

The 11th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot (2025)

(An Inter-University Competition for Mongolia)

The Rules

/Last updated on 8 October 2025/

General	Rules 1-2
Participating Teams	Rules 3-5
The Mooting Problem	Rules 6
The Memorials	Rule 7
Oral Hearings	Rules 8-15
Assistance	Rules 16
Judging and Scoring	Rules 17-20
Awards	Rules 21
Interpretation and Application of Rules	Rule 22

General

1. The 11th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot (2025) (the “Competition”) shall be run under the auspices of an Organizing Committee, comprising representatives from the Mongolian Red Cross Society (“MRCS”), the International Committee of the Red Cross (“ICRC”), Administrative Court of First Instance in Capital of Mongolia (“ACFICM”), the Mongolian Bar Association (“MBA”), and the Association of Mongolian Advocates, which shall have the power to:
 - i. plan and organize the Competition;
 - ii. set Rules for the Moot, which the interpretation of should exclusively rest with the Committee;
 - iii. decide the criteria of participating teams and invite such teams to join the Competition;
 - iv. invite and appoint judges and other persons who can assist in the Competition;
 - v. invite and appoint collaborators for the Competition;
 - vi. invite and appoint partners and sponsors for the Competition;
 - vii. delegate all or any of its power to a Secretary to administer the Competition.
- 2a. The date for the General Round and Final Round of the Competition shall **be 15 to 16 November 2025**. Teams are expected to follow the Competition itinerary, which will be announced in due course. The Organizing Committee will give due notice on the venue of the Competition.
- 2b. Unless otherwise notified by the Organizing Committee, the Organizing Committee will convene an orientation meeting, which all teams must attend, on Saturday, **25 October 2025**, at the Headquarters of the MRCS. At the meeting, the Organizing Committee will provide a briefing to all participating teams.

Participating Teams

Composition

- 3a. The Competition shall be open to not more than three teams from each participating institution. The Organizing Committee shall have the discretion to

grant an exemption to allow more teams from a single institution.

- 3b. Each team shall have two students as mooters. Each participating institution may also opt to include one student as a researcher (“Researcher”).

Eligibility

- 4a. A person may register as a member of a team if he or she is registered as a student of the relevant participating institution as of 15 September 2025, either for a first degree in law (LL.B.) or for any university degree below the level of a doctorate.
- 4b. A person is ineligible to participate in the Competition if he or she, as of 15 September 2024:
- i. Holds or has held a full-time or part-time teaching post in law at any tertiary institution;
 - ii. Has been admitted or licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction;
 - iii. Has held the position of the “International Humanitarian Law Officer” under the employment of the Mongolian Red Cross Society;
 - iv. Has already participated twice in the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Inter-University Competition for Asia-Pacific Region organized in Hong Kong in previous years, regardless of acting as a mooter or a researcher.
- 4c. Participating students need not be nationals of, or normally resident in, the country in which their participating institution is located.
- 4d. The Organizing Committee shall have the discretion to:
- i. determine the eligibility of participating students in case of disputable circumstances.

Registration

- 5a. Each participating institution must register with the Organizing Committee via email (ihl@redcross.mn) on or before 24 October 2025, indicating:
- i. The full names of the two mooters and the researchers, if any;
 - ii. The degree or programme in which each mooter and the researcher, if any, is enrolled (e.g., LL.B.);
 - iii. The number of times the mooters and the researcher, if any, have participated in the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Inter-University Competition for Asia-Pacific Region organized in Hong Kong before;
 - iv. The team coach, if any;
 - v. The name, e-mail address, mobile number of a contact person, who should be a student, as delegated by the participating institution.

(Please be reminded that each participating institution must notify the Organizing Committee via phone (+976 9167 0011, Mr. Manlaibaatar Oyuntuul, International Humanitarian Law Officer, Mongolian Red Cross Society) after registration.)

Team Coach

- 5b. Team coaches should be a law teacher, a legal practitioner, or a legal officer of a Red Cross/Red Crescent National Society. The team coach of individual team, if any, should be responsible to verify the declaration made by its participating students (refer to Rule 4b).

- 5c. To expand the pool of judges and to share their expertise, team coaches may be exceptionally invited to participate as judges of General Rounds of the Competition.
- 5d. The Secretary will confirm any such judge appointment with the team coaches by 15 October 2024.
- 5e. Appointed team coaches shall uphold the principles of fairness and confidentiality in exercising their roles as judges, so that no participating team will be preferentially or unfairly treated.

Contact Person

- 5f. Contact persons for a participating institution will be sent:
 - i. The individual moot number assigned to the team;
 - ii. Memorials of opposing teams to be met in General Rounds (refer to Rule 8b) to each member of its team;
 - iii. Any other relevant material or information.
- 5g. The contact person each participating institution is responsible for:
 - i. Registering the team with the Organizing Committee;
 - ii. Distributing the information and material (refer to Rule 5f) to the team;
 - iii. Conveying enquiries or other correspondence for that team to the Organizing Committee.

Communication between each team and the Secretary through any person other than the relevant contact person for that team is at the risk of the team.

Substitute Members

- 5h. A team will normally not be permitted to make any substitution of its mooters and researcher after they have been registered under Rule 5a.
- 5i. In exceptional circumstances and with the express prior approval of the Organizing Committee, a team may for the oral hearings substitute a student registered as its mooter with the student registered as its researcher. Any other substitution of registered members of a team shall be permitted only in extraordinary circumstances and with the express prior approval of the Organizing Committee.
- 5j. The eligibility of substitute members will be the same as other participating students pursuant to Rule 4.

The Mooting Problem

Selection

- 6a. The Organizing Committee shall have the sole power to determine the mooting problem to be used in the Competition pursuant to Rule 1.

Distribution

- 6b. The mooting problem will be released tentatively in June 2025 across the Asia-Pacific region.

Clarification

- 6c. Requests for clarification shall not be entertained unless the clarification would have material significance in the context of the mooting problem. In particular, teams should bear in mind that the mooting problem provides a limited set of facts. A team should not use a request clarification merely for convenience to obtain additional facts to those contained in the mooting problem.
- 6d. Before making any requests for clarification, a team must discuss the necessity for making such a request with the team coach or the contact person for their team. Any request for clarification of the mooting problem shall be brought to the attention of the Organizing Committee via e-mail (to ihl@redcross.mn) by 29 October 2024. A request for clarification, if any, must include a brief explanation of the expected material significance pursuant to Rule 6c.
- 6e. The Organizing Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine whether it is necessary to respond to any request for clarification and to resolve such request in a manner in which it thinks fit. If the Organizing Committee deems it necessary to respond to a request for clarification, such clarification shall be distributed to all teams by 3 November 2024. Clarifications issued shall become part of the mooting problem.

Receipt of Problem and Clarifications

- 6f. Any team that is unable to receive the mooting problem or clarification in the manner distributed should notify the Organizing Committee immediately via e-mail or telephone by 27 October 2024, to arrange an alternative method of distribution.

The Memorials

Form and Length

- 7a. Each team shall submit two memorials for the Prosecutor and the Defendant respectively.
- 7b. Each memorial (including body of the text, citations, and footnotes) shall be typed with 1 ½ line-spacing, using 'Times New Roman' font in size 12. Citations must be in the body of the text or in footnotes (not endnotes) and using a proper legal citation standard.
- 7c. Each memorial must have two cover sheets:
 - i. The first cover sheet must indicate (a) the name of the participating institution, (b) the names of the two mooters of the team in order of the oral hearings throughout the competition and the name of the researcher, if any, (c) whether the memorial is for the Prosecutor or the Defendant, and (d) word count of the memorial; and
 - ii. The second cover sheet must have on it only (a) the team's individual moot number which was supplied to the contact person of the team (see Rule 5f), (b) whether the memorial is for the Prosecutor or the Defendant. (The purpose of this requirement is to protect the anonymity of the teams to ensure no prejudice or bias is shown in the assessment of the memorials.), and (c) the word count of the memorial.

- 7d. Each memorial (excluding cover sheets) shall not exceed 2500 words in length in total, including titles and subtitles, citations, footnotes, endnotes, sources, etc. Omitting space between individual words to circumvent the word limit would be subject to mark deduction at the discretion of the Organizing Committee. In the event that any team submits a memorial exceeding 2500 words, the Organizing Committee shall deduct marks from that team's memorial score out of 100 (calculated pursuant to Rule 7i) according to the following scale:
- i. 1-100 words in excess – deduction of 5 marks;
 - ii. 101-200 words in excess – deduction of 10 marks;
 - iii. 201-400 words in excess – deduction of 20 marks; and
 - iv. Over 400 words in excess – deduction of 30 marks.

Submission of Memorials

- 7e. Each team shall submit both of its Prosecutor and Defendant memorials in electronic form in two formats both Microsoft Word for Windows (.doc or .docx) and pdf, and **should be identical via a single e-mail** (to ihl@redcross.mn) by 11:59 p.m. (Ulaanbaatar time, GMT+8), **7 November 2025**.

No other data format will be accepted without the express prior consent of the Organizing Committee. Submission of hard copy is not required.

- 7f. The Memorial as submitted via electronic copy should also add the page number starting on the second page of the memorial (e.g., P.1/32; P.2/32). Sample of the submission format will be provided via e-mail to the contact person.
- 7g. In the event that any team fails to submit both of its Prosecutor and Defendant memorials on time (pursuant to Rule 7e), the Organizing Committee shall deduct 20 marks for each day from each of the team's memorial scores out of 100 (calculated pursuant to Rule 7i). Any team that fails to submit their memorial by **9 November 2025**, under any circumstances, shall be considered as withdrawing from the Competition.

Revision and Scoring of Memorials

- 7h. A memorial may not be revised for any purpose whatsoever once it has been submitted.
- 7i. Each memorial shall be assessed by no less than two judges, at least one of whom is a current or former judge, lawyer, or law teacher, or otherwise experienced in the field of international law. The judges will be supplied with copies of the memorials with cover sheets showing only the teams' individual moot number and word count.

The maximum score for each memorial shall be 100 points. The final score for each memorial shall be the average of the scores awarded by the judges assessing their memorials. When the scores given by two judges on one memorial have a disparity of 15 points or more, the memorial will be sent to the third judge for scoring. Among the two original scores, the one closer to the third will be taken as the registered one.

- 7j. If an odd number of teams submit a memorial to the Competition, the lowest-scoring team shall be considered withdrawn. Otherwise, the score of the memorial

will not be included when calculating the score of the General Rounds and will be announced only after the General Rounds. An appeal will only be entertained on deduction of marks, and the result of the appeal will only affect the Best Memorial Award.

Oral Hearings

General Rounds

- 8a. The General Rounds consist of two oral rounds. Each team pleads once as Prosecutor and once as Defendant. The Organizing Committee will determine which Prosecutor and Defendant teams will meet each other in the General Rounds of the Competition by means of a random draw.
- 8b. The Organizing Committee will distribute to the respective contact persons electronic copies of memorials of the opposing teams, pursuant to Rule 5f, on or before 10 November 2025. The teams should prepare their own materials, including the memorials of the opposing team for the General Rounds, to be used in the court room, if needed.
- 8c. Any team that is unable to receive the memorials of its opposing teams should check with their respective contact person first, while the contact person should notify the Organizing Committee for arranging an alternative method of distribution.

Semi-final and Final Rounds

- 8d. The four (4) winning teams in General Rounds (calculation pursuant to Rule 17) shall enter the Semi-final Round. The Organizing Committee will determine the role to be played by each of the four (4) teams (Prosecutor or Defendant) by means of a random draw after the results of the General Rounds have been determined. The winning teams shall be decided by the panel of judges before which they pleaded respectively.
- 8e. The Organizing Committee shall make available a copy of each team's memorial to its opposing team in the Semi-final Rounds.
- 8f. The two (2) winning teams of each pair of opposing teams of the Semi-final Round shall enter the Final Round. The Organizing Committee will determine the role to be played by the two (2) teams (Prosecutor or Defendant) by means of a random draw after completion of Semi Final Round. The winning team shall be decided by the panel of judges before which they pleaded respectively.
- 8g. In the Semi-final and Final Rounds, the teams may play the same or a different role as in the preceding rounds. They may also compete against teams which they have met in previous rounds.

Proceedings before the Court

- 9a. Each team shall consist of a first mooter and a second mooter, as designated by the team or the relevant participating institution.
- 9b. The pleading order of the two mooters for each team shall be consistent throughout the competition, regardless of whether the team pleads as Prosecutor or Defendant, and shall follow the same order as marked on their memorials (refer to Rule 7c).

- 10a. In the event that a team fails to appear for a scheduled oral hearing, the round of the Competition in concern will proceed as an *ex parte* hearing in the following order:
- i. A court clerk will confirm the presence of both teams.
 - ii. If one team is absent, the court clerk will inform the judges and notify the Secretary.
 - iii. Once the Secretary has been notified, the court clerk will then call the moot number pertaining to the absent team two times inside and two times outside the court room with an interval of 30 seconds each.
 - iv. If the team whose number is called fails to appear, the court clerk will announce to the court that there is no appearance by the team called.
 - v. In a General Round, the oral hearing will then proceed as an *ex parte* hearing. The team appearing will receive the score pursuant to Rule 17e.
 - vi. In the Semi-Final Round, the oral hearing will then proceed as an *ex parte* hearing. The appearing team will move automatically to the next round.
- 10b. In the event that only one mooter appears for a scheduled oral hearing, or one mooter withdraws in the midst of the oral hearing, the court clerk will notify the Organizing Committee. Once the Organizing Committee has been notified, the court clerk will announce the start or continuation of the oral hearing. The oral hearing will proceed as follows:
- i. The single mooter shall speak in the oral hearing in the order pursuant to Rule 13 and receive an individual score from the judges pursuant to Rule 17c. The mooter's score shall be computed for the purpose of determining the Best Mooter pursuant to Rules 21c-d.
 - ii. There shall be no rebuttal or surrebuttal.
 - iii. In the General Rounds, the team with only one mooter will forfeit all scores as a team for that round of the Competition. The opposing team with both mooters present will be heard and scored as provided in the Rules.
 - iv. In the Semi-Final Rounds, the team with both mooters will move automatically to the next round.
11. Each team member shall refrain from disclosing the name of his or her institution at all times until the announcement of the results of the General Rounds. Team members or any person associated with a team shall also refrain from disclosing the name of his or her institution to any person acting as a judge whether during or outside the hearings until the announcement of the final round results of the Competition. Disclosure may subject the mooters concerned to a deduction mark of 5 points from the mooter's individual score. The deductions shall also affect the team's overall score.
- 12a. Each team shall speak for no more than 40 minutes including rebuttal and surrebuttal. The first mooter and the second mooter for each team shall each speak individually for a minimum of 15 minutes. The speaking time of judges is also included within the 40 minutes.
- 12b. Each team may reserve up to 10 minutes for rebuttal (in the case of a Prosecutor team) or surrebuttal (in the case of a Defendant team) which the time reserved is included in the total allotted time of 40 minutes.

- 12c. The scope of the Prosecutor's rebuttal is limited to responding to the Defendant's oral hearings, and the scope of the Defendant's surrebuttal is limited to responding to the Prosecutor's rebuttal.
- 12d. Each team shall indicate at the beginning of its oral argument, how long each mooter will speak and how much time it intends to reserve for rebuttal or surrebuttal.
- 12e. Either the first mooter or the second mooter may address the court in rebuttal or surrebuttal. The time reserved for rebuttal or surrebuttal is not included in the minimum time for each mooter to speak as specified in Rule 12a.
- 12f. The court may, in its discretion, extend the time for each mooter for good cause, provided that the maximum extension of time granted to any mooter shall not exceed 5 minutes. In the Final Round, the maximum extension of time granted to any mooter is at the discretion of the Court.
- 12g. Time shall be kept by a court clerk, who will indicate to each mooter by appropriate means when they have:
 - i. 5 minutes left;
 - ii. 1 minute left;
 - iii. To conclude their address forthwith.
- 13. The order of the oral hearings shall be:
 - i. Prosecutor's first mooter;
 - ii. Prosecutor's second mooter;
 - iii. Defendant's first mooter;
 - iv. Defendant's second mooter;
 - v. Rebuttal, if any (Prosecutor's first or second mooter);
 - vi. Surrebuttal, if any (Defendant's first or second mooter).
- 14a. All oral hearings are open to the public. Subject to venue capacity, the Organizers may limit the number of spectators in a room in any rounds of the Competition. The presence of team coaches or other spectators affiliated with a team is permitted in a courtroom during an oral hearing in which that team is competing.
- 14b. Every courtesy shall be given to mooters during oral hearings. Communication between team members shall be in writing to prevent disruption, and teams and spectators shall avoid all unnecessary noise or other inappropriate behavior which distracts from the argument in progress.
- 14c. Team members seated at the counsel table shall not be permitted to communicate with spectators, or with any other external person except the judges. Without limiting the foregoing, with respect to teams that have researchers, mooters shall not be permitted to communicate with the researchers during the oral hearings.
- 14d. Team members seated at the counsel table shall not operate, for any purpose, mobile phones, laptop computers, PDAs, or any other electronic devices, including but not limited to those which are internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant messaging capabilities. All devices must be turned off and removed from sight as

soon as entering the courtroom until the judges' deliberation.

- 14e. The official time of the oral hearing shall be indicated by the bailiff. No one other than the bailiff may display timecards or otherwise signal to the mooters how much time is left. Teams may use silent digital or analog watches at the counsel table. However, the use of any such device which, in addition to keeping time, is capable of either (a) sending or receiving data to another person or to the internet, or (b) storing text data, shall be prohibited at the counsel table as a violation of Rule 14(d), even if such functionality is turned off.
- 14f. Team members or persons directly associated with any team may only attend the General Rounds in which their team is competing.
- 14g. Scouting is prohibited. Persons directly associated with any team shall not attend or record an oral hearing involving one or more teams against which their team may compete in the subsequent rounds.
- 15. Violation of Rules 14 d-g should be brought to the attention of the Secretary immediately, without disturbing the oral hearing, or immediately after the oral hearing is finished. The team concerned may be subject to a mark deduction at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

Assistance

Memorials

- 16a. All research, writing and editing relating to the memorials must be work of the team members registered pursuant to Rule 5a.

Assistance from Staff and Other Advisors

- 16b. Staff of the participating institutions and coaches, assistants or advisors should restrict their advice to general matters, such as to a discussion of the issues, suggestions as to research sources, and a general commentary on structure, organization and flow of arguments, format, presentation, and style.

Judging and Scoring

- 17a. In the General Rounds, scoring will be based on oral hearings.
- 17b. The oral hearings shall be assessed by at least two judges in each oral hearing of the General Rounds and by at least three judges in the oral hearings of Semi-final and Final Rounds. At least one judge in each oral hearing of the General Rounds and the Semi-final Rounds, and at least two judges in the oral hearing of the Final Round, shall be a current or former judge, lawyer, or law teacher, or otherwise experienced in the field of international law. In case the number of judges cannot be consistent across all oral hearings of a particular round, due to unexpected absence of judges and no substitute can be identified, the assessment of oral presentation for competing teams will be subject to available judges who present at the oral hearing.
- 17c. In each General Round, the maximum score for each mooter shall be 100 points and the maximum score for each team's oral hearing shall be 200 points. The score for each mooter shall be the average of the scores (out of 100 points)

awarded by the judges assessing their oral presentations. The maximum score for each team shall be 200 points in each General Round, consisting of the following parts:

- i. 100 for first mooter pleading as Prosecutor / Defendant;
- ii. 100 for second mooter when pleading as Prosecutor / Defendant.

The decision of the judges of the court shall be final.

- 17d. In each General Round, the team having higher score (calculation pursuant to Rule 17c) against its opposing team in that General Round shall be considered as the winning team in that round. In the event that teams have tied on the score of a General Round, the team whose first mooter has the higher score out of 100 points for his or her oral hearings shall be considered as the winning team of that round. If a tie persists, the Organizing Committee shall discuss with the respective judges and the decision after discussion shall be final.
- 17e. The total score for each team in the General Rounds shall be 400 points, consisting of the following parts:
- i. 100 for first mooter when pleading as Prosecutor;
 - ii. 100 for second mooter when pleading as Prosecutor;
 - iii. 100 for first mooter when pleading as Defendant;
 - iv. 100 for second mooter when pleading as Defendant.
- 17f. The four (4) teams eligible to enter Semi-final Round will be determined by the following conditions:
- i. Teams winning in two General Rounds shall have the priority to enter the Semi final Round;
 - ii. In the event that, more than four (4) teams win in two General Rounds, the four (4) teams win in two General Rounds with the highest total scores (calculation pursuant to Rule 17e) among other teams, shall have the priority to enter the Semi-final Round;

In the event that, less than four (4) teams win in two General Rounds, those teams that win in either one of the General Rounds, and obtain the highest total scores (calculation pursuant to Rule 17e) among other teams shall have the priority to enter the Quarter-final Round until the total number of teams eligible to enter Semi-final Round has reached four (4);
 - iii. iv. In the event that, two or more teams have tied on the total scores, the team whose first mooter has the highest score out of 200 points for his or her oral hearings shall enter the Semi-final Round. If a tie persists, the Organizing Committee Chairperson or his/her representative shall discuss with the respective judges and the decision after discussion shall be final.
18. Copies of individual judges' scoresheets of oral hearings shall be distributed to the respective teams immediately after the announcement of the results of the General Rounds. Participating teams may appeal to the Organizing Committee through their team coach or first mooter (if in the absence of team coach) within 15 minutes if any arithmetic error is identified. The Organizing Committee shall check and rectify any errors. If such rectification affects the teams entering the Semi-final Round, the rectified results will be announced within 15 minutes after verification

of the rectification.

19. Any appeal other than arithmetic error or exceeding 15 minutes after the announcement of the results shall not be handled.
20. In the Semi-final and Final Rounds, the court will decide which is the winning team based on their oral presentation without scoring.

Awards

- 21a. The winning team of the Final Round shall be awarded a certificate and trophy, in addition the winning team of the Final Round shall earn the right to participate in Hong Kong for the 23rd Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot (2025) for Asia-Pacific Region.
- 21b. The runner up-team shall be awarded a certificate.
- 21c. The mooter with the highest average score out of 200 points in the oral hearings of the two General Rounds shall be adjudged the Best Mooter of the General Rounds and shall be awarded a certificate.
- 21d. The mooter with the second and third highest score out of 200 points in the oral hearings of the two General Rounds shall receive first and second honorable mention of the General Rounds respectively and shall each be awarded a certificate.
- 21e. The Prosecutor memorial with the highest average score out of 100 points should adjudged the Best Memorial for Prosecutor; the Defendant memorial with the highest average score out of 100 points shall be adjudged the Best Memorial for Defendant (pursuant to Rule 7i). The teams submitted such memorials shall be respectively awarded a certificate.
- 21f. The memorials with the second and third highest average score out of 100 points from each of the Prosecutor and Defendant side shall be adjudged the first and second honorable submission respectively. The teams submitted such memorials shall be respectively awarded a certificate.
- 21g. The Organizing Committee may in its discretion decide to award alternative prizes in lieu of the prizes described above.

Interpretation and Application of Rules

22. The Organizing Committee shall have absolute discretion to resolve any question concerning the interpretation and application of these rules. If there is not sufficient time for the Organizing Committee to meet, the Organizing Committee Chairperson shall have absolute discretion to resolve any such question.