

FIAE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

2025 COMPETITION RULES

1. The Moot

1.1. Firdaous Initiative for Academic Excellence (FIAE) introduces the 2025 Edition of the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, wherein students across different law schools in Africa will argue a hypothetical case on International Humanitarian Law before the yet-to-be-established African Court of Justice and Human Rights.

2. Organisers

2.1. The moot is organized by the Firdaous Initiative for Academic Excellence (FIAE) in partnership with Cavendish University Uganda. The Moot is led by the Moot Coordinators whose contact details are as outlined below:

1. Ms. Doris Kendi,
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3. Venue of the Competition

3.1. The 2025 IHL Moot will be conducted in a hybrid format: preliminary rounds virtually via Google Meet teleconferencing software and the advanced rounds physically at Cavendish University Uganda.

4. Language of the Competition

4.1. The competition will be in the English language.

5. Application Phase

- 5.1. Teams shall apply through the FIAE Official Website (<https://firdaouscentre.org/ihl-moot/>) by filling out the details required in the registration form and submitting an online application form not later than Friday, 4th April 2025, 23:59 (East African Time)
- 5.2. The application shall contain the following information:



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- a. The name of the university represented by the team;
 - b. Personal information about the team coach, and all team members
- 5.3. A team number will be assigned to each team after registering. All communications after the registration shall use the team number and not any university details.

6. Eligibility

- 6.1. Every university in Africa is invited to register 1 team, consisting of 2 students, at the undergraduate level, and in any academic discipline. A team member must be a full-time or part-time student at one of the participating universities during the calendar year of the competition.
- 6.2. Team composition is recommended to reflect gender diversity.
- 6.3. The substitution of team members after the closure of registration is not permitted. However, the organising committee has the discretion to reconsider this rule where the need arises.
- 6.4. A team member can only take part in the competition once as a participant.

7. Written Phase

- 7.1. The case will be published on the FIAE Official Website on Monday, 10 February 2025, by 12:00 Noon (East African Time).
- 7.2. Teams can submit, via the Clarification submission button on the FIAE Official Website, a maximum of three requests for clarifications of points of fact not later than Sunday, 28 February 2025, 23:59 (East African Time). The answers will be published on the FIAE Official Website on Tuesday, 4 March 2025, by 12:00 (East African Time).
- 7.3. Each team shall prepare Written Memoranda: one for the Prosecution and one for the Defence. Each Team shall research, draft, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without any help or advice from anyone outside its Team or the use of artificial intelligence tools. The team coach may only provide general advice to the team.

8. Memorial Format

- 8.1. Each Team shall submit their Written Memoranda in a Word format (DOC or DOCX format), A4 size paper. The Written Memoranda shall be in Times New Roman, size 12. Footnotes (OSCOLA Reference style) shall be in Times New Roman, size 10. Each



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page shall have a margin of 2 cm/ 0.79 inches on every side of the text. The text shall use 1.5 line spacing. Footnotes shall be single-spaced.

- 8.2. Each Memorandum (Prosecution and Defence) shall not exceed 12 pages, excluding the cover page, table of contents, list of authorities and list of abbreviations. The cover page shall be in accordance with the sample provided on the FIAE Official Website.
- 8.3. Memorial Pages shall be numbered. No information identifying the team members, their university, or country may appear in the Written Memoranda, including cover pages. The team number allocated to the team shall be used.

9. Submission of Memorials

- 9.1. The Written Memoranda shall be uploaded on the Memorial Submission page available on the FIAE Official Website not later than Friday, 2 May 2025, 23:59 (East African Time). No late submissions will be accepted.

10. Memorial Content

- 10.1. The Memorials must contain the following parts, in the following order:
 - i. Cover Page.
 - ii. Table of Contents.
 - iii. List of Abbreviations
 - iv. List of Authorities.
 - v. Statement of Jurisdiction.
 - vi. Pleadings; and
 - vii. Conclusion/Prayers.

11. Grading of Memorials

- 11.1. Independent experts shall mark the memorials. The names of the universities to which the memorials belong shall not be disclosed to the independent experts.

12. Oral Phase

- 12.1. The teams that submit their memorials in time shall qualify for the oral rounds. Each of the teams is to argue their cases twice in the oral rounds at the preliminary level; once as prosecution counsels and once as defence counsels. The best scoring sixteen (16) teams will then proceed to the round of 16.



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- 12.2. Eight (8) winning teams in the round of 16 shall subsequently qualify for the in-person rounds. Each team will argue their case in the quarter finals, with the winning four (4) teams moving on to the semifinals and the best two (2) to the finals. In the event of a tie in points at the preliminary rounds, the organising committee shall consider the teams' memorial results to decide which of the teams will proceed to the next round.
- 12.3. Hearings at the preliminary rounds will be recorded by the organisers. The finals shall be live streamed via FIAE Social Media Platforms.
- 12.4. Teams are prohibited from recording hearings of the preliminary rounds without the prior agreement of the organising committee, bench and the competing Team. The timetable for hearings will be published on the FIAE Official Website before the competition. Additional instructions regarding the organisation of the digital hearings will be provided by the organisers at least two weeks before the competition. All teams shall be required to comply with the instructions.

13. Order of Pleadings

- 13.1. The order of the pleadings in each oral round at all levels of the Competition shall be as follows: Prosecution team, Defense team, rebuttal by Prosecution team and Surrebuttal by Defense team. Both team members must act as oralists during any session, including during quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. No team may argue for longer than 35 minutes (including rebuttal and surrebuttal) during the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. One oralist may not use more than 25 minutes during the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final or final rounds. Rebuttal/Surrebuttal may not exceed 5 minutes. Only one team member has the opportunity for rebuttal/surrebuttal.
- 13.2. New issues cannot be raised in the rebuttal and sur-rebuttal (rebuttals). All issues raised by the Prosecution during the main presentation may be discussed during the rebuttal. All issues raised by the Defense during the main presentation and rebuttal may be addressed during the surrebuttal. No objection is allowed during presentation.
- 13.3. For the in-person rounds, the distribution of roles (Prosecution or Defense) will be determined by drawing lots.

14. Technological Requirements

- 14.1. Teams shall ensure that they have access to the necessary materials to participate in the competition, including a computer, microphone, video camera, and stable internet



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connection. Team members are allowed to use electronic devices, such as laptops and iPads/tablets. However, participants will not be allowed to use phones and watches during their oral submissions. The team members slated to make their submissions in a particular round shall turn their cameras on for the entire duration of the hearing. However, only the speaker who has the floor may have their microphones turned on.

- 14.2. Team members are prohibited from sharing their screens or presenting any materials. No information, signs or unique physical locations identifying the team members, their university, or country shall appear on the screen. Any virtual backgrounds must be approved by the organisers at least two weeks before the start of the competition.

15. Individuals Allowed in the Virtual Court Room

- 15.1. The following individuals shall be allowed to join the virtual hearing:

- a. The Bench;
- b. The Court Clerk;
- c. Team Members presenting the arguments;
- d. The Organisers; and
- e. Other members of the competing teams and their Coach.

- 15.2. Teams may request authorization for observers (such as family members or representatives of their university) to be provided with an external link. No more than three observers can be designated for each team. Team members pleading can choose to be in the same room or in different locations. The team coach is however not permitted to be in the same room as the team members pleading.

16. Technical Challenges

- 16.1. If team members are experiencing technical difficulties, they must inform the organisers immediately. If a team fails to join the hearing, the hearing shall proceed *ex parte*. The attending teams will present their oral pleadings and be scored by the judges. An *ex parte* hearing (upon approval by the organizing committee) may also be scheduled for the team that could not appear due to technical difficulties. In exceptional circumstances, the organisers may reschedule the entire hearing.

17. Disqualifications and Penalties

- 17.1. The organising committee has the power to disqualify a team on the basis of violations of these Rules or the spirit of the Competition. It also has the power to impose penalties, in the form of subtractions from the marks awarded, not exceeding 20 points for each



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violation. Judges may propose disqualification or penalties, but these measures will only take effect once they have been endorsed by the organising committee.

- 17.2. When the issue of disqualification or penalties arises, the organising committee, on its own motion or as a result of a team complaint, must ascertain the facts of the situation in order to determine whether a violation of the Rules has occurred. A team initiating a complaint must give notice immediately after the occurrence of the perceived violation and/or infraction to the organising committee and the team against whom the complaint is brought. If on its own motion, the organising committee investigates a possible violation, it must give timely notice to the team concerned. The concerned team will be allowed to reply to the complaints made. Where judges intend to propose disqualification or the imposition of penalties, they must inform the teams accordingly and give them time to respond at the end of a particular round.
- 17.3. Complaints pertaining specifically to oral pleadings must be submitted to the organising committee within one hour of the completion of the round in which the alleged violation occurred. Memorial and oral pleading penalty points will be assessed against the total score awarded by the judges to the team concerned in the particular round.

18. Grounds for Disqualification and Penalties

- 18.1. The organising committee may disqualify a team or impose a penalty against a team for behaviour that substantially prejudices the competition, including the following:
- a. scouting;
 - b. late submission of memorials to the Committee;
 - c. failure to comply with memorial length and form requirements;
 - d. communication between counsel table and any person (other than judges) during the oral pleadings;
 - e. engaging in poor sportsmanship;
 - f. revealing the identity of a team to the judges of a session before and after that session has taken place; and
 - g. dishonesty or other serious breaches of the spirit of the competition.

19. Modification of the Rules

- 19.1. The organisers reserve the right to modify the rules at any time without prior notice. Modifications will immediately be posted on the FIAE official website and sent to the teams for compliance.



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