

The Official Rule of the 2020 Comparative Law in Action Competition

OFFICIAL RULE 1.0 PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Institutional/Team Eligibility

All educational institutions offering a degree in law are eligible to participate in the Competition. 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 (for example, by allowing a student in a science program to compete on the Team with students from its law faculty).

Team Composition

A Team may be composed of three to five Team Members who shall be the only individuals contributing to the work product of the Team over the course of the Competition Year.

Team Member Eligibility

A person may be a Team Member if he or she is pursuing a law degree, or a science-related degree, full time or part-time. Team Members may be chosen by any method approved by the responsible authority within the institution.

Outside Assistance to Teams

Each Team must research, write, edit, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without the assistance of persons who are not Team Members. Any Team that

receives outside assistance may be penalized and may be disqualified from the Competition.

Assistance from Team Advisors

As a general principle, a Team shall have a number of Team Advisors no larger than is necessary to adequately prepare the Team to participate fairly in the Competition. Team Advisors may provide advice to a Team, provided such advice is limited to: (a) general instruction on the basic principles of law; (b) general advice on research sources and methods; (c) general advice on report and legal document writing techniques; (d) general advice on oral advocacy techniques; (e) general advice on the organization and structure of arguments in the Team's written and oral reports; (f) general commentary on the quality of the Team's legal and factual arguments.

Problem Corrections and Clarifications

Teams may request clarifications and corrections to the Competition Problem by submitting a written request to the Administration of the Competition through the online system provided for that purpose.

OFFICIAL RULE 2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Reports Content

The report must contain the following parts in the following order: (i) Cover Page; (ii)

Table of Contents; (iii) Index of Authorities; (iv) Questions Presented; (v) Statement of Facts; (vi) Executive Summary; (vii) main content with analysis and Suggestion/s.

2.2 Cover Page

The front cover of each report must have the following information: (a) the Team's University Affiliation with official University logo in the upper right-hand corner; (b) the name of the Committee/Agency etc before which the report is submitted and presented (i.e., "UN Committee"); (c) the year of the Competition; (d) the name of the case; and (e) the title of the document (i.e., "Report").

2.3 Index of Authorities

The Index of Authorities must list all legal authorities cited in any part of the Report and must indicate the page number(s) of the Report on which each is cited.

2.4 Statement of Facts

A well-formed Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and necessary inferences from the Competition Problem. The Statement of Facts should not include unsupported statements, distortions of the facts provided, argumentation, or legal conclusions.

2.5 Executive summary

A well-formed Executive Summary of the Report should consist of a substantive summary of the Report, rather than a simple reproduction of the headings contained in the Report.

2.6 Length

The word count for each Report shall be conducted using the standard "Word Count" feature in Microsoft Word. (a) The Statement of Facts section including the

section title must be no longer than 600 words. (b) The Summary of Report section, including the section title, must be no longer than 500 words. (c) The total length of the Report section, including the section title, any section headings, section sub-headings, associated footnotes, must be no longer than 3,000 words. (d) Manipulation of the word count is prohibited and will be subject to a discretionary penalty of up to five (5) points.

2.7 Citation Requirement

Footnotes must be used to identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Report. Endnotes are not permitted. Footnotes may include substantive information in addition to the text of the citation itself. Footnotes are included in the word limit of Rule 2.6.

2.8 Citation Form

Citations appearing in the Index of Authorities and text or footnotes of the Report must include a description of each authority adequate to allow a reasonable reader to identify and locate it in a publication or other source of general availability.

OFFICIAL RULE 3.0 ORAL PROCEDURES

3.1 Each team makes a presentation of 30 minutes including the Q&A session. Oral presentations must be made by a minimum of three Members from each Team. Prior to the beginning of the presentation, each Team must indicate to the panel how it wishes to allocate its 30 minutes among Counsels. The Team may not allocate more than 15 minutes to one Counsel, although in extenuating circumstances, the Host Orga-

nization has discretion to permit a single Counsel to argue beyond the 15-minute limit. Time allocated for but not used by one Counsel may not be used by the other Counsel. Any Team Member may act as a Counsel.

3.2 In each Presentation, the Host Organization shall employ a minimum of three members of the evaluation panel whenever possible. In extenuating circumstances, the Host Organization may authorize panels of two, but this should be done only as a last resort.

3.3 Competition Communications

Only the oral communications with the Panel are permitted which can be supported by visual presentations such as PowerPoint. But audiovisual material shall not be included in the presentation.

3.4 Activity at Counsel Table

To prevent disruption, communication at the counsel table between Team Members may be in writing only. Teams and team-affiliated spectators shall avoid all unnecessary noise, outbursts, or other inappropriate behavior that distracts from the argument in progress.

3.5 Written Communication

Written communication during the Presentation shall be limited to written communication among Team Members seated at the counsel table. No other written communication may take place between any combination of the following parties: Members of the panel, the Counsel, Team Members seated at the counsel table, or spectators (including Team Members seated in the audience).

3.6 Spectators

All Presentations should be open to the public

3.7 Timekeeping Devices in the Presentation Room

The official time of the match shall be indicated by the bailiff. No one other than the bailiff may display timecards or otherwise signal to the Counsel how much time is left. Teams may use silent digital or analog watches at the podium or counsel table.

OFFICIAL RULE 4.0

COMPETITION SCORING

4.1 Basis for Scores are instructed to evaluate the Teams on the overall quality of their performances, not on the underlying merits of the case.

4.2 Scoring of the Presentations shall consist of two parts: the written report including the presentation file (ie PowerPoint file) and the Oral presentation, both of which have the same weight in the final score.

4.3 Each Member of the Evaluation Panel will score each Report on a scale of 100 points and each Member of the Evaluation Panel will score each Counsel on a scale of 100 points.

4.4. Teams shall be ranked according to their final score. In case of a draw, all teams would be considered as winners

4.5 Ranking of Counsels

Individual Counsels shall be ranked from the highest to lowest oral score by the Host Organization.

4.6 Ranking of Reports

Team Reports shall be ranked from the highest to lowest score by the Host Organization.

OFFICIAL RULE 5.0 PENALTIES

5.1 Report Penalties

Report Penalties may be imposed by the Host Organization and shall be deducted from each of the individual members of the committee scores on a Team's Report

5.2 The Host Organization shall notify all affected Teams of imposed Penalties prior to the presentation and shall include with such notification a reasonable deadline for any appeals from the decision to impose Penalties. A Team may appeal any Penalty imposed against its Report by sending an email with its explanations (the grounds for appeal). The Host Organization shall decide upon the validity of any appeal from the imposition of a Penalty. No further appeal is available from this decision of the Host Organization.

5.3 Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules concerning Reports by reference to the following:

- Tardiness in submitting Reports and/or Presentation file: 5 points for the first day, 3 points per day thereafter. If both Reports have not been submitted by the commencement of the Competition, the Team will be withdrawn from the Competition.
- Resubmission of Report or Presentation file after deadline: 2 points.

- Failure to remove Tracked Changes or Comments: Up to 5 points (one-time penalty)
- Failure to include all parts of Report, or inclusion of an un-enumerated part: 2 points for each part.
- Failure to include necessary and correct information on Report Cover Page: 2 points (one-time penalty)
- Excessive length: Reports 1-100 words over 3 points 101-200 words over 6 points 201-300 words over 9 points 301-400 words over 12 points 401+ words over 15 points.
- Excessive length: Executive Summary 2 points (one-time penalty).
- Excessive length: Statement of Facts 2 points (one-time penalty).
- Plagiarism: 1 to 50 points.

5.4 Presentation Penalties

The Host Organization shall impose a Presentation Penalty only when he or she is satisfied that an event subject to such Penalty has occurred, if necessary after consultation with the members of the committee, bailiff, Teams, and/or spectators.

5.5 Activity Subject to Presentation Penalties

Improper communications: Up to 10 points
Inappropriate behavior at the counsel table during the presentation: Up to 10 points

OFFICIAL RULE 6.0

AWARDS

6.1 The Team that wins the Competition will receive a trophy and its individual members will receive a certificate with recognition.

6.2 Other Awards

In each Competition, the Host Organization shall make arrangement for appropriate recognition of the following: The team that receives the top Report Score, the highest-ranked counsel etc. The Host Organization may by resolution provide for other awards.