



ICRC

The 12th International Humanitarian Law Moot (2021) An Inter-University Competition for Taiwan

*Co-organized by the Red Cross Society of the Republic of China and
the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*

Guidance for Virtual Oral Hearings

Last updated on 10 August 2021

In light of the recent pandemic of the COVID-19, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of China and the International Committee of Red Cross (Organizing Committee) decide to conduct the 12th IHL Moot Court Competition for Taiwan (IHL Moot) through submission of memorials and virtual oral hearings.

This guidance note is an important supplementary document for the participants with regard to the format of virtual oral hearings. Participants should read through this guidance note before the commencement of the online oral hearings. Previously published rules related to this competition remain unchanged (please refer to *'The Rules'*¹).

1. Technical requirements

- 1.1. **Platform-** [TBA] will be used for the virtual oral hearings. The login details to the platform will be sent to the contact person of each team via email prior to teams' designated competition time slots.
- 1.2. **Device-** Personal computers (either a laptop or a desktop) with 8G ram or above (either macOS or Windows 8 or above operating systems), and with built-in webcam or external webcam shall be used for this competition. Tablets and mobile phones are not allowed to be used in this competition.
- 1.3. **Login-** To validate each mooter's identity, mooters should prepare their own devices individually. In other words, each team should have two laptop or desktop computers for respective mooters for this competition. Assigned individual login account should be logged in on one device only at the same time.
- 1.4. **Audio-** To ensure a good audio quality, an add-on microphone or headphone shall be connected to the computers prior to the commencement of this competition. It is highly recommended that participants should not use the built-in audio system for this competition for quality of sound. Mooters shall mute their microphones when it is not their turn to speak to prevent any background noise.

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<https://www.redcross.org.tw/english/home.jsp?pageno=201402140002&acttype=view&dataserno=202108100002>

- 1.5. **Browser- Google Chrome** is highly preferred to be used for the competition. Mooters should take into account that any other browsers may cause the failure of connecting to the competition platform. Mooters shall bear the risk of any connection failure caused by adopting other browsers during the competition.
- 1.6. **Location-** A quiet venue with plain background, stable and accessible Internet /Wi-Fi connection is needed for the competition. Virtual background will not be provided on the competition platform.
- 1.7. **Online Testing Session-** An online testing session will be provided by the Organizing Committee. All teams are required to attend the designated testing session before the commencement of the competition. The testing session serves the purpose of clearing technical issues. Absence from the designated testing sessions may cause a mark deduction subject to the decision of Organizing Committee. Mooters should contact the Secretary **via email** if they have any difficulties to attend the designated testing session. The risk of connection failure shall be borne by the mooters who choose to be absent from the testing session.

2. Participating in the competition

- 2.1. **Early Arrival-** Participants are recommended to log in to the competition platform **20 minutes** before the commencement of the competition. Before the competition starts, participants should ensure the webcam and microphone are able to work properly. Early arrival enables participants to have sufficient time for technical testing preparations, which include testing video settings, audio settings and the background.
- 2.2. **Visual- The webcam should be turned on throughout the competition.** Make sure the webcam is placed in a stable position, and put at the eye level with good lighting (Clearly show your face. Avoid backlight as your face will be dark.) Make sure you look into the camera lens when it is your turn to speak.
- 2.3. **Appearance-** Mooters shall **be seated** throughout the competition. The upper body shall be unobstructed in the camera. Participants shall **dress appropriately** as in the court room setting.
- 2.4. **Communication-** Mooters of the same team during the competition shall communicate with each other through writing on the plain papers, if at the same venue. If mooters of the same team join the competition at different venues, mooters are allowed to communicate through a private web chat during the competition. However, mooters are not allowed to communicate with any other unapproved persons, including the researchers, coaches or non-registered members, etc.
- 2.5. **Feedback session-** Once the Prosecutor and Defendant teams have both finished the oral arguments, the Bailiffs will invite teams to leave the virtual court room for a **15 minutes** break to conduct the Judges' Deliberation. The judges will stay in the same virtual court room for deliberation. Teams shall return to the same virtual court room after the 15 minutes break for receiving feedback from the judges who will refrain from commenting on the substance of the case or disclosing the scoring of each mooter. Once the feedback session is completed, teams shall leave the

room.

2.6. **Scoresheets-** Judges will send their electronic scoresheets to the Organizing Committee. The Secretary will announce the results of each round via email.

2.7. **Timeslots-** Teams shall ensure that they are available the entire day for the General Rounds (on 20th & 21st November 2021), and the scheduled time slots for the Final Round. For any changes in the schedule, the Organizing Committee will inform the teams in due course.

3. **Technical issues**

3.1. **Technical issues before session started-**

3.1.1. If teams encounter the situation of unable to join the competition platform, judges will wait for a **maximum of 10 minutes**. If the technical problems cannot be resolved, the court clerk will announce to the court that there is no appearance by the team called. The oral hearing will proceed pursuant to **Rule 10a**.

3.1.2. If a judge is unable to join the competition platform, the other judges will wait for a **maximum of 10 minutes**. If the technical issues cannot be resolved, the competition will continue to proceed by having at least two judges. Please refer to Rule 17 for scoring methods under this circumstance.

3.2. **Technical issues during the session-**

3.2.1. If a mooters encounter the situation of audio, visual or total disconnection during the competition, judges will wait for a **maximum of 10 minutes**. The judge shall have the right to proceed with the competition if both competing teams have mooters remain in the virtual court room.

3.2.2. If a judge encounters the situation of internet disconnection during the competition, other judges in the same panel will continue the competition. If a judge was disconnected in the session for more than 20 minutes, the scores of the disconnected judge shall not be counted in the session. The final judgement is subject to the decisions of the Organizing Committee.

4. **Others**

4.1. Participants are not allowed to record the competition without permission from the Organizing Committee.

4.2. The competition platform link and the individual login details shall not be shared to others.

4.3. The Final Round competition and the Prize Announcement will be opened to all participating teams and public to take part with a live streaming format through the competition platform on 21st November 2021 (Sun) from [TBA] (Taiwan Time, UTC+8) ([TBA] for the Final Round and [TBA] for the Prize Announcement). Live streaming link will be sent to the contact person of each team via email in due course.

- 4.4. The virtual oral hearings are an unprecedented new format to be taken in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation across the globe. The Organizing Committee are committed to take the best available solutions to tackle any issues that could happen during the competition to achieve the fairest results for all participants. The Organizing Committee do not guarantee to resolve every technical issue to achieve individual team's satisfactions.
- 4.5. The Judge's panel shall have absolute discretion to make their assessment and decision over any dispute.
- 4.6. This guidance is a supplementary document that serves as an important note to participants before joining the online oral hearings. Previously published rules for this competition remain in force.

- The End -