

**Qualifying Tournament in China for
The 2026 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court
Competition**

NATIONAL RULES SUPPLEMENT

This Qualifying Tournament is held in China among teams participating in the Jessup Competition in order to choose the teams that shall be designated as the National Representatives.

This Qualifying Tournament shall be presided over by China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), and the Steering Committee (the Committee) shall take charge of administration.

The oral pleadings shall be held in CUPL from February 25 to February 28, 2026.

No later than January 15th, 2026, ILSA will inform the Committee of the number of Chinese teams eligible to advance to the International Rounds. The eight teams that advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds will be designated National Representatives of China to the International Rounds. In addition, if more than eight teams are eligible to advance, an appropriate number of top-ranked team(s) that lose in the Round of 16, as determined by Preliminary Round ranking, will be designated National Representative(s) of China.

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 three (3) judges, but 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 2026 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 judges, 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 the event that a Team does not appear for a scheduled In-Person Moot, the Administrator may, after a thirty (30)- minute waiting period, permit the Moot to proceed *ex parte* pursuant to *Rule 6.7* of the Official Rules.

4.2 Elimination Rounds

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

4.3 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 that a team would argue for in the Championship Round shall be decided by “Tossing a Coin” according to *Rule 8* of Official Rules.

5. Competition Scoring

For the Rounds of 16, Quarterfinal Rounds, Semifinal Rounds, and Championship Round, the winner is determined by majority vote of the judges. Each judge awards one (1) point to the Team with superior argument. No ties are allowed. Judges may consider Memorials and oral arguments.

6. Spectator Rules

6.1 Registered Team Members as Spectators

Registered team members who are not participating in a given Oral Round may remain in the courtroom as spectators, provided that their presence does not interfere with the proceedings. Such team members shall not communicate with the competing team during the round.

6.2 Use of Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be kept in silent mode at all times within the hearing room. Unless prior written permission has been granted by the Administrator, recording (audio or video), photography, and any form of electronic communication are strictly prohibited in the hearing room in accordance with *Rule 6.15* of the Official Rules. The Administrator retains the discretion to require any individual to cease the use of electronic devices at any time.

Violations of this rule may result in penalties pursuant to *Rule 11* of the Official Rules. The Administrator may assess discretionary penalties of up to 15 points for conduct that violates the letter or spirit of the rules, with the severity of the penalty determined by the nature and impact of the violation. Conduct that materially compromises the integrity or fairness of the competition, including recording and sharing content with other teams for scouting purposes in breach of *Rule 6.13*, may result in disqualification of the team by the Executive Director in accordance with *Rule 11.8 (b)* of the Official Rules.

7. Clarifications of the 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 2026 Chinese National Division Timetable, which will be announced in February 2026, 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 Director is the final arbiter of implementation and interpretation of the National Rules Supplement.

Teams may submit written requests for clarifications of these Rules. Requests for such Clarifications must be received by the Committee before February 13, 2026. Teams may submit requests for clarifications by email. The address is: chinajessup@163.com.

All clarifications to legitimate requests will be summarized and posted on February 15, 2026.

8. Other Matters

Unless stipulated above, the Official Rules for the 2026 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 the Tournament, the Committee shall proceed at his discretion for the interests of all the Teams and the Tournament.