

Hellenic International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Competition

REGULATIONS

2020

Organized by **the International Committee of the Red Cross** in partnership with the **Hellenic Red Cross** and supported by the **European Centre of Research and Training on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action of Panteion University**, the **Greek National Commission for Human Rights and the Greek Council for Refugees**.

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CHAPTER 1: General Rules

Art. 1: Organization

- a. The Hellenic International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Competition (the Competition) is organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (Organizer) in partnership with the Hellenic Red Cross and with the support of other Institutions.
- b. The present Regulations govern this Competition. Participants to the Competition will be subject to them and are expected to have knowledge of these Regulations and of any amendments thereof, as necessary.
- c. The Organizer have the exclusive authority to interpret and amend the present Regulations. The Organizer reserves the right to make any amendments necessary at any point, but no later than 30 days, before the beginning of the Competition. Any changes will be immediately communicated to the participating teams and Institutions.
- d. Participants are expected to observe all additional rules as instructed by the Organizer during the Competition.
- e. The Competition's working language is English.

Art. 2: Principles

The Competition observes the principles of fairness, impartiality and neutrality, as well as respect for all participants. It commits to provide a safe learning environment free of discriminations of any type.

Art. 3: Aim of the Competition

The ultimate aim of the Competition is to foster the dissemination of IHL and Refugee Law amongst the youth, members of armed forces and the general public and to generate increased interest on IHL and Refugee Law issues within academic circles. To achieve that, the Competition's main objective is to inspire students of universities and military schools to improve their knowledge of international law and in particular of International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law and have an opportunity to apply the law to a case. Also, it will give the students an opportunity to enhance their oral presentation and argumentation skills on topical legal issues before experienced legal scholars and practitioners.

CHAPTER 2: Registration

Art. 4: Team composition

- a. Each Institution (university, military schools or/and other academic institutions) can participate with only one team.
- b. Each team will be comprised of 2 or 3 participants and 1 coach.
- c. The selection of the team that will represent each Institution is at the sole discretion of the Institution.
- d. Changes in the team composition can be done before the commencement of the Competition after timely notice to the Organizer.

Art 5: Team member eligibility

- a. The participants must be enrolled students at the time of the Competition in a Bachelor or Master program with the Institution that they represent or be a student in a Military School or Academy.
- b. Exchange students may represent the host Institution.
- c. Participants should not be older than 30.
- d. Request for derogation to 5.c can be sent to the Organizers before the registration of the teams. The requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and the decision will be based on the CV of the person concerned that should not indicate disproportionate experience in the relevant fields of the competition compared to that of the other participants.
- e. Participants must have a good knowledge of English

Art. 6: Registration process

- a. Each team must register by completing the Registration form (Annex I), the Consent form (Annex II) and the Institution's authorization form (Annex III).
- b. The registration form must state the contact details of the person representing the University in charge of the team.
- c. The contact person of each participating Institution is responsible for distributing the foregoing information and materials to their respective participating team members.
- d. Registrations are open until the 20^h of March 2020.

CHAPTER 3: Practical arrangements

Art. 7: Financial and logistical issues

- a. There is no registration fee for the participating teams.
- b. The Organizer will cover the costs of and organize directly the transport and accommodation of participating teams (team members and coach) from areas outside Athens.
- c. The Organizer will not cover other hotel expenses, such as use of the mini-bar, phone calls etc.
- d. The Organizer will provide for coffee and lunch breaks during the Competition.
- e. The Organizer will not be responsible for any other expenses that the teams may occur during the Competition.
- f. The participants must have adequate insurance (civil responsibility, health, accident). The Organizer will not be held responsible for the costs incurred due to illness or accidents.

CHAPTER 4: Competition Structure

Art. 8: Case Study

- a. The participating teams will be provided with a fictitious Case Study that will present the main facts and context of the Competition's problem.
- b. All the tasks that will be given during the Competition will refer to the facts presented in the Case Study.
- c. The Case study will be distributed to the participating teams soon after the closing of the registration period.

- d. The participating teams are not allowed to invent additional facts unless if they are logical extensions/inferences of the facts provided in the Case Study.

Art. 9: Type of tasks

- a. The Competition will be held orally before panels of judges.
- b. The participants will be called to participate in role plays and simulations.
- c. Before each round, the participants will be given extra materials/information for each task and relevant instructions to prepare for the round in question.
- d. The teams will be given time to prepare themselves before appearing in front of the judges.

Art. 10: Evaluation

- a. Teams will be marked by the judges based on their evaluation in accordance with the criteria defined by this rule.
- b. These are: 1) Legal knowledge and its proper application to the facts of the case (max. 20 points); 2) Knowledge and use of the facts (max. 20); 3) Organization, structure, and clarity of argumentation (max. 20 points); 4) Role play and rhetorical skills (max. 20 points); 5) Teamwork and time management (max. 20 points). The score of each team in a given round will result from the average of points awarded by the judges.
- c. Scoring sheets will be given to the judges that will evaluate each team based on the criteria on Art. 10b.
- d. For each task, the judges will also evaluate the performance of each participant (max 10 points). The participant that will achieve the highest score from Preliminary rounds of the Competition will receive the “Best Oralist of the Competition” award. At the end of the Competition, the teams will receive their final scores from the Rounds that they have participated in.
- e. Judges will hold debriefing sessions after the Preliminary and the Semi-Final Rounds to provide general feedback to the participants.

Art. 11: Preliminary Rounds

- a. All teams compete in the Preliminary Rounds which will be made of three tasks.
- b. There will be tasks that each team will plead alone before the judges and there will be tasks that will require teams to plead at the same time.

Art. 12: Semi-Final

- a. The 4 best scoring teams in the Preliminary Rounds will advance to the Semi-Final.
- b. There will be 2 consecutive rounds of Semi-Finals in which 2 teams will compete at the same time before the panel of judges.
- c. The competing teams will be matched with a draw.
- d. In case the total number of the participating teams in the Preliminary Rounds is 4, the Semi-Final will have one session that all 3 teams will compete together before the panel of judges.

Art. 13: Final

- a. The 2 best scoring teams from the Semi-Finals will advance to the Final.
- b. The team winning the Final will be the Winner of the Hellenic IHL and Refugee Law Competition 2020, regardless of the scores of the team in previous rounds.

- c. The judges will also evaluate the performance of the members of the two finalist teams. The participant with the highest score will receive the “Best Oralist of the Final” award.

CHAPTER 5: General rules of the competition

Art.14 Law applicable in the competition

Teams are expected to present their arguments on the basis of the rules and principles of public international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

Art. 15: Preparation time

- a. Teams will be given time for preparation before each round.
- b. Preparation time for Preliminary Rounds will range from 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the task.
- c. Preparation for Semi-Finals will be 90 minutes.
- d. Preparation for the Final will be 150 minutes.

Art. 16: Speaking time

- a. All team members must participate in the oral pleadings of every round.
- b. Team members must allocate the time that each speaker will use in a balanced way.
- c. Each team will decide which member of the team will perform which role.
- d. The allocated time will include the time available to the teams to answer the questions posed by the judges.
- e. In the Preliminary Rounds, for tasks in which one (1) team appears before the panel of judges the speaking time will be twenty (20) minutes.
- f. In the Preliminary Rounds, for tasks in which two teams appear before the judges the total speaking time will be forty (40) minutes, that is twenty (20) for each team.
- g. Overall speaking time for the Semi-Finals is one (1) hour. Thirty (30) minutes are allocated for each team.
- h. Overall speaking time for the Final is one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes, i.e. forty-five (45) minutes for each team.

Art. 17: Rebuttal/surrebutal

- a. The teams will be given time for rebuttal and surrebutal.
- b. Each team has up to five (5) minutes time for rebuttal/surrebutal during Preliminary and Semi Final rounds; up to eight (8) minutes for the Final round.
- c. The time for rebuttal and surrebutal is included in the total speaking time as described in Art. 16.
- d. The scope of the rebuttal of Team 1 is limited to scope of the main pleadings of the Team 2, and scope of the surrebutal is limited to scope of the rebuttal of Team 1.
- e. In rebuttal/surrebutal, teams are not allowed to raise other legal issues that were not addressed in the main pleadings.

Art. 18: Communication

- a. During preparation for the tasks and pleading, the participants cannot communicate with their coach or any other persons from the audience.
- b. Team members are allowed to communicate with each other, as long as their communication does not disturb the pleadings in process.
- c. Teams may not use internet during preparation for the tasks or pleadings, but they may use soft and hard copies of material including on offline electronic devices (laptops, phones...).

Art. 19: Scouting

- a. Scouting is prohibited at all times during the Competition.
- b. Scouting is defined as:
 - When a team or one or more of its members or its coach attend a pleading, in which they are not participants.
 - Instances where team members, discuss with or pose substantive questions to coaches or spectators during the rounds.
- c. Any violation of this rule may result in disqualification of the team in question.

Art. 20: The role of the coaches

- a. Outside of preparation time and pleadings, coaches of the participating teams are allowed to provide advice on general matters related to the Competition's problem, suggest reading resources, advice on presentation skills, the organization, structure and flow of the argumentation, time management etc.
- b. Coaches will not assist their teams in substantive issues related to the case study and the tasks at hand.

Art. 21: Judges

- a. The Organizer will invite duly qualified persons to act as judges of the Competition. Duly qualified persons include but are not limited to lawyers, legal advisors, academics, ICRC staff and HRC staff with knowledge of IHL and Refugee Law, experienced practitioners on relevant matters etc.
- b. The judges cannot be affiliated with a participating team in any way.
- c. In case a participating team has objections to a jury panel due to conflict of interest or prior relationship, the team must communicate this to the Organizer before the commencement of the pleading.
- d. The judges can intervene during the oral pleadings and pose appropriate questions to further assess the knowledge and the preparation of the speakers.
- e. Judges may allow extra time at discretion, up to two minutes, to allow a team to complete its reasoning. They must do so on the basis of equal treatment of teams.
- f. The judges will mark the oral arguments according to the scoring criteria provided as part of these rules.

Art. 22: Bailiff

- a. The Bailiff announces the start of the round and the names of the judges in the panel.
- b. The Bailiff keeps track of the time and signals to each side the available time remaining (20, 10, 5, 2 minutes and STOP sign). Once the Bailiff signals that the time is up, team members

shall stop pleading, but they are allowed to finish their sentence. If a team continues to plead, the Bailiff will signal to the judges to interrupt the team member and will take note of the overuse of the pleading time.

- c. Throughout the session, Bailiff takes notes and records irregularities. Following the pleadings, Bailiff will participate in the evaluation of teams' performance with the judges by making recommendations for deducting points due to timing or other technical aspects of pleadings.

CHAPTER 6: Awards of the Competition

Art. 23: Categories of Awards

Pursuant to Article 10 and Article 13, the following awards are presented at the Closing ceremony, taking place immediately after the Final of the Competition:

- 1) Winning Team ("Winner") of the Competition
- 2) Best Oralist of the Competition
- 3) Best Oralist of the Final

Art. 24: Prize for the Winner of the Competition

- a. The Winner of the Competition will be supported financially by ICRC to participate in the **ALL EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND REFUGEE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION** that is organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana in November 2020.
- b. The Winner of the Competition needs to decide if they will participate in Ljubljana's Competition by the 12th of June 2020.
- c. If the Winner of the Competition decides not to participate, then the prize will be transferred to the second finalist.
- d. If the second finalist decides not to participate, the prize will be transferred to the third team with the highest score from the semi-finals and so on.
- e. Whilst the ICRC will provide financial support to the relevant team to participate to the Ljubljana's Moot Court Competition, all other teams are welcome to participate on their own costs.