

Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition



THE RULES OF THE
HELGA PEDERSEN
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

elsa

The European Law Students' Association

PREFACE

The European Court of Human Rights is an international court based in Strasbourg. It consists of a number of judges equal to the number of member states of the Council of Europe that have ratified the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Currently, there are forty-seven member states. The Court's judges sit in their individual capacity and do not represent any state.

The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is an international treaty, which only member states of the Council of Europe may sign. The Convention, which establishes the Court and regulates how it is to function, contains a list of the rights and guarantees which the states have undertaken to respect.

The European Law Students' Association is the world's largest independent, a non-profit, non-political association run by and for law students and young lawyers. The ELSA Vision is: "A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity". Contributing to legal education and promoting Human Rights awareness are among the central aims of the association. Through various academically focused projects and events, ELSA provides opportunities for law students and young lawyers to apply theory in practice and to learn about other legal systems.

The Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is a simulated hearing of the European Court of Human Rights. The competition is Europe-wide and open to all those currently studying in ELSA countries or countries that are members of the Council of Europe. The competition is held in English.

The aims of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition are:

- 1. To encourage law students to develop their legal skills;*
- 2. To develop law students' knowledge and to raise their awareness on Human Rights; and*
- 3. To contribute to the ongoing discussion regarding Human Rights.*

We wish the best of luck to all participating teams,

Maciej Łodziński

Vice President in charge of Competitions

International Board of ELSA 2023/2024

Table of Contents

Definitions	1
1. General Remarks	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Responsible Organs	3
1.3 Structure of the Competition	4
2. Documents	4
2.1 Case	4
2.2 Clarification Questions	4
2.3 Timeline	5
2.4 Other	5
3. Teams	5
3.1 Team Eligibility	5
3.2 Team Member Eligibility	6
3.3 Team Composition	6
3.4 Registration	6
3.5 Coaches	6
3.6 Exemption	7
3.7 Fee	7
4. Written Round	7
4.1 Dispatching	7
4.2 Content	8
4.3 Formatting	8
4.4 Penalisation	9
5. Regional Rounds	9
5.1 General	9
5.2 Structure	9
5.3 Financial Responsibilities	9
5.4 Qualification to the Final Oral Round	9
6. Final Oral Round	10
6.1 General	10

6.2	Structure	10
6.3	Financial Responsibilities	11
7.	Oral Pleadings	12
7.1	Order and Scope	12
7.2	Team Appearances	12
7.3	Main Oral Pleadings	12
7.4	Rebuttal and Sur-Rebuttal	13
7.5	Timekeeping	13
7.6	Judge	13
7.7	Feedback	14
7.8	Devices	15
7.9	Penalties	15
8.	Scores and Penalties	15
8.1	Reporting	15
8.2	Scoring	15
8.3	Penalties	16
9.	Awards	19
10.	Expected Standards of Behaviour	19
10.1	Anonymity	19
10.2	Communication	19
10.3	Plagiarism	20
10.4	Judges	20
10.5	Coaches	20
11.	Appendices	21
	Appendix A - Calculation of Scores	21

Definitions

In these Rules

“Rules”	means the present Rules of the Competition
“Competition”	means the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition
“ELSA International”	means the International Board of ELSA and the relevant members of the International Team
“Academic Board”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 1.2.3
“Adjudicator”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 1.2.4
“Team”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 3
“University”	means law schools, law faculties, universities and institutions offering a law degree programme
“Applicant”	means the person applying to the court
“Respondent”	means the state responding to the court
“Bench”	means the human rights law experts who judge the Written Submissions and the Oral Pleadings
“Bench Memorandum”	means the memorandum drafted by the case author on the overall applicable submissions to the case
“Judges”	has the meaning given to it in Rules 7.6.1
“President”	has the meaning given to it in Rules 7.6.2
“Written Round”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 4
“Written Submissions”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 4.2 and 4.3
“Plagiarism”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 10.3
“Regional Rounds”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 5
“Final Oral Round”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 6

“Moot”	means the period from entry into the pleading room to exit from the pleading room in each round
“Oral Pleadings”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 7
“Main Oral Pleadings”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 7.3
“Rebuttal”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 7.4
“Sur-Rebuttal”	has the meaning given to it in Rule 7.4
“Team Score”	means the overall score of the Oral Pleadings of a Team
“Website”	means the website helgapedersenmoot.elsa.org , maintained by ELSA International for the purposes of the Competition

1. General Remarks

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 These Rules govern the Competition. The Rules may be revised or updated at any time and modifications shall be applicable as soon as they are published on the website. The Vice President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA has the power to interpret the existing rules, in cooperation with the Academic Board.

1.2 Responsible Organs

1.2.1 ELSA International is responsible for the organisation of the Competition. The responsibility is exercised by the Vice President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA.

1.2.2 The Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights offer organisational and academic support to the Competition.

1.2.3 The Academic Board is responsible for the high quality of the Competition by advising ELSA International. It is appointed by the International Board of ELSA and is composed of experts with demonstrated experience in the field of human rights. More specifically, its responsibilities include:

- a) Assisting in the development, revision and interpretation of the Rules, Guidelines for Written Submissions, Guidelines for Oral Submissions, and the Guidelines for Scoring;
- b) Advising ELSA International on the appointment of the case authors and the Judges; and
- c) Reviewing the case and Bench Memorandum.

1.2.4 The Adjudicator is responsible for assisting in the resolution of disputes and recommending penalties to ELSA International. The Adjudicator is appointed by ELSA International and must be independent of the Teams and the Judges. The Adjudicator may be seized by Teams, Competition organisers or Judges in matters related to allegations of breach of the Rules or other conduct which may lead, or which may be perceived to lead, to securing an undue advantage in the Competition. The Adjudicator shall hear the parties and, if necessary, the competent Competition officials and render a summary ruling. The Adjudicator's rulings shall be final and without appeal. The Adjudicator may impose one or more of the following penalties:

- a) Warning against the misconducting Team. The warning must be made public and communicated to all Teams as well as the university that the misconducting Team represents;

- b) Deduction of points from the Team Score of the misconducting Team; and
- c) Recommendation to ELSA International that the misconducting Team be disqualified.

1.3 Structure of the Competition

- 1.3.1 The Competition comprises three phases; the Written Round, the Regional Rounds, and the Final Oral Round.
- 1.3.2 Teams are obliged to submit two Written Submissions; one on behalf of the Applicant and one on behalf of the Respondent.
- 1.3.3 Teams are obliged to participate in their assigned Regional Round. They shall plead once on behalf of the Applicant and once on behalf of the Respondent.
- 1.3.4 The language of the Competition is English.

2. Documents

2.1 Case

- 2.1.1 The Competition is based on a fictitious case prepared by the authors each year in cooperation with ELSA International and the Academic Board. The case concerns alleged violations of human rights guaranteed by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
- 2.1.2 ELSA International is responsible for uploading the case to the Website when the Competition is launched.
- 2.1.3 In the Written Submissions and Oral Pleadings, the case must be referred to as it is titled, i.e. “[Applicant] v [Respondent]”.

2.2 Clarification Questions

- 2.2.1 Teams may submit up to three clarification questions each, prior to the deadline as set out in the timeline as referred to in Rule 2.3. The questions must be submitted via the relevant form on the Website.
- 2.2.2 The case authors may refuse to answer clarification questions if they are deemed to be unrealistic or irrelevant or dealing with matters which teams may reasonably be expected to work out for themselves in the context of the Competition.

- 2.2.3 The answers to the clarification questions shall be published on the Website, following the timeline as referred to in Rule 2.3.

2.3 Timeline

- 2.3.1 ELSA International is responsible for uploading a timeline to the Website when the Competition is launched. The timeline shall contain all relevant deadlines for the Competition.
- 2.3.2 Any penalties that refer to deadlines, refer to the deadlines as set out in the timeline.

2.4 Other

- 2.4.1 ELSA International is responsible for uploading the following documents to the Website when the competition is launched: Guidelines for Written Submissions, Guidelines for Oral Pleadings and the Written Submission Template.
- 2.4.2 All materials developed by or for ELSA International for the Competition, including but not limited to the Rules, the Guidelines for Written Submissions, the Guidelines for Oral Pleadings, the Scoring Guidelines, the case and the Written Submissions, shall be the property of ELSA International.

3. Teams

3.1 Team Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Any University with a law degree programme located in a Member State of ELSA or of the Council of Europe is eligible to participate in the Competition. If a University with a law degree programme that is located in a Member State of ELSA or of the Council of Europe has an additional campus located outside the borders of a Member State of ELSA or of the Council of Europe, such a campus is nonetheless allowed to participate in the Competition on behalf of the University.
- 3.1.2 Only one Team per University is allowed to participate. If different independent Universities are located in the same city, each may send a separate Team. If more than one Team per University registers, ELSA International will contact the University, which shall select the participating Team within five working days. Should the University not wish to do so or fail to inform ELSA International of its selected team within the deadline, the first Team to register from that University shall be eligible to participate.

3.1.3 All team members must be from the same University.

3.2 Team Member Eligibility

3.2.1 Students are eligible to participate in the Competition if they:

- a) Are enrolled in bachelors', masters' or equivalent studies in law at an eligible university at the time of registration;
- b) Are not and have not been working as a practising lawyer/jurist/judge or been similarly engaged in professional law practice (work experience such as internships/traineeships and assisting roles are acceptable);
- c) Are not involved in the organisation of the current edition of the Competition;
- d) Have not previously participated in the Final Oral Round of the Competition. A student has not previously participated in the Final Oral Round if their Team participated in the Final Oral Round, but they were personally prevented from participating because of external difficulties (force majeure, visa issues, etc.); and
- e) Have not previously acted as a Judge of the Competition.

3.3 Team Composition

3.3.1 Teams shall consist of two to four students.

3.3.2 Each Team shall have a Team captain who shall be one of the team members and shall be responsible for general communication with ELSA International.

3.3.3 Teams may not change their composition after the registration deadline.

3.4 Registration

3.4.1 Teams wishing to register for the Competition must complete the registration procedure published on the Website prior to the deadline for registration as set out in the timeline as referred to in Rule 2.3.

3.4.2 Following the registration deadline, ELSA International will issue a team number for the Team and confirm the registration. All further communication must be made with reference to this team number only.

3.5 Coaches

- 3.5.1 Each Team may have a maximum of two team coaches.
- 3.5.2 A team coach may only assist in general discussions concerning the case, linguistic matters and presentational skills. They should provide no substantive advice on the legal issues arising in the case and should not participate in the preparation of the Written Submissions or the Oral Pleadings.
- 3.5.3 Team coaches may not simultaneously hold the position of team captain.
- 3.5.4 The team coaches may attend the Oral Pleadings of their Team, but may not communicate with other Teams, timekeepers or Judges.
- 3.5.5 During the Oral Pleadings of their Teams, team coaches may not be seated with or near their Teams.
- 3.5.6 The Teams and team coaches may not attend the Oral Pleadings of other Teams.
- 3.5.7 Teams may not change their coaches after the registration deadline.
- 3.5.8 Rule 3.6.6 does not apply once the Team has been eliminated.

3.6 Exemption

- 3.6.1 Where exceptional circumstances exist, an exemption from any requirement of this Rule 3 may be allowed only by the Vice President in charge of Competitions of ELSA upon a reasoned request submitted by Teams via email.

3.7 Fee

- 3.7.1 Upon registration, each team is liable to pay a registration fee of 100 EUR to ELSA International. Registration is not complete until the fee has been paid.

4. Written Round

4.1 Dispatching

- 4.1.1 Teams must submit their Written Submissions via the relevant form on the Website before 23:59 CET on the deadline as set out in the timeline as referred to in Rule 2.3. Written Submissions shall not be considered received if they are submitted via other means than the form on the Website, e.g. via email. Late submissions shall be dealt with in accordance with the penalty system set out in Rule 8.3.

4.2 Content

4.2.1 The Written Submissions must include:

- a) A cover page in accordance with the template uploaded to the Website;
- b) A one-page summary of the submissions (in bullet points);
- c) A table of contents;
- d) A list of references; and
- e) A list of any abbreviations used.

4.3 Formatting

4.3.1 The Written Submissions must comply with the following formatting and page-limit instructions (cover page shall follow the template provided by ELSA International):

- a) Paper size: A4;
- b) Font style: Times New Roman;
- c) Font Size: headings – 14 pt, main body - 12 pt;
- d) Margins: 2.54 cm;
- e) Line spacing: 1.5;
- f) Maximum pages: twenty, excluding the content listed in Rule 4.2.1;
- g) Footnotes font style and size: Times New Roman 10 pt; and
- h) Text colour: #000000

4.3.2 Each set of Written Submissions shall be saved and submitted as a single and separate word document.

4.3.3 Each set of Written Submissions shall be titled “Written Submissions [Party] - [Team number]”.

4.3.4 The “track changes” option must be disabled in each set of Written Submissions.

4.3.5 Each set of Written Submissions must be accompanied by a declaration in a separate document signed by all members of the Team thus verifying that the Written Submission is a product of their own unaided work and not a result of plagiarism.

4.4 Penalisation

- 4.4.1 Any breach of the Rule related to the Written Round will lead to penalty points issued by ELSA International in accordance with Rule 8.3.

5. Regional Rounds

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 There shall be three Regional Rounds of the Competition hosted by ELSA International and/or ELSA National/Local Groups.
- 5.1.2 Each Team shall be randomly assigned to a Regional Round.

5.2 Structure

- 5.2.1 In the Regional Rounds, each Team shall plead twice, once on behalf of the Applicant and once on behalf of the Respondent.
- 5.2.2 The pleading schedule is determined by the drawing of lots at the opening ceremony by the Head of the Organising Committee of the respective Regional Round or by ELSA International.
- 5.2.3 The scores of the Written Submissions shall not be taken into consideration while calculating the scores of the Regional Rounds.

5.3 Financial Responsibilities

- 5.3.1 Teams shall bear all financial costs assessed by ELSA International in the form of a participation fee for the Regional Round. Accommodation and travel costs to the Regional Round shall not be covered by the participation fee.
- 5.3.2 Upon registration, a Team binds itself to the financial obligations connected with their assigned Regional Round.

5.4 Qualification to the Final Oral Round

- 5.4.1 18 Teams that qualify to the Final Oral Round shall be determined as follows:
- a) 12 of these 18 Teams shall be selected based on their Qualification Score proportionally to the number of Teams at the Regional Rounds. The number of Teams qualifying from each Regional Round will correspond to the

number of Teams at that Regional Round as a percentage of the overall number of Teams participating in Regional Rounds. Where that percentage results in a number of Teams which is not a whole number, ELSA International shall exercise its discretion in the final determination of the number of teams qualifying from each Regional Round.

- b) ELSA International shall create a unified list of the Teams from all Regional Rounds based on their Qualification Scores excluding the qualified 12 Teams under Rule 1.3.4 (a). The remaining 6 Teams qualifying to the Final Oral Round shall be the Teams with the highest Qualification Scores based on this list.
- c) The Qualification Score shall be calculated in accordance with Rule 8.2.5.

6. Final Oral Round

6.1 General

6.1.1 The Final Oral Round shall take place in Strasbourg, France.

6.2 Structure

6.2.1 The Final Oral Round shall consist of Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and a Grand Final.

6.2.2 The Preliminary Round is composed of 18 separate Moots. Each Team pleads twice, once as Applicant and once as Respondent. The pleading schedule is determined by the drawing of lots at the opening ceremony by the Vice President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA.

6.2.3 The 8 Teams with the highest scores in the Preliminary Rounds will participate in the Quarter Finals. The score shall be an average of their score as Applicant and as Respondent. The Teams shall be assigned as follows:

- a) In Quarter Final 1, the Team with the highest overall score will plead against the Team with the eighth highest overall score.
- b) In Quarter Final 2, the Team with the second-highest overall score will plead against the Team with the seventh-highest overall score.
- c) In Quarter Final 3, the Team with the third-highest overall score will plead against the Team with the sixth-highest overall score.
- d) In Quarter Final 4, the Team with the fourth-highest overall score will plead against the Team with the fifth-highest overall score.

- 6.2.4 The winner of each Quarter-Final is the Team with the higher score. The winner of each Quarter Final will qualify for the Semi Finals. The Teams shall be assigned as follows:
- a) In Semi Final 1, the winner of Quarter Final 1 shall plead against the winner of Quarter Final 4.
 - b) In Semi Final 2, the winner of Quarter Final 2 shall plead against the winner of Quarter Final 3.
- 6.2.5 The winner of each Semi Final is the Team with the higher score. The winner of each Semi Final will participate in the Grand Final.
- 6.2.6 The winners of the Semi, Quarter Finals and Grand Final shall be decided by the Bench applying the criteria set out in Rule 8.2.3.
- 6.2.7 If Teams have pleaded against each other in earlier rounds, they shall plead in the opposite roles in the next Moot. Otherwise, the pleading roles shall be determined by a random draw by the Vice President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA.
- 6.2.8 Before each round, Teams representing the Applicant must send a summary of their Main Oral Pleadings to ELSA International for the purposes of disclosure to the Teams representing the Respondent. This summary must be no more than one A4 page and must be submitted to ELSA International via email no later than the deadline specified by ELSA International. It will immediately be transmitted to the relevant Respondents. Providing the summary later than the specified deadline will lead to penalty points issued by ELSA International in accordance with Rule 8.3.
- 6.2.9 Teams shall be scored solely on their Oral Pleadings. The Qualification Scores shall not be taken into consideration unless there is a tie between Teams following the Preliminary Rounds. In this case, the Team with the highest Qualification Score shall proceed to the Quarter Finals.

6.3 Financial Responsibilities

- 6.3.1 Teams shall bear all financial costs assessed by ELSA International in the form of a participation fee for the Final Oral Round. Accommodation and travel costs to the Final Oral Round shall not be covered by the participation fee.
- 6.3.2 Upon registration, a Team binds itself to the financial obligations connected with the Final Oral Round, if selected.

7. Oral Pleadings

7.1 Order and Scope

- 7.1.1 The order of the Oral Pleadings is:
- a) Applicant: Team Appearances
 - b) Respondent: Team Appearances
 - c) Applicant: Main Oral Pleadings
 - d) Respondent: Main Oral Pleadings
 - e) Applicant: Rebuttal
 - f) Respondent: Sur-Rebuttal
- 7.1.2 The scope of the Oral Pleadings of a Team does not depend on the scope of its Written Submissions.

7.2 Team Appearances

- 7.2.1 Prior to the start of the Oral Pleadings, each Team shall fill in their Team Appearance sheet and submit it to Timekeepers by the specified deadline. Upon the start of the Oral Pleadings, one team member shall introduce all the team members, the nominated orators and the structure of their Main Oral Pleadings. The Team Appearances shall not exceed three (3) minutes per Team and must match the information as provided on the sheet.

7.3 Main Oral Pleadings

- 7.3.1 Each Team shall have a total of thirty-five (35) minutes to present its Main Oral Pleadings, including the time needed to address the Judges' questions. This time does not include the three minutes provided for the Team Appearances.
- 7.3.2 A minimum of two team members shall present the Main Oral Pleadings.
- 7.3.3 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 and grant up to additional five (5) minutes to the Team.
- 7.3.4 If the Applicant seeks and is granted extra time during its Main Oral Pleadings, that time will also be added automatically to the time allowed to the Respondent for its Main Oral Pleadings.

- 7.3.5 If the Respondent seeks and is granted extra time during its Main Oral Pleadings, that time will also be added automatically to the time allowed to the Applicant for its Rebuttal.
- 7.3.6 Extra time may be requested only during the Main Oral Pleadings. Any requests made after the expiry of allocated time shall not be taken into account.

7.4 Rebuttal and Sur-Rebuttal

- 7.4.1 Each Team shall be given a total of five (5) minutes to present its Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal, including the time needed to answer the Judges' questions.
- 7.4.2 A Team may not ask for additional time during its Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal.
- 7.4.3 Only one team member shall present the Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal. Any team member may answer Judges' questions put forward during the Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal when invited to respond by the speaking team member.
- 7.4.4 If the allocated minutes for the Main Oral Pleadings are not fully used, they will not be added to the time allowed for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal.
- 7.4.5 The scope of the Rebuttal is limited to the issues raised in the Respondent's Main Oral Pleadings only and the scope of the Sur-Rebuttal is limited to the issues raised in the Applicant's Rebuttal.

7.5 Timekeeping

- 7.5.1 Timekeepers will indicate the elapsed time towards Judges and Teams at intervals of five (5) minutes, and where there are three (3), two (2) and one (1) minute left, and when the end of the time allocated is reached.
- 7.5.2 Each Moot must have a minimum of two timekeepers.

7.6 Judge

- 7.6.1 The Judges must be human rights experts selected by ELSA International in consultation with the Academic Board. Regional Round Organisers shall also be included in the consultation process for the selection of the Judges of the Regional Rounds. The Judges must not have assisted any Team taking part in the current edition of the Competition.
- 7.6.2 The Judges will sit in benches. Each Bench will have a President.

- 7.6.3 The Judges may direct questions or comments to the Teams at any time during the Oral Pleadings.
- 7.6.4 The Judges must keep the contents of the Bench Memorandum strictly confidential from Teams and the coaches throughout the Regional Rounds and the Final Oral Round.
- 7.6.5 For Regional Rounds:
- a) The Teams shall be scored by a Bench of three Judges in accordance with the Scoring Guidelines and the Bench Memorandum.
- 7.6.6 For the Final Oral Round:
- a) During the Preliminary Rounds, each Team shall be scored by a Bench consisting of three Judges, in accordance with the Scoring Guidelines and the Bench Memorandum.
 - b) During the Quarter Finals, each Team shall be scored by a Bench consisting of three to five Judges, in accordance with the Scoring Guidelines and the Bench Memorandum.
 - c) During the Semi Finals, each Team shall be scored by a Bench consisting of five to seven Judges, in accordance with the Scoring Guidelines and the Bench Memorandum.
 - d) During the Grand Final, each Team shall be scored by a Bench consisting of seven to nine Judges, in accordance with the Scoring Guidelines and the Bench Memorandum.
 - e) In each round, the size of the Bench shall be the same for all Moots in that round.

7.7 Feedback

- 7.7.1 The Judges may provide direct feedback to Teams at the conclusion of the Moot. Such feedback must comply with the following conditions:
- a) it must not concern the substantive aspects of the case or reveal any of the contents of the Bench Memorandum;
 - b) it must not reveal individual scores;
 - c) it must not reveal the result of the round;
 - d) it must not discuss or inquire about the country of origin of the Teams and the institution they represent.

7.8 Devices

- 7.8.1 Teams may use one (1) device for the inquiry of information only. One (1) additional device may be used for timekeeping.
- 7.8.2 All electronic devices must be in silent mode.

7.9 Penalties

- 7.9.1 The failure to comply with any part of this Rule 7 will not lead to disqualification of the Team but shall be taken into account when evaluating the individual and team performance and attributing scores.

8. Scores and Penalties

8.1 Reporting

- 8.1.1 ELSA International will publish the scores of both the Written Submissions and the Oral Pleadings in a final report after the Competition is finished.

8.2 Scoring

- 8.2.1 Written Submissions shall be scored on the following grounds:
- i) identification of legal issues and relevant legal framework,
 - ii) knowledge of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as well as relevant case-law,
 - iii) quality of legal analysis and persuasiveness of arguments, and
 - iv) style, each weighing equally.
- 8.2.2 The Written Submission Score comprises the average of the scores for the Written Submission for Applicant including penalty points and the scores for the Written Submission for Respondent including penalty points. The formula for calculation is found in Appendix A.
- 8.2.3 Oral Pleadings shall be scored on the following grounds:
- i) identification of legal issues and relevant legal framework,
 - ii) knowledge of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as well as relevant case law,
 - iii) quality of legal analysis and persuasiveness of arguments and
 - iv) style, each weighing equally.

- 8.2.4 The Regional Round Score comprises the average of the Team Score for Applicant and the Team Score for Respondent. The formula for calculation is found in Appendix A.
- 8.2.5 The Qualification Score comprises the average of the Written Submission Score and the Regional Round Score. The formula for calculation is found in Appendix A.
- 8.2.6 The Preliminary Round Score comprises the average of the Team Score for Applicant and the Team Score for Respondent. The formula for calculation is found in Appendix A.

8.3 Penalties

8.3.1 Penalties shall be imposed in accordance with the following table:

Action	Penalty
Team coach actively taking part in the drafting of Written Submissions	Disqualification
Team coach actively taking part in Oral Pleadings including but not limited to the preparation stage	Disqualification
Change of member composition after registration without prior authorisation of the Vice President for Competitions	Disqualification
Change of coach after registration without prior authorisation of the Vice President for Competitions	Disqualification
Receiving support or advice from a Judge	Disqualification
One day delay past the given deadline in the dispatch of documents	0.5 point per WS
Two days delay past given deadline in the dispatch of documents	1 point per WS

Three days delay past given deadline in the dispatch of documents	2 points per WS
Four days delay past given deadline in the dispatch of documents	Disqualification
Plagiarism in violation of Rule 10.3	1-10 points per WS or disqualification, depending on the severity and extent of plagiarism
Failure to include a one-page summary	1 point per WS
Failure to include a table of contents	0.5 point per WS
Failure to include a list of references	0.5 point per WS
Failure to include a list of abbreviations used	0.5 point per WS
Exceeds the maximum length of the one-page summary	0.5 point per page
Exceeds the maximum length of the Written Submission – excluding contents mentioned in Rule 4.2.1 (i.e. 20 pages for content)	0.5 point per page
The electronic copy of Written Submissions dispatched in the wrong format (i.e. if NOT as a Word document and/or NOT as a single file)	1.5 point per WS
Failure to meet the request of ELSA International to submit Written Submissions in Word format within 24 hours	Disqualification
Failure to use correct font (Times New Roman)	0.5 point per WS
Failure to use correct font size (12 pt)	0.5 point per WS
Failure to use correct line spacing (1.5)	0.5 point per WS

Failure to use correct font and font size for footnotes (Times New Roman, 10 pt)	0.5 point per WS
Failure to use the correct font colour (#000000)	0.5 point per WS
Failure to use correct cover page	0.5 points per WS
Failure to correctly identify party (e.g. putting “Written Submission for Applicant” on the WS for Respondent)	0.5 points per WS
Failure to correctly title the document in accordance with Rule 4.3.3	0.5 points per WS
Failure to disable track changes in accordance with Rule 4.3.4	0.5 point per WS
Applied “kerning” to the document (Written submissions should be in standard letter spacing)	0.5 point per WS
Failure to use A4 electronic page with 2.54 cm margins	0.5 point per WS
Incomplete Title of Word Document	0.5 point per WS
Failure to submit the summary of Main Oral Pleadings by the specified deadline	0.5 point per Moot
Violation of Rules on anonymity requirement in Rule 10.1.1	Disqualification

8.3.2 Where reference is made in the above table to disqualification, the Vice President in charge of Competitions of ELSA has discretion in exceptional circumstances to allow a Team to continue to participate and, if appropriate, to substitute disqualification for a lesser penalty.

9. Awards

- 9.1.1 The awards of the Competition are the following:
- a) The Winner - “The Council of Europe Award”
 - b) The Runner up
 - c) The Best Applicant’s Written Submission
 - d) The Best Respondent’s Written Submission
 - e) The Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds (each orator must present oral pleadings for the Applicant and the Respondent to be entitled for the award)
 - f) The Best Orator of the Quarter Finals
 - g) The Best Orator of the Semi Finals
 - h) The Best Orator of the Grand Final - “The Liaison Office of the Council of Europe Award”
- 9.1.2 The “Council of Europe Award” is a one-month traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights for each member of the winning Team.
- 9.1.3 The “Liaison Office of the Council of Europe Award” is a traineeship at the Liaison Office of the Council of Europe in Brussels for the winner of the Best Orator of the Grand Final.

10. Expected Standards of Behaviour

10.1 Anonymity

- 10.1.1 It is prohibited to disclose information regarding a Team’s country of origin or the institution they represent to the judges in the Written Submissions, Regional Rounds and the Final Oral Round.
- 10.1.2 Teams are allowed to announce their participation in the Competition in printed and online media. They must, however, keep their team number confidential.
- 10.1.3 This Rule 10.1 applies as long as the Team is still in the Competition; no such prohibition applies to Teams that have been eliminated.

10.2 Communication

- 10.2.1 Teams and team coaches are prohibited from engaging in communication with any Judge on the issue of the case before the end of the Final Oral Round.

10.3 Plagiarism

10.3.1 Teams shall not commit plagiarism. Plagiarism constitutes the dishonest presentation of non-original work or ideas as one's original work or ideas, regardless of whether it is intentional or unintentional. A Team has committed plagiarism if they include direct or indirect references to the work or ideas of another without giving due acknowledgement such as using quotation marks and proper citation of sources.

10.4 Judges

10.4.1 The Judges shall not provide support or advice concerning the case or the Competition to any Team or team coach during the Competition, including the Regional Rounds and the Final Oral Round.

10.5 Coaches

10.5.1 Coaches are not considered to be team members and must act in good faith in respect of the Competition.

11. Appendices

Appendix A: Calculation of Scores.

Appendix A - Calculation of Scores

The Written Submission Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{WSA1+WSA2-PA}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{WSR1+WSR2-PR}{2}\right)}{2}$$

The Regional Round Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{A1+A2+A3}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{R1+R2+R3}{3}\right)}{2}$$

The Qualification Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{WSS + RRS}{2}$$

The Preliminary Round Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{A1+A2+A3}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{R1+R2+R3}{3}\right)}{2}$$