

# International Moot Court 2018

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## Rules of Procedure

### Chapter 1: General Rules

#### **Art. 1 – Object**

- a. The present rules (“Rules”) govern the International Moot Court 2018 (“IMC”), co-organized by the Justice Resource Center, Inc. and the City of The Hague (“the Organization”).

#### **Art. 2 – Subject**

- a. All teams participating in the IMC are presumed to have knowledge of and shall be subject to these Rules.

#### **Art. 3 – Interpretation of the Rules**

- a. The Organization has the authority to interpret and amend the provisions contained in the Rules.
- b. The Organization reserves the right to make changes at any time before the commencement of the IMC in The Hague when necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the participating teams.

#### **Art. 4 – Purpose**

- a. The IMC affords high school students an exceptional opportunity to argue in The Hague, to develop an in-depth knowledge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to gain a heightened respect for international law and to exchange ideas with students from other countries.

### Chapter 2: Oral Round Provisions

#### **Art. 5 – Time and Place of Presentations**

- a. The preliminary rounds of the IMC will take place from 22 until 26 January 2018 at Leiden University Campus The Hague (Wijnhaven – Turfmarkt 99, 2511 DP) in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- b. The finals of the IMC will take place on 26 January 2018 on the premises of the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

#### **Art. 6 – Presentations**

- a. Each team shall prepare a presentation for the Prosecution, and a presentation for the Defense Counsel. The presentations shall be presented in English. Each team shall present an oral argument in eight (8) of the sessions of the preliminary rounds: four (4) times as Prosecutor and four (4) times as Defense Counsel.

- b. The arguments will be presented by three speakers of the team representing the Prosecution, and three speakers of the team representing the Defense Counsel. The speaking time and issues are divided as follows:
  - a. Speaker 1 (on behalf of the Prosecution): Introduction of Counsels and Issue 1 – 10 minutes;
  - b. Speaker 2 (on behalf of the Prosecution): Issue 2 – 10 minutes;
  - c. Speaker 3 (on behalf of the Prosecution): Issue 3 – 7 minutes;
  - d. Speaker 1 (on behalf of the Defense Counsel): Introduction of Counsels and Issue 1– 10 minutes;
  - e. Speaker 2 (on behalf of the Defense Counsel): Issue 2 – 10 minutes;
  - f. Speaker 3 (on behalf of the Defense Counsel): Issue 3 – 7 minutes;
  - g. Speaker 3 (on behalf of the Prosecution): Rebuttal – 3 minutes;
  - h. Speaker 3 (on behalf of the Defense Counsel): Surrebuttal – 3 minutes.
- c. Questions posed by Bench Members are included in the Speaking Time of the presentations and rebuttal/surrebuttal.
- d. Speakers are not allowed to introduce new issues in their rebuttal.
- e. Speakers may discuss all issues and arguments raised by the opposing counsels during both their presentation and rebuttal/surrebuttal.
- f. Only the speakers of the team may be seated at the table.

#### **Art. 7 – Communication**

- a. Communication between the speakers, and team members not presenting or spectators, is strictly prohibited.
- b. Only the three speakers presenting in that hearing are permitted to communicate with each other, as long as they do not trouble the speakers of the opposing team.
- c. The use of laptops, mobile phones , tablets, or any other electrical device that can be connected to the internet is strictly prohibited, even when these items are solely used for measuring time. An exception can be made by the Organization in exceptional circumstances.

#### **Art. 8 – Bench Composition**

- a. Each Bench will be composed of one (1) or two (2) Member(s) and a President (appointed by the Organization or by consensus of the Bench Members participating in the hearing) and shall be assisted by a bench clerk. If only two Bench Members score a given hearing, the Organization shall create a third score by averaging the scores of the two Bench Members. The Organization may appoint a fourth Bench Member. In the event four (4) Bench Members score a given hearing, the score that is furthest from the average of all four (4) scores and the score sheet on which it appears will be disregarded.
- b. During the hearing, the Bench Members shall ensure respect for the Rules and will assess the quality of arguments. The Bench Members are encouraged to intervene with appropriate questions to further assess the knowledge and skills of the speaker.
- c. The Bench Members shall mark the presentations in accordance with the scoring criteria provided for in these Rules.

**Art. 9 – Scoring**

- a. A score between twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) points per speaker shall be awarded by each judge. The total score for a team's presentation in a hearing is the sum of the scores of the three speakers, with a minimum of seventy-five (75) points and a maximum of hundred-fifty (150) points.
- b. Scores are allocated as follows:
  1. Debating Skills and Power of Persuasion (5-10 points);
  2. Ability to Respond Effectively to Questions (5-10 points);
  3. Knowledge of the Case (Facts and Law) (5-10 points);
  4. Clarity of Arguments (5-10 points);
  5. Style of Presentation (5-10 points).

**Art. 10 – Penalties for Inappropriate Behavior**

- a. Every team should maintain the fullest dignity and decorum, not only in the courtroom, but during the entire IMC.
- b. Inappropriate behavior may result in the disqualification of the team, or the team will be sanctioned by a deduction of fifteen points.

**Art. 11 – Final Round**

- a. The two teams with the highest final score, which is the sum of the total scores of their presentations in the preliminary rounds minus the sum of penalty points, will proceed to the Final Round of the IMC.
- b. The Bench Members of the Final Round will decide by majority vote who the winner of the IMC 2018 is.

**Art. 12 – Awards**

- a. The awards that will be presented are the following:
  1. Winner
  2. Finalist team
  3. Best Oralist per Team