournament Problems or these Rules. Requests for such Clarifications must be received by the Committee before February 13, 2024. Teams may submit requests for clarifications by email. The address is: jessupchina@126.com.

All clarifications to legitimate requests will be summarized and posted on February 15, 2024.

## **7. Other Matters**

Unless stipulated above, the Official Rules for the 2024 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition shall apply, and the Committee and the National Administrator will jointly take charge of National Tournament.

In case of unpredictable events that would happen during the course of Tournament, the Committee shall proceed at his discretion for the interests of all the Teams and the Tournament.