

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW
MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**



**SPECIFIC REGIONAL RULES OF
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL ROUND**
ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 2(2) OF THE OFFICIAL RULES

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL

1. These Specific Regional Rules (the “**Regional Rules**”), adopted pursuant to Article [2(2)] of the ‘**Official Rules**’ provided by the International Institute of Space Law (the “**IISL**”) of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (the “**Competition**”), govern the conduct of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Competition, as held from year to year at locations throughout the Asia-Pacific Region as determined by the Regional Organizer in conjunction with the IISL.
2. The Regional Rules shall prevail in cases of inconsistency with the Official Rules. Nothing in these rules shall be construed as being inconsistent with Article [2(4)] of the Official Rules.
3. The Regional Organizer has the exclusive right to interpret the Regional Rules. Such interpretation shall be final and binding.

ARTICLE 2: ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

1. For the purposes of and in addition to Article [3] of the Official Rules, the following categories of students are deemed to be *prima facie* eligible to participate:
 - (a) Students enrolled in an undergraduate law qualification or equivalent at some time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round;
 - (b) Students enrolled in a postgraduate coursework law qualification or equivalent at some time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round.
2. Registration must be done within the deadline as notified in the official website of IISL and accompanied by the payment of registration fees (and any other requisite fees including banking charges).

3. For teams participating in national rounds, the prescribed Registration fees may be paid either at once along with the initial registration or in two installments as given below:
 - a. 30 % of the Registration fees shall be paid at the time of initial registration. This will qualify a team to submit written memorials for evaluation.
 - b. Selected teams to participate in the oral Rounds of the Regional Rounds shall pay 70% of the Registration fees within the time set by the Regional Organizer.
 - c. A team may choose its option at the time of initial registration only and indicate the same to the Regional Organizer. No change will be permitted subsequently.
 - d. The team which opts for two part payment must ensure prompt payments are received by the Regional Organizer well in time and shall bear all necessary banking/transfer charges.
4. No registration can be deemed effective unless the required payment has been made except where the Regional Organizer has granted an exception or waiver in advance.
5. A team representing a university or institution from a developing country may request a full or partial waiver of the team's registration or other requisite fees by submitting a financial hardship application in writing to the Regional Organizer. The Regional Organizer maintains the absolute discretion to grant a waiver, whether in full or in part, and retains the discretion to revoke the waiver of registration fees granted to a team where that team fails to pay the reduced amount or any other requisite fees by the registration deadline. The Regional Organizer shall not consider an application for a waiver of registration fees after the registration deadline.

ARTICLE 3: MEMORIALS

1. Each participating team must submit memorials for both the Applicant and the Respondent and comply with all requirements under the Official Rules, particularly the requirements under Article [5] of the Official Rules, within the stipulated deadline.
2. Each participating team shall submit an electronic copy of their written memorials to the Regional Organizer by e-mail. Each participating team is responsible for ensuring that the electronic copies of the memorials:
 - (a) Are in word file format (doc or docx).
 - (b) Are submitted as two (2) files only, one containing the memorial for the Applicant and the other of the Respondent;
 - (c) Only the team number and side are indicated in the name of the file (e.g. 901A.doc) and any electronic identification must be deleted;
 - (d) Are submitted by e-mail to the Regional Organizer by the specified due date.

Any alteration or deviation in the written memorials from the electronic version shall incur penalty points.

3. Memorials of teams participating in the oral Rounds:
 - (a) Will be electronically distributed to the respective opponent teams by the Regional Organizer at least two (2) days but not more than four (4) days before the Preliminary starts.
 - (b) Teams are requested to submit also printed memorials to the Regional Organizer at the location of the Regional. These should be double-sided and bound. The number of copies and the submission date will be communicated by the Regional Organizer.
4. Notwithstanding Article 3(2) above, the Regional Organizer may waive or amend the requirement of submitting hard copies, conditionally or unconditionally, at her or his discretion.
5. For the purposes of Article [5(2)] of the Official Rules, teams shall use “The Uniform Citation System (Bluebook).”
6. Each memorial will be scored based on the following general indication: less than 35 is poor, 35-40 is average, 40-45 is good, and 45-50 is excellent. The memorials shall be scored based on the scoring factors contained in Article [6(5)] of the Official Rules.

ARTICLE 4: ORAL ROUNDS

Article 4A: Oral Rounds Generally

1. Teams shall use their assigned Team Numbers to identify themselves. No team shall conduct themselves in any way that would reveal or suggest the identity of their represented university or institution to any timekeeper or judge.
2. Only the two (2) speaking members of each team may be seated at the bar table. During the conduct of each round, the team members of each team seated at the bar table may only communicate amongst themselves by written notes. Any form of communication between the bar table with any external person, including the third member of each team but excluding the judges, is strictly prohibited.
3. The decisions of the judges in each round are final. No team (including team’s Faculty Advisor or observer) shall enter into any correspondence, whether contemporaneous or subsequent to any round or the moot, with any of the judges until the team finished its own round.
4. In the event that a judge is unable to attend, or where the number of judges required for any particular round cannot be met in any other way, the Regional Organizer may require Faculty Advisors to act as stand-in judges during the preliminary rounds and, where requested, a Faculty Advisor must make herself or himself available as a stand-in judge during the preliminary rounds.

5. Observers shall identify themselves to the Regional Organizer on or before the oral rounds. Observers may be either affiliated or unaffiliated with a particular team. During the Preliminary Rounds, all affiliated observers must seek the prior permission of both teams before observing a round. Unaffiliated observers are otherwise permitted to watch all rounds. With the exception of the Regional Final, no affiliated observers may observe a round other than one in which the affiliated team is competing.
6. Except for the Regional Organizers and/or the Host Institution, no person may make any audio or video recording of an oral round.

Article 4B: Selection of Teams to Compete in the Oral Rounds

1. The number of teams competing in the oral rounds of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round shall be limited and will be publicly informed after the evaluation of memorials. The Regional Organizer, together with the host institution, will determine the number of teams competing in the oral round in a particular year (the “Determined Number of the Oral Round Competitors”). Such determination shall be made, to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the objective of including the largest number of teams possible without sacrificing the quality of the competition.
2. Where the number of participating teams exceeds the Determined Number of the Oral Round Competitors, teams advancing to the oral rounds shall be determined by the aggregate final scores net of penalty points received for both Applicant and Respondent memorials. A preliminary determination of teams shall be made by firstly their aggregate final scores of memorials, and secondly considering a geographical balance.
3. Notwithstanding Article 4B(2) above, where a country remains unrepresented after the initial determination of teams is made, then the highest scoring team from that country, based on the aggregate net final scores received for both Applicant and Respondent memorials, shall replace the lowest scoring team from a country with two or more successful teams.
4. Notwithstanding Article 4B(2) above, where a particular country maintains a National Funding Round, the place reserved for the top scoring team of that country shall be assigned to the winner of that particular National Funding Round.
5. Notwithstanding Article 4B(2) above, teams from any single country shall not represent more than forty (40) percent of the teams participating in the oral rounds unless teams from all other countries are represented.
6. Notwithstanding Article 4B(2) above, a place shall be reserved to the team of the host institution.
7. Notwithstanding Article 4B(1) above, where the Regional Organizer, together with the host institution, is able to accommodate all registered teams, the Determined Number of Oral Round Competitors may be waived at the Regional Organizer’s sole discretion on or before the announcement of teams.

8. The Regional Organizer shall notify all teams of their success on the Competition website.
9. Teams are required to inform the Regional Organizer of the date of arrival, hotels, flight schedule, etc. before their departure for organizational matters.

Article 4C: Preliminary Rounds

1. Each team participating in the oral rounds shall be required to compete in not less than two and nor more than four (4) rounds during the preliminary phase of the competition (individually “**Preliminary Round**”, collectively the “**Preliminary Rounds**”), with the number of rounds to be set by the Regional Organizer.
2. Pursuant to Article [7(3)] of the Official Rules, during each Preliminary Round each team shall argue for thirty minutes (30) in total and comply with the time limits as stated in said provision.
3. In each round, the members of the Bench will score each team out of a maximum score of 50 and keep to the following general indication: less than 35 is poor, 35-40 is average, 40-45 is good, and 45-50 is excellent. The scoring will be based on the scoring factors contained in Article [8(4)] of the Official Rules.
4. The judges shall not disclose the results of any moot at the conclusion of any of the Preliminary Rounds to any of the teams.

Article 4D: Determination of Semi-Finalists

1. The day of the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds, the Regional Organizer shall tabulate the scores for each team considering the scores of both memorials, the scores of oral arguments in the preliminary oral rounds, and penalty points assessed, and shall announce the four (4) teams which shall advance to the Semi-Finals.
2. In case of two or more teams having equal points, the tie shall be broken based on the following order:
 - (a) The team(s) accruing the greater number of victories in the Preliminary Rounds;
 - (b) The team(s) with the lesser number of penalty points;
 - (c) The regional organizer has the discretion to decide with appropriate reasons.

Article 4E: Regional Finals

1. The draw for the Regional Semi-Finals shall be determined by the top ranking team competing against the lowest ranking team and the second-highest ranking team competing against the second-lowest ranking team. In the Semi-Finals, each team shall argue for thirty minutes (30) in total and comply with the time limits as stated in art. 7(2)(B) of the Official Rules.

2. If the teams have competed against each other during one of the Preliminary Rounds, then the teams will argue the side that they did not plead in the Preliminary Round. Otherwise the side that each team will argue in each Semi-Final round will be determined by a coin toss, and the team with the higher ranking shall call the toss. The coin toss shall take place at the time following the announcement of the advancing teams.
3. Each Semi-Final shall be decided by the panel of judges after deliberation. All decisions by the judges are final. The Regional Organizer shall announce the winners of the Semi-Finals immediately after.
4. The winners of the Semi-Finals shall compete in the Regional Final. In the Regional Final, each team shall argue for thirty minutes (30) in total and comply with the time limits as stated in art. 7(2)(B) of the Official Rules. If the teams have competed against each other during one of the Preliminary Rounds, then the teams will argue the side that they did not plead in the Preliminary Round. Otherwise the side that each team will argue in the Final will be determined by a coin toss, and the team with the higher ranking score through the Preliminary Rounds shall call the toss. The coin toss shall take place at the time following the announcement of the advancing teams.
5. The Final shall be decided by the panel of judges after deliberation. All decisions by the judges are final. The judges shall announce the winner of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round in an open forum before the participating teams.
6. The Regional Organizer has discretion to distribute the scores (memorials and/or orals), with comments of judges, to the students after the conclusion of the Regional Round.

ARTICLE 5: REGIONAL AWARDS

1. The winner of the Regional Finals will receive an award in recognition of their achievement and attains the right to advance to the world finals of the Competition as organized by the IISL each year.
2. In addition to the winner, in the discretion of the Regional Organizer, there shall be awards given to:
 - (a) The runners-up;
 - (b) The best memorials, based on the aggregate final score of both Applicant and Respondent memorials;
 - (c) The best oralist for the Preliminary Rounds, based on the average oralist score of each oralist that performs two (2) or more times; and
 - (d) The best oralist in the final round.
3. Other awards may be given in any year, based on the Regional Organizer's discretion.

ARTICLE 6: NATIONAL FUNDING ROUNDS

1. With the prior written consent of the Regional Organizer, a sponsor or sponsors may organize a competition within a country in the Asia-Pacific Region in which the winning team will have its participation costs in the Competition funded, whether in full or in part (a “**National Funding Round**”).
2. A university or other institution located in a country in which a National Funding Round is held may elect to participate in that particular National Funding Round or to compete only in Asia-Pacific Regional Round without prejudice to its rights to participate in the Asia-Pacific Regional Round.
3. A National Funding Round may adopt its own supplementary rules. The Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round shall submit a copy of such rules to the Regional Organizer for comment. The Regional Organizer reserves the right to require changes where the rules of a National Funding Round, in his or her determination, are in conflict with either the Official Rules or the Regional Rules.
4. The Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round may request for the memorial scores of the teams falling under its jurisdiction and use the same for arriving at the aggregate scores in the national Rounds. In this context the Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round shall schedule the national Rounds in consultation with the Regional Organizer and inform the Regional Organizer well in advance of its requirement. Any scores disclosed must be held confidential by the Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round and used only for this limited purpose and shall not be further disclosed. In no event shall specific memorial scores be disclosed by the Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round to any team or institution.
5. The Organizer/Coordinator of a National Funding Round shall inform the Regional Organizer of all matters arising from the organization of the National Funding Round as soon as practicable, including the chosen date(s) and venue(s), the teams registered to and actually participating in the National Funding Round, the format of the rounds, the draw, and the judges involved in each round. The organizer of a National Funding Round shall inform the Regional Organizer of the winner of the National Funding Round as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 7: PENALTIES

1. The Regional Organizer has the exclusive discretion to impose penalties under the Official Rules and the Regional Rules. Any penalties imposed, unless expressly stated otherwise by the Regional Organizer, are final and not subject to appeal.
2. Any team found to have utilized an ineligible team member or improper outside assistance, the Bench Memorial or the use of another team’s memorial shall be disqualified.
3. The Regional Organizer may delegate the responsibility of the imposition of penalties to another person unconnected with any team.

4. If a team or member(s) of a team has, in the opinion of the Regional Organizer, conducted itself in a manner that brought the Competition into serious disrepute, the Regional Organizer may impose penalty points of unlimited discretion on that team's preliminary round points, oralist points or memorial points and may also disqualify a team from the Competition in that year.
5. If a team or member(s) of a team has, in the opinion of the Regional Organizer, conducted itself in a manner that fails to comply with competition requirements or otherwise causes disruption of the Competition, the Regional Organizer may impose penalty points at her or his discretion.
6. In case of plagiarism, the Regional Organizer, after giving the team in question the opportunity to be heard, will apply penalties to her/his discretion, e.g., application of penalty points, disqualification of the team from any award, withhold it from advancing to any semi-finals or final, immediately disqualification, etc. The Regional Organizer will communicate this issue to the university authorities of this team. Plagiarism refers to (but may not be limited to) cases of using another person's words without attributing credit to that person, such as copying or paraphrasing text and/or using the same string of views laid down in the works of other person without proper attribution and citation to the author of the source. Plagiarism will be deemed to be considered whether it was done intentionally / unintentionally, where it was just overlooked, someone forgot to check, or it was done with total innocence. All instances will be treated as 'cheating' under Article A5 of the Annex of Penalties of the Official Rules. The Regional Organizer can apply additional penalties at her/his discretion.
7. For any violation of the Regional Rules for which no applicable penalty is found in the Official Rules, the Regional Organizer has the discretion to impose up to three (3) penalty points to a preliminary round.

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