



# Important Changes to The General Rules of 2026 CHINA ILOSMCC

There are several important changes contained in The General Rules of 2026 CHINA ILOSMCC, including a new abbreviation, adjustments to the structure of the competition, new requirements on the structure of team coaches, the Judge Conflicts of Interest, the file type of WS, the requirement on citation, and the duty of Timekeepers.

The Organizing Committee has prepared this file for teams and institutions interested in taking part in the competition. Please read it carefully and don't merely rely on last year's General Rules.

## 1. We have added a new abbreviation

BBNJ	Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
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## 2. We have made some adjustments to the structure of the competition [Rule 1.3(d), 1.3(e) and 1.3(f)]

- Rule 1.3(d): The ranking of the Teams in the Preliminary Round shall be determined by their Oral Pleadings' score in this Round. In case of a tie, the Team with the higher score in Oral Pleadings shall prevail.
- Rule 1.3(e): The top four Teams in the Preliminary Round shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round. In Semi-Final #1, the Team with the highest overall score will plead against the Team with the fourth overall score. In Semi-Final #2, the Team with the second overall score will plead against the Team with the third overall score. The Teams representing the Applicant or the Respondent will be



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determined by a random draw. **The ranking of the Teams in the Semi-Final Round shall be determined by their Oral Pleadings' score in this Round.**

- Rule 1.3(f): **The winning Teams in the Semi-Finals will advance to the Grand Final. In the Grand Final, the Teams representing the Applicant or the Respondent will be determined by random draw. The ranking of the Teams in the Grand-Final Round shall be determined by their Oral Pleadings' score in this Round.**

### **3. We have clarified the structure of team coaches [Rule 2.6(a)]**

A Team shall have a maximum number of two Team Coaches (teachers **or students** from the same university/institution) to prepare the Team to participate fairly in the Competition. **Each team's coaches should consist at least one teacher.**

### **4. We have clarified the Judge Conflicts of Interest [Rule 4.3(b), (c) and (e)(ii)]**

- Rule 4.3(b): An “affiliation” means a personal relationship between a Judge and a Coach, or Team Member, **or a professional relationship with a university/institution**, who is participating in the Competition in which the Judge is participating.
- Rule 4.3(c): A person who discloses or who is considered to have a conflict of interest
  - (i) **with a personal relationship shall not be selected to be a Judge**, if the Team that gave rise to the conflict is competing. However, in a Moot in which the Team that caused the conflict is eliminated, that person may, after elimination, serve as a Judge.
  - (ii) **with a professional relationship shall take a withdrawal from the Moot of the related Team.**
- Rule 4.3(e): Conflicts of interest do not necessarily appear when:
  - (ii) the Judge is an alumnus/**alumna** of one of the universities/institutions participating in the OP;



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### 5. We have changed the file type of WS [Rule 5.2(a)]

File Type: All parts of each Written Submission must be contained in a single file. Written Submissions must be submitted as electronic copies only in “\*.docx” format by **Microsoft Office Word 2024**. The “protect document” function may be used, provided that no password is set, or any password used must be included in the same email submission. Written submissions that do not conform to this rule, such as Written Submissions in PDF format or using a “.dat” file extension will not be accepted.

### 6. We have adjusted the requirement of citation [Rule 5.5]

- Rule 5.5(a): Footnotes must be used to identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Written Submissions. Endnotes are not permitted. Footnotes may include substantive pleadings in addition to the text of the citation itself. Footnotes are included in the word limit of Rule 5.4.
- **Rule 5.5(b): Fake/ inaccurate footnotes, including those generated by AI tools are not permitted.**

### 7. We have clarified the duty of Timekeepers [Rule 6.4(b)]

The Timekeepers will notice every Oralist respectively when there are five, three, one minute(s), and **thirty seconds** left by displaying paperboards. When the time is up, the Timekeepers will ring the bell.

Organizing Committee of the 2026 CHINA ILOSMCC

20 April, 2026