

Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition



ORAL PLEADING GUIDELINES

HELGA PEDERSEN
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

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elsa

The European Law Students' Association



Oral Pleading Guidelines for Participants

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. Please read section 5 of the Rules for the general instructions.
2. ELSA International will inform the teams about their pleading times no later than the night before the Round begins.
3. The dress code for the pleadings is strictly business.
4. 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). The team introduction shall include:
 - a) the names of the Team members;
 - b) Their order of speaking (including the team members that will just assist the speakers);
 - c) The issues which will be dealt with and the team member that will be responsible for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
5. During the introductions, the Teams shall refrain from touching on the substance of their submissions, which they will present during their Main Oral Pleadings.
6. 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).
7. Questions and clarifications from the Bench are allowed at any time and these are included in the main oral pleading time.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Timekeepers will be present during the pleadings to keep track of the time and assist the Bench and the teams with time cards.



Oral Pleading Guidelines for Participants

11. 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.

We wish the best of luck to all participating teams,

Inês Ribeiro

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Vice President in charge of Competitions

International Board of ELSA 2025/2026