



# **THE OFFICIAL RULES**

MMCS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ARBITRATION  
COMPETITION 2026 ("MIMAC 2026")

22 February 2026

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## 1. ORGANIZATION

### 1.1. Administration

Maldives Moot Court Society ("MMCS") is the organizer of the MMCS International Maritime Arbitration Competition ("MIMAC"). All materials developed for MIMAC, including but not limited to the official rules and the problem and all submitted memorials, are the sole property of MMCS. These materials may not be reproduced or used for any other purposes other than participating in or administration of MIMAC.

### 1.2. Structure

MIMAC is structured to develop advocacy skills through two key phases:

- (a) The drafting of written submissions for both claimant and respondent, and
- (b) The oral presentation of arguments before a distinguished panel of arbitration practitioners and academics.

### 1.3. Organization of Rounds

- (a) The general rounds of argument, quarter finals and the semi-finals will be conducted in an online format.
- (b) The final round of argument will be conducted in an in-person format in the Republic of Maldives.

### 1.4. Power to Amend the Rules

MMCS reserves the right to amend, modify, or revise the official rules of MIMAC at any time to address unforeseen circumstances or ensure the proper administration of MIMAC. Any changes to the official rules shall be published on the MMCS website and shall take immediate effect unless otherwise specified. All participants are bound by any such amendments.

## 2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

### 2.1. Institution/Team Eligibility

- (a) All educational institutions offering a degree or similar graduate/postgraduate qualifications or training in law, arbitration or maritime law are eligible to participate in MIMAC.
- (b) A maximum number of two teams may be registered from a single institution.
- (c) A team must consist exclusively of students enrolled in the same institution. Cross-institutional team formation is strictly prohibited.
- (d) Team members must not be admitted or licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction.
- (e) Team members are not required to be citizens of the country where their institution is located.

### 2.2. Team Composition

- (a) A team may consist of two to four team members (Standard Team) or five to eight team members (Large Team). All team members must meet the eligibility requirements specified in Rule 2.1 and complete registration as per Rule 3.
- (b) Each team may have up to two registered team advisors. Advisors may not serve as team members.
- (c) All works for MIMAC must be the exclusive work of the team members. Team members must research, write, edit and develop the legal and factual arguments for memorials and oral arguments without the assistance of persons who are not team members. Any team that receives assistance for or any other contribution to its legal or factual argument in contravention of this may be penalized or disqualified from MIMAC.
- (d) Team Advisors may only provide assistance as permitted by Rule 2.3 (a).

### 2.3. Team Advisors

(a) Team advisors registered in accordance with Rule 3 may provide advice to a team, provided such advice is restricted to:

- general instruction on the basic principles of arbitration or maritime law;
- general advice on research sources and methods;
- general advice on memorial writing techniques;
- general advice on oral advocacy techniques;
- general advice on the organization and structure of arguments in the team's written and oral arguments;
- general commentary on the quality of the team's legal and factual arguments;
- advice on the interpretation and enforcement of these rules; and
- advice as to pleading options or similar strategic decisions.

(b) Team advisors are allowed to arbitrate at MIMAC, if they have completed their first law degree or equivalent. However, team advisors are not allowed to act as an arbitrator in any of the oral rounds of their team.

## 2.4. MMCS's Discretion

MMCS retains sole discretion to determine the eligibility of institution and team members to compete at MIMAC.

## 3. TEAM REGISTRATION

### 3.1. Registration Process

Registration for MIMAC is a two-step process consisting of:

(a) Completion of the registration form available on the MMCS website by the date specified in the MIMAC schedule.

(b) Registration will only be deemed complete upon full payment of the registration fee specified in Rule 3.2 by the date specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website.

### 3.2. Registration Fee

(a) To complete the registration process, teams from the Maldives shall pay a non-refundable registration fee by the date specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website. The fee is as follows:

- Standard Team (2 - 4 team members): MVR 1,000
- Large Team (5 - 8 team members): MVR 1,000 plus an additional fee of MVR 250 per member beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> member.

(b) The registration fee should be paid by teams from Maldives to the following bank account of MMCS:

- Bank: Bank of Maldives
- Branch: Main Branch
- Account Name: MALDIVES MOOT COURT SOCIETY
- MVR Account Number: 7730000607729

(c) To complete the registration process, international teams shall pay a non-refundable registration fee by the date specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website. The fee is as follows:

- Standard Team (2 - 4 team members): USD 100
- Large Team (5 - 8 team members): USD 100 plus an additional fee of USD 25 per member beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> member.

(d) The registration fee should be paid by international teams to the following bank account of MMCS:

- Bank Name: Bank of Maldives
- Swift Code: MALBMVMV
- Branch: Main Branch
- Account Name: MALDIVES MOOT COURT SOCIETY

- Account Number USD: 7730000607730
- Bank Address: Bank of Maldives, Head Office, No. 11, Boduthakurufaanu Magu, Henvairu, 20239

(e) The registration fee is non-refundable. Once the payment has been made, it cannot be refunded or transferred under any circumstances, including withdrawal or non-participation of a team at MIMAC.

### 3.3. Team Number Assignment

After completing registration, Teams will be assigned an official team number for identification throughout MIMAC.

### 3.4. Changes to Registration

Teams may not make additions or substitutions to team members or team advisors once registered.

## 4. Moot Problem

- (a) The MIMAC moot problem revolves around a dispute involving maritime law and arbitration.
- (b) The moot problem will be made available on the MMCS website on the date specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website.
- (c) If there are any corrections and clarifications to the moot problem, it will be published on the MMCS website.
- (d) In the event of any delay from MMCS in the publication of the moot problem or the publication of clarifications or corrections, a notice will be published on the MMCS website.

## 5. MEMORIALS

### 5.1. Submission of Memorials

- (a) Each team is required to submit a memorial in support of the legal position of both the claimant and the respondent.
- (b) Memorials must be submitted on or before the deadline specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website.
- (c) Memorials must be submitted via email to [info@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org](mailto:info@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org) with the team number indicated in the subject of the email.
- (d) All parts of the memorials must be submitted in a single file in Microsoft Word format and have a .doc or .docx file extension.
- (e) Teams that fail to submit memorials for both claimant and respondent by the deadline specified in the MIMAC schedule on the MMCS website will be automatically disqualified.

## 5.2. Memorial Formatting

- (a) Each memorial must include the following sections, in the order listed:

- Front cover page,
- Table of contents,
- Index of authorities,
- Statement of facts,
- Summary of arguments,
- Arguments with point headings, and
- Prayer or conclusion.

(b) The length of each memorial must not exceed 15 pages. This page limit is inclusive of any statements of facts, summary of arguments, arguments and prayer or conclusion and footnotes. The front cover page, table of contents, index of authorities or other material that does not consist of facts, argument, discussion or conclusion are excluded from the page limit.

(c) A page refers to size 8 ½ x 11 inches or A4.

(d) The font and size of the text of all parts of the memorials, excluding the cover page and page numbers shall be in Times New Roman 11.

(e) The line spacing for all parts of the memorial must be 1.5 lines, with the exception of the front cover page, table of contents, index of authorities, and footnotes, which may use single spacing.

(f) All page margins must be at least 1 inch or 2.5 cm on each side.

(g) All citations must be included in footnotes. Citation should be clear and easily comprehensible to an international audience, regardless of familiarity with a specific legal citation style.

(h) All paragraphs containing the arguments must be numbered sequentially.

(i) The cover page of each memorial must display the team number and indicate whether the memorial is for the claimant or for the respondent.

(j) The formatting provisions set out in rule 5.2 are mandatory. Memorials that do not comply with these provisions will be disqualified and not considered for an award or honourable mention.

### 5.3. No Changes after Submission

Once the memorials have been submitted via email no revisions, supplements, or additions will be allowed.

### 5.4. Grading

(a) Memorials will be graded for both content and style. The factors memorial judges will consider include, but are not limited to, the following: legal substance; use of authority and extent of research; issue analysis; logic and reasoning; clarity and organization; persuasiveness; thoroughness; style; grammar; spelling; citation frequency and form; and compliance with MIMAC rules, including formatting rules in 5.2.

(b) While arbitrators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the teams, they are not required to do so.

(c) Team rankings for the memorials will not be released to the Teams until after the close of MIMAC.

## 5.5. Plagiarism

Any memorials that include exact or paraphrased text from any source, whether from hard copy or on the web, must set out that text in quotation marks and give the citation to the source. Failure to give a proper citation constitutes as plagiarism. Any memorials that violate this rule will be automatically disqualified.

## 6. ORAL ARGUMENTS PROCEDURE

### 6.1 Duration of Arguments

(a) Each team will plead two times in the general rounds, once as claimant and once as respondent.

(b) The oral presentation of each team is in principle thirty minutes. The team should allocate the time available between two oralists. However, the tribunal may extend the time limits stated as long as no team is allowed more than forty-five minutes in total to present their argument, including the time necessary to answer the questions of the arbitral tribunal. It is the arbitral tribunal's responsibility to ensure that the teams are treated fairly.

### 6.2 Arguments

During oral arguments, teams are not restricted to plead the arguments in their written memorials.

### 6.3 Order of presentation

(a) There is no set way of how issues should be plead. Some arbitral tribunals may ask one team to present its argument on all of the issues before the other team is permitted to present its argument. Other arbitral tribunals may ask both teams to argue one issue first before they both argue in respect of a second issue. Normally the party who has raised the issue will argue first. Therefore, normally the claimant would argue first, if it is to present its arguments on all of the issues before the respondent is permitted to argue. However, if the respondent has raised an objection, the

arbitral tribunal would normally ask the objecting party to present its arguments on that issue before the other party responds to it.

(b) The arbitrators will decide whether rebuttal arguments will be permitted. Whether or not rebuttal will be allowed can be expected to change from one argument to the next. Each Team may reserve up to two minutes for rebuttal or surrebuttal.

#### 6.4 Questions by Arbitrators

During oral arguments, the arbitrators are expected to act the way they would act in a real arbitration, taking into account that MIMAC is an educational exercise. Some arbitrators may interrupt an oral argument with persistent or even aggressive questioning. Other arbitrators may listen to an entire argument without asking any questions. Therefore, teams should be prepared for all scenarios.

#### 6.5 Scoring

(a) Generally, the tribunals will consist of three arbitrators, but a pleading may also proceed with two arbitrators.

(b) Each arbitrator will score each of the oral advocates on a scale of 50 to 100. The scores of the two oral advocates will be added together to constitute the team score for that particular oral argument. Each team can score a maximum of 200 points per arbitrator per oral hearing. Arbitrators will score the oral arguments without knowledge of the results of earlier arguments or evaluation of memorials.

(c) Each individual arbitrator retains the discretion to decide the individual scores given to an oral advocate. There is no requirement that the arbitral tribunal agree on the scores. However, the arbitral tribunals are encouraged to discuss their scoring privately among themselves at the end of a pleading, prior to submitting the scores to MMCS.

(d) Where MMCS notices a considerable discrepancy in scoring, it will attempt to discuss the reasons with the tribunal member or members concerned and either confirm or moderate a score.

An arbitrator whose score varies considerably from the other two will be invited to confirm or amend the score given.

(e) In the event that an arbitrator fails to submit a score, or where a pleading has proceeded with only two arbitrators instead of three, the missing score will be the average of the scores provided by the two arbitrators who have submitted scores.

## 6.6 Rounds

(a) After the general rounds, the scores of each team for its oral presentation in the two oral arguments in the general rounds will be tallied. The top 8 teams that have obtained the highest total scores in the general rounds of argument will proceed to the quarter finals. From the quarter finals, the top 4 teams that have obtained the highest total scores will meet in the semi-finals.

(b) Team rankings and scores from the General Rounds will not be released to the Teams until after the close of MIMAC.

(c) The two winners of the Semi-Finals will meet in the Final Round. The Final Round will take place in an in-person format in the Republic of Maldives.

(d) In the General Rounds, MMCS will assign the roles of claimant and respondent. In the quarter finals, semi-finals and final round, the decision as to which team will be claimant and which will be respondent will be determined by a draw of lots.

## 6.7 Spectator Presence

Only MMCS, the arbitral tribunal, Team Members (excluding the two oralists), and their Advisors are permitted to observe the general rounds of argument and semi-finals. All observers must mute their microphones and disable their cameras while observing. The final round will be open to the public and will be recorded.

## 6.8 Technical Difficulties

In the event of technical difficulties, the oral arguments will proceed as directed by MIMAC. If a team fails to join the oral arguments, the arguments will continue ex parte after a waiting period of 25 minutes.

## 6.9. Practice Pleadings

Teams may organize practice pleadings involving the MIMAC Problem as part of their preparation. However, Teams are strictly prohibited from conducting practice pleadings with any team they are scheduled to compete in any oral rounds of MIMAC.

## 6.10. General Provisions

- (a) The exact dates, times, and links for online rounds will be communicated to teams in advance.
- (b) Teams must ensure stable internet connectivity for the online rounds.
- (c) The two teams advancing to the Final Round will be responsible for covering all travel expenses to Malé, Republic of Maldives, including airfare, accommodation and any other related expense. These expenses will not be covered by MMCS.

## 7. Awards

- (a) The awards given in MIMAC are:
  - Winning Team - awarded to the team that wins the final round of MIMAC.
  - Runner-up team - awarded to the team that finished as the runner-up in the final round of MIMAC.
  - Best Individual Oralist - awarded to the individual advocate with the highest average score during the general rounds of argument.
  - Best written Memorial for Claimant - awarded to the team with the best written Memorial for the claimant.
  - Best written Memorial for Respondent - awarded to the team with the best written memorial for the respondent.

(b) Certificates will be issued to all team members who win any of the awards listed in rule 7 (a). If a team or participant receives an honourable mention in any of the categories, the same will be reflected in the website of MMCS. Participation certificates will also be issued to all teams participating in MIMAC, showing the team members' names exactly as submitted. Teams are responsible for ensuring that names are spelled correctly. Achievement and participation certificates will be sent by email within one month after completion of MIMAC.

(c) Awards, including but not limited to cash prizes and professional opportunities, will be announced and outlined in detail on the MMCS website throughout the course of MIMAC, as they become available. These awards will be based on various achievements and may include career development opportunities, networking prospects, internships, and other professional rewards that provide valuable experiences for participants.

(d) Additionally, if any championship trophy is awarded to the winning team, they will be presented on a rolling basis. The winning team will be required to hand over the championship trophy to MMCS for the next edition of MIMAC for presentation to the subsequent winners.

## **8. Interpretation of the Official Rules**

Requests for interpretation of these rules, should be addressed to MMCS. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents, or other decisions are at the sole discretion of MMCS.

## **9. Contact Details**

All communications with regard to MIMAC should be sent by email to MMCS: [info@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org](mailto:info@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org)

Please ensure that all communications to MMCS is copied to the below referenced emails as well.

- [secretary@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org](mailto:secretary@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org)
- [moots@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org](mailto:moots@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org)
- [adr@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org](mailto:adr@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org)