

## *International Law Moot Court Competition, “Asia Cup 2021”*

*Co-hosted by  
Japanese Society of International Law  
&  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

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### Official Rules

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Asia Cup 2021 Organizing Committee

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## **Chapter I                    GENERAL RULES**

### **Article 1 Purpose**

The International Law Moot Court Competition, “Asia Cup 2021”, is co-hosted by the Japanese Society of International Law and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and administered by the Asia Cup 2021 Organizing Committee. The purpose of Asia Cup 2021 is to raise awareness regarding international law and the rule of law among students in Asia through academic exchange. It is hoped that Asia Cup 2021 will foster friendship among Asian students.

### **Article 2 Structure**

Asia Cup 2021 consists of written pleadings (Memorials) and oral pleadings (Oral Rounds).

### **Article 3 Official Language and Venue**

(1) The official language of Asia Cup 2021 is English.

(2) Asia Cup 2021 is held online.

### **Article 4 Competition Problem**

The Organizing Committee publishes the Competition Problem of Asia Cup 2021.

### **Article 5 Corrections and Clarifications**

A request for corrections and clarifications to the Competition Problem may be sent by email to the Organizing Committee: [asiacupmoot@gmail.com](mailto:asiacupmoot@gmail.com) by the deadline in the Official Schedule. Corrections and Clarifications to the Competition Problem will be published by the date in the Official Schedule.

### **Article 6 Detailed Regulations**

The Organizing Committee may add detailed regulations including those relating to online moots if they are deemed necessary.

### **Article 7 Interpretation of Rules**

The Organizing Committee shall serve as final arbiter of implementation and interpretation of the Rules and regulations.

## **Chapter II                    PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Article 8 Team Eligibility and Composition**

(1) Each school in Asia may enter one team. A school may petition the Organizing Committee, in writing, to allow the participation of multiple teams from the school. Additional teams may be allowed if the teams represent different colleges, faculties, branches, departments, or campuses of the same school and will be participating independently of each other.

(2) A team may be composed of two to four team members who shall be the only individuals contributing to the work product of the team in Asia Cup 2021. Conducting research for a team's written and/or oral arguments, writing any part of a team's Memorial, and presenting any of a team's oral arguments are examples of activities that contribute to a team's work product.

(3) Team members may be chosen by any method within the school.

#### **Article 9 Team Member Eligibility**

(1) A team member must be officially enrolled as an undergraduate student in a university or equivalent program. An undergraduate student who graduated from the university after the team submitted a Memorial for Applicant may act as an oralist in the Oral Rounds.

(2) A student enrolled in a graduate degree program in the field of international law, an undergraduate student who has previously graduated from a university with a law degree, and an individual who has worked as a legal professional may not be a team member.

### **Chapter III TEAM REGISTRATION**

#### **Article 10 Registration**

(1) Every team must register with the Organizing Committee online at <https://www.asiacup.sakura.ne.jp> by the deadline in the Official Schedule.

(2) Every student who contributes to the work product of the team must be registered as a team member.

#### **Article 11 Team Number**

Once a team has completed registration, the Organizing Committee will assign the team a team number.

#### **Article 12 Changes of Team Members**

Once team members are registered, teams may not make changes, whether additions or substitutions, of team members, without permission from the Organizing Committee. Any request to make a change must be submitted to the Organizing Committee with an explanation of the reason for the requested change.

### **Chapter IV MEMORIAL**

#### **Article 13 Submission of Memorial**

(1) Each team shall submit a Memorial for Applicant to the Organizing Committee online at <https://www.asiacup.sakura.ne.jp> by the deadline in the Official Schedule.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing by the Organizing Committee, a team will be disqualified from Asia Cup 2021 if it does not submit its Applicant Memorial by the deadline.

#### **Article 14 Memorial Formatting**

(1) File Type: An Applicant Memorial must be in Microsoft Word format.

(2) Paper Size/Margins: The Memorial must be typed in black on white international standard A4 paper (21 x 29.75 centimeters), with margins of not less than 1 inch or 2.6 centimeters on all four sides.

(3) Font, Font Size and Line Spacing: The font and size of the text of the Memorial, excluding the Cover Page and page numbers but including footnotes, must be in either Times New Roman 12-point or Courier 10-point. The line spacing for the Memorial must be double-spaced, with the exception of footnotes.

#### **Article 15 Memorial Content**

(1) The Memorial must consist of the following parts and be saved in a single file.

(i) Cover Page, which must include a statement indicating that what follows is the Memorial for Asia Cup 2021 and the team number in the upper right-hand corner;

(ii) Table of Contents;

(iii) Summary of Pleadings, which must not exceed 2 pages;

(iv) Pleadings, which must not exceed 10 pages, including footnotes; and

(v) Conclusion/Prayer for Relief

(2) Parts not enumerated in paragraph 1 should not be contained.

#### **Article 16 Anonymity in Memorial**

Names of team members, and the country or school name of the team, may not appear on or within the Memorial, even by implication.

### **Chapter V TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN ORAL ROUNDS**

#### **Article 17 Qualifying Teams**

(1) The Organizing Committee will select teams participating in the Oral Rounds of Asia Cup 2021 on the basis of the preliminary Memorial examination. In principle, one team from each Asian country other than Japan and one or two teams from Japan may participate in the Oral Rounds.

(2) In the preliminary Memorial examination, the evaluation criteria provided in Article 33 will be utilized.

(3) The Organizing Committee will inform all teams of the outcome of the preliminary Memorial examination, but no information about the score or ranking in this examination will be given.

#### **Article 18 Team Registration for Oral Rounds**

Each member of the teams qualified for the Oral Rounds must submit an official document which certifies that he/she meets the requirements provided in Article 9, by the deadline which will be announced by the Organizing Committee.

#### **Article 19 Observers**

(1) Persons other than those registered in accordance with Article 10 are regarded as observers, subject to an approval by the Organizing Committee.

(2) Observers may not act as an oralist at the Oral Rounds.

## **Article 20 Summary of Oral Pleadings**

Each team participating in the Oral Rounds must submit a Summary of Oral Pleadings both for Applicant and for Respondent by the deadline which will be announced by the Organizing Committee.

## **Chapter VI ORAL ROUND PROCEDURES**

### **Article 21 General Procedures of Preliminary Rounds**

(1) In each Preliminary Round, which consists of 60 minutes of oral pleadings, a team makes oral presentations both for Applicant and for Respondent, and it does not compete with another team. Oral presentations for Applicant and for Respondent must each be made by two members of the team. Each team should allocate 15 minutes to each oralist: (a) its first oralist for Applicant, (b) its second oralist for Applicant, (c) its first oralist for Respondent, and (d) its second oralist for Respondent. Any team member may act as an oralist. A team member who acts as an oralist for Applicant may act also as an oralist for Respondent.

(2) Judges may, at their discretion, extend each oralist's argument time beyond the 15-minute allocation.

### **Article 22 General Procedures of Semifinal and Final Rounds**

(1) Each of the Semifinal and Final Rounds consists of 60 minutes of oral pleadings. Applicant and Respondent are each allotted 30 minutes. Oral presentations must be made by two members from each team. Prior to the beginning of the Round, each team must indicate to the bailiff how it wishes to allocate 30 minutes among (a) its first oralist, (b) its second oralist, and (c) rebuttal (for Applicant) or sur-rebuttal (for Respondent). The team may not allocate more than 20 minutes, including rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, to either oralist. Any team member may act as an oralist.

(2) Judges may, at their discretion, extend total team oral argument time beyond the 30-minute allocation, and oralists asked by the judges to expand upon arguments may, in this instance, exceed the 20-minute individual limit.

### **Article 23 Three Judge Panels**

In each Oral Round, the Organizing Committee should in principle employ three judges whenever possible, and may employ more than three judges in each of the Semifinal Rounds and the Final Round. In extenuating circumstances, the Organizing Committee may authorize panels of two judges.

### **Article 24 Order of Pleadings**

(1) The order of the pleadings in each Preliminary Round is:

Applicant 1 → Applicant 2 → Respondent 1 → Respondent 2.

(2) The order of the pleadings in each of the Semifinal Rounds and the Final Rounds is:

Applicant 1 → Applicant 2 → Respondent 1 → Respondent 2 → Rebuttal (Applicant 1 or 2) → Sur-rebuttal (Respondent 1 or 2).

### **Article 25 Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal in Semifinal and Final Rounds**

In the Semifinal and Final Rounds, each team may reserve up to five minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. Only one

of the two oralists participating in the Round may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, but the team need not indicate in advance which of the pleading team members will do so. Teams may waive their rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

#### **Article 26 Scope of Pleadings**

(1) Oral pleadings at each Oral Round should in principle be made on the basis of Memorials and Summaries of Oral Pleadings of each team.

(2) In the Semifinal and Final Rounds, the scope of Applicant's rebuttal is limited to responding to Respondent's primary oral pleadings, and the scope of Respondent's sur-rebuttal is limited to responding to Applicant's rebuttal. If Applicant waives rebuttal, Respondent's sur-rebuttal is automatically waived as well.

(3) Oral judges may take into account any non-compliance with this principle in evaluating an oralist's performance.

### **Chapter VII COMPETITION PROCEDURES**

#### **Article 27 Preliminary Rounds**

In each Preliminary Round, a team makes oral presentations both for Applicant and for Respondent, and it does not compete with another team.

#### **Article 28 Preliminary Round Rankings**

(1) Teams shall be ranked by Total Asia Cup Scores provided in Article 35, paragraph 4, from highest to lowest.

(2) If two or more teams are tied after application of paragraph 1 of the present Article, and the outcome of determination does not affect (a) any team's entry into the Semifinal Rounds, or (b) the pairing of any teams in the Semifinal Rounds, the teams shall be ranked equally. If, however, further determination is necessary to determine advancement or pairings, the Organizing Committee shall break the tie according to the following methods, starting with the first and working down only if the prior method does not break the tie:

(i) the team with the higher Total Oral Score wins;

(ii) the team with the higher Respondent Oral Score wins; or

(iii) the Organizing Committee determines a method to break the tie, taking into account the interests of the teams and Asia Cup 2021 as a whole.

#### **Article 29 Semifinal Rounds**

(1) The four highest-ranked teams in accordance with Article 28 shall advance to the Semifinal Rounds.

(2) In the Semifinal Rounds, each team pleads once as Applicant and once as Respondent.

#### **Article 30 Pairings in Semifinal Rounds**

The pairings in the Semifinal Rounds shall be determined as follows.

Semifinal Round 1: the first-ranked team (as Applicant) versus the fourth-ranked team (as Respondent); and the second-ranked team (as Applicant) versus the third-ranked team (as Respondent).

Semifinal Round 2: the third-ranked team (as Applicant) versus the first-ranked team (as Respondent); and the fourth-

ranked team (as Applicant) versus the second-ranked team (as Respondent).

### **Article 31 Semifinal Round Rankings**

(1) Teams shall be ranked by Total Asia Cup Scores (Semifinal Rounds) provided in Article 35, paragraph 4, from highest to lowest.

(2) If two or more teams are tied after application of paragraph 1 of the present Article, and the outcome of determination does not affect any team's entry into the Final Round, the teams shall be ranked equally. If, however, further determination is necessary to determine advancement, the Organizing Committee shall break the tie according to the following methods, starting with the first and working down only if the prior method does not break the tie:

(i) the team with the higher Total Oral Score (Semifinal Rounds) wins;

(ii) the team with the higher Respondent Oral Score (Semifinal Rounds) wins; or

(iii) the Organizing Committee determines a method to break the tie, taking into account the interests of the teams and Asia Cup 2021 as a whole.

### **Article 32 Final Round**

(1) The two highest-ranked teams in accordance with Article 31 shall advance to the Final Round.

(2) The pleading option for the Final Round shall be determined by drawing lots or any other means the Organizing Committee chooses.

## **Chapter VIII Competition Scoring**

### **Article 33 Scoring of Memorials**

Each judge will score each Memorial on a scale of 50 to 100 points. A Memorial judge may utilize the following evaluation criteria.

(i) Knowledge of facts and law

(ii) Proper and articulate analysis

(iii) Extent and use of research

(iv) Clarity and organization

(v) Style, formatting, grammar, and citation of sources

### **Article 34 Scoring of Preliminary Rounds and Semifinal Rounds**

Each judge will score each oralist on a scale of 50 to 100 points. An Oral judge may utilize the following evaluation criteria.

(i) Knowledge of the law

(ii) Questions and answers

(iii) Knowledge of the facts

(iv) Style, pose and demeanor

(v) Organization and time management

### **Article 35 Scores**

The calculation of scores shall be subject to the deduction of Penalties under Chapter IX.

(1) Each team's Total Memorial Score is the sum of the three Memorial judges' scores. This score shall be used to determine the Best Memorial Award.

(2) Each oralist's Individual Oral Score is the sum of the scores of the three Oral judges for the oralist in the Preliminary Rounds and in the Semifinal Rounds respectively. The Individual Oral Score in the Semifinal Rounds shall be used to determine the Best Oralist Awards

(3) Each team's Total Oral Score is the sum of the scores of the three Oral judges for each of its four oralists in the Preliminary Rounds and in the Semifinal Rounds respectively.

(i) Each team's Applicant Oral Score is the sum of the scores of the three Oral judges for each of its two oralists arguing Applicant in the Preliminary Rounds and in the Semifinal Rounds respectively.

(ii) Each team's Respondent Oral Score is the sum of the scores of the three Oral judges for each of its two oralists arguing Respondent in the Preliminary Rounds and in the Semifinal Rounds respectively.

(4) Each team's Total Asia Cup Score is the sum of the team's Total Memorial Score and the team's Total Oral Score in the Preliminary Rounds and in the Semifinal Rounds respectively.

### **Article 36 Two-Judge Panels**

If only two judges score a given Memorial or a given Oral Round, the Organizing Committee shall create a third score by averaging the scores of the two judges.

### **Article 37 Scoring Procedures for Final Round**

Judges of the Final Round shall make an independent review of the oral arguments. The decision regarding the winner of the Final Round shall be by majority vote of the judges. No ties are allowed.

## **CHAPTER IX PENALTIES**

### **Article 38 Memorial Penalties**

(1) Memorial Penalties shall be deducted from each judge's score on a team's Memorial.

(2) Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules concerning Memorial as follows.

(i) Failure to include all parts of Memorial (Article 15): 5 points for each part

(ii) Excessive length of Summary of Pleadings (Article 15(1)(iii)): 5 points per page

(iii) Excessive length of Pleadings (Article 15(1)(iv)): 5 points per page

(iv) Violation of anonymity in Memorial (Article 16): disqualification or up to 10 points

### **Article 39 Oral Round Penalties**

(1) Oral Round Penalties shall be deducted from each judge's score for each oralist.

(2) The Organizing Committee may assess up to 10-point penalties for violations of the letter or spirit of the Rules including tardiness in submitting a Summary of Oral Pleadings (Article 20).

## **CHAPTER X        AWARDS**

### **Article 40 The Asia Cup Championship Award**

The Asia Cup Championship Award is presented to the team that wins the Final Round of Asia Cup 2021.

### **Article 41 The Best Memorial Award**

The Best Memorial Award is presented to the team with the highest Total Memorial Score.

### **Article 42 The Best Oralist Awards**

(1) The Best Applicant Oralist Award is presented to the oralist with the highest Individual Oral Score (Semifinal Rounds) among the oralists arguing Applicant in the Semifinal Rounds.

(2) The Best Respondent Oralist Award is presented to the oralist with the highest Individual Oral Score (Semifinal Rounds) among the oralists arguing Respondent in the Semifinal Rounds.