



THE GENERAL RULES

of

2026 China International Law of the
Sea Moot Court Competition

2026

PREAMBLE

The Association of Boundary and Ocean Studies (ABOS) launched and has been operating China International Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition since 2017, in order to provide a platform for college students to exchange views on fascinating issues of the law of the sea.

To ensure openness, fairness and transparency of the Competition, ABOS and the Organizing Committee adopted the following General Rules.

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DEFINITIONS

The following terms as used in these Rules have the corresponding meanings.

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of ABOS.

“Competition” means the 2026 China International Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition.

“Competition Year” means the period starting on the date of the release of the Competition Case and ending at the conclusion of the Ending Ceremony.

“Grand Final” means a set of pleadings which occurs after the Semi-Final Round, among Teams who win the Semi-Final Round.

“Moot” means a single oral presentation between two Teams, one representing Applicant and one representing Respondent, whether an in-person Moot or a hybrid Moot as described in Rules 6 and 7, respectively.

“Organizing Committee” means the Organizing Committee of the 2026 China International Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition.

“Preliminary Round” means a set of pleadings which form the first stage of the whole Competition where each Team competes against two other Teams, once as Applicant and once as Respondent.

“President” means the President of the Tribunal in a Moot.

“Round(s)” means Preliminary Round or Semi-Final Round as the context dictates.

“Rules” means these General Rules of the Competition.

“Semi-Final Round” means a set of pleadings which form the second stage of the whole Competition where each Team competes against another Team, as Applicant or Respondent determined by random draw.

“Team” means a Team of eligible students recognized by the Organizing Committee that registers to compete in the Competition.

“Team Member” means any eligible student who is registered as a competitor on behalf of a Team.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABOS	Association of Boundary and Ocean Studies, Wuhan University
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
CHINA ILOSMCC	China International Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition
CIBOS	China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies
CSLOS	Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
OP	Oral Pleading(s)
WS	Written Submission(s)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1.1 Administration

The Competition is organized annually by the Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea (CSLOS) and the Wuhan University China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies (CIBOS). It is operated by the Association of Boundary and Ocean Studies (ABOS), a students' academic association of Wuhan University, and administered by the Organizing Committee. All materials developed by the Organizing Committee for the Competition, including but not limited to the General Rules and the Case are the sole property of ABOS. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than participation in or administration of the Competition without the express and prior written consent of ABOS. All the Written Submissions submitted by the teams become the sole property of ABOS, and may not be republished without its express consent.

1.2 Organizing Committee of the Competition

The Organizing Committee of the Competition is responsible for:

- (i) developing, interpreting and implementing the General Rules;
- (ii) providing the Case of the Competition;
- (iii) selecting judges for evaluating and scoring the Written Submissions and the Oral Pleadings;
- (iv) determining any other additional measures for the orderly conduct of the Competition or to correct deficiencies in the Competition; and
- (v) serving as final arbiter of interpretation and implementation of the General Rules, all the other documents and additional measures.

1.3 Structure of the Competition

- (a) The Competition consists of three stages: (i) Preliminary Round, (ii) Semi-Final Round, and (iii) the Grand Final.
- (b) Where more than 16 Teams have registered, only 16 Teams will be selected to advance to the Preliminary Round according to the Written Submissions' score ranking. The Chairperson shall establish the pairings for the Preliminary Round by random draw.
- (c) Before the Oral Pleadings, either in-person or hybrid Moots, the Organizing Committee will exchange the Written Submissions between the Applicant and Respondent in a reasonable manner.
- (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.
- (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 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.
- (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.

1.4 Language of the Competition

The language of the Competition is English. All Written Submissions under Rule 5.1, the administration documents, as well as all the communications with the Organizing Committee (such as the request for corrections and clarifications under Rule 2.9 and complaints under Rule 6.12) must be submitted in English.

All Moots must be conducted exclusively in English.

RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Team Eligibility

(a) Any university/institution offering a degree in law is eligible to participate in the Competition.

(b) Only one Team per university/institution can register and participate.

2.2 Team Composition

(a) A Team shall consist of three to six full-time undergraduate or postgraduate students and they must be enrolled at the same university/institution. Teams shall submit their team composition via the registration form.

(b) Each Team can register a maximum of four Oralists.

2.3 Team Member Eligibility

A person may not be a Team Member if he/she:

(i) is involved in the Organizing Committee;

(ii) has enrolled in a program of study leading to an advanced postgraduate degree in a legal field (e.g., Ph.D., D.Phil., J.S.D.) or has received such a degree; or

(iii) has engaged in the practice of law or any paid/unpaid activity which would give the person an undue advantage in any aspect of the Competition,

and the opinion of the Organizing Committee on either issue shall be final.

2.4 Team Selection Process

Team Members may be chosen by any method approved by the responsible authority within the university/institution.

2.5 Outside Assistance to Teams

Each Team must produce its own legal and factual arguments without the assistance of persons who are not Team Members.

2.6 Assistance from Team Coaches

(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.

(b) Team Coaches may offer advice to a Team, provided such advice is limited to:

- (i) general instruction on the basic principles of international law;
- (ii) general advice on research sources and methods;
- (iii) general advice on Submission writing techniques;
- (iv) general advice on oral advocacy techniques;
- (v) general advice on the organization and structure of arguments in the Team's Written Submissions and Oral Pleadings;
- (vi) general commentary on the quality of the Team's legal and factual arguments;
- (vii) advice on the interpretation and enforcement of the General Rules; and
- (viii) advice as to pleading options or similar strategic decisions.

2.7 Assistance from Other Teams

Team Members and Team Coaches from any Team, including Teams that have been eliminated from the Competition, may not provide assistance in any way to any other Team. Prohibited assistance includes, but is not limited to, the followings:

- (i) giving the Team's notes or Submissions to a Team still in the Competition;
- (ii) posting the Team's Submissions online so that a person who is not a registered Team Member or registered Team Coach may access them;
- (iii) engaging in practice Moots against a participating Team; and
- (iv) providing video or audio recordings of previous Moots, whether practice Moots or Competition Moots, to a Team still in the Competition.

2.8 Draft Written Submissions

Before Written Submissions are submitted, Teams may not distribute their Written Submissions to anyone who is not a registered Team Member or a registered Team Coach. Registered Team Coaches may provide feedback on Written Submissions at any time provided they abide by the provisions of Rule 2.6.

2.9 Corrections and Clarifications

- (a) Teams may request corrections and clarifications by submitting written documents to the Organizing Committee before the deadline as indicated in the Timeline (Annex B). The Organizing Committee will issue a written document with corrections or clarifications before the deadline in the Timeline.
- (b) The Organizing Committee will not reply to questions already answered in the General Rules.

2.10 Anonymity of Teams

Team Members, Team Coaches or spectators affiliated with a Team may not directly or indirectly indicate their country or university/institution of origin to the Judges during the whole Competition. Violation of anonymity shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION

3.1 Team Registration

(a) Each Team must register with the Organizing Committee by completing a registration form online at the official website by the deadline as mentioned in the Timeline. Each Team must provide a valid email address at registration. The Organizing Committee will provide the Teams with a confirmation of their registration. Notice sent to the registered email address for the Team constitutes notice to all Team Members.

The official website: <http://www.cibos.whu.edu.cn/en/index.php?id=2595>

(b) All Team Members and Coaches are expected to regularly check the official website of the Competition for updated information and are assumed to have done so. A team shall not complain about rules or information that has been updated on the official website.

3.2 Team Member Registration

(a) Every student who contributes to the work product of the Team, at any point in the Competition, must be registered as a Team Member and counted toward the maximum of six Team Members that constitute the Team. Conducting research for a Team's oral and/or written arguments, writing any part of a Team's

Written Submissions, and presenting any of a Team's oral arguments are examples of activities that contribute to a Team's work product.

(b) Each Registered Team Member should be identified as Oralists or Researchers and cannot change after the registration deadline in the Timeline, unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing by the Organizing Committee.

(c) It is the responsibility of the Team to ensure that students are eligible under the Rule 2.3.

3.3 Team Coach Registration

Team Coaches must be registered by completing the registration form before the deadline in the Timeline.

3.4 Team Number as Identification

Once a Team has completed registration, the Organizing Committee will issue an official Team Number. All communication must be made in reference to this Team Number.

3.5 Changes to Registration Information

Once the Team has completed registration, Teams may not make any changes, whether additions or substitutions, including contact and mailing information, without permission from the Organizing Committee. Any request to make a change must be submitted to the official email (losmcc@163.com) with an explanation of the reason for the requested change. Substitution of a Team Member is permitted before the start of Oral Pleadings only with the written permission of the Organizing Committee by the official email or online notice.

RULE 4: JUDGES AND ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE

4.1 Determination of Eligibility

The Tribunal for each Round of the Competition is composed of Judges being experts and practitioners on the law of the sea and related fields, appointed by the Organizing Committee.

4.2 The Tribunal and Judges

(a) Judges will review and evaluate the Written Submissions under the Guidelines for Judges.

(b) The Tribunal of each Moot shall consist of:

- (i) three Judges in the Preliminary Round;
- (ii) five Judges in the Semi-Final Round; and
- (iii) five Judges in the Grand Final.

(c) Judges shall not provide support or advice for any Team or any Coach before, during or after the Competition. Teams receiving support or advice from a Judge will be disqualified.

(d) Judges shall not communicate with the Team Members or Coaches on the issues of the Case before the Oral Pleadings.

(e) Judges shall not reveal the contents or scores of Written Submissions to Team Members or Coaches.

4.3 Judge Conflicts of Interest

(a) A “conflict of interest” means an affiliation which would, from the perspective of an objective, reasonable and informed third-party, create an inference that the affiliated Judge would be unable to be impartial as to the conduct or result of any Round.

(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.

- (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.
- (d) It is the duty of a Judge to report any affiliations at the time he or she registers to Judge or subsequently, directly to the Organizing Committee in advance of the Competition. The Organizing Committee shall investigate any reported affiliation (whether self-reported by a judge or otherwise) and shall determine whether such affiliation constitutes a conflict of interest.
- (e) Conflicts of interest do not necessarily appear when:
- (i) the Judge knows one or both Coaches, either because of professional or personal affiliation, prior to participation in the Competition, or other reasons;
 - (ii) the Judge is an alumnus/alumna of one of the universities/institutions participating in the OP;
 - (iii) the Judge is an employee of one of the universities/institutions participating in the OP where such employment is sufficiently remote from the activities of the Teams as to dispel any reasonable suspicion of partiality;
 - (iv) the Judge is from the same province (or city) as a Team that he/she is scoring.

4.4 Comments by Judges

Judges are encouraged to provide feedback to Teams regarding their performance at the end of a Moot. In providing such feedback, Judges are encouraged to give due regard to the time limitations and schedule of the Competition. Judges may not provide any feedback that would reveal the scores given to individual Oralists, or the results of the Moot.

RULE 5: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

5.1 Submission

(a) Each Team participating in the Competition must prepare one Written Submission for the Applicant, one Written Submission for the Respondent.

(b) Each Team must submit its final Written Submissions once to the Organizing Committee via the official email no later than 23:59 Beijing Time on the date specified in the Timeline. Late submission shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C. Any modification of the Written Submissions is not permitted.

(c) Late submission shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C. Any technical problems will not be considered justification for improper formatting or late submission.

(d) Teams shall be disqualified in accordance with Annex C if its Written Submissions are submitted four days after the deadline or resubmitted after the deadline, unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing by the Organizing Committee.

5.2 Formatting

(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.

(b) Paper Size/Margins: All pages of the Written Submissions must be A4 size (21.0 x 29.7 cm), with equal margins of one inch (2.54 cm) on all four sides.

(c) Font and Font Size: The font and size of the text of all parts of Written Submissions, excluding the Cover Page and page numbers but including the footnotes, must be in Times New Roman 12-point.

(d) Line Spacing: The text of all parts of Written Submissions must be double-spaced, except for the Cover Page, Table of Contents, Index of Authorities, headings and footnotes. Quotations to sources outside of the Written Submission may be block quoted (i.e., right and left indented) and single-spaced only if the quotation (excluding footnotes) has at least fifty words.

(e) Kerning is not permitted.

(f) Format does not conform to specifications shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

(g) Each Team shall ensure the document can be accessed without restrictions.

5.3 Contents

(a) Each of the Written Submission must contain the following parts in the following order:

(i) Cover Page (with the given Team Number, the name of the Case and type of the document, see Annex A);

- (ii) Table of Contents;
- (iii) Index of Authorities;
- (iv) Statement of Jurisdiction;
- (v) Questions Presented;
- (vi) Statement of Facts;
- (vii) Summary of Pleadings; and
- (viii) Pleadings (including Conclusion/Prayer for Relief).

(b) Any pictures other than maps and charts are not accepted. Anything not enumerated in this Rule, for example, a Table of Abbreviations, are prohibited and shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

5.4 Length

(a) The Statement of Facts section, including the section title, any section headings, section subheadings, conclusion, associated footnotes, signature block, or other language a Team might elect to include, must be no longer than 1,200 words.

(b) The Summary of Pleadings section, including the section title, any section headings, section subheadings, conclusion, associated footnotes, signature block, or other language a Team might elect to include, must be no longer than 700 words.

(c) The Pleadings section, including the section title, any section headings, section subheadings, the required Conclusion/Prayer for Relief, associated footnotes, signature block, or other language a Team might elect to include, must be no less than 8,500 words and no longer than 9,500 words.

(d) Excessive length and insufficient length shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

5.5 Citation

(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.

- (b) Fake/ inaccurate footnotes, including those generated by AI tools are not permitted.

5.6 Plagiarism

Teams shall not commit plagiarism. “Plagiarism” means appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of another’s writings, or the ideas or language of another, and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind. After investigation and review, in a verified case of plagiarism, the Organizing Committee will judge the degree of the violation, assess a penalty in accordance with Annex C, and/or notify the Team’s Coach(es) and/or other university/institution official(s).

RULE 6: IN-PERSON MOOTS

6.1 General Procedures

Each Team may have one or two Oralists(s) to present during the Moot. Each Team is granted a total of 40 minutes, including i) introducing the Team Members as well as the time allocation; ii) presenting their pleadings; iii) responding to the Judges; and iv) conducting rebuttal/surrebuttal. Teams may freely allocate oral argument time among their Oralists within the total time granted.

6.2 Extension of Time at Judges’ Discretion

The President of the Tribunal may, at his/her discretion, extend total Team oral argument time beyond the 40-minute allocation, and Oralists asked by the President to expand upon arguments may, in this instance, exceed the allocated individual limit. When a Judge asks questions during the Pleading stage, the time counting won't be suspended.

6.3 Composition of Tribunals

The Tribunal of each Moot shall be established pursuant to Rule 4.2. In extenuating circumstances, the Organizing Committee may adopt appropriate measures to ensure the orderly conduct of the Moot.

6.4 Timekeepers

(a) The official time of the Competition during a Moot is the time indicated by Timekeepers appointed by the Organizing Committee, who will ensure each Moot going through smoothly and punctually.

(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.

(c) No one other than the Timekeepers for each Moot can notice the time.

6.5 Order and Scope of the Pleadings

(a) The order of the Pleadings in each Moot at all stages of the Competition is Applicant 1 → Applicant 2 (if there is any) → Respondent 1 → Respondent 2 (if there is any) → Rebuttal (Applicant 1 or 2) → Surrebuttal (Respondent 1 or 2).

(b) A Team's Pleadings are not in any way limited to the scope of the Team's Written Submissions. However, verbatim reading of the Written Submissions during the Oral Pleadings is strictly prohibited.

(c) Once an Oralist has completed his/her main pleadings, he/she may not make any additional arguments, except for rebuttal or surrebuttal. This applies irrespective of whether the pleading Team uses all of the time it has allocated for the main pleadings.

6.6 Rebuttal and Surrebuttal

(a) The rebuttal or surrebuttal must be delivered by one of the two Oralists participating in the Moot. Teams need not indicate prior to rebuttal or surrebuttal which the Oralist will deliver rebuttal or surrebuttal.

(b) The rebuttal shall immediately follow the Respondent, and the surrebuttal shall immediately follow the rebuttal.

(c) The scope of the rebuttal is limited to responding to the Respondent's main pleadings, and the scope of the surrebuttal is limited to responding to the rebuttal. Judges are admonished to enforce the limits on the scope of rebuttal and surrebuttal and may take a violation of this Rule into account in evaluating an Oralist's performance.

(d) Teams may waive their right to deliver a rebuttal or surrebuttal. If the Applicant waives rebuttal, Respondent will not appear for surrebuttal.

(e) Each Team shall be given a maximum of five minutes to present its rebuttal or surrebuttal, including the time to address the Judges' questions. No time extensions are allowed during rebuttal or surrebuttal.

6.7 Researchers

During each Moot, one additional Team Member may sit at the table with the two Oralists as Researcher. The person acting as Researcher must be one of the Team

Members registered pursuant to Rules 2.2 and 2.3. The person acting as Researcher need not be the same person in each Moot.

6.8 Communications in a Moot

(a) Each Oralist may communicate with the Judges only during his/her allotted time orally. Written communication or document delivery are prohibited to any Judges.

(b) The President of the Tribunal may communicate with the participants in a Moot to ensure the orderly conduct of the Moot where necessary.

(c) Communication among Team Members in a Moot shall be limited to written communications among the Members seated at the counsel table. No other communication may take place.

(d) Improper communications in a Moots shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

6.9 Spectators

(a) The Preliminary Round is closed to the public.

(b) The Semi-Final Round and the Grand Final are open to the public. The audience shall avoid making any unnecessary noise, outbursts, or other inappropriate behavior which distracts from the argument in progress.

(c) The presence of Team Coaches or other spectators affiliated with the Team is permitted in the courtroom during a Moot in which the Team is competing in all Rounds. Teams are responsible for ensuring that their spectators do not engage in any disruptive behavior.

6.10 Prohibition of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices during a Moot is not allowed, including but not limited to those which are internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant

messaging capabilities. All such devices must be turned off and removed from sight as soon as entering the courtroom, and must remain off and out of sight until the conclusion of the Moot. Violations of the use of electronic devices during a Moot shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

6.11 Audio and Video Recording

(a) No audio or video recording of Oral Pleadings is permitted except by the Organizing Committee. In no circumstances are participating Teams permitted to view or listen to any video or audio recordings until after the completion of the entire Competition.

(b) ABOS reserves all rights to the audio and video recordings, or any other forms of audio or visual reproduction, of any Moot or part thereof. All Teams participating in the Competition will be deemed to have consented to the recording and broadcasting of that Moot.

6.12 Complaints

(a) If a Team believes that an infraction of the Rules has occurred during any Moot, the Team must write to inform the Organizing Committee as soon as reasonably practicable after the infraction becomes known to the Team, and in any event within 30 minutes of the completion of the Moot. Any complaint not raised or reduced to writing within the time stipulated is deemed waived. No written complaint may exceed 500 words without express permission of the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee's decision on all appeals is final.

(b) If a judge believes that an infraction of the Rules has occurred during any Moot, the judge shall notify the Organizing Committee as soon as possible without discussing the matter with the Teams.

6.13 Ghost

(a) Whereas a Team is disqualified from or withdraws the Competition and is not able to proceed the OP, the Organizing Committee may decide to arrange a ghost to take the position of that Team, pursuant to Rule 1.2. The ghost shall follow Rule 6, *inter alia*:

(i) to proceed the OP based on the legal contentions in the WS of the Team within the time limit under the Rule 6.1; and

(ii) to deliver the rebuttal in accordance with Rule 6.6.

(b) It should be noted that the participation of the ghost shall not be regarded as the participation of the Competition in any circumstances. The ghost is not supposed to respond to the Tribunal in the Moot, including the questions raised by the Judges. Nor should any of their performance be scored and evaluated.

RULE 7: HYBRID MOOTS

7.1 In General

(a) The Organizing Committee may decide, for health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold a Moot entirely or in part by video link and to adapt its working methods to the need to work remotely.

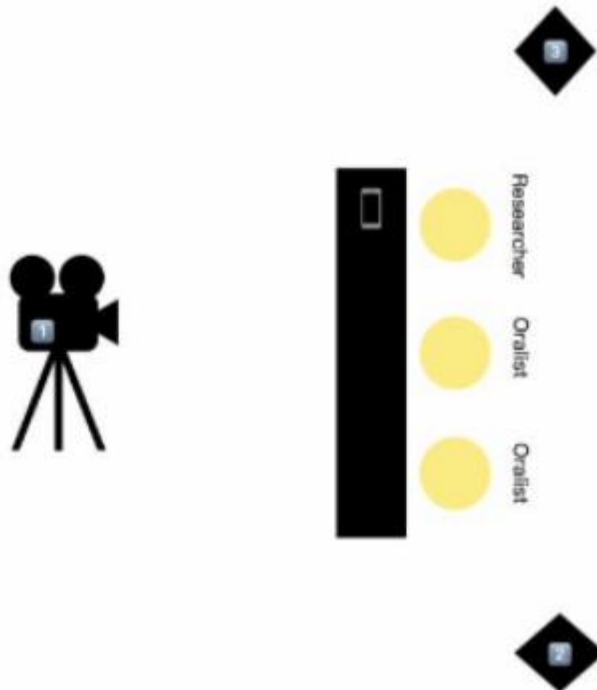
(b) Rules 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.12 and 6.13 will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the hybrid Moot.

(c) The Organizing Committee may have further notice on other affairs including the living streaming of the Semi-Final Round and the Grand Final pursuant to Rule 1.2.

7.2 Technical requirement

(a) The Moot by video link should adopt three cameras: Camera 1 should be placed directly in front of the Team Members; Camera 2 and 3 should be placed at 45 degrees behind the left and right side of the Team Members respectively.

(b) Camera 1 should be logged into “Tencent Conference” and named as Team Number + “Team”, e.g. 01Team. Both Camera 2 and Camera 3 should be linked by QQ video call.



(c) Without violating Rule 6.10, each Team must have a mobile phone for the Researcher to contact the Organizing Committee in case of emergencies, place it

on the rightmost side of the Team Members, and indicate the Organizing Committee before placing it. During the Moot, the phone should be switched off.

(d) The Organizing Committee will hold, at least four days before the Moot, practice sessions or tutorials with all parties, in order to ensure the correct functioning of the technical equipment, solve any problems that might arise, and ensure adequate sound and video quality.

7.3 Location of Participants

(a) Unless with prior consent from the Organizing Committee, Members of one Team shall be in the same room. The Coaches are allowed in that room.

(b) Members of two Teams are prohibited to be in the same room during a hybrid Moot.

(c) The Judge of any hybrid Moot shall not be in the same room as any Member of either or both Teams participating in that Moot.

7.4 Timekeepers

(a) The official time of the Competition during a Moot is the time indicated by Timekeepers appointed by the Organizing Committee, who will ensure each Moot going through smoothly and punctually.

(b) The Timekeepers will notice every Oralist respectively when there are five, three and one minute(s) left and when time is up by displaying paperboards or other appropriate means determined by the Organizing Committee.

(c) No one other than the Timekeepers for each Moot can notice the time.

7.5 Communications in a Moot

(a) Each Oralist may communicate with the Judges only during his/her allotted time orally. Written communication, document delivery or screen sharing are prohibited to any Judge.

(b) The President of the Tribunal may communicate with the participants in a Moot to ensure the orderly conduct of the Moot where necessary.

(c) Communication among Team Members in a Moot shall be limited to written communications among the Members seated at the counsel table. No other communication may take place unless with prior consent from the Organizing Committee.

(d) Necessary communications because of technical problems are not subject to Rules 7.5 (a), (b) and (c).

(e) Improper communications in a Moot shall be subject to penalty in accordance with Annex C.

7.6 Non-Appearance of a Team and Technical Problems

(a) Where a Team or a Team Member is experiencing technical problems in joining a Moot, they must inform the Organizing Committee immediately, or as soon as possible, of the problem and the reasons (if known) for it.

(b) Where a technical problem occurs during a Moot, the President of the Tribunal shall exercise his or her discretion as to how to proceed, in accordance with this Rule.

(c) Unless directed to the contrary by the Organizing Committee, if a Team fails to join a Moot, the President of the Tribunal, after waiting 30 minutes, shall allow the Moot to proceed *ex parte*. In an *ex parte* proceeding, the attending Team presents its oral pleadings, which are scored by the judges to the extent possible as if the absent Team had been present and arguing. In such a case, the Team that fails to appear forfeits all points of oral pleadings.

(d) If an Oralist, either is unable to join the Moot or having joined the Moot, has such technical difficulties as makes it impossible for him/her to commence his/her

oral argument, the President of the Tribunal may permit another Team Member to be substituted, save that no Team Member may speak for longer than the time permitted by this Rule. Once an Oralist has commenced his/her OP, no substitution may be permitted.

(e) Where an entire Team has such technical difficulties that they are unable to continue to participate in a Moot, the President of the Tribunal shall determine, after waiting for at least 10 minutes and not more than 15 minutes, whether the Moot should proceed on the basis of such submissions as that Team has already made, or as if the Moot had proceeded *ex parte*, or to abandon the Moot. The President of the Tribunal should where possible consult the Organizing Committee before exercising his/her powers under this Rule which would result in the Moot proceeding *ex parte*.

(f) Where the President of the Tribunal encounters technical difficulties during the course of a Moot such that he/she is unable to properly participate in the Moot, then after the Moot has been suspended for not less than 10 minutes and not more than 20 minutes, the remaining Judges shall determine which of them shall assume the role of the President of the Tribunal. The Moot will proceed with the remaining two Judges.

(g) No Moot may proceed with only one Judge participating. Such a Moot must be abandoned.

(h) In the event of a technical problem during a Moot affecting a Team or a judge, the President of the Tribunal and any Judge affected shall send a brief report to the Organizing Committee, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Moot. The Organizing Committee may request observations from any Judge, Team Member, Team Coach.

RULE 8: COMPETITION SCORING

8.1 Scoring of WS

- (a) The Written Submissions' score consists of the scores of the Memorial and the Counter-Memorial.
- (b) Each Written Submission will be scored by two Judges. Each Judge will score each Written Submission on a scale of 0 to 100 points. The average of the two scores will be the final score of the Written Submission.
- (c) If the two scores have an unreasonable difference, the third Judge may be assigned by the Organizing Committee to score. The score given by the third Judge will be the final score of this Written Submission.

8.2 Scoring of OP

- (a) The score of Teams in each Moot is the average score of Oralist 1 and Oralist 2 (if there is any). The Oral Pleadings' score consists of the scores of Teams in the Moots on behalf of the Applicant and the Respondent.
- (b) Each Oralist will be scored by three Judges in the Preliminary Round, and five Judges in the Semi-Final Round and the Grand Final. Each Judge will score each Oralist on a scale of 0 to 100 points. The average scores given by the Judges will be the final score of the Oralist.

RULE 9: AWARDS

9.1 The Final Championship

The Team that wins the Final Championship will receive two awards, a trophy to keep, and the CHINA ILOSMCC Cup. The CHINA ILOSMCC Cup must be returned immediately after the award ceremony.

9.2 Awards

The following awards will be given to the Teams:

(i) First prize: four Teams (into the final), Champion for one Team, Runner Up for one Team, Second Runner Up for two Teams;

(ii) Second prize: four Teams;

(iii) Third prize: eight Teams;

(iv) Best Coach: one to two persons;

(v) Best Written Submission: one for the Applicant and one for the Respondent (according to Written Submission's score ranking); and

(vi) Best Oralist: one to four for the Applicant and one to four for the Respondent (according to Oralists' score ranking during the Competition).

Annex A Sample of the Cover Page of WS

1. Cover Page of Memorial of Applicant



Team Number:

**2026 China International Law of the Sea
Moot Court Competition**

(Case Title)

(Applicant v. Respondent)

**MEMORIAL OF APPLICANT
DATE**

2. Cover Page of Counter-Memorial of Respondent



Team Number:

2026 China International Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition

(Case Title)

(Applicant v. Respondent)

COUNTER-MEMORIAL OF RESPONDENT

DATE

Annex B The Timeline

Deadline	Activities
10 April 2026	Competition Launch, Publication of the Competition Case
20 April 2026	Publication of the Competition Rules
22 May 2026	<p>Deadline for Team Registration</p> <p>1) The deadline for submitting the registration form shall be 23:59 Beijing Time.</p> <p>2) The Organizing Committee will provide each registered team with a team number by email which must be used for all further communication.</p> <p>3) Late Registration is only permitted upon request to the Organizing Committee.</p>
11 June 2026	<p>Deadline for Clarification Requests.</p> <p>Clarification Requests by registered teams must be sent by email to: losmcc@163.com</p>
19 July 2026	Publication of Clarification
3 August 2026	<p>Deadline for Written Submission</p> <p>1) Deadline for Registered Teams to send electronic copies of Written Submissions.</p> <p>2) Deadline for dispatch shall be 23:59 Beijing Time, and sent to: losmcc@163.com.</p>
11 September 2026	Announcement of 16 finalist teams
31 October-1 November 2026	Oral Pleadings

Annex C Penalty System

1. Written Submission Penalties

(a) Written Submission Penalties will be imposed by the Organizing Committee and shall be deducted from each of the individual Judges’ scores on a Team’s Written Submissions.

(b) In instances where only one Written Submission is subject to Penalties, those Penalties will be deducted from the score of that Written Submission only.

(c) The Organizing Committee shall include with such notification a reasonable deadline for any appeals from the decision to impose Penalties. The Organizing Committee shall decide any reconsideration request. No appeal is available from this decision of the Organizing Committee.

(d) Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules concerning Written Submission by reference to the following table:

Rule	Action	Penalty points	
2.10	Violation of anonymity	Up to 10 points (one-time penalty), or disqualification	
5.1	Late submission	1 day	3 points
		2 days	3 points
		3 days	3 points
		4 days	disqualification
	Resubmission	disqualification	
5.2	Wrong file type	3 points per WS, asked to submit WS in the right format	
	Wrong paper size	1 point	
	Wrong page margin		
	Wrong font		
	Wrong font size		
	Wrong inter- liner spacing		
	Kerning		
Failure to access documents	3 points per WS		
5.3	Failure to use the Case name	2 points	
	Failure to use the Team Number	1 point	
	Failure to correctly identify the type of the document (e.g. Complainant WS)	1 point	

	Failure to include all parts of Memorial, or inclusion of an un-enumerated part	2 points per infraction	
5.4	Excessive length/Insufficient Length: Pleadings	1- 100 words	2 points
		101-200 words	4 points
		201-300 words	6 points
		301-400 words	8 points
		401-3000 words	10 points
	3000+ words	disqualification	
	Excessive length: Summary of pleadings	2 points	
	Excessive length: Statement of Facts	2 points	
5.6	Plagiarism	1 to 50 points, or disqualification	

2. Oral Pleading Penalties

(a) Penalty points will be deducted only by the Organizing Committee and from each of the individual Judges' scores on a Team.

(b) Judges may not deduct any Penalty points from the scores of Oralists. Judges shall score the Moot as if no violation occurred, and may take an infraction into account only if so instructed by the Organizing Committee.

(c) Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules during a Moot by reference to the following table:

Rule	Action	Penalty points
2.10	Violation of anonymity	Up to 10 points (one-time penalty), or disqualification
6.8 & 7.5	Improper communications	Up to 10 points, or disqualification
6.10	Using electronic devices during a Moot	2 points per infraction
6.11	Audio or video recording	Up to 10 points, or disqualification