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Moot Court Competition



# GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PLEADINGS

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**elsa**

The European Law Students' Association

*These guidelines shall assist the teams while preparing their Oral Pleadings. They form an integral part of the Rules and thus must be followed.*

## **1 Oral Pleadings**

- 1.1 Please read Section 7 of the Rules for the general instructions.
- 1.2 ELSA International will inform the teams about their pleading times no later than the night before the Round begins.
- 1.3 Before the Main Oral Pleading, Teams shall introduce themselves and their team members (this time will not be included in the Main Oral Pleading time).
  - 1.3.1 The team introduction shall include the names of the team members, their order of speaking (including the team members that will just assist the speakers), the issues which will be dealt with and the team member that will be responsible for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- 1.4 The Bench will give the floor first to the Applicant and then to the Respondent. After their main oral pleadings (35 minutes per Team), the Applicant may present their rebuttal and the Respondent their sur-rebuttal (5 minutes per Team).
- 1.5 Questions and clarifications from the Bench are allowed at any time and these are included in the main oral pleading time.
- 1.6 Books, pleading cards or time cards are allowed during the Oral Pleadings. Teams are allowed to use devices for the inquiry of information and timekeeping purposes only; devices must not be used for communication purposes.
- 1.7 A Team may request extra time to enable it to complete its Main Oral Pleadings or to answer Judges' questions. The President of the Bench has the discretion to grant the request.
- 1.8 The dress code for the pleadings is strictly business.
- 1.9 Timekeepers will be present during the pleadings to keep track of the time and assist the Bench and the teams with time cards.
- 1.10 The scoring of the oral pleadings can be up to 40 points in total. The Bench has to consider the following points: i) identification of legal issues and relevant legal framework,



ii) knowledge of ECHR and relevant case law, iii) quality of legal analysis and persuasiveness of arguments and iv) style, each weighing equally.

*Best of luck to all participating teams!*