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## 11.1 General

**Competition** shall mean the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

**Memorial** : shall mean the written pleadings of each Participating Team.

**Observer** : shall mean any individual that attends the Competition that is not an official Team Member, Bailiff or Judge unless it is a researcher.

This moot court competition (“Competition”), established to advance and promote human rights legal education around the world, is based on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights and the legal obligations contemplated in the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man. Based on a hypothetical case supplied by the organizers of the Competition, participants will present two written memorials and participate in Oral Argument Sessions before a panel of Judges.

The Oral Argument Sessions for each year's Competition shall be held in Washington, DC at the date determined by the Technical Committee. Traditionally, the Competition is held in late May. The Technical Committee reserves the right to determine another location or time.

The Technical Committee is composed of members of the faculty, staff, and administration of American University Washington College of Law (WCL), or other designated experts, nominated by WCL's Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The Technical Committee is responsible for implementing Ad ex

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All work completed with respect to the Competition, including but not limited to the research, writing and editing of the Memorial, the structure and design of the oral argument presentations, and the Oral Argument Sessions during the Competition, shall be completed solely by the two (2) registered team members.

. Any allegation of violation of this rule will be reviewed by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may, at its sole discretion, impose a point penalty on the Team, as it deems appropriate, or disqualify the Team from the Competition if the allegation is found to be true.

Assistance from faculty, researchers and Coaches must be limited to general discussion of the issues, suggestions as to research sources, consultations regarding oral advocacy technique, Memorial organization and structure, and oral advocacy training. Advice or input on which specific issues to raise, sub-arguments, and other substantive matters is strictly prohibited.

In the case that essential case law is not available in the Team's native language; Teams may seek outside assistance to translate English, Spanish, or Portuguese documents into their native language for the purpose of research.

Participants cannot use memoranda, briefs and other documents related to cases pending before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, or any other international adjudicatory body. Only publicly available sources are acceptable.

Team Members cannot be substituted except in exceptional circumstances. Participant Teams must submit a written notice to the Technical Committee, explaining the exceptional circumstance and the need to replace a Team Member. If a Team Member is substituted without the required authorization of the Technical Committee, the Team may be disqualified from competing in the Competition and all Team Members converted to Observer status. Teams are responsible for registering the substituted member prior to the Competition through the online system.

Each Participant Team must complete in full the online registration forms, upload the Dean's Authorization Form which should be signed solely by the Dean, and pay the required fee to the



Each registered Participant Team will be assigned to prepare two (2) documents of written arguments (Memorials) and present oral arguments as a representative of the VICTIMS and the STATE. Teams shall represent both roles for the purposes of the written submission. During the oral rounds, each team shall present oral arguments for the opposing side in at least two rounds of the preliminary stage. In one round, the team shall represent the VICTIMS, and in the other, the STATE (see Rule 9.3). In addition, each Participant Team will be given an official Team Number to be used for identification purposes throughout the Competition to ensure anonymity of each Participant Team.

All Participant Competitors, Coaches, Researchers, Judges, Bailiffs and Observers must possess proof of adequate medical insurance to cover any emergency that may arise, as well as insurance to cover the cost of home transportation, should it become necessary. American University will not provide medical insurance to Competition Participants.

Participant Competitors, Coaches, Researchers, Judges, Bailiffs and Observers must sign and return, prior to participating in the Competition, a general release and waiver of liability. The above documentation is required and failure to submit the documents will preclude participation in the Competition. American University is not liable for the actions of contractors that provide services such as local transportation to events and activities.

Participant Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Bailiffs, and Observers who register to stay in American University dormitory housing may do so at the rate negotiated for the purpose of the Competition and will be notified as to the dates of availability. If Participant Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Bailiffs or Observers choose not to stay in American University housing, their housing accommodations will be their own responsibility. Registration for housing (payment for booking only) is managed by the Technical Committee. All other inquiries regarding housing (including accommodation, housing rules, dining services, etc.) are handled by the Housing Department, which operates independently from the









The number of Judges assigned to evaluate each Memorial and oral round will be determined by the rules below.

All Memorials shall be evaluated by a minimum of three (3) Judges. The Technical Committee may increase the number of Judges assigned to evaluate Memorials based on the total number of registered Judges and in consideration of the best interests of the Competition. To the extent possible, the Technical Committee shall ensure that an equal number of Judges are assigned to review each Memorial

During the Preliminary Oral Rounds, a panel of at least three (3) Judges shall evaluate the Oral Argument Sessions, whenever possible, subject to exceptions provided by these Rules or determined by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may increase the number of Judges assigned to evaluate a Preliminary Oral Argument Session based on the total number of registered Judges and in consideration of the best interests of the Competition. To the extent possible, the Technical Committee shall ensure that an equal number of Judges are assigned to each Preliminary Oral Argument Session. All Preliminary Oral Argument Sessions shall be composed of an odd number of Judges, who shall determine the winner of the round by consensus or by majority vote.

During the semifinal Oral Rounds, a panel of at least three (3) Judges shall score the Oral Argument Sessions. If the Judge panel for a semifinal oral round is comprised of three (3) or four (4) Judges, the scoring for that round shall be calculated by adding each score and obtaining an average. If the Judge panel for a semifinal oral round is comprised of five (5) or more Judges, the scoring of the round shall be calculated by eliminating the highest and lowest scores and averaging the remaining scores.

The Technical Committee will designate a Panel President Judge based on the Judge experience and recurrent participation in The Competition. This designation is non-negotiable among Judges.

The author(s) of the Problem shall provide a Memorandum of Law and Authority (“Bench Memorandum”) on the legal issues addressed in the Competition’s Problem for the purposes of briefing the Competition Judges. The content of the Bench Memorandum is strictly confidential and will not be made available to Participant Teams Members, Coaches or Observers during the course of the current Competition. Team Members, Coaches and Observers, if confronted with the Bench Memorandum, must refuse to examine, read,

Any person with an interest in moot-courting or the Inter-American system may apply to be a Bailiff, including students high school age or older, educators, and legal professionals. Interested parties may apply online by the date indicated in the Competition Calendar (see Appendix A).

concern to the Inter-American System.

The Case will be translated by professional translators into the three (3) official languages of the Competition. Following the publication of the Case, there will be a three (3) week period in which Competitors, Coaches, Judges, and Observers may submit any concerns regarding the language used in the translated text. Once the revision period is closed, the Competition will post a corrected version in each language, which will henceforth be the official text of the Case for the Competition.

Only Participant Teams that have completed their registration (as outlined in Rule 3.1) and registered the names of its Competitors by no later than 5:00 pm EST on the day when Clarification Questions are due (see Appendix A) will be eligible to submit req



or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

The Statement of Facts shall be limited to the stipulated facts and necessary inferences from the Problem and any Clarifications to the Case. The Statement of Facts cannot include unsupported facts, distortions of facts, argumentative statements, or legal conclusions. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

The discussion of the legal issues presented in the case should include: a) an analysis of the preliminary admissibility issues (i.e., exhaustion of domestic remedies) if applicable; and b) an analysis of the issues of law according to the American Convention on Human Rights and other applicable international instruments cited in the Case. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

Each Memorial shall include a separate section for the Request for Relief. No legal arguments may be presented in this section. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

. Teams must ensure that all required sections are included within the allotted word limit. Failure to comply with the word count requirement—defined as submitting a Memorial exceeding 12,000 words—shall result in penalties (see Rule 8.8).

All pages of the Memorials, including the Title Page, shall be in Times New Roman, size twelve (12) font, double-spaced, have one-inch margins, and be set to U.S. letter size paper (8 ½" x 11"). The character spacing should be set to normal (condensed or expanded text will not be accepted). Failure to submit the two (2) Memorials in proper format will result in a two-point deduction penalty for



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the submission deadline will receive a five (5) point deduction from the Team's total average Memorial score. One (1) additional point will be deducted from the Team's total average Memorial score for each additional twenty-four (24) hour period (or portion thereof) until the final deadline. No Memorial will be accepted after the final deadline (please see Appendix A). Failure to submit a Memorial by the final deadline converts the Team registration to Observers, and the original Team participants will not be allowed to present oral arguments, except in exceptional circumstances. For a submission to be considered complete, the electronic version must be received by the deadline on the Competition Calendar. Failure to send the electronic version of the Memorial by the deadline will result in the Memorial being considered incomplete and may result in penalties for lateness (See Rule 8.6).

Memorials that exceed twelve thousand (12,000) words in length will be penalized ten (10) points. All sections, including footnotes are included in the twelve thousand (12,000) word limitation. (See Rule 8.4).

A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials submitted on paper size other than that stipulated in Rule 8.5. A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials submitted with margins other than that stipulated in Rule 8.5. A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials written in the wrong font and format, including the footnotes. A total of two (2) points will be deducted if the official Team Number is not located on every page of the Memorial, including the Title Page. A total of two (2) points will be deducted if the Team submits multiple uploads of the same Memorial document in the designated online submission system. One (1) point will be deducted for every section omitted, including the Signature Page, or for each section that is out of order according to Rule 8.3 (for a total possible deduction of six (6) points). One (1) point will be deducted if the file is not titled correctly (the Team Number). Two (2) points will be deducted if the character spacing is anything but normal (expanded or condensed).

If the incorrect Team Number is placed on a Memorial and submitted as such to the Technical Committee, a five (5) point penalty will be imposed.

No Participant Team shall incorporate any passage taken either word for word or in substance from any work of another unless the Participant Team credits the original author's work by quotation marks and footnotes or other appropriate explanation. Failure to give credit to the original author will result in a twenty (20) point deduction, at minimum, and a one hundred (100) point deduction at maximum, and possible expulsion from the Competition. Judges are asked to report any suspicion of plagiarism to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will review accusations of plagiarism on a



case-by-case basis and take whatever action it deems appropriate and necessary.

No Participant Team shall use artificial intelligence (AI) in the drafting of Memorials, preparation of oral arguments, or in any other manner deemed relevant to the Competition. Judges are asked to report any suspicion of AI usage to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will conduct periodic checks to detect AI usage. Penalties will be imposed in accordance with the procedure for plagiarism accusations, as outlined in Rule 8.8.5.

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based on the final Memorial Score Ranking. The Technical Committee enjoys full discretion to set a fix number of Teams in such circumstances based on the best interest of the Competition.

The Semi-

Each Oral Argument Session of the Preliminary and Semi-Final Rounds shall consist of ninety (90) minutes of pleadings, each side being allotted forty-five (45) minutes. The forty-five (45) minute allotted time shall include the pleadings of both orators from a Participating Team, as well as their rebuttal or surrebuttal. Both Participating Team Members must make a substantial oral presentation of approximately equal length of time. The Panel President may, at his/her discretion, extend the total Team oral time by up to five (5) additional minutes per Team.

Interpreted rounds last 50 minutes. In those sessions where interpretation is required, the Judges may







and clarity of legal arguments and the ability to respond to opponent's arguments and questions from the Judges. Judges should evaluate the speakers individually in the evaluation form at the conclusion of each round before Of tspej01 Tc 0d4( o4121(e)8s a)-43( e)0.9(0.0l0.0l0.0 dp)1(e)8withfo e1(g)2(Tw Ꞥnc C







Registration Opens, Official Rules Available	November 15, 2024 (on Competition website)
Hypothetical Case Available	December 10, 2024 (projected date)
Period of Review for Hypothetical Case Translation	December 10, 2024 – January 3, 2025
Publication of Official Version of Hypothetical Case	January 10, 2025
Clarification Questions on Hypothetical Case due	January 19, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Answers to Clarification Questions on Hypothetical Case Available	February 27, 2025 (on Competition website)
Opening housing registration	January 13, 2025
Team Registration Deadline	March 12, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Team Memorial Due (without late submission penalties)	March 25, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Bailiff Registration Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Observer Registration Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Observer Payment Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Last day to submit a Memorial (with penalties for late submission)	April 10, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Judge Registration	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Housing Registration Deadline	April 29, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Check-in, Bailiff Training and Opening Ceremony at American University Washington College of Law	May 18, 2025 (Mandatory Attendance for Teams)
Oral Rounds at American University Washington College of Law	May 19 – May 23, 2025

