

THE
JOHN H. JACKSON
MOOT COURT COMPETITION
25TH ANNIVERSARY



GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS



The European Law Students' Association

25th EDITION | 2026 - 2027

Guidelines for Written Submissions of the 25th Edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

1. General remarks

- 1.1 The Score of each Oral Preliminary Round also includes the Score of the respective Written Submissions.
- 1.2 40% of the Overall Written Submission Scores will count towards the Overall Team Score at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds of an Oral Pleading Round.
- 1.3 The Written Submission scores are not taken into account in the Semi-Finals or the Grand Final of the Regional Rounds. Those stages are decided on the Oral Pleading scores alone (Rule 4.3.7).
- 1.4 Both Written Submissions must be submitted through the relevant form on the Website before 23:59 CET on the deadline set out in the Timeline. A late submission attracts penalty points under Appendix A of the Rules, and a Team that has not submitted within three (3) days of the deadline will be disqualified (Rules 4.1.1 and 4.1.5).
- 1.5 Once a Written Submission has been submitted it may not be modified (Rule 4.1.6).
- 1.6 The Written Submissions must be the Team's own unaided work. Faculty, advisors and coaches may help identify the issues, comment on the persuasiveness of arguments the students have already drafted, suggest other arguments to consider and assist with language, but the final product must be the work of the students. A Team that does not obey this rule will be disqualified (Rule 3.5.8).
- 1.7 Each set of Written Submissions must be accompanied by a Declaration of Honour, in a separate document signed by all members of the Team, confirming that the Written Submission is the Team's own unaided work, that the Team coaches did not participate in its preparation and that it is not the result of plagiarism. The Declaration of Honour must also declare any use made of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of the Written Submission (Rule 4.1.3).
- 1.8 Do not identify your Team, its members, your university or your country anywhere in the Written Submissions. Refer to your Team only by its Team number. A Panellist who works out which Team a submission belongs to must stop scoring it, and identifying your Team by name attracts penalty points under Appendix A of the Rules (Rule 4.3.3).

2. Form Requirements

- 2.1 Format your document according to the Form Requirements at the commencement.
- 2.2 The WS shall be written under the following instructions:
 1. A4 size paper
 2. Font: Times New Roman
 3. Font Size: 12
 4. Kerning is not permitted
 5. Margins of 2.54 cm on the top, bottom and both sides
 6. 1.5 interlinear space for the text
 7. Font colour: black (#000000)
 8. Page numbering in both the General Part and the Substantive Part
- 2.3 Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, font 10 points and used for legal references only. They shall not contain any additional substantive parts of the pleadings.
- 2.4 Either use *track changes* as this will help you keep a record of changes or use a draft document system (e.g. JHJMCC_Complainant_Written Submission_Draft #22).
- 2.5 Always create a minimum of two back up electronic copies of your work.
- 2.6 Double-check your Written Submissions before sending them to ensure they comply with the Rules.
- 2.7 Submit each Written Submission in both Word and PDF format. The title of the electronic document must include the party and the Team number, for example JHJMCC_Team001_ComplainantWS_20262027.doc (Rule 4.1.2).
- 2.8 Before sending the documents, remove any document properties that would reveal their author (Rule 4.1.4). In Word this is done through File > Info > Check for Issues > Inspect Document.

3. Contents of the Written Submissions

- 3.1 The WS shall contain the following:
 1. A cover page, giving the Team number, the name of the Case and the type of document, and correctly identifying the party. An example can be found on the Website;
 2. General Part;

3. A table of contents;
 4. A list of references;
 5. A list of abbreviations;
 6. Substantive Part:
 - a. A summary;
 - b. A statement of the facts (brief description);
 - c. Identification of the measures at issue;
 - d. Legal Pleadings (detailed explanation);
 - e. Request for Findings (specific request what the panel should find).
- 3.2 Each submission shall not exceed 35 pages, not including the cover page. The following lengths of each part must be obeyed:
1. Table of Contents, List of References and List of Abbreviations: maximum nine (9) pages;
 2. Statements of Facts: maximum two (2) pages;
 3. Summary: maximum two (2) pages;
 4. Identification of the Measures at Issue and Legal Pleadings: maximum twenty (20) pages;
 5. Request for Findings: maximum two (2) pages.
- 3.3 Once you understand the legal claims as presented by the Case Author, you must identify the relevant WTO Law at issue and analyse the facts in that context.
- 3.4 Be sure to review the specific WTO Agreements identified by the Case Author, as well as any other relevant policy (trade, health, intellectual property etc.).
- 3.5 Identify the relevant WTO Agreements and specific articles as well as the elements required to substantiate or reject the legal claims.
- 3.6 Keep your arguments simple and use plain English so that every reader can understand your proposition.
- 3.7 Use simple structures, avoid too many words to express a single concept, and also avoid using double negatives or the passive voice.
- 3.8 Pay attention to the use of correct English grammar and punctuation.
- 3.9 Authorities in footnotes may be referred to in an abbreviated form if the full reference is stated in the List of References and List of Abbreviations.
- 3.10 National legislation and cases should be cited as generally done in that particular jurisdiction.

3.11 Example of a correct footnote taken from a 2008- 2009 John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition Written Submission:

1. Marceau and Trachtman (2002), 822–3; Tamiotti (2007), 217.
 2. Howse and Regan (2000); Hudec (2000), 198; Hudec (1998), 635.
 3. ABR, EC–Bananas III, [233]; ABR, Canada–Autos, [140]; VCLT, Art 31(1).
 4. PR, Canada—Autos, [10.23]; PR, EC—Biotech, [7.2514]; ABR, DR—Cigarettes, [96].
- Example of an incorrect footnote taken from a 2008-2009 John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition Written Submission:

“The TBT does not contain provisions that exude its compatibility with the GATT. Therefore, if the EA is found to be TBT consistent, said finding, does not exclude the application of the GATT. (Marceau and Trachtman 2002, 875).”

4. Resources

- 4.1 The Case Author/s has/have provided a list of relevant primary material at the end of the Case.
- 4.2 The best research material may be found on the WTO’s website (WTO Analytical Indexes, general information).
- 4.3 World Trade Law is a good site for information on WTO Agreements and Cases www.worldtradelaw.net
- 4.4 Trade Law Guide is also an innovative tool for researching WTO law www.tradelawguide.com