IBA ICC MOOT COURT
Organised by the Grotius Centre

Frequently Asked Questions
Teams

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A. ABOUT THE COMPETITION

1. What is the IBA ICCMCC?

The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICCMCC) is focused on international criminal law (ICL), and worldwide the largest of its kind in the English language. The IBA ICCMCC is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University, in partnership with the International Bar Association (IBA). The Competition also receives support from the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is the permanent international court established to prosecute international crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.

Further information can be found on our website here: www.ibaiccmoot.com.

2. What is the objective of the Competition?

The Competition aims to simulate the proceedings of the ICC, providing participants with an opportunity to develop their skills in international criminal law and gain practical experience in courtroom advocacy. Participants in the IBA ICCMCC engage in both written and oral arguments, presenting their cases in the form of Memorials and Oral Arguments. The Evaluators of the Memorials and the Judges of the Oral Rounds assess their legal arguments, advocacy skills, and knowledge of international criminal law. The Competition thus offers a platform for law students from around the world to engage in rigorous legal analysis, develop critical thinking abilities, and network with legal professionals in the field of international criminal law.

3. What is the history of the Competition?

In 2004, professors at Pace University organized the world's first moot court Competition based on the law and procedures of the International Criminal Court. The ICC has grown since then, and so has the Competition. In 2014, Pace partnered with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, and the ICC, to form a new global Competition: the ICC Moot Court Competition. The Competition is since then held annually in The Hague, Netherlands, with the final round judged at the ICC by its judges and legal officers. The annual Competition at Pace now serves as a Regional Qualifying Round for that global Competition.

In 2017, the ICCMCC started its collaboration with the IBA, and in 2020 the IBA became a name partner in the Competition, with its preliminary rounds now titled the IBA International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICCMCC). The Final Round still holds the original title of the ICC Moot Court Competition (ICCMCC).

4. What is the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies?

The Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies (Grotius Centre) is a leading academic research and teaching department housed within Leiden Law School, known for its expertise in public international law. Established at Leiden University, the Grotius Centre is named after the father of public international law and one of its most illustrious alumni, Hugo Grotius. The Grotius Centre currently hosts more than 30 scholars and almost 200 students of public international law from all over the world.

The Grotius Centre offers leading LL.M. programs (Masters of Law) in the field of international law, namely: Public International Law – Regular, Public International Law – Advanced (International Criminal Law, **or** Peace, Justice and Development), and International Dispute Settlement and Arbitration – Advanced. It furthermore organizes summer programs in Transnational Law, International Criminal Law, International Arbitration, International Humanitarian Law, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law, and Dispute Resolution and Advocacy. More information about the Grotius Centre, its research and education programs, can be found here.

5. What is the IBA?

The International Bar Association (IBA) is the most prominent organization where international legal professionals, bar associations, and legal societies are brought together. The IBA seeks to aid global stability and peace through the administration of justice. More information on the IBA can be found here.

The IBA offers many resources for international legal practice. Additionally, opportunities are offered for education and internships as well as special memberships for students.

6. What is the ICC?

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the permanent international institution tasked with the prosecution of the gravest crimes that are the concern of the international community as a whole. Information about its organization, methods, and State parties can be found here. The ICC provides for a plethora of sources on international criminal law available for free in its Resource Library.

7. What is the setup of the Competition?

The Teams will present their arguments in the form of Memorials and Oral Pleadings. The written Memorials are evaluated by professionals who are elected to the International Panel of Evaluation (IPE). The Oral Pleadings will be judged by a selection of Judges during the Team's presentations in The Hague. The focus of the assessment are the Team's legal arguments, advocacy skills, and their knowledge of international criminal law.

8. Where can I find out more about this year's case?

The Case of the IBA ICCMCC is drafted every year by a panel of international criminal law professionals, led by Case Author Prof. Michael P. Scharf, Chair of the IBA ICCMCC Board of Advisors. Each year, the Case is inspired by a topical issue of international criminal law that challenges the participants to be creative in their arguments and presentations.

The Case is usually released in September of the previous calendar year, before the opening of the Registration for Teams. For the 2026 edition, the Case is available on our website and Registrations will open September 2025. Information on the conditions for Registration can be found in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note that all factual information needed for the teams' written and oral pleadings is included in the case. Thus, teams must not invent their own facts or draw their own conclusions on the course of certain events.

Each Team may request clarifications and corrections to the Case by **9 December 2026 @ 5:00PM CET**. All requests must be submitted via the **online submission form.** Each Team may submit a maximum of five (5) questions and/or requests for clarification.

The Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds shall submit the questions and/or requests for clarification to the National/Regional Round Organizer.

9. Where does the Competition take place?

The Written Round of the Competition, when the Teams have to turn in Memorials, is held completely digitally. Submission of the Memorials will be done via the official e-mail address of the Competition: ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. The conditions for submission can be found in the Rules of Procedure.

The Oral Round of the Competition takes place on location in The Hague, The Netherlands, at Leiden University Campus The Hague, Spui & Wijnhaven. Specific locations might be subject to change. The Preliminary Rounds of the oral stage will be held at Spui, as well as the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Finals. Social and academic events, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, will be held at Spui & Wijnhaven, depending on the nature of the event. When possible, the Final Round will be held at the International Criminal Court, at Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK The Hague, The Netherlands.

Both venues can be reached easily with public transport and are accessible for people with disabilities.

10. Can I participate online?
Online participation is not permitted under any circumstances.

11. When does the Competition take place?
The upcoming edition of the IBA ICCMCC will take place in 2027, with the Oral Rounds taking place from **Friday 4 June to Friday 11 June.**

B. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

12. What universities are eligible to participate?
All educational institutions offering a degree or qualification may participate in the Competition. Teams must have consent from their institution in order to participate in the Competition.

13. My university gave consent to register, but has now decided to rescind it. What now?
Please contact the Organizing Office as soon as possible at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. Following steps will depend on what stage of the Competition this takes place in.

14. Can I participate as an individual?
No, individual students may not take part in the Competition, but only as part of a Team representing their university.

15. Can I participate if I have graduated already/will graduate by the start of or during the Competition?
No, team members need to be actively enrolled students at the time of the memorial submission. If a team member graduates before the Oral Round of the Competition, they may still participate provided the university consents to be represented by a recent graduate.

This limitation does not apply to (assistant) coaches.

16. What is considered an "actively enrolled student"?
An "actively enrolled student" in a university typically refers to a student who is currently registered for and participating in academic courses or programs offered by the university. This status implies that the student is meeting the university's enrollment requirements.

17. Can I participate if I am a student on academic leave?
Yes. It is possible for a student on academic leave to participate if the university supports this and gives its consent to be represented by a student on academic leave.

18. Can I participate if I have taken and/or passed the bar exam or equivalent thereof?
No. Students who have taken and/or passed the bar exam or equivalent thereof are prohibited from participating in the Competition in any capacity. This limitation does not apply to (assistant) coaches.

19. Can I participate if I am an exchange student?
Yes, exchange students may represent the host university.

20. Can I participate if I already have participated in a previous edition of the IBA ICC MCC?
Yes, you may participate as many times as you wish, provided you are still enrolled as a student at a university.

21. How many people can participate in a team?

One Team may consist of seven (7) people at most, including three (3) speakers, two (2) researchers and two (2) coaches.

The selection of eligible students for the Team is left to the discretion of the university. For more information, please review the Rules of Procedure.

22. What roles is the team composed of?

Each team must be composed of at least three (3) speakers, and may include two (2) researchers, one (1) coach, and one (1) assistant coach. Any deviation from this composition must be pre-approved by the Organizing Office.

23. Is it necessary for (assistant) coaches to be affiliated with the university they are guiding through the IBA ICCMCC?

No, (assistant) coaches need not be affiliated with the university the team is representing in the Competition, as long as the university consents to their participation on their behalf.

24. Who can help my team prepare for the Competition apart from my (assistant) coach?

Any person can be involved in the team's preparations for the moot court, be it in the Written or Oral Round. This person, however, may **not** be nominated as a member of the IPE, act as a Judge in the oral rounds, or provide further in-person support during the oral rounds.

Should this person be invited by the Organizing Committee to participate as an Evaluator and/or Judge in the Competition, they have to immediately disclose their participation in the team's preparation. Teams are responsible for informing the person of this duty.

The Organizing Office will make a determination on the person's eligibility with regard to the possibility of a conflict of interest based on their involvement in the team's preparation.

25. Can team members come from different faculties/universities as long as they represent one (1) university?

Yes, it is possible for the team to be composed of students enrolled in different faculties/universities as long as all education institutions agree that the team represents one university only. All team members will appear under the same university name in all Competition materials.

26. Can the composition of the team be amended?

Yes, the composition of the Team may be amended up until two (2) months before the Oral Round starts. This may only be done with prior approval of the Organization, by written reasoned request at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. The Organization retains the right to allow further changes to a Team's composition in light of exceptional circumstances.

27. How many teams from the same educational institution may participate in the Competition?

Only one (1) Team per institution is allowed to participate in the Competition, irrespective of the number of sub-institutes it contains. The Team may include students from these different sub-institutes. The institution must make the selection of the team.

28. How many universities from the same country may participate in the Competition?

Each country may be represented by five (5) Teams maximum in the Competition, regardless of how many Teams register. This includes the SAR Hong Kong, SAR Macau, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. In the case that more than five (5) Teams register from the same country, there will be a Qualifying Round to determine the five (5) Teams that will be allowed to participate in the International Round.

The Organization retains the discretion to allow more than five (5) Teams to participate.

29. How will I know if my team needs to participate in a qualifying round?

Teams will be informed by **26 November 2025** if they need to participate in a Qualifying Round. Receiving a Team number by 26 November 2025 is confirmation the respective Team will automatically participate in the International Round of the Competition.

A Qualifying Round can be held in the form of a Problem-Solving Question or in the form of a National Round or Regional Round. Some countries have standard National Rounds or Regional Rounds, such as India, China, Canada, and the United States. Further information can be found in the Rules of Procedure and our website. If no established national/regional round exists in a certain country, the registered teams (when more than five (5)) will participate in the Problem-Solving Question Round organized by the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office, or a newly formed national/regional round.

C. ENSURING ANONIMITY DURING THE COMPETITION

30. Why is the Competition anonymous?

Concealing team identities prevents bias and emphasizes the quality of legal arguments and advocacy skills. This approach aligns with ethical standards and reduces conflicts of interest. Anonymity underscores the Competition's integrity by assessing participants solely on their legal merits.

31. What information are teams allowed to disclose in memorials?

Teams may disclose solely their team number and the particular role the memorial is pertinent to. They are not allowed to mention information relevant to, including but not limited to, the university they represent, their member's nationality, or professional affiliations.

Teams are allowed to cite legal precedents or academic works from their home country if they consider them pertinent to the current issues, provided they do not imply that this is their home country.

32. What information are teams allowed to disclose during hearings?

Teams may disclose solely their team number, the particular role that they are currently representing, and the names of the counsel and the co-counsel. They are not allowed to mention information relevant to, including but not limited to, the university they represent, their member's nationality, or professional affiliations.

Teams are allowed to cite legal precedents or academic works from their home country if they consider them pertinent to the current issues, provided they do not imply that this is their home country.

33. Can I share my affiliations with other participants?

Yes, you may share your affiliations with other participants, provided that this is not in the presence of Judges.

34. Can I share my affiliations with Bench Clerks?

Yes, you may share your affiliations with bench clerks, provided that this is not in the presence of Judges.

35. Can I share my affiliations with Judges?

No, you are not allowed to disclose your affiliations to the judges during the Competition. However, teams that have faced disqualification or after the Competition has concluded may share their affiliations with the Judges.

36. Can I wear any university/country insignia?

No, you may not wear university or country insignia.

37. What constitutes university/country insignia?

This encompasses a broad range of elements, including but not limited to symbols, emblems, logos, or any visual markers linked to a particular university or country. These may take the form of flags, national emblems or colors, university logos, displayed through printing or embroidery on various items like clothing, accessories, stationery, or other articles.

The above constitutes a non-exhaustive listing and does not deprive teams from wearing their respective religious attire if they wish to do so.

38. Can I wear a gown/robe/collar tabs/bands or other legal accessories?

No, participants may not wear a gown/robe/collar tabs/bands or other legal accessories, as they may be deemed as insignia indicating the jurisdiction they are coming from.

39. Can I wear a military uniform?

Provided that no university or country insignia are visible, you may wear a military uniform.

D. FEES AND REGISTRATION

40. What are the deadlines for registration?

The Registration for Teams for the 2025 edition will open on **16 September 2026** and close on **16 November 2026.** The Teams will receive a confirmation of Registration by **27 November 2026.**

41. What information must be provided upon registration?

Teams need to provide the name, address, and country of their university as well as the name, email address, and phone number of the contact person.

Teams need to also provide with the invoice details, i.e., the person/organization/entity who will make the payment, their country and address, as well as the name of the person to receive the invoice, their phone number and email address.

Prior to registration teams need to receive consent from the university management to represent the university in the upcoming Competition.

42. Do teams need to provide a list with the names of participants upon Registration?

As long as the registration includes the name and contact information of at least the contact person, universities may register their participation and save their place in the Competition without submitting the rest of the names of the Team Members.

A complete roster of Team Members must be submitted before the deadline included in the Rules of Procedure. This is done through the same form through which the team originally registered.

43. What is a contact person? Who can be a contact person?

The contact person facilitates information exchange between the team and the Organizing Office, coordinates logistics, manages schedules, and ensures compliance with rules. They also offer support, handle inquiries, and act as an emergency contact, enhancing the team's Competition experience.

A team member or an (assistant) coach may be designated as the contact person.

44. What is a Team Number?

Upon acceptance of the Team’s registration, a number will be allotted to the Team to ensure the fair progression of the Competition. Please carefully note this Team Number, as it must be included in all further communications with the Organization.

45. Is there a registration fee?

Teams pay a registration fee based on the World Bank List of Economies (FY 2026-2027). The list can be found annexed to the Rules of Procedure. The registration fees are as follows for teams from countries qualified as:

- High-income: €1900
- Upper middle-income: €1600
- Lower-middle income or low income: €1100

The registration fee covers the cost of seven (7) Team Members, irrespective of how many Team Members actually join the Competition. It is not possible to receive a reduced fee in case the Team has less than seven (7) Members.

The Organization can send a confirmation of payment to the Team upon request at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

46. Who is referred to as a team member?

Speakers, researchers, and (assistant) coaches are considered team members.

47. What is included in the Registration Fee?

The registration fee covers the team's participation in the written and oral rounds, as well as in academic and social events during the Competition. These include, but are not limited to, goody bags for each Team Member, a reception with drinks following the opening ceremony and the awards ceremony, and a farewell dinner/party.

Accommodation, transport, meals, and living costs are not covered by the Competition. Participants are responsible for covering these themselves. Unfortunately, no cost overview can be provided, as the expenses are very much subject to a person's own preferences.

48. Does the organization provide financial support to participating teams?

The Organization is not responsible for financing the participation of Teams and/or other Participants. As such, the Organization encourages Teams to reach out to their own institute, local law firms, international organizations or other entities for sponsorship.

A limited number of funding opportunities is provided thanks to the generous support of the IBA. More information will be provided on www.ibaiccmoot.com in due course.

49. How can payments be made?

Payment may be made only via bank transfer or credit card. Specific information is shared with teams in due course.

E. IPE NOMINATIONS

50. What is the IPE?

The International Panel of Evaluation (IPE) is responsible for assessing the Memorials. Each participating team must designate two (2) duly qualified individuals to serve as IPE members. Each IPE member will evaluate three (3) anonymous Memorials, excluding their team's submission. Teams competing in National/Regional Rounds are not required to appoint IPE members unless they choose to do so.

51. Who can be nominated for the IPE?

Teams should nominate individuals who 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. Duly qualified persons include, but are not limited to, lawyers, academics in the field of law, legal advisors, legal officers, and court personnel.

The nominated persons must in no way be involved with the nominating Team or its preparation. A Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Member or Contact Person of a participating Team can under no circumstance be nominated as an Evaluator.

52. What is an affiliation?

An "Affiliation" means a personal or professional relationship between a judge and an institution, Team Coach, or Team Member participating in the Round in which the judge is to serve.

A "Conflict of Interest" means an Affiliation that would, in the eyes of a reasonable observer, create an inference that the judge would be unable to be impartial as to the conduct or result of the Moot.

The following affiliations are not deemed to be a conflict of interest:

- The Judge is an alumnus of one of the schools participating in this round;
- The Judge is an employee of one of the schools participating in the Moot where such employment is sufficiently remote from the activities of the Team as to dispel any reasonable suspicion of partiality.

The above constitutes a non-exhaustive listing.

53. Is there a selection process for individuals recommended by universities?

No, all individuals recommended by universities will be automatically included in the IPE and will be requested to evaluate three anonymous memorials following the Competition's Rules of Procedure.

54. Will the individuals nominated by my team for the IPE receive notification of their selection?

Yes, the Organizing Office will send an automatic email notification upon the teams' nomination of IPE members.

55. What if the person my team nominates for the IPE is unable to evaluate memorials?

It is your team's responsibility to nominate individuals capable of evaluating the assigned memorials from the Organizing Office. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, the nominated individual cannot fulfill this duty, you may recommend another duly qualified individual as a replacement. Please note that no deadline extensions will be granted in such cases.

F. PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR TRIP TO THE HAGUE

56. What can I do if my university does not have many international law resources?

In this case, we invite you to browse the ICC Resource Library and other open-access sources on international criminal law, including amongst other Prof. Stahn's book A Critical Introduction to International Criminal Law, Prof. Scharf's MOOC Introduction to International Criminal Law. Furthermore, you can consult blogs such as EJIL:Talk! and Opinio Juris. Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive listing of available sources, rather a brief indication to assist you in your research.

57. Is visa support provided?

The Organization is not responsible for the visa application or awarding the visa. As such, it is the Participant's own responsibility to apply for the necessary visa on time. Please note that these processes may take quite some time, so it is recommended to start the application process as early as possible.

To aid the visa application, the Organization can provide official Participants (Teams and Judges) with a letter of support, which states the reason for coming to The Netherlands and (contact) information on the Competition. Such a letter must be requested via ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl, and mention the following details:

- Full name as appears on passport

- Nationality
- Passport number
- Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy)
- Full address of the Embassy/Consulate where you apply for the visa

The deadline for requesting such support letters is **1 April 2027**. Please note that requests past this date and/or without the abovementioned details will not be considered, as there would not be sufficient time for the visa application.

58. When do I need to arrange my arrival to / departure from the Hague?

The opening ceremony will take place on **4 June 2027** in Leiden University Campus The Hague, Wijnhaven. Teams shall check-in and receive their goodie bags and Competition material from beforehand at the Competition venue. Specific details and time will follow closer to the date.

Although participants may arrive in the Hague in the morning of 4 June, we advise to arrive the day before, to ensure that you have enough time to settle and allow for any travel delays/disruptions. Please note that in-person participation in the hearings is mandatory.

The Final will take place in the morning of **11 June 2027** and is expected to finish by the early afternoon of that day. Teams will have the opportunity to attend the final from the Public Gallery of the International Criminal Court. However, based on previous years' experience, seating capacity is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

On the night of 11 June, participants are invited to a farewell dinner/party. Attendance is not mandatory but if you plan on leaving The Hague right after the end of the Final, we kindly ask you to inform the Organizing Office accordingly.

59. Is there a dress code during the Competition?

The Competition aims to familiarize participants with international courtroom advocacy. As such, it is not acceptable for any of the Participants to wear shorts, miniskirts, deep cleavages and/or flip-flops. Teams are advised to dress appropriately formal for a court setting and ensure their own comfort.

For side events, participants may opt for business casual attires, while for the farewell party, there is no particular dress code.

60. Where can I find practical information about my visit to The Hague?

To assist you in this regard, we have drafted a booklet with useful information about getting to the Hague, places to stay and eat, as well as information about the venues and their accessibility. The booklet is available here.

G. Written Round

61. What is a memorial?

Memorials are written legal documents prepared by participating teams. They typically consist of legal arguments and analysis related to the case and present the team's legal positions, interpretations of the law, and evidence to support their arguments. Each memorial shall reflect the distinct role of the prosecution, government counsel, and defense counsel in the context of a trial before the ICC.

62. What are the differences between the memorials for different roles?

Each memorial represents a unique perspective within the Competition and serves different legal and advocacy purposes. More information may be found below:

1. Prosecution Memorial:

- Role: The prosecution's role is to represent the interests of the international community in pursuing charges against the accused.
- Content: The prosecution memorial presents arguments that support the confirmation of charges against the accused, demonstrating the commission of crimes and the culpability of the defendant.
- Perspective: The prosecution memorial advocates for a strong case against the accused, emphasizing the need for justice and accountability.

2. Victims' Counsel Memorial:
    - Role: The victims' counsel represents the interests and rights of the victims of the alleged crimes in the ICC proceedings.
    - Content: The victims' counsel memorial focuses on advocating for the rights and reparations of the victims. It presents legal arguments and evidence related to the harm suffered by the victims, the impact on their lives, and their entitlement to reparations and participation in the proceedings.
    - Perspective: The victims' counsel memorial emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing the rights and suffering of the victims in the pursuit of justice.

3. Defense Counsel Memorial:
    - Role: The defense counsel represents the accused and seeks to uphold the rejection of charges by the Pre-Trial Chamber.
    - Content: The defense memorial presents legal arguments that challenge the prosecution's case, raise doubts about the guilt of the accused, and highlight potential legal defenses. It may include arguments related to the sufficiency of evidence, alibis, or violations of the accused's rights.
    - Perspective: The defense counsel memorial aims to protect the rights and interests of the accused, asserting their innocence or arguing for a lesser charge or punishment.

63. Can I submit the same memorial for two roles?

No. As highlighted already, each memorial plays a distinct role in the procedure, entails different content, and seeks to highlight a different perspective.

64. How many memorials must each team submit? How long are the memorials?

Each Team must submit three (3) memorials, one (1) memorial for each Role provided for in the Case.

Each Memorial must not exceed 10.000 words (including footnotes). 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.

65. What is the deadline for memorials submission?

Submission for the 2027 edition must be made by **17 March 2027** at **5:00PM CET**, at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl and in accordance with the conditions set out in the Rules of Procedure.

66. What issues shall be addressed in a memorial?

Every memorial must tackle all the issues raised by the Pre-Trial Chamber's Decision, regardless of how teams perceive the importance of these issues for specific roles. Teams are free to decide how many words they allocate to each issue.

67. What must be included in a memorial?

Each memorial shall include the following parts (examples of previous memorials can also be found in our online archive):

1. Front Cover: In accordance with Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Title Page: In accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

3. Table of Contents: This includes an organized list of all the major sections and subsections within your memorial, along with their corresponding page numbers.
4. List of Abbreviations: If your memorial includes abbreviations or acronyms, this section lists them for clarity.
5. Index of Authorities (List of Sources): Here, you list all the legal sources and precedents you have cited in your memorial, such as case law, treaties, statutes, and scholarly articles. If you have included abbreviations for sources, you must announce them here.
6. Statement of Facts: This section presents a clear and concise overview of the facts of the case, including background information, events leading up to the case, and any relevant context.
7. Issues: Outline the specific legal issues, questions, or controversies that your team will address in the memorial.
8. Summary of Arguments: Provide a brief overview of your key arguments and positions.
9. Written Arguments: This is the heart of the memorial, where you present your detailed legal arguments and analysis. It includes subsections that address each issue, with citations to legal authorities and reasoning to support your position.
10. Submissions: Clearly state the specific requests or conclusions you are making on behalf of your client (prosecution, defense, or government counsel). These are the outcomes you seek.
11. Optional: Annex (max two (2) pages): If needed, you can include supplementary materials in the annex. This section is limited to two pages and can include charts, graphs, or other visuals that enhance your arguments.
12. Back Cover: In accordance with the Rules of Procedure..

Please note that it is mandatory to include all parts mentioned above in your memorial in the order that they are mentioned, with the exception of an optional annex which may be omitted. Failure to do so will lead to the awarding of penalty points per Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure.

68. How should memorials be formatted?

Memorials must be formatted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. Penalty points on the format of the memorial will be imposed by the Organization. The penalty points will be disclosed to the Teams prior to the Oral Round.

The Teams may appeal the Organization's decision on the award of the penalty points.

69. What are footnotes?

"Footnotes are notes indicated in your text with numbers and placed at the bottom of the page. They're used to provide:

- Citations
- Additional information that would disrupt the flow of the main text"[1]

Footnotes must be used to identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Memorial. Endnotes are not permitted. Footnotes may not include substantive pleadings in addition to the text of the citation itself.

70. Can I abbreviate my citations in the footnotes?

Abbreviations of sources within footnotes are allowed. All abbreviations must first be announced in the Index of Authorities and thereafter used consistently throughout memorials' footnotes.

71. What citation style should I use?

There is no required style of citation, but a single style must be used throughout the memorial for consistency purposes. An example of an appropriate citation style freely available online is the Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA).

72. How do I insert a footnote in Word?

To insert a footnote automatically in a Word document:

[1] https://www.scribbr.com/citing-sources/what-are-footnotes/

- Click on the point in the text where the footnote should appear
- Select the "References" tab at the top and then click on "Insert Footnote"
- Type the text you want into the footnote that appears at the bottom of the page

73. Do I need to organize my arguments in a particular order?

As long as you refer to all the issues raised, you may choose to organize your arguments the best way you deem fit.

74. Can I use ChatGPT when writing memorials?

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 29 of the Rules of Procedure.

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.

The prohibited use of AI may result in sanctions in line with our Rules of Procedure. This include the use of incorrect/fictional citations generated.

75. Where can I find memorials from previous editions?

The best Memorials of the previous editions of the IBA ICCMCC are available in our online archive.

No other memorials will be published apart from the ones already available on the Competition's website.

76. What criteria are used to evaluate memorials?

An overview of the criteria used by our evaluators and their influence in overall grades may be found in Appendix 1 of the Rules of Procedure.

77. When will I hear back about the Memorial?

A response will be sent to confirm that your Memorials have been received in good order. The score of your Memorials will be sent to you within two months following the conclusion of the Competition.

H. ORAL ROUND

78. Where do the oral rounds take place?

The Oral Round of the Competition takes place on location in The Hague, The Netherlands, at Leiden University Campus The Hague, Spui & Wijnhaven. Specific locations might be subject to change. The Preliminary Rounds of the oral stage will be held at Spui, as well as the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Finals. Social and academic events, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, will be held at Spui & Wijnhaven, depending on the nature of the event. When possible, the Final Round will be held at the International Criminal Court, at Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK The Hague, The Netherlands.

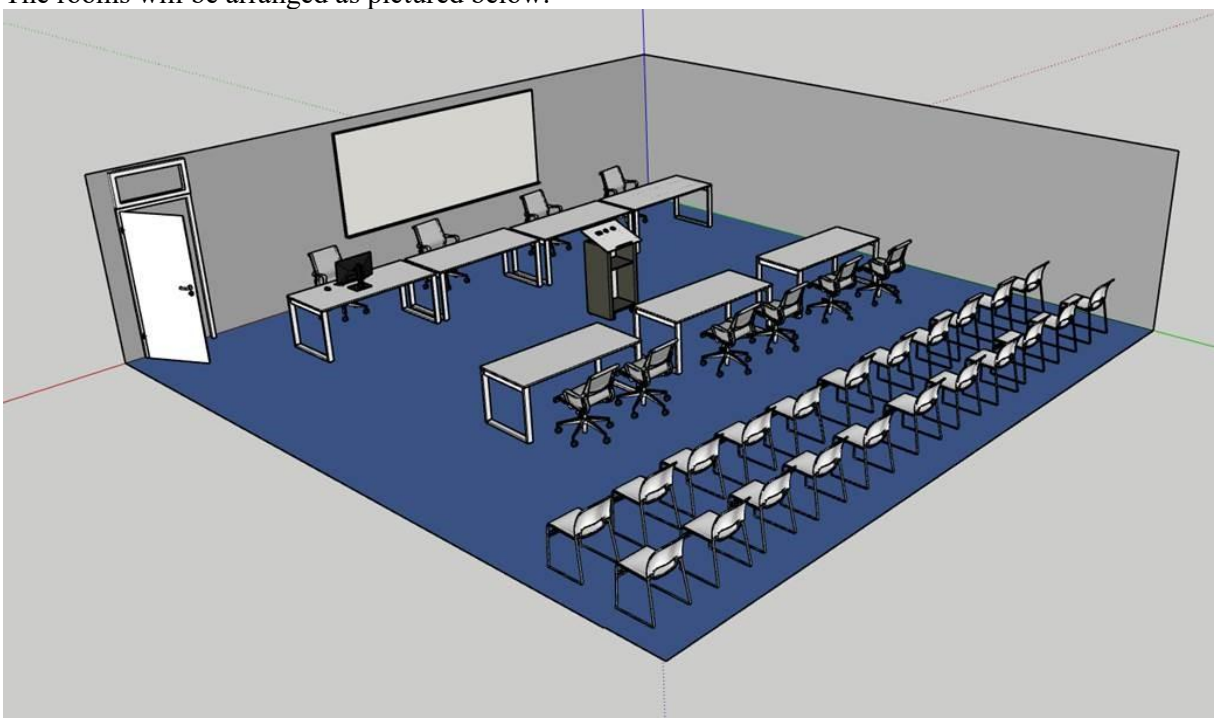
The designated pleading room will be specified in the schedule distributed by the Organizing Office. In the event of any modifications, the Organizing Office will furnish teams with a revised schedule in both digital and/or printed formats. In such cases, the new schedule prevails, replacing the prior version.

For teams advancing to the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, information regarding their allocated Courtroom will be communicated promptly after result announcements.

Courtroom numbers are indicated by signage on each respective door, with posted signs to assist in locating each room.

79. What is the set-up of the room in which I will plead?

The rooms will be arranged as pictured below:



80. How many times does each team plead?

Each team participates in six (6) hearings during the preliminary rounds representing each role twice.

81. What is the order of appearance?

The order of the pleadings in each Hearing is:

- Presentation by Defense Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
- Presentation by Prosecution Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
- Presentation by Victims' Counsel: up to twenty (20) minutes.
- Rebuttal by Defense Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
- Rebuttal by Prosecution Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.
- Rebuttal by Victims' Counsel: up to ten (10) minutes.

Please be aware that the sequence of presentations does not necessarily align with the order in which teams will represent specific roles during the Competition. For example, a team may present as the defense counsel in their first hearing and as the prosecution counsel in their final hearing.

82. Do I need to organize my arguments in a particular order?

As long as you refer to all the legal issues raised, you may organize the order of presenting your arguments in the best way you deem fit.

83. How is time allocated?

You may speak for up to 20 minutes during your main presentation and up to 10 minutes for your rebuttal. Any other time division is strictly forbidden. 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.

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

84. How is time allocated in ex parte hearings?

In ex parte hearings, each team will be granted a 30-minute allocation for their presentation, encompassing their arguments and responses to concerns raised by other teams in their memorials.

Any questions posed by the Judges will also be counted within this speaking time. It's important to highlight that there will be no intermission between a team's main argument presentation and their addressing of issues raised by other teams.

85. Can multiple teammates be present during the main arguments and the rebuttal?

No, only one speaker may present the main arguments and the rebuttal.

86. Can I give bundles to the Judges?

Written communication or exhibits may not be submitted or handed to any Judge by any Team Member. Nevertheless, teams are permitted to make references to the case or appendices, as copies of these materials are supplied to the Judges.

87. Can I use PowerPoint during my presentation?

No, the use of PowerPoint or other visual aids during presentations is not permitted for teams. However, teams are allowed to make references to the case or appendices, as copies of these materials are provided to the Judges.

88. Can I communicate with my teammates during the hearing?

Written or oral communication between team members and the counsel and co-counsel is strictly prohibited.

89. Can I communicate with my co-counsel during the hearing?

Communicating with your co-counsel is prohibited during the hearing. Written communication is allowed during the pleading of other teams but strictly prohibited during your pleading.

90. Can I raise objections / ask questions to other teams during the hearing?

No, you may not raise objections or ask questions to other teams during the hearing.

91. Who can attend the hearings?

Your fellow teammates and the (assistant) coach are welcome to attend the hearings. Unfortunately, the hearings are not open to the general public. Please be aware that each courtroom has limited seating capacity. Therefore, advance authorization from the Organizing Office is necessary for non-participants to attend the hearings.

92. Can my team bring observers to the Competition?

The hearings are not open to the general public. Authorization from the Organizing Office is necessary for non-participants to attend the hearings. Additionally, the Organizing Office is not able to issue invitation letters in support of visa applications for non-team members. **Please remember: Each team may only have two coaches. Observers cannot attend with the purpose of providing additional coaching or preparation support to teams.**

Observers do not count toward the maximum of 7 team members. However, if observers wish to join social and academic events (such receptions, panel discussions, other activities, etc.) an additional fee of **€300** will be charged per observer. If teams choose this option, and pay the additional fee for each observer, the observers will receive the status of non-team member participants and provide them with all Competition benefits.

Teams need to inform the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office of the number, and names of the observers they wish to include as non-team member participants in the Competition by **1 March 2026** via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

93. Can I attend hearings of other teams?

Attending the hearings of other teams is strictly prohibited during the preliminary rounds in accordance with Art. 41 of the Rules of Procedure. Violations of this article will result in disqualification. A Team's disqualification is final and irrevocable.

Teams that have not qualified for the Quarter- and the Semi-Finals respectively may attend the hearings of other teams.

94. What is a counsel?

A speaker acting as counsel is responsible for presenting the team's arguments for that particular role and addressing during their rebuttal any issues raised by other teams. A researcher or an (assistant) coach may not act as counsel.

Teams are bound by the speaker's allocation sent to the Organizing Office and prior authorization is needed to replace a counsel with another, yet pleading for the same role twice is mandatory for a speaker to win an award for that particular role.

95. What is a co-counsel?

The co-counsel is responsible for providing support in the form of written communications during the hearings. However, counsel and co-counsel may not exchange notes or other materials while the speaker is pleading. A researcher may act as a co-counsel. An (assistant) coach may not act as a co-counsel.

Teams may choose to change co-counsels from one hearing to another (but not during the hearing).

96. How early do I need to be in the courtroom?

To ensure that the hearing starts on time, you are requested to be at the courtroom 15 minutes prior to the start of the hearing.

97. What happens if I am running late?

As a Competition participant, it is your responsibility to ensure you arrive promptly at the hearing venue. Be aware that public transportation disruptions can happen, so if you're staying outside The Hague, plan your commute with extra time.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you anticipate being late, please promptly notify the Organizing Office. If your delay exceeds 30 minutes, an ex parte hearing will be scheduled. For delays under 30 minutes, the hearing will be rescheduled to commence 30 minutes after the original start time.

98. What happens if I cannot make it for a hearing?

If, due to force majeure you are unable to make it for a hearing, please promptly notify the Organizing Office. The Organizing Office may then schedule an ex parte hearing for you.

99. Can I take pictures of / film / record the hearing?

Team members delivering their presentation or rebuttal are permitted to (voice) record their own speeches if they wish. However, it is strictly prohibited to record the presentations or rebuttals of opposing teams. Any recording of the pleadings, in accordance with Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure, requires prior approval from all Judges and the Organizing Committee. Violations of this rule will result in a penalty of fifty (50) points.

Teams must request prior authorization before taking pictures during the hearing from both judges and other teams.

Teams may request a picture with the judges at the end of their hearing. Please keep in mind that as Judges will have to deliberate after the hearing, time dedicated for such pictures shall be as limited as possible.

100. Do I need to print my speech or notes?

There's no requirement to print your speech or notes. However, if you choose to do so, we recommend doing it well in advance. While there is a nearby print shop, it may be closed or busy when you require its services.

101. Can I use my laptop or other electronic devices during the hearing?

You are **not** permitted to use laptops or other electronic devices during the hearing. Please ensure that all your electronic devices are in silent mode before entering the courtroom.

102. Can I use my phone or smartwatch to time my speech?

You may not use a phone or smartwatch to time your speech. However, speakers may use a regular watch or stop watch as long as they do not make sounds, cannot transmit messages, or connect to the internet.

103. Will feedback be provided at the end of each hearing?

Yes, judges will offer feedback exclusively on teams' advocacy skills. It is strictly prohibited for judges to provide feedback on substantive issues. Additionally, students, coaches, or spectators are not allowed to engage judges in discussions or pose questions regarding international (criminal) law.

Any violations of this rule will lead to disqualification. Please note that team disqualification is final and cannot be reversed.

104. Based on what criteria are oral submissions evaluated?

An overview of the different criteria on the basis of which oral submissions are evaluated and their contribution to your final score may be found in Annex 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

105. Which teams qualify to the QF?

The Preliminary Round comprises both a written and oral phase, and they are evaluated separately. The top twenty-seven (27) teams, based on the combined scores from both phases after penalties are deducted, will advance to the Quarter-Final Round. Each of these phases, written and oral, contributes equally to 50% of the total score. In the event of a tie at the 27th position, the team with the highest overall score in the oral phase of the Preliminary Round will progress to the Quarter-Finals.

106. How are the QF matches generated and how are roles allocated?

The Quarter-Final pairings are determined in advance based on the rankings from the Preliminary Rounds:

- Quarter-Final Matchup 1: Teams ranked 1st, 18th, and 27th.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 2: Teams ranked 2nd, 17th, and 26th.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 3: Teams ranked 3rd, 16th, and 25th.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 4: Teams ranked 4th, 15th, and 24th.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 5: Teams ranked 5th, 14th, and 23rd.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 6: Teams ranked 6th, 13th, and 22nd.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 7: Teams ranked 7th, 12th, and 21st.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 8: Teams ranked 8th, 11th, and 20th.
- Quarter-Final Matchup 9: Teams ranked 9th, 10th, and 19th.

To determine the role that each team will represent in the Quarter-Final, a designated team member from each qualified team will choose one envelope from a set of three envelopes provided by the Organization. Each envelope contains a distinct role. The role specified in the envelope drawn by the designated team member will be the one that the team represents in the Quarter-Final Round.

The order in which teams select envelopes is random.

Teams have the freedom to select one of their three speakers to represent them in the Quarter-Final Round, and they are not constrained by the roles their speakers assumed in the Preliminary Rounds.

107. Which teams qualify to the SF?

The nine (9) victorious teams from the Quarter-Final Round will advance to the Semi-Final Round. The judging panel in each Quarter-Final Round will select the winning team of that particular round by majority voting.

Notably, the Quarter-Final Round is solely composed of an oral phase, with no consideration given to the results of written memorials or the outcomes of hearings from the Preliminary Round in scoring this stage.

108. How are the SF matches generated and how are roles allocated?

The Semi-Final pairings will be determined based on the rankings of the advancing teams from the Preliminary Rounds:

- Semi-Final Matchup 1: Teams ranked 1st, 6th, and 9th.
- Semi-Final Matchup 2: Teams ranked 2nd, 5th, and 8th.
- Semi-Final Matchup 3: Teams ranked 3rd, 4th, and 7th.

To determine which role each team will represent in the Semi-Final, a designated team member from each qualified team will select one envelope from a set of three envelopes provided by the Organizing Committee. Each envelope contains a distinct role.

The role specified in the envelope drawn by the designated team member will be the one that the team represents in the Semi-Final Round.

Teams have the autonomy to choose which of their three speakers will represent them in the Semi-Final Round, and they are not restricted by the roles their speakers assumed in the Preliminary Round and Quarter-Final Round.

109. Which teams qualify to the Final?

The Semi-Final Round will exclusively involve an oral phase. It's important to note that the results of written memorials and the outcomes of hearings from the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, or any prior rounds will not be factored into the evaluation of final scores in the Semi-Final Round. The team that emerges victorious in each Semi-Final match-up will advance to the Final Round.

110. How are the Final matches generated and how are roles allocated?

To determine the role that each qualified team will represent in the Final Round, a selected team member from each team will choose one envelope from a set of three envelopes provided by the Organizing Committee. Each envelope contains a different role. The role specified in the envelope drawn by the designated team member will be the one that the team represents in the Final Round.

The order in which teams select envelopes is random.

Teams have the flexibility to decide which of their three speakers will represent them in the Final Round and are not constrained by the roles their speakers held in the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, or Semi-Final Round.

I. POST COMPETITION

111. Will I receive a certificate of participation?

Each Participant in the Competition will receive a Certificate of Participation upon completion of the Competition. The Certificate will be drafted in accordance with the full name as provided in the original registration form.

112. When will I receive a physical copy of the certificate of participation?

A representative from the Organizing Office will distribute hard copies of participation certificates to teams at a location to be announced during the awards ceremony. To streamline the process and prevent overcrowding, we recommend that only one team member collects the certificates per team.

It is the team's responsibility to ensure they retrieve the certificates during this distribution. Please note that following this distribution, no additional physical copies will be provided to teams. Digital copies will be sent to teams within two months after the end of the Competition.

113. What materials will I receive following the end of the Competition?

The Teams will receive within two months after the end of the Competition the following:

- Scoresheets for the Memorials;
- Scoresheets for the Oral Rounds;
- Final Ranking in the Competition;
- Photos;
- Certificates of Participation for the Team.

114. Is it mandatory to attend the awards ceremony?

Yes, it is mandatory to attend the awards ceremony.

115. How can I arrange the sending of awards?

In the event that your award is not readily available during the awards ceremony, kindly send us an email containing your complete name, telephone number, and your detailed address, including street number, district (if applicable), city, province, and country. This will assist us in ensuring the proper and prompt delivery of your award.

J. CONTACT

116. How can I get in touch with the Organizing Committee and Organizing Office?

You can reach out to the Organizing Committee and Office at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. Please keep in mind that while we are active on various social media platforms, our primary focus is on responding to inquiries sent via email. Please, always include your Team Number when in contact with the Organization and always include full names when referring to Team Members.

During the Oral Rounds of the Competition, you can also approach the Organizing Office HQ for any pressing issues and emergencies.

117. What constitutes an emergency?

For example, sudden and unforeseen situations that may disrupt the normal proceedings of the Competition and require the immediate attention of the Organizing Office or Organizing Committee.

Emergencies include, but are not limited to, participants' misconduct, delay in attending a hearing, medical emergencies, security concerns, natural disasters, and exposure to fire or hazardous materials.

118. What if I have not yet received a reply to my email?

While we make every effort to promptly address emails, please understand that due to the significant volume of emails we receive, it may take a few days before you receive a reply.

Please be aware that if your inquiry pertains to a question that is already addressed in our FAQs, we may not provide a response to prioritize other inquiries.