

RULES OF PROCEDURE

12 June – 19 June 2026, The Hague

International Bar Association International Criminal Court

Moot Court Competition

13th Edition









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Chapter 1: General Rules

Art. 1 - Organization

- a. The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (hereinafter "the Competition", the "IBA ICCMCC"), consisting of the Preliminary Round, Quarter-final Round, and Semi-final Round, is organized and hosted by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies Leiden University (Grotius Centre) in partnership with the International Bar Association (IBA).
- b. The 2026 IBA ICCMCC International Round shall be conducted in The Hague, The Netherlands. There is no possibility to participate online.
- c. All materials developed by the Organizing Committee and Board of Advisors of the Competition, including, without limitation, the Rules of Procedure, and the Competition Case, are the sole property of the IBA ICCMCC. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than participation in or administration of the Competition without the express and prior written consent of the Board of Advisors of the Competition.
- d. The Final Round of the Competition will, if possible, be organized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on location in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Art. 2 - Object

The present Rules of Procedure ("Rules") govern the IBA ICCMCC 2026, held in the English language, organized and hosted by the Grotius Centre in partnership with by the IBA (hereinafter "the Organization").

Art. 3 - Subject

All Teams participating in the Competition are presumed to have knowledge of and shall be subject to these Rules.

Art. 4 - 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 if deemed necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the participating teams on the website of the Organization (www.ibaiccmoot.com).

Art. 5 - Aim of the Competition

The Competition aims to encourage university students to improve their knowledge of international criminal law in practice and in particular of the ICC's mandate and its jurisprudence, by simulating ICC proceedings through arguing a hypothetical case. The Competition seeks to enhance knowledge about the Rome Statute, especially within countries that have yet to ratify it. In addition, the Competition provides Participants with the opportunity to become familiar with international institutions based in The Hague.

Chapter 2: Participation and Eligibility

Art. 6 - Participation

- a. All educational institutions offering a degree, or similar graduate or postgraduate qualification or training, in law or in a field related to international law, or in international relations, are eligible to participate in the Competition.
- b. Each institution may enter one Team, regardless of the number of colleges, departments, faculties, or schools within that institution, and the team may include students from one or more of its colleges, departments, faculties, or schools.
- c. Each country, including the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, the Special Administrative Region of Macau, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, may be represented by a maximum of **five (5) Teams**, regardless of how many Teams from the same country register. In case that **more than five (5)** Teams register from the same country, the Teams will have to participate in a Qualifying Round in order to determine the five (5) Teams that will participate in the International Round of the Competition.
- d. The Organization retains the discretion to allow more than five (5) Teams from each country to participate in the Competition.
- e. The participation of all teams in the Competition is subject to Leiden University's Policies and House Rules.

Art. 7 - Qualifying Rounds

- a. When more Teams than allowed from one country are seeking registration for the Competition, a special procedure in the form of a Qualifying Round may take place. The Qualifying Round may take the form of (1) a National/Regional Round or (2) a Problem-solving Question Round.
- b. If there is no official National/Regional Round in the concerned country/region yet, it may be organized by one of the competing universities, or an independent body, such as an NGO, academic association, or other. Their organization must be approved by the Organization beforehand.
- c. If no National/Regional Round exists in the concerned country or region by the following date, each Team from that country shall receive a Problem-Solving Question from the Organization by **26 November 2025.**
- d. Each Team concerned must submit its answer to the Problem-Solving Question by 8 December 2025, @ 11:59pm CET at the latest. An answer submitted after the specified deadline renders that Team's registration automatically invalid.
- e. Each Team will be notified of the result of its performance in this Qualifying Round and its eligibility to participate in the International Round of the Competition by 17 December 2025 @ 5:00pm CET.
- f. All National/Regional Rounds must be completed by 9 March 2026.

Art. 8 - Organization of National/Regional Rounds

- a. The North American Regional Round is held in White Plains, New York, in the United States of America and is organized by Pace University Law School. The Round serves as the qualifier for teams from the United States. Other teams from the region are also welcome to participate (website).
- b. The National Round for Brazil is organized by the Universidade Federal do Paraná and Unicuritiba Centro Universitário.
- c. The National Round for China is organized by the China University of Political Science and Law (website).

- d. The National Round for Germany is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, in cooperation with the German participating universities.
- e. The National Round for India is organized by the National Law University, Delhi (website).
- f. The National Round for The Netherlands is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies.

Art. 9 - Team Composition

- a. Each Team will be comprised of three (3) **speakers**. Additionally, the Team may include two (2) **researchers** and two (2) **coaches**: one Leading Coach and one Assistant Coach. The amount of Team Members **may never exceed seven (7)** at any moment in the Competition.
- b. Registration forms and team composition may be amended by teams at any time before 31 March 2026 @ 5:00pm CEST. Submitted registration forms can only be amended with prior approval from the Organization. To receive approval, please send your reasoned request to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- c. The Organization reserves the right to allow changes in a Team's composition after this deadline in consideration of exceptional circumstances, or in the interests or fairness of the Competition.
- d. Teams that qualified through the Problem-Solving Question Round or a National/Regional Round are not allowed to change more than one Team Member after their qualification. Teams are allowed, however, to cancel the participation of Team Members. In exceptional circumstances the Organization may accept more than one change of Team Member.
- e. The Coach or a Team Member appointed by the Team, represents both the university and the Team before the Organization (the 'contact person'). Communications from the Organizing Office will be made directly to teams' designated contact person.
- f. Any changes made to the details of the contact person must be communicated via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

Art. 10 - Team Member Eligibility

- a. Only actively enrolled students in Bachelor, Master or Juris Doctor Programs are eligible to participate. Exchange students may participate on behalf of their host university.
- b. Non-law students may be considered eligible, provided that they have the requisite legal knowledge. It is each Team's responsibility to ensure that its Members have a level of legal knowledge suitable for the Competition.
- c. Students admitted to practice, including by having taken and passed the bar exam, are prohibited to participate.
- d. These restrictions shall not apply to the Leading and Assistant Coaches.

Chapter 3: Team Registration

Art. 11 - Team Registration

- a. Teams can register via the Competition's website (www.ibaiccmoot.com) or directly here between 8 September and 17 November 2025 by 5:00PM CET.
- b. A confirmation of participation will be sent to the Teams that advance straight to the International Round by **26 November 2025**.
- c. Universities can register without submitting the names of the Team Members right away. The contact person's details must be included, otherwise the registration is not considered valid.
- d. Details of the Team Members must be included through the original registration form by **9 January 2026** @ **5:00PM CET**. Should details of the Team Members not be included by the deadline, the registration of the university will be rendered invalid.

Art. 12 - Registration Fee

- a. The registration fee for participation in the International Rounds is based on the World Bank List of Economies (FY 2025-2026). The registration fee for teams from countries qualified as **high-income** countries is €1900, teams from countries qualified as **upper middle-income** countries €1600, and teams from **lower-middle, or low-income** countries €1100. The World Bank List of Economies (FY 2025-2026) can be found in Annex 3.
- b. The registration fee covers the participation of seven (7) team members. Even if the Team consists of less Team Members, it is not possible to pay a reduced fee.
- c. The Organization will issue an invoice for payment of the registration fee to eligible Teams between **January and February 2026**. The invoice will be sent via email to the contact person listed on the registration form, under 'invoice details'.
- d. Each Team must pay their registration fee within thirty (30) days of receiving the invoice.
- e. Incomplete payment of the registration fee renders that particular registration invalid.
- f. The registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.

Art. 13 - Team Identification

- a. In the interest of fairness and objectivity, each Team shall be assigned a Team Number upon their registration. This Number will be emailed to each Team by the Organization. This Number becomes the Team's main identifier throughout the Competition.
- b. Any further communications with the Organization must be done under the denotation of this Team Number.
- c. Teams must not reveal the identity of their institution or their country of origin to the Judges at any time during the Competition, in line with Art. 39. Teams may know each other's institution or country of origin.
- d. The Organization may disqualify or impose a penalty against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently discloses its school or country of origin to a Judge during the Competition, regardless of whether such disclosure occurs during an Oral Round.

Chapter 4: Judging in the Competition

Art. 14 - International Panel of Evaluation

- a. The International Panel of Evaluation (IPE) shall be tasked with the grading of the Memorials.
- b. All participating Teams shall **nominate two (2) duly qualified persons** to be a Member of the IPE. Each Member of the IPE will evaluate three (3) anonymous Memorials (excluding the Memorials of the nominating Team).
- c. Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds are exempted from nominating Members to the IPE unless they wish to do so.
- d. The nominated persons may not be involved with the nominating Team or its preparation.
- e. The Team must inform the persons they wish to nominate and receive their consent for the nomination before submitting their details with the Organization.
- f. Participating Teams must submit the names, contact details, position and affiliation of their nominees by 20 February 2026 @ 5:00PM CET at the latest via the online nomination form.
- g. A Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Member or Contact Person of a participating Team can under no circumstance be nominated as an Evaluator.
- h. The Organization may waive a Team's duty to nominate IPE Members. The authority and discretion to grant waivers lies entirely with the Organization.
- i. Non-compliance with this article will result in ten (10) penalty points, to be deducted from the nominating Team's total Memorial score.
- j. If one or both of a Team's nominee does not submit the scores for the Memorials that were allocated to them by 30 April 2026 @ 11:59PM CEST, the nominating Team will be receive ten (10) penalty points, to be deducted from the nominating Team's total Memorial score.
- k. The Organization shall also invite duly qualified persons to act as Members of the IPE.
- 1. Qualified persons may apply to become Evaluators in the Competition via the **online** form by 16 March 2026 @ 5:00PM CET.

Art. 15 - Members of the Oral Round Judging Panel

- a. The Organization shall invite duly qualified persons to act as Members of the Judging Benches during the Preliminary, Quarter-Final, and Semi-Final Rounds. Duly qualified persons include, but are not limited to, lawyers, academics in a field of law, legal advisors, legal officers, and court personnel.
- b. Qualified persons may apply to become Judges in the Competition via the <u>online form</u> before 16 March 2026 @ 5:00PM CET. If more Judges are needed, the application form will remain open until a sufficient number of Judges is reached.

Art. 16 - Eligibility

- a. The Organization will determine the eligibility of persons to serve as Evaluators and Judges in the Competition.
- b. A person may act as an Evaluator and/or a Judge if they hold at least a Master's degree in international law. Experience in the practice of international law is accepted in lieu of a Master's degree.
- c. Subject to the provisions below, a Judge may not judge a team with whom that Judge is affiliated.

- d. A Coach or Assistant Coach of a participating Team can under no circumstance be appointed as an Evaluator or as a Judge.
- e. An 'affiliation' means a professional or close personal relationship between an Evaluator and/or Judge and an institution, Coach, or Team Member participating in the Oral Round in which the Judge is to serve on the Bench.
- f. The existence of a professional relationship between an Evaluator and/or Judge and a Team shall not preclude the Judge from judging in the Competition when, in the determination of the Organizers, that Judge is not in a position to discover whether or not such an affiliation exists.
- g. The existence or non-existence of a professional or a close personal relationship shall be determined by the Organization.
- h. It is the duty of the Evaluator and/or Judge to report any known affiliations at the time they register directly to the Organization in advance of the Competition. The Organization shall investigate any reported affiliation (whether self-reported by a Judge or otherwise) and determine whether such affiliation constitutes a conflict of interest.

Chapter 5: Competition Structure

Art. 17 - Case Publication

- a. Teams will be provided with a fictional Case, intended to enable the students to familiarize themselves with the law and practice of the ICC. The Competition Case (hereinafter: "the Case") will be made publicly available on the Competition's website.
- b. Each Team may request clarifications and corrections to the Case by **8 December 2025** @ **5:00PM CET**. All requests must be submitted via the online submission form.
- c. Each Team may submit a maximum of five (5) questions and/or requests for clarification.
- d. The Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds shall submit the questions and/or requests for clarification with the National/Regional Round Organizer.

Art. 18 - Preliminary Round

- a. The Preliminary Round of the Competition shall consist of two (2) consecutive phases, each independently graded: a written round (Memorials) and an oral round (Hearings).
- b. Each Team shall address the Case in the roles of (1) Counsel for the Defendant (or Defense Counsel), (2) Counsel for the Government (or Government Counsel), and (3) Counsel for the Prosecution (or Prosecution Counsel), and shall submit one (1) Memorial per role, totaling a number of three (3) Memorials per team.
- c. Each Team shall participate in <u>six (6) Hearings</u> before the Bench in the roles of (1) Counsel for the Defendant, (2) Counsel for the Government and (3) Counsel for the Prosecution and plead twice per role.
- d. The written and oral phases of the Preliminary Round are independently assessed. The sum of the scores obtained in both phases after the deduction of any penalty points will qualify the twenty-seven (27) best Teams for the Quarter-Final Round. Both phases, the written and oral rounds, count for 50% of the total score each. If two or more Teams rank at number 27, the Team with the highest total score in the oral phase of the Preliminary Round will proceed to the Quarter-Finals.
- e. Teams must notify the Organizing Office via email at ICCMCC@leidenuniv.nl of any potential scheduling conflicts by 1 May 2026.
- f. In the event that a team withdraws or forfeits during the Preliminary Round, hearings will proceed with the remaining allocated teams.

Art. 19 - Quarter-Final Round

- a. The top twenty-seven (27) Teams of the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the Ouarter-Final Round.
- b. The Quarter-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary Round will <u>not</u> be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Quarter-Final Round.
- c. Quarter-Final matchups will be predetermined by the Preliminary Rounds ranking:
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 1: 1, 18, 27th place Teams
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 2 : 2, 17, 26th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 3: 3, 16, 25th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 4: 4, 15, 24th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 5: 5, 14, 23rd place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 6: 6, 13, 22nd place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 7: 7, 12, 21st place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 8: 8, 11, 20th place Teams.
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 9: 9, 10, 19th place Teams.
- d. In the event that a Quarter-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the team ranked 28th in the Preliminary Rounds to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Quarter-Final, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope that the designated Team Member draws is the role the Team will represent in the Quarter-Final Round.
- f. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team in the Quarter-Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary Rounds.
- g. The winning Team of each of the nine (9) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. **Ties in scores are not permitted**. The winning Team in each match-up of the Ouarter-Final Round shall advance to the Semi-Final Round.

Art. 20 - Semi-Final Round

- a. The nine (9) winning Teams of the Quarter-Final Round will proceed to the Semi-Final Round.
- b. The Semi-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round will not be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Semi-Final Round.
- c. Semi-Final matchups will be predetermined by the order of the advancing Teams in the rankings from the Preliminary Rounds:
 - Semi-Final Matchup 1: 1, 6, 9th place Teams.
 - Semi-Final Matchup 2: 2, 5, 8th place Teams.
 - Semi-Final Matchup 3: 3, 4, 7th place Teams.
- d. In the event a Semi-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Quarter-Finals that did not advance to the Semi-Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Semi-Final, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes

- provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope the designated Team Member draws, is the role that Team will be representing in the Semi-Final Round.
- f. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team at the Semi-Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round.
- g. The winning Team of each of the three (3) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. **Ties in scores are not permitted.** The winning Team in each match-up of the Semi-Final Round shall proceed to the Final Round.

Art. 21 - Final Round

- a. The winner of each match-up of the Semi-Final Round will proceed to the Final Round.
- b. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Final Round, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope the designated Team Member draws, is the role that Team will be representing in the Final Round.
- c. The Teams are free to choose which of their three speakers will represent their Team at the Final Round. They are not bound by the role the speakers represented in the Preliminary-Round, Quarter-Final Round, or Semi-Final Round.
- d. In the event that a Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organizing Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Semi-Finals that did not advance to the Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. The Bench of the Final Round will announce the winner of the Competition (to be picked at the discretion of the Bench). The Team winning the Final Round will be the winner of the Competition, regardless of the scoring of the Memorials and the results of the Team in the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, and Semi-Final Round.
- f. The Final Round of the Competition will, if possible, be organized by the ICC on location in The Hague, The Netherlands. It will consist of an oral phase only.

Chapter 6: Memorial Provisions

Art. 22 - Submission of Memorials

- a. All Teams, excluding the Teams participating in National or Regional Rounds, must submit their three (3) Memorials for each role by email to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl prior to 18 March 2026 @ 5:00PM CET.
- b. Memorials which are not submitted by this deadline will be subject to penalty points. A reduction of three (3) points for each 24-hour period, or part thereof, that exceeds the deadline, per Memorial, will be imposed. Receipt of a Memorial five or more days after the deadline without seeking prior permission from the Organization, will result in the disqualification of the Team.
- c. Submission must occur in a single email message with all three (3) Memorials attached as separate files titled "##D"; "##G" and "##P", respectively (where "##"is the official Team Number assigned). Failure to comply with this provision will be penalized with **one (1) penalty point** per violation.
- d. Each Team must submit its Memorials in both Microsoft Word and PDF format. Failure to do so will be penalized with **two (2) penalty points** per Memorial.
- e. The organizers of the National and Regional Rounds will submit the Memorials of the participating Teams to the Organization, without giving the qualified Teams the opportunity to change the Memorials after their participation in the National or Regional Round.

Art. 23 - No Identification in Memorials

- a. Each Team must **omit** the following information in their Memorials:
 - The names of Team Members;
 - The Members' and/or the university's country of residence;
 - Its nationality; and
 - The name of its university.
- b. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with ten (10) penalty points per violation.
- c. Information contained in a Memorials' document properties or other metadata does not violate this article.

Art. 24 - Memorial Format

- a. Each Team must submit its Memorials in <u>size 12 Times New Roman font style</u>. This requirement applies to all pages of the Memorial, including the cover page.
- b. Each page must have a margin of 2 cm on every side of the text.
- c. Memorials must be <u>continuously page-numbered</u>, with every page in the document being numbered.
- d. The line spacing for all parts of the Memorial is to be 1.5 lines.
- e. Headings and subheadings of more than one line in length must be single spaced.
- f. A Memorial may not contain tracked changes that have not been properly accepted or comments that have not been properly removed prior to submission.
- g. Violations of this article are sanctioned with **one (1) penalty** point per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article is considered as one violation in total.

Art. 25 - Word Limit

Each Memorial must not exceed 10.000 words (including footnotes). Violations of this article are sanctioned by five (5) penalty points per 400 words. The 10.000 words include the statement of facts, issues, summary of arguments, written arguments, submissions, and

(optional) annexes, and exclude the front cover, title page, table of contents, list of abbreviations, and index of authorities.

Art. 26 - Order of Content

- a. Each Memorial shall include the pages/sections below and shall be presented in the following order:
 - Front cover;
 - Title page;
 - Table of contents:
 - List of abbreviations;
 - Index of authorities (list of sources);
 - Statement of facts;
 - Issues;
 - Summary of arguments;
 - Written arguments;
 - Submissions;
 - Optional: Annex (max two (2) pages); and
 - Back cover.
- b. No additional sections may be included.
- c. Violations of this article are sanctioned by **two (2) penalty points** per violation. The swapping of two sections will be sanctioned by **one (1) penalty point**.

Art. 27 - Front Cover Requirements

- a. The front cover (page) must contain the following information:
 - Team number;
 - Role (Defense Counsel, Government Counsel, or Prosecution Counsel)
 - <u>Title of the Competition</u> (IBA ICC Moot Court Competition in the English language);
 - Year; and
 - Total word count.
- b. The front cover (page) must be colour coded accordingly:
 - Red for Defense Counsel.
 - Blue for Government Counsel.
 - Green for Prosecution Counsel.
- c. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with **one (1) penalty point** per violation.

Art. 28 - Footnotes

- a. Footnotes must be in <u>Times New Roman font style</u>, size 10 font. Footnotes of <u>more than</u> one line in length must be single-spaced.
- b. The spacing between each footnote shall be single.
- c. Consistency in the reference to sources throughout the Memorial is required. <u>One referencing style only</u> may be used throughout the Memorial.
- d. All the <u>sources included in the Index of Authorities</u>, must be included in the footnotes as well.
- e. Abbreviations of sources within footnotes are allowed. The abbreviation must be announced in the index of authorities.
- f. Violations of the above items (a-e) are sanctioned with **two (2) penalty points** per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article will be considered as one violation in total.

g. Incorrect/fictional footnotes generated by AI tools are not permitted. Violation of this article will be sanctioned with up to **twenty (20) penalty points** per memorial.

Art. 29 - Scoring Structure Memorials

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall quality of the Memorial.
- b. Memorials are scored by two (2) or three (3) Evaluators. In the event there are only two (2) evaluations, a third score will be generated by averaging the two existing scores.
- c. If one Evaluator's score has fifteen (15) points or more difference with other Evaluators' scores, the score will be disregarded.
- d. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and use of rules and principles of law: max 20 points.
 - Proper and articulate analysis of the facts and law: max 18 points.
 - Logic and reasoning: max 15 points.
 - Extent and use of research: max 13 points.
 - Clarity and organization: max 12 points.
 - Evidence of original thought and creative argumentation: max 10 points.
 - Persuasiveness: max 7 points.
 - Grammar and style: max 5 points.
- e. Members of the IPE (evaluators) must submit their Memorial scores by 30 April 2026 @ 11:59PM CEST.
- f. Score sheets will be emailed to each Team upon the cessation of the Competition. Individual rankings may be requested from the Organization by the Team at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- g. An example of the score sheet is provided in Annex 1.

Art. 30 - Use of AI Tools

- a. The use of ChatGPT and other AI tools are permitted as an aid in researching for Memorials. Extreme caution is advised to avoid relying on fictional or misapplied authority subject to the penalties specified in Article 28(g) above.
- b. The use of ChatGPT and other AI tools to generate content for Memorials is strictly prohibited. Teams may use such tools for limited purposes such as checking grammar, spelling, or sentence clarity, provided that the substantive content and analysis are entirely the Team's own work..
- c. The prohibited use of ChatGPT or other AI tools per the above may result in sanctions of up to **fifty (50) penalty points**, a requirement to submit new Memorials, full disqualification of the team, or other sanctions at the discretion of the Organizing Committee, depending on the gravity of the violation.
- d. Any other form of cheating or plagiarism will be sanctioned in accordance with Art. 30 (c) above.
- e. The use of incorrect/fictional citations generated by AI will be penalized in accordance with Art. 28.

Art. 31 - Memorial Penalties

a. Memorial penalties shall be deducted from each individual Evaluator's score of a Team's Memorial. The Organizing Office is responsible for reviewing each submission and applying the appropriate penalty points.

b. The Organization shall notify all Teams by 1 May 2026 @ 5:00PM CEST about their penalty points. Any written appeals against the decision to impose penalties should be submitted by 8 May 2026 @ 5:00PM CEST via email to ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

Chapter 7: Oral Round Provisions

Art. 32 - General Procedures

- a. Each Team shall participate in six (6) Hearings during the Preliminary Round, representing each role twice.
- b. Each Hearing shall take up to two (2) hours, with each Team being allotted a total of thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments.
- c. Each Team scheduled to appear has a maximum of thirty (30) minutes from the start of the scheduled time to appear before the Bench.
- d. The Competition will proceed on an *ex parte* basis at the expiration of the thirty (30) minutes for appearance. The Organization may decide to delay the start of the Hearings or reschedule the session, in exceptional circumstances.
- e. Electronic devices may **not** be used by the speaker as support for their pleadings. The counsel and co-counsel may **not** use electronic devices to take notes during the opposing parties' pleadings.
- f. Communication between the counsel and co-counsel is strictly prohibited during the Team's pleadings. The counsel and co-counsel may communicate in writing only during the pleadings of the opposing parties.
- g. No written communication or exhibits may be presented or delivered by any Team Member to any judge.
- h. Communication with the audience/coaches/other team members during the hearings is strictly prohibited.
- i. Counsels and co-counsels are prohibited from using any type of electronics, including phone/mobile phone and smartwatches. Devices of the sort are prohibited from being on the counsel and co-counsels' table.
- j. Speakers may use a watch or stop watch as long as they do not make sounds, cannot transmit messages, or connect to the internet.
- k. A Bench Clerk will be tasked with timekeeping throughout the pleading.
- 1. The audience may use their mobile phones/smartwatches silently and in a proper manner.
- m. Improper courtroom communication may result in the deduction of up to ten (10) penalty points.

Art. 33 - Order of Appearance and Time Division

- a. The order of the pleadings in each Hearing is:
 - Presentation by Defense Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Presentation by Government Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Presentation by Prosecution Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Defense Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Government Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
 - Rebuttal by Prosecution Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes
- b. <u>Any other time division is strictly forbidden</u>. Time not used in the presentation may not be allocated to the rebuttal, and time not used in the rebuttal may not be allocated to the presentation.

c. Questions posed by the Judges are included in the speaking time of the presentation and of the rebuttal, respectively.

Art. 34 - Speakers

- a. Each Team will have three (3) individual speakers. Every individual speaker of a Team will represent in their pleadings the Defense Counsel, or the Government Counsel, or the Prosecution Counsel. The rebuttal must be presented by the same speaker as the main presentation.
- b. Researchers are <u>not</u> allowed to present at any stage of the Competition.
- c. Each Team must submit their <u>role allocation</u> by 13 May 2026 @ 5:00PM CEST at the latest (i.e. Team member X will undertake X role, where the role is to be understood as: Defense Counsel, Government Counsel, or Prosecution Counsel). Failure to do so will be sanctioned with twenty (20) penalty points.
- d. The role allocation must be submitted via our online submission form.
- e. Only two (2) members of each Team, two (2) speakers, or one (1) speaker and one (1) researcher, are allowed to be present before the Bench. One member will always be the speaker of the role. The second member will be the person acting as co-counsel. The co-counsel does not need to be the same person in each Hearing.
- f. Each speaker will present in accordance with the time allocated under Article 32.

Art. 35 - Scope of Pleadings

- a. A Team's oral pleadings are not limited to the scope of the Team's Memorial. Teams may refer directly to the opposing Teams' Memorials in their main argument. Opposing Teams' Memorials and the International Round match-ups schedule are shared with Teams by the Organization at least one (1) day before the Opening Ceremony. Last-minute changes, if necessary, will be communicated to teams as soon as possible.
- b. Speakers are not allowed to introduce new issues in their rebuttal. All arguments and issues raised by opposing counsels during both the presentation and rebuttal may be discussed during the rebuttal.
- c. Objections regarding the substantive content of the pleadings are under no circumstances allowed at any moment during the proceedings.
- d. Objections regarding procedural issues (i.e. time allocation) are permitted. They must be directed to the Presiding Judge the moment it arises during a Hearing.

Art. 36 - Bench Composition

- a. Each Bench will be composed of one (1) or two (2) Judge(s) and one (1) Presiding Judge (appointed by the Organization or by consensus by the Judges participating in the Hearing) and shall be assisted by a Bench Clerk.
- b. If only two (2) Judges score a given Hearing, a third score will be generated by averaging the scores of the two Judges.
- c. The organization may appoint a fourth Judge. In the event that four (4) Judges score a given Hearing, the score that is furthest from the average of all four (4) scores, and the scoresheet on which it appears, will be disregarded.
- d. If one Judge's score has fifteen (15) points or more difference with the other Judges' scores, the score will be disregarded and replaced by an average.
- e. Judges in the Hearings do not have access to the Teams' Memorials.
- f. Judges are not permitted to give their individual opinion outside the deliberation room regarding the quality of the presentations and results of the participating Teams. Furthermore, Judges are not allowed to give the participating Teams any substantive feedback on details of the Case.

- g. During the oral rounds, the Bench shall ensure respect for the Rules of Procedure and will assess the quality of the arguments. The Judges are encouraged to intervene with appropriate questions during the oral pleading to further assess the knowledge and the preparation of the speakers.
- h. The Bench will follow its own Rules of Procedure within the framework of accepted norms of judicial practice, and with regard to questions of doubt or dispute in the procedure or facts. A decision of the Presiding Member of the Bench shall be final.
- i. The Judges shall mark the oral arguments in accordance with the scoring criteria provided for in these Rules.
- j. Team objections to the composition of the Bench due to conflict of interest or prior relationship must be disclosed and communicated to the Bench Clerk or Organizing Office prior to the commencement of the Hearing.

Art. 37 - Role of the Bench Clerk

- a. The Bench Clerk is nominated by the Organization.
- b. The Bench Clerk is responsible for:
 - Briefing and advising the Bench Members on the Rules of Procedure contained herein;
 - Keeping the order during the Hearing;
 - Facilitating the sessions' development;
 - Ensuring that no electronic devices are being used by counsel and co-counsel before the start of the Hearing;
 - Timekeeping;
 - Any other task within their scope of responsibilities as requested by the Organizing Office or Bench.

Art. 38 - Scoring

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall performance of the Team during each pleading. The presentation and the rebuttal shall be awarded with one score only.
- b. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Organization, structure, and time management: max 20 points.
 - Knowledge and use of rules and principles of law: max 20 points.
 - Knowledge and use of the facts: max 20 points.
 - Questions and rebuttal: max 20 points.
 - Persuasiveness and style of presentation: max 20 points.
- c. Score sheets will be emailed to each Team upon the cessation of the Competition. Individual rankings may be requested from the Organization by the Team at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- d. An example of the score sheet is provided in Annex 2.

Art. 39 - Rules of Conduct

a. All participants should follow Leiden University's Policies and House Rules, and maintain the fullest dignity and decorum, not only in the Courtroom, but during the entire Competition. Inappropriate behaviour or blatant disregard for the Rules of Procedure may result in deduction of up to **fifteen (15) penalty points** for teams, and in extreme cases, to their disqualification.

- b. Any form of discrimination or harassment is strictly prohibited. The Organizing Office reserves the right to remove participants (i.e., team members, judges, bench clerks) from the Competition in case of violation of these rules.
- c. Participants may not directly or indirectly indicate their jurisdiction, nationality, or school of origin to the Judges, including through the wearing of name tags, pins, logos, uniforms, or other signifiers (including university colours), or the placement of folders, files, library books, or other materials identifying their school on counsel table. For the purposes of this Rule, the term "participants" includes Team Members, Team Coaches, guests, and observers affiliated with the Team. Blatant disregard for this rule may result in deduction of up to **fifteen (15) penalty points**, and in extreme cases to the disqualification of the Team.
- d. If a Team decides not to plead against another Team in an oral hearing, the Organizing Office may decide to proceed with the hearing in the absence of that Team and apply the corresponding penalty to the non-participating Team. The penalty results in the Team not receiving points for the oral hearing in question.
- e. Complaints and alleged violations of the Rules of Procedure can be communicated to the Organizing Office at ICCMCC@lawleidenuniv.nl. Complaints will be treated confidentially.

Art. 40 - Recording of the Hearing

- a. Members of the presenting Team may (voice) record their own Team Members during their presentation and/or rebuttal. However, it is strictly forbidden to (voice) record the opposing Teams during their presentation and/or rebuttal.
- b. Recording of the Team's own pleadings may only take place upon prior approval from all the Judges, Bench Clerk, and the Organization.
- c. Violations of this article are sanctioned with fifty (50) penalty points.

Art. 41 - Scouting

- a. Scouting is forbidden at all times during the Competition.
- b. Scouting is defined as:
 - When a Team or one or more of its Members, guests or observers attend a Hearing in which they are not participants;
 - Instances where students, coaches, or spectators discuss with or pose questions of substantive issues of international (criminal) law to the Judges.
- c. Violations of this article will result in disqualification. A Team's disqualification is final and irrevocable.

Chapter 8: The Awards

Art. 42 - Categories of the Awards

- a. The following Awards will be given by the International Criminal Court after the Final Round:
 - Winner;
 - First Runner-up;
 - Second Runner-up;
 - Best Oralist.
- b. The following Awards will be given by the Organization in accordance with the scores obtained by Teams in the Preliminary Round of the Competition:

(i) <u>Memorial Awards</u> – the Memorials with the highest average scores per role

Best Defense Counsel Memorial	Best Government Counsel Memorial	Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial	
First Runner-up	First Runner-up	First Runner-up	
Best Defense Counsel Memorial	Best Government Counsel Memorial	Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial	
Second Runner-up Second Runner-up Second Runner-up		Second Runner-up	
Best Defense Counsel Memorial Best Government Counsel Memorial Best Prosecution Counsel Memorial			
The IBA Award for Best Memorial Overall			

(ii) Speaker Awards – the speakers with the highest average scores per role

Best Defense Counsel Speaker	Best Government Counsel Speaker	Ben Ferencz Award for Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	
First Runner-up	First Runner-up	First Runner-up	
Best Defense Counsel Speaker	Best Government Counsel Speaker	Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	
Second Runner-up Second Runner-up Second Runner-up		Second Runner-up	
Best Defense Counsel Speaker Best Government Counsel Speaker Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker		Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker	
The IBA Award for Best Speaker Overall			

(iii) <u>Team Awards</u> – the Teams with the highest total score awarded in the written and oral round of the Preliminary Round

Best Defense Counsel Team	Best Government Counsel Team	Best Prosecution Counsel Team
First Runner-up	First Runner-up	First Runner-up
Best Defense Counsel Team	Best Government Counsel Team	Best Prosecution Counsel Team
Second Runner-up	Second Runner-up	Second Runner-up
Best Defense Counsel Team	Best Government Counsel Team	Best Proseuction Counsel Team

Best Regional Team Awards

Africa; The Americas (Central, North and South) & Oceania; Asia; Europe

The IBA Award for Best Newcomer Team; First Runner-up; Second Runner-up
A team is considered 'newcomer' if it represents an educational institution that is participating for the first time
ever in the Competition

The IBA Spirit of the Competition Award

Chosen by Teams, the award honors a Team that has demonstrated exceptional commitment and fully embodied the values of the Competition.

c. Upon completion of the entire program, each Participant shall receive a Certificate of Participation.

Chapter 9: Friendly Rounds

- a. Friendly Rounds and exchange of Memorials are completely prohibited unless prior approval has been given by the Organization. Please contact the Organization if you wish to organize/participate in Friendly Rounds.
- b. Only Teams that do not participate in a National/Regional Round will be permitted to organize/participate in Friendly Rounds.
- c. Separate Rules of Procedure for Friendly Rounds can be found in Annex 4.

Annex 1: Memorial Score Sheet Sample 2025-2026



IBA ICC MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026 MEMORIAL SCORESHEET

Evaluator's Name: Full First & Last Name Date: Day / Month / Year

Team number: Role: Defense / Government / Prosecution

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Knowledge of	18-20	15-17	13-14	10-12
Facts and Law	Exceptional understanding of facts and law,	Strong grasp with minor gaps in understanding.	Adequate but with noticeable gaps.	Limited knowledge with major gaps or errors.
10-20 points	comprehensive and accurate.	1516	70.74	0.75
Proper and	17-18	15-16	13-14	9-12
articulate analysis 9-18 points	Thorough, well-structured analysis, articulated with precision.	Proper and articulate analysis with minor improvements needed.	Somewhat proper and articulate analysis.	Lacking proper articulation and clarity.
Logic and	13-14	11-12	9-10	8
reasoning 8-14 points	Impeccable logic and reasoning, arguments flow seamlessly.	Strong logic and reasoning, arguments flow well.	Reasonable but with noticeable flaws.	Severely flawed logic and reasoning.
Extent and use of		11-12	9-10	7-8
research 7-14 points	Comprehensive, expertly integrated sources, including insightful secondary materials.	Considerable sources, minor omissions, commendable depth, effective support.	Constrained, gaps, moderate depth, relevant but less integration.	Significantly lacking, irrelevant, weak foundation, severe overall weakness.
Clarity and	12	10-11	8-9	6-7
organization 6-12 points	Exceptionally clear and meticulously organized.	Well-structured with minor room for improvement.	Somewhat unclear with noticeable issues.	Lack of clear organization and difficult to follow.
Evidence of	12	10-11	8-9	6-7
original thought 6-12 points	Exceptional originality in thought, presenting unique perspectives.	Displays original thought and fresh perspectives.	Some evidence of original thought but not consistently apparent.	Lacks any meaningful evidence of original thought.
Persuasiveness	6	5	d consistently apparent.	3
3-6 points	Compelling arguments, clear reasoning, and strong evidence.	Convincing arguments, room for improvement in reasoning or evidence.	Lacks strong persuasion, arguments less compelling, crucial support missing.	Weak arguments, lacking evidence and coherence.
Grammar and	4	3	2	1
Style 1-4 points	Impeccable grammar and style, enhancing professionalism.	Generally strong with minor lapses affecting readability.	Noticeable issues affecting readability.	Severely lacking, difficult to read, or unprofessional.

Score Knowledge of Facts and Law	
Proper and Articulate Analysis	
Logic and Reasoning	
Extent and Use of Research	
Clarity and Organization	
Evidence of Original Thought	
Persua sive ness	
Grammar and Style	
Total*	0
	Proper and Articulate Analysis Logic and Reasoning Extent and Use of Research Clarity and Organization Evidence of Original Thought Persuasiveness Grammar and Style

^{*}The total score must be between 50 and 100 points.

Annex 2: Oral Round Score Sheet Sample 2025-2026



IBA ICC MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026 ORAL ROUNDS SCORESHEET

Judge's Name:		
Date:	Time:	Courtroom:
Team #:	Role: Prosecution / Victims' Counsel / Defense	e Counsel
Speaker's Name:		

Criteria	Excellent (16-20)	Good (11-15)	Fair (6-10)	Poor (0-5)	GRADE
Organization,	The speaker's	The presentation is well-	The organization is	The presentation lacks	
Structure, and	presentation follows a	structured and easy to	somewhat unclear, with	organization and	
Time	logical roadmap with	follow, with minor areas	challenges in following	structure, making it	
Management	impeccable flow.	for improvement.	the flow. Arguments lack	difficult to follow.	
	Arguments are	Arguments are generally	conciseness.	Arguments are lengthy	
	exceptionally concise	concise.		and unclear.	
	and to the point.				/20
Knowledge and	Rules of law are	Rules of law are	Rules of law are	Rules of law are	
Use of Rules	expertly stated and	generally well-stated and	occasionally unclear or	consistently unclear or	
and Principles	applied. Arguments are	applied, with some room	misapplied. Arguments	misapplied. Arguments	
	strongly supported by	for improvement.	lack strong support.	lack support. Cited	
	authoritative sources.	Arguments have	Some cited sources may	sources are largely	
	Cited sources are	sufficient support. Most	not be entirely relevant.	irrelevant.	
	highly relevant.	cited sources are			
		relevant.			/20
Knowledge and	The speaker	The speaker accurately	The speaker's grasp of	The speaker's grasp of the	
Use of the Facts	demonstrates a deep	interprets the facts and	the facts is occasionally	facts is consistently	
	understanding of the	compares them to real-	uncertain, with	uncertain, with significant	
	facts and effectively	word precedents with	occasional gaps in	gaps in comparisons.	
	compares them with	minor issues.	comparisons.		
	real-world precedents.				/20
Questions and	The speaker skillfully	The speaker effectively	The speaker struggles to	The speaker fails to	
Rebuttal	answers questions	responds to questions	answer questions and	respond adequately to	
	posed by judges and	and offers a rebuttal,	rebut opposing	questions and provide a	
	delivers a strong	with some minor room	arguments convincingly.	meaningful rebuttal.	
	rebuttal addressing	for improvement.			
	opposing arguments.				/20
Persuasiveness	The speaker exudes	The speaker maintains	The speaker's style is	The speaker's style is	
and Style of	formality, respect, and	formality and	somewhat informal or	highly informal or	
Presentation	professionalism,	professionalism but may	lacks professionalism.	disrespectful, lacking	
	demonstrating	display minor lapses in	Confidence and eye	professionalism.	
	confidence and	confidence or eye	contact are inconsistent.	Confidence and eye	
	eloquence with	contact.		contact are notably	
	consistent eye contact.			absent.	/20
				TOTAL	/100

*Based on previous experience, an average score of 89 or above in the oral pleadings will be necessary for a team to advance to the Quarter-Finals, and an average score of 96 or above will be necessary for an advocate to win one of the top speaker awards.

	COMMENTS
Judge's signature:	

Annex 3: World Bank List of Economies 2025-2026*

*Last updated: 08 July 2025, information from WorldBank.org

Afghanistan	Low income
Albania	Upper middle income
Algeria	Upper middle income
American Samoa	High income
Andorra	High income
Angola	Lower middle income
Antigua and Barbuda	High income
Argentina	Upper middle income
Armenia	Upper middle income
Aruba	High income
Australia	High income
Austria	High income
Azerbaijan	Upper middle income
Bahamas, The	High income
Bahrain	High income
Bangladesh	Lower middle income
Barbados	High income
Belarus	Upper middle income
Belgium	High income
Belize	Upper middle income
Benin	Lower middle income
Bermuda	High income
Bhutan	Lower middle income
Bolivia	Lower middle income
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Upper middle income
Botswana	Upper middle income
Brazil	Upper middle income
British Virgin Islands	High income
Brunei Darussalam	High income
Bulgaria	High income
Burkina Faso	Low income
Burundi	Low income
Cabo Verde	Upper middle income
Cambodia	Lower middle income
Cameroon	Lower middle income
Canada	High income
Cayman Islands	High income
Central African Republic	Low income
Chad	Low income
Channel Islands	High income
Chile	High income

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Moldova Upper middle income		
	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	
Monaco High income	Moldova	
	Monaco	High income

Mongolia	Upper middle income
Montenegro	Upper middle income
Morocco	Lower middle income
Mozambique	Low income
Myanmar	Lower middle income
Namibia	Lower middle income
Nauru	High income
Nepal	Lower middle income
Netherlands	High income
New Caledonia	High income
New Zealand	High income
Nicaragua	Lower middle income
Niger	Low income
Nigeria	Lower middle income
North Macedonia	Upper middle income
Northern Mariana Islands	High income
Norway	High income
Oman	High income
Pakistan	Lower middle income
Palau	High income
Panama	High income
Papua New Guinea	Lower middle income
Paraguay	Upper middle income
Peru	Upper middle income
Philippines	Lower middle income
Poland	High income
Portugal	High income
Puerto Rico	High income
Qatar	High income
Romania	High income
Russian Federation	High income
Rwanda	Low income
Samoa	Upper middle income
San Marino	High income
São Tomé and Príncipe	Lower middle income
Saudi Arabia	High income
Senegal	Lower middle income
Serbia	Upper middle income
Seychelles	High income
Sierra Leone	Low income
Singapore	High income
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	High income
Slovak Republic	High income
Slovenia	High income
Solomon Islands	Lower middle income
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Vanuatu Lo	ower middle income
Venezuela, RB Lo	ower middle income
Vietnam Lo	ower middle income
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	igh income
West Bank and Gaza Lo	ower middle income
Yemen, Rep. Lo	ow income
Zambia Lo	ower middle income
Zimbabwe Lo	ower middle income

Annex 4: Friendly Rounds Rules of Procedure

Art. 1 - General

- a. Friendly Rounds and exchange of Memorials are completely prohibited unless prior approval is given by the IBA ICCMCC Organization.
- b. The Friendly Rounds do not constitute a qualifying round for participating in the International Round of the IBA ICC Moot Court Competition.
- c. No rights regarding the International Round of the Competition can be derived from participating/not participating/organizing a Friendly Round.
- d. Friendly Rounds will only be allowed to take place between Teams that do not participate in National/Regional Rounds.
- e. Teams participating in the Problem-Solving Round are not precluded from participating in a Friendly Round.
- f. Each Team can only participate in <u>three (3)</u> Friendly Rounds and can only take up one role per round.
- g. The Friendly Rounds can take place either in one geographic place or virtually or a combination of both.

Art. 2 - Registration

- a. Each Team that wishes to participate in the Friendly Rounds must submit a written request to the IBA ICCMCC Organization via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- b. The participation of a Team in a Friendly Round will only be approved if the Team has paid the fee and confirmed their participation in the International Round.

Art. 3 - Organization

- a. The Organization will have no involvement in the organization of the Friendly Rounds.
- b. The Organization upon request may share information on a Friendly Round so that Teams may join it.
- c. The Organization will not intervene in disputes arising between Teams during Friendly Rounds that fall beyond the scope of its Rules of Procedure.
- d. The Rules of Procedure of the International Round will apply strictly to the format of the oral pleadings of the Friendly Rounds.
- e. Teams participating in the Friendly Rounds can only exchange opposing Memorials in accordance with the role they will be representing in the Friendly Round. The exchange of Memorials can only take place one week before the Friendly Round.