



THE OFFICIAL RULES

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

21 June 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) The first team member listed in the registration form shall by default be designated as the primary contact person. The primary contact person shall be responsible for receiving any communications or materials from MMCS and for ensuring the timely dissemination of any communications or materials to all other team members.
- (c) Each team may have up to two registered team advisors. Advisors may not serve as team members. If there are two teams from a single institution, they may have the same team advisors for both their teams.
- (d) 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.

(e) 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 serve as arbitrators at MIMAC, provided that they have completed their first law degree or equivalent. However, team advisors shall not act as an arbitrator in any oral rounds involving their own teams or the teams against which their teams are scheduled to plead, nor shall they evaluate the memorials submitted by their own teams or the teams against which their teams are scheduled to plead.

2.4. MMCS's Discretion

MMCS retains sole discretion to determine the eligibility of institutions, team members, team advisors and arbitrators to participate 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 4th 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 4th 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) Any charges associated with payment of the registration fee, including but not limited to bank charges, correspondent or intermediary bank charges or any other transaction-related costs, shall be solely the responsibility of the participating teams. Teams are responsible for calculating and including such charges when making payment to ensure that the full registration fee is received without any shortfall. Any shortfall in the amount received shall remain payable by the team. In the event of an overpayment, the excess amount shall be retained by MMCS and maybe applied towards participation of the institution in a future edition of MIMAC.

(f) 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 shall be assigned an official team number for identification throughout MIMAC. Teams shall clearly indicate the assigned team number in all communications and materials sent to MMCS.

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) Once the moot problem is made available, each team may submit a maximum of 3 requests for corrections or clarifications to the moot problem. The request shall be sent in a single email to info@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org by the date specified in the MIMAC schedule available in the MMCS website.
- (d) If there are any corrections and clarifications to the moot problem, it will be published on the MMCS website.
- (e) 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 written 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 with the team number indicated in the subject of the email.

(d) The claimant and respondent memorials, each containing all required parts, shall be submitted as a separate single file in searchable PDF format with each file having a .pdf file extension, and not exceeding 1.5 MB in size per each memorial.

(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) All formatting provisions set out in rule 5.2 are mandatory. Any memorial that violates these provisions will not be considered for an award or honourable mention.

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

- Cover page,
- Table of contents,
- Index of authorities,
- Statement of facts,
- Summary of arguments,
- Arguments with point headings, and
- Request for relief.

(c) The cover page of each memorial must display: the full form of MIMAC with the year; the logo of the participating institution and where the logo does not include the name of the institution in English language, the institution name must be stated alongside the logo; team number, the name of the parties to the dispute; whether the memorial is for the claimant or for the respondent; and the full names of the team members.

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

(e) All citations must be in the text of the memorial and not in footnotes or endnotes. Citations in the text should be in shortened form. The full citation should be given in the index of authorities. The index of authorities must reference to each paragraph in the memorial where the authority is

cited. Citation should be clear and easily comprehensible to an international audience, regardless of familiarity with a specific legal citation style.

(f) Each page of the memorial, excluding the cover page must include a header and a footer. The header must indicate the team number and whether the memorial is for the claimant or the respondent. The font and size of the header text shall be Times New Roman 11. The footer must indicate the page number. The table of contents and the index of authorities must indicate the page number using Roman numerals (I, II, III, etc.). Commencing from the statement of facts, the page number must be displayed in standard numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.). The font and size of the footer text shall be Times New Roman 10.

(g) The prayer for relief must state the date of submission of the memorial and shall be signed by all team members, whose names shall be indicated therein.

(h) The length of each memorial must not exceed 20 pages. This page limit is inclusive of the statements of facts, summary of arguments, arguments and prayer for relief. The cover page, table of contents and index of authorities that does not consist of facts, argument or discussion are excluded from the page limit.

(i) The font and size of the text of all parts of the memorials, excluding the cover page, header and the footer, shall be Times New Roman 12 and the text shall be formatted with justified alignment.

(j) A page refers to size 8 ½ x 11 inches or A4 and all pages of the memorial must be in white colour.

(k) 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, and index of authorities, which may use single spacing.

(l) All page margins must be at least 1 inch or 2.5 cm on each side. The use of page borders or watermarks are prohibited.

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 evaluators 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) Each memorial is submitted approximately to four readers and evaluated in a two-stage process. The 10 highest scoring memorials in the first round of evaluation will advance to the final round of evaluation. In the final round, a new panel of arbitrators will evaluate the memorials and rank it in order of merit. Awards for the memorials are provided based on these rankings.

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

(d) 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 equitably 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

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

(b) During oral arguments, teams shall present their submissions based on their prepared knowledge of the case. The use of electronic devices for accessing or consulting materials is strictly prohibited, and only physical printed materials shall be permitted.

(c) Before or during the oral arguments, teams are prohibited from submitting additional materials, including but not limited to compendiums and bundles, to the tribunal.

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 team 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 finishes as the runner-up in the final round of MIMAC.
- Best Individual Oralist - awarded to the 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 during registration. 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) The winning team shall be ceremonially presented with the championship trophy during the awards ceremony, but shall not be entitled to keep or take possession of the trophy as it remains the sole property of MMCS.

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 and copied to secretary@maldivesmootcourtsociety.org.