

EUROPEAN FRIENDLY RULES SUPPLEMENT 2026

This Rules Supplement has been promulgated by the Friendly Administrator with the approval of the Executive Director of the International Law Students Association. Except as modified by this supplement, the Official Rules of the 2026 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition shall apply.

This Supplement shall not preclude the Friendly Administrator from adopting any additional measures before, during and after the 2026 Friendly Rounds.

1. Administration

The Administrator for the 2026 European Friendly Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (“the Friendly”) is Roxanna Nazari, roxanna.d.nazari@gmail.com.

2. Interpretation of Rules

Should any question arise as to the interpretation of this Rules Supplement, such questions shall be addressed to the Friendly Administrator. Pursuant to Official Rule 1.9, the ILSA Executive Director shall serve as final arbiter of implementation and interpretation of this Rules Supplement.

3. Location and Dates

The Friendly will be held at the University of Bucharest, Romania 5 – 7 March 2026.

4. Eligibility

A team is eligible to participate in the Friendly if it is the sole representative of its jurisdiction participating in the Jessup Competition, it is not participating in any other Jessup friendly rounds, and it receives permission from the ILSA Executive Director.

Pursuant to Official Rule 1.4(b) the Executive Director may approve the participation of jurisdictions with two or more teams if those teams hold their National Rounds in conjunction with the Friendly.

5. Registration and number of participants

Teams wishing to participate in the Friendly must register with the Friendly Administrator and promptly provide the information requested.

The Friendly Administrator reserves the right to limit the number of participating teams in the Friendly due to space and/or budgetary constraints.

6. Spectators

Each Team shall notify the Friendly Administrator via email, no later than 31 January 2026, of the names of any coaches or other spectators who wish to attend one or more of the Team's Moots or other events during the Rounds.

Pursuant to Official Rule 6.12(c), the Friendly Administrator reserves the right to limit the number of spectators who can be present in each preliminary match to two per team, depending on the capacity of the host.

7. Memorials

Memorial scores shall not be used at the Friendly in any round which is not a National Round.

Memorials of each team's preliminary round opponents shall be distributed via email to each team contact one week before the Friendly Rounds (subject to Friendly Rules Supplement 8), or whenever final confirmation of each team's participation is received by the Friendly Administrator, whichever is later.

Memorials shall also be distributed to the relevant oral round judges if they so request.

8. National Rounds

In the event that the ILSA Executive Director approves the holding of one or more National Rounds at the Friendly, the teams competing in National Rounds shall have such rounds prior to competing against any team participating solely in Friendly Rounds. National Round teams shall not be eligible to compete in advanced Friendly rounds.

Memorials for rounds involving National Round teams and Friendly teams will only be distributed at the conclusion of the National Rounds.

9. Judges

Judge eligibility shall be determined in the first instance by Official Rule 4. However, the Friendly Administrator may make exceptions to permit law students who have not yet completed their degree to serve as judges in preliminary rounds if deemed by the Administrator to be in the best interests of the Friendly Rounds. No exceptions will be made for any National Rounds which are held in conjunction with the Friendly.

10. Bailiffs

When insufficient numbers of bailiffs are available, the Friendly Administrator may ask a member of a team involved in the affected round to serve as Bailiff. The Friendly Administrator will provide the designated bailiff with the appropriate materials and instruction prior to each Moot. The team-affiliated bailiff will not remain in the room during post-Moot deliberations.

11. Preliminary Rounds

Each team shall participate in four preliminary rounds, twice as Applicant and twice as Respondent. Pairings shall be determined by a random draw.

12. Advanced Rounds

A final round will be held between the top two ranked teams (calculated on the basis of Official Rule 10.9). A coin toss, called by the first ranked team, shall determine which team has the pleading option. The team which wins the coin toss will have five minutes from the time it views its master scoresheet to choose which side it wishes to argue in the final round.

Pursuant to Official Rule 8.5(b), if at least eight teams participate in the Friendly, the Administrator will hold a semifinal round.

13. Awards

The winning and the runner-up team from the final round shall each receive a plaque.

The top five ranked oralists of the Friendly, determined by average score from the preliminary rounds, shall receive certificates. An oralist must argue in at least two rounds for the purpose of this ranking.

An award shall be given to the members of the team which best exemplifies the spirit and purpose of the Friendly as voted for by participating teams. Each team shall have one vote which it cannot bestow upon itself.

If National Rounds take place at the Friendly, a plaque will be given to the National Champion. A certificate will be given to the best oralist from the National Rounds and to the team with the highest combined memorial scores.

Roxanna Nazari

Michael Peil

Friendly Administrator

ILSA Executive Director