



2017 High School Moot International Criminal Court Competition Rules and Procedures

I. Teams

The Competition is open to high schools within the greater Pittsburgh area. Participation is limited to high school students only. Each team shall consist of two students, with a maximum of eight students per school. Each team may also have both a coach (either from within or outside of the high school) and an advisor (from the high school) who will assist the students in preparing for the competition. Each member shall participate fully in the research and writing of the written memorials and shall be required to present during the oral arguments.

Each high school shall designate which of its teams will argue for the Applicant (the accused) and which will argue for the Respondent (the prosecutor). Each school should generally have one Applicant team for each Respondent team, and vice versa – e.g., a high school has four students participating, one team of two must argue for the Applicant and one for the Respondent. School which need to send an odd number of teams should contact Veronica Dristas at dristas@pitt.edu to determine which side their unpaired team will argue. In general, schools with an odd number of teams will be at a disadvantage because their teams will find it harder to give equal practice argument opportunities before going to the oral rounds.

II. Competition Structure and Rules

A. Memorials

- i. Each team must submit a memorial no later than ***Midnight April 7, 2017***. Late submission will result in a penalty to the team's memorial score. For a memorial to be considered submitted on time the email must be time stamped on March 21, 2017 or before.

- a. Memorials should be submitted to Veronica Dristas at dristas@pitt.edu, with the subject “*Moot ICC Memorial*” along with the assigned *Team Name* (example R1 or A2). The memorial should be included as an attached Word (.doc or .docx) or .pdf file.
 - b. You will receive a confirmation email on/before April 8, 2017 that your memorial has been received. If you do not receive confirmation by 12:00pm on April 8, 2017, please contact Veronica Dristas at dristas@pitt.edu.
- ii. Memorials will be graded and will make up 1/3 of the overall score for the competition.**
- iii. Memorials must comply with the following guidelines:**
- a. **Memorials shall consist of:**
 - Title Page (a sample title page is provided in the competition packet)
 - Table of Contents
 - Questions Presented page
 - Pleadings
 - b. No identifying elements shall be included in the memorials. *Teams will be assigned a number and should use that to identify their memorials.*
 - c. Pleadings shall not exceed a length of four (4) standard letter-sized pages, with uniform 1 inch margins, written in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1.5 spacing. The Title Page, Table of Contents and Questions Presented pages do not count towards the four-page limit of the pleadings.
 - d. The Title Page, Table of Contents, and Questions Presented pages should be numbered using small roman numerals (I, ii, iii, etc). The Pleadings should be numbered using Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc).
 - e. Citation within the pleadings to the research materials should be done through footnotes. The form of citation for each of the research materials has been provided.
 - f. Memorials must be the work of the team members alone. Coaches and advisors may assist team members in their research and analysis of the issues raised by the Competition Problem, but may not directly contribute to the writing of the memorials.

B. Oral Arguments

- i. The primary two rounds of oral arguments will be held on *Friday, April 21, 2017* with each initial round broken into two sessions. The quarterfinal, semifinal and championship round will be held on *Saturday, April 22, 2017*.
- ii. **Oral arguments will be judged and will make up 2/3 of the overall score for the competition.**
- iii. **Oral arguments must comply with the following guidelines:**
 - a. Each team shall have *twenty (20) minutes* for the entirety of their oral argument for each round.
 - b. Each team shall have *two team members* participate by presenting oral arguments during each round.
 - c. *Each team member must speak for at least eight (8) minutes* during his or her oral argument. Teams are free to allocate the remaining four minutes as they see fit.
 - d. No communication between Coaches, Advisors, or spectators and the team members presenting is allowed during oral arguments. Only the team members who are presenting are allowed to communicate, and only in writing.
 - e. If a team fails to appear for its competition, the opposing team will be granted the chance to make their arguments *ex parte*, in order to allow them the opportunity to be scored. Failure to appear within ten (10) minutes of the start of the scheduled oral argument slot will be deemed forfeiture.
 - f. During the two preliminary rounds, team members are not permitted to watch competitions in which they are not participating. All competitors are permitted and encouraged to attend the quarterfinal, semifinal and championship rounds.

C. Scoring

- i. **Memorials**
 - a. Each team's memorial will be scored out of *50 points* before the competition begins on April 21, 2017.
 - b. Memorial scores will be provided to teams after the conclusion of the competition on April 22, 2017.
 - c. **Memorials will be scored based on the following factors:**

- Use of the research materials provided
- Clarity and organization of their arguments
- Grammar and style

d. Copies of memorials will be returned after the conclusion of the competition with scoring sheets *upon request*.

ii. **Oral Arguments**

a. Each oral argument will be scored out of **50 points**.

b. **Oral arguments will be scored based on the following factors:**

- Knowledge of the issue (including relevant law and its application)
- Ability to answer questions from the judges
- Public speaking skills
- Time management

c. Oral argument scores will be provided to teams after the conclusion of the competition on April 22, 2017.

d. *At the discretion of the judges*, comments may be given to team members after the conclusion of each round.

V. **Tournament Structure**

A. Teams will be scored based on a **combination** of their **memorial score** and **oral argument scores**.

B. **All teams will compete in two preliminary rounds.**

C. Following the preliminary rounds the four teams with the highest Applicant scores and the four teams with the highest Respondent scores will advance to the quarterfinal.

VI. **Scoring Breakdown**

A. **Preliminary Rounds**

i. The individual preliminary rounds (Round 1 & Round 2) will be scored out of a total of **50 points**, based solely on each team's oral argument skills.

ii. The preliminary rounds will then be scored out of a **total of 150 possible points**. Each team's memorial score will be added to their scores from Round 1 and Round 2 to determine a **total** preliminary score.

Memorial (50) + Round 1 (50) + Round 2 (50) = 150 Possible Points

- iii. The *four highest scoring* Applicant and Respondent teams (based on the cumulative scoring described in the preceding clause (ii)) will then move on to the *quarterfinal rounds*.

B. Quarterfinal Rounds

- i. Oral arguments in the quarterfinal round are worth 50 points. For the quarterfinal round each team's *memorial score* will be combined with *two times their oral argument score* in the quarterfinal for a total of *150 possible points*.

Memorial (50) + 2x Quarterfinal (50) = 150 Possible Points

- ii. Following the quarterfinal rounds, the *two teams* with the *highest* Applicant scores and the *two teams* with the *highest* Respondent scores will advance to the *semifinal*.

C. Semifinal Rounds

- i. For the semifinal round each team's *memorial score* will be combined with *two times their oral argument score* in the semifinal for a total of *150 possible points*.

Memorial (50) + 2x Semifinal (50) = 150 Possible Points

- ii. Following the semifinal round, the team with the *highest* Applicant score and the team with the *highest* Respondent score will advance to the *Championship Round*.

D. Championship Round

- i. For the championship round each team's *memorial score* will be combined with *two times their oral argument score* in the championship for a total of *150 possible points*.

Memorial (50) + 2x Championship (50) = 150 Possible Points

- ii. The team with the *highest score* in the championship round will be the *champion* of the 2017 Moot International Criminal Court Competition.
- iii. The judges will give the final decision of the Court in addition to the championship scoring.

If there are any questions or concerns about the aforementioned rules and procedures, please contact Veronica Dristas at dristas@pitt.edu or at 412-xxx-xxxx.