



IBA ICC MOOT COURT
Organised by the Grotius Centre



中国政法大学
CHINA UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW



ICC MOOT COURT COMPETITION SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

FOR 2025 CHINA NATIONAL ROUND

18 October 2024

Chapter 1 General Principles

Article 1 Aim of the Competition

- a. The International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (hereinafter “ICCMCC”) aims to stimulate students to better understand the mission and rules of the International Criminal Court (hereinafter “ICC”) by simulating its trials through virtual cases. In addition, it seeks and establishes close links between the ICC and universities by disseminating information about the mission, functions, and jurisprudential developments of the ICC and other institutions that deal with international crimes.
- b. The 2025 **China National Round** will be held at **Southwest Medical University** in Luzhou.
- c. The international final round will be held in the Hague, organized by the Organizing Committee in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Article 2 Organization

- a. The 2025 China National Round is organized by the ICC China Organizing Committee seated at the China University of Political Science and Law (hereinafter “**the ICC China Organizing Committee**”). The official email address of the ICC China Organizing Committee is: ICCMCCCHINA@163.com (hereinafter “ICC Organizing Committee Email Address”).
- b. Each team can contact the ICC China Organizing Committee through ICC Organizing Committee Email Address, and the Committee will respond to every team’s compliant and advice.

Article 3 Application of the Rules

- a. The Supplementary Rules are formulated with reference to the Rules of Procedure made by the ICC Organizing Committee in The Hague and are applicable to the ICC China National Round in 2025. All the matters not covered in this Supplementary Rules shall be referred to the Rules of Procedure.
- b. All teams participating in China National Round shall abide by these rules and are presumed to be familiar with the provisions of these rules.
- c. The Supplementary Rules shall apply to the entire period of China National Round.
- d. The Supplementary Rules shall be interpreted by the ICC China Organizing Committee. If any clarification of the Rules is needed, the teams could contact the ICC China Organizing Committee via the official email address as designated in Article 2.

Article 4 Schedule of 2025 China National Round

- a. Each team must submit the registration form via e-mail to the ICC China Organizing Committee by 18:00 on 20 November 2024.
- b. Each team could raise Requests for Clarification (regarding the content of the case) via e-mail in English to the ICC China Organizing Committee by 18:00 on 25 November 2024. The ICC China Organizing Committee will submit the collected Requests for Clarification to the ICC Organizing Committee in The Hague, Netherlands.
- c. Each team must submit its Memorials via e-mail to the ICC China Organizing Committee by 18:00 on 7 January 2025.
- d. The ICC China Organizing Committee staffs will conduct the formal examination of the Memorials sent by the teams, and the results of the formal examination will be sent to each team by 14 January 2025.
- e. The ICC China Organizing Committee will organize Judges to evaluate the Memorials and the results will be sent to the teams by 24:00 on 16 February 2025, and the teams qualified to participate in the oral rounds will be announced.
- f. The ICC China Organizing Committee will announce the match ups on 28 February 2025, and arrange the exchange of Memorials on 1 March 2025.
- g. The oral round will be held offline from 8 March 2025 to 9 March 2025 tentatively.

Article 5 Eligibility

- a. The participants representing each university must be enrolled undergraduate and graduate students of the university. For the sake of fairness, the oralists of each team must be Chinese nationals, and international students may participate in the China National Round as researchers or coaches. If they are qualified to participate in the international round of the Competition in the Hague, the international students can participate as oralists.
- b. Students who are not majoring in law but have the necessary knowledge of law, may also participate. Each team should ensure that its members have the appropriate knowledge to cope with the needs of the moot.
- c. Students with formal legal practice experience (including those who are certified as lawyers, but excluding relevant legal professional internships) are not eligible to participate in the moot.
- d. In principle, each university may send one team to participate in the China National Round. If different colleges within a university wish to register for the China National Round under the name of their college, their team members should be limited to students of that college and make a guarantee of independent participation, which will be approved by the ICC China Organizing Committee at its discretion to ensure the fairness of the Competition.

Article 6 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 restrictions on eligibility prescribed in Article 5 do not apply to coaches. The amount of team representatives may never exceed seven (7) at any moment in the Competition.
- b. Each team must submit the names of its members in writing at the time of registration.
- c. Each team shall have a leader. For teams with a (Leading) Coach, the (Leading) Coach shall be the team leader. For teams without a Coach, the team leader shall be one of the speakers or researchers.
- d. Any changes in the team composition as it was at registration must be submitted by e-mail to the ICC China Organizing Committee in written form. The ICC China Organizing Committee will consider the requests in accordance with the principle of fairness and the actual circumstances.
- e. Each team should submit the names of speakers and researchers for each role

(Defense Counsel, Prosecution Counsel and Victims' Counsel) to the ICC China Organizing Committee before the oral rounds, which will be arranged by the ICC China Organizing Committee around 1 March 2025. Teams are allowed to change speakers and researchers out of necessity and only if they have explained to the ICC China Organizing Committee and received permission to do so.

f. The roles in the name list are restricted to members in the registration form. The Coaches of each team are not permitted to act as speakers or researchers for either role.

Article 7 Amendment of the Rules

a. The Supplementary Rules will be amended by the ICC China Organizing Committee in consultation with the ICC as appropriate.

b. The ICC China Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend the Supplementary Rules when necessary after due consultation with the ICC. Any changes to the Supplementary Rules will be sent to the team concerned by e-mail.

Chapter 2 Management Rules

Article 8 Team Registration

Each team must submit the registration form to the ICC China Organizing Committee. The deadline for registration is at 18:00 on 20 November 2024. No later applications will be accepted.

Article 9 Registration Fee and Expenses

a. The teams qualified to participate in the oral rounds must pay a fee of 2000 yuan per team.

b. All the fees received will not be refunded. Southwest Medical University will issue an invoice for the "competition fee".

c. Teams will be responsible for their own expenses during the competition.

Article 10 Team Identification

a. In the interest of fairness and objectivity, each team shall be assigned a team number upon their registration. This number becomes the team's identifier throughout the Competition.

b. The team number will be sent to each team via e-mail after the closing date of the

registration.

Chapter 3: Competition Structure

Article 11 Case Publication

a. The Competition case (hereinafter “the case”) will be made publicly available on the ICCMCC website (<http://icctc.cupl.edu.cn/>).

b. Each team may request clarifications to the Case by 25 November 2024 at 18:00 to the ICC China Organizing Committee. All requests must be written in English. The ICC China Organizing Committee will submit the clarifications to the Organizing Committee in The Hague, The Netherlands. If a response is received, it will be sent back to the teams in time.

Each team may submit a maximum of ten (10) questions/requests for clarification. Any questions/requests asked exceeding the maximum or after the deadline will not be answered.

Article 12 The Written and Oral Round

a. The 2025 China National Round consists of two (2) phases: a written round (Memorials) and an oral round (Hearings).

b. The ICC China Organizing Committee will invite the top twenty-seven Teams of the written round in term of memorials scores to participate in the oral round.

c. If two or more Teams rank in 27th place, the Team with the highest memorials score before penalties will proceed to the oral round.

d. In case that a team withdraws or forfeits, the ICC China Organizing Committee reserves the right to invite the team ranked in 28th place in the written round to replace them. This procedure may apply to any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.

Article 13 General Round

a. The general round of oral round will be held on 8 March 2025.

b. The best 9 teams with the highest scores in the General Round will be qualified to the Semi-Final Round. The score of each team in the General Round will be calculated as follows: Memorials scores + Oral scores in the General Round – penalty points. If the score of two or more than two teams is the same in ranking 9th place, the team with highest oral scores in the General Round will be qualified to participate in the Semi-

Final Round.

c. In the event a Semi-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the ICC China Organizing Committee reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team that did not advance to the Semi-Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.

Article 14 Semi-Final and Final Round

- a. The Semi-Final Round and the Final Round will be held on 9 March 2025.
- b. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the previous oral Hearings will not be taken into account in the Semi-Final Round and Final Round.
- c. Decision of the winning team of each match-up of the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will apply Article 20 (g) and Article 21(e) of the Rules of Procedure. The three (3) winning Team in each match-up of the Semi-Final Round shall proceed to the Final Round.
- d. The pairing, role and team member in the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will apply Article 20 (c) (e) (f) and Article 21 (b) (c) of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 15 Additional Round

- a. The six (6) Semi-Finalist teams not proceeding to the Final Round shall participate in an Additional Round. The two (2) winning team of each match-up of the Additional Round and the three (3) Finalist teams will be qualified to participate in the international round in the Hague, the Netherlands.
- b. The result of the written Memorials and the result of the previous oral Hearings will not be taken into account in the Additional Round.
- c. Decision of the winning team of each match-up of the Additional Round will apply Article 20 (g) of the Rules of Procedure.

Chapter 4 Memorials Provisions

Article 16 Submission of Memorials

Each team must submit their three (3) Memorials for each role to the ICC China Organizing Committee, prior to 7 January 2025, at 18:00 (6:00 p.m.) China Standard Time. A team will be disqualified from the competition if it does not submit its Memorials in time.

Article 17 Application of Rules of Procedure

With regard to the requirements of memorials and penalties therein, Article 22 (b)-(d), Articles 23-28 and Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure shall apply.

Article 18 Score Structure Memorials

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall quality of the memorial.
- b. The scoring factors to be considered, without regard to their order of importance, shall include, but not limited to:
 - i. Proper and articulate organization and analysis.
 - ii. Knowledge of the facts and mastery of law.
 - iii. Citation of authoritative source.
 - iv. Persuasiveness, evidence of original thought, rationality of logic and reasoning.
 - v. Grammar, style and expression.

Article 19 Memorial Penalties and Appeals

- a. Memorial Penalties shall be deducted from scores of a Team's Memorial.
- b. The ICC China Organizing Committee will organize a formal examination of the Memorials submitted by each team, and the results of penalties will be sent back to the teams by 14 January 2025.
- c. Any written appeals against the decision to impose penalties should be submitted prior to 24:00 16 January 2025 via email. The Committee's reply to the written appeals is final.

Article 20 Plagiarism

Plagiarism in Memorials will be sanctioned with the disqualification of the team, which is final and irrevocable.

Chapter 5: Oral Round Procedures

Article 21 General Procedures

With regard to the procedures during oral round, Articles 32 (b)-(k), 33, 35, 37, 39, 40 and 41 of the Rules of Procedure shall apply.

Article 22 Speakers

- a. Each team will have three (3) individual speakers. Every individual speaker of a team will represent Defense Counsel, Prosecution Counsel, or Victims' Counsel. Each team has the right to decide which speaker will participate in any rebuttal. Each speaker shall have the opportunity to address, and any speaker for the prosecution, defense, and victim respectively shall not change their role in the General Round. The researcher shall not participate in presentation or rebuttal.
- b. 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.
- c. It is strictly forbidden to read memorials word by word in each hearing.

Article 23 Bench Composition

- a. Each Bench will be composed of one (1) or two (2) Judges and one (1) Presiding Judge (appointed by the ICC China Organizing Committee or by consensus by the Judges participating in the Hearing) and shall be assisted by a Bench Clerk. The Bench Members shall possess the knowledge and expertise in international (criminal) law.
- b. Any member of participating teams cannot be appointed as a Bench Member.
- c. Judges for the hearings can be different from the Bench evaluating the Memorials. All the Bench Members shall read the case and other explanatory documents provided by the case writer(s).
- d. 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 feedback on details of the Case.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. The Judges shall score the General Round of oral round in accordance with the scoring criteria provided for in the Supplementary Rules, decide the winning team in

the Semi-Final Round and Additional Round without scoring, and decide the attribution of awards in the Final Round (including best oralist, winner team, first runner-up team and second runner-up team)..

h. Objections to the composition of the bench by the participating team based on conflict of interest or prior relationship, etc. shall be communicated to the clerk prior to the commencement of the trial. Objections shall be made public.

Article 24 Deliberation

- a. The deliberation of bench will be less than 15 minutes.
- b. The comments and suggestions made by the bench after the proceeding will be less than 15 minutes.

Article 25 Scoring

- a. For General Round, 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.

Chapter 6 The Awards

Article 26 Categories of the Awards

According to each team's scoring in memorials and oral rounds, the following awards will be given by the ICC China Organizing Committee:

a. Memorial Awards

Best Memorial Awards -- the teams with top five total scores in the written round.

b. Speaker Awards

Best Oralist -- the speaker with the best performance as decided by the bench in the Final Round.

Best Prosecution Counsel Speaker -- the prosecution counsel speaker with the highest oral score awarded in the General Round.

Best Defense Counsel Speaker -- the defense counsel speaker with the highest oral score awarded in the General Round.

Best Victims' Counsel Speaker -- the victims' counsel speaker with the highest oral score awarded in the General Round.

c. Final Awards

Winner Team -- the winning team as decided by the bench in the Final Round.

First Runner-up Team -- the first runner-up team as decided by the bench in the Final Round.

Second Runner-up Team -- the second runner-up team as decided by the bench in the Final Round.

d. Comprehensive Awards

The Comprehensive Awards are given in accordance with each team's overall scores in the General Round and memorials. The number of awards will be determined by the Chinese ICC Committee based on the participation and the principles of ensuring the competition quality and encouraging more participation.

e. Other awards determined by the ICC China Organizing Committee.

Article 27 Certificates

Upon completion of the entire program, each participating coach and member shall receive a certificate of participation.