



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY



Nuremberg Moot Court 2020 Rules



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§ 1 Objective

- 1) The Nuremberg Moot Court (NMC) aims to encourage law students to discover and improve their knowledge of international criminal law by arguing a hypothetical case before the International Criminal Court (ICC). At the same time, it aims to promote the fundamental heritage of the Nuremberg Trials: accountability for core international crimes through a fair trial.
- 2) The NMC provides students with the opportunity to improve their public speaking, practical, and legal skills. Students will become familiar with international criminal law, the ICC's mandate, functions, and jurisprudence.
- 3) The language of the NMC is English.
- 4) The Finals of the NMC will take place in the historic Courtroom 600, the original location of the Nuremberg Trials after World War II. Participants will have a unique historical and educational experience.

§ 2 The Organizers

The NMC is organized by the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the International Criminal Law Research Unit of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (the Organizers):

Contact addresses:

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§ 3 Rules

- 1) The NMC 2020 Rules (Rules) regulate the NMC from the opening of the registration to the Awards Ceremony.
- 2) The Organizers have the authority to interpret and amend the Rules.
- 3) By submitting their application, applicants acknowledge that they have read and accepted these Rules.
- 4) The scores and decisions regarding individual participants and teams by the judges are not subject to complaints and cannot be appealed.
- 5) Participants may complain formally against administrative errors (e.g., incorrect calculation of overall results). Any complaint regarding other participants or other circumstances shall be brought to the attention of the Organizers immediately. Retroactive complaints will not be heard.



§ 4 General Provisions

a) Timetable

Friday, 6 December 2019	Opening of the Application Phase
Sunday, 16 February 2020	Closing of the Application Phase
Friday, 21 February 2020	Distribution of the NMC Case and team number to all admitted teams
Sunday, 19 April 2020	Deadline for submission of the Written Memoranda
Monday, 25 May 2020	Announcement of the participating and sponsored teams, as well as the results
Wednesday, 29 July 2020	Opening Ceremony of the NMC 2020
Thursday, 30 July 2020	Preliminary Round I
Friday, 31 July 2020	Preliminary Round II
Saturday, 1 August 2020	Last 16, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, Finals and Awards Ceremony

b) Use of Terms

Team Coordinator	The Team Coordinator can be the Team Coach or a Team Member. S/he is responsible for the administration of the whole team, such as registration, accommodations, visas, communication with the Organizers.
Team Coach	The Team Coach provides general advice to Team Members and assists with designing the case strategy but does not participate as a Team Member. S/he can be a staff member of the Team's institution. The presence of the Team Coach during the oral rounds in Nuremberg is not mandatory.
Team	The Team consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five students (plus one Team Coach).
Team Member	A Team Member is an undergraduate or graduate law student, registered at the institution that s/he will be representing at the NMC.
Team Number	The Team Number is the anonymous identification number given to each team participating in the NMC.
Written Memorandum	A Written Memorandum includes two written submissions: one for the Prosecution and one for the Defense.
Bench	The Bench refers to the NMC judges.
NMC Official website	www.nuremberg-moot.de
NMC Official Facebook page	www.facebook.com/nurembergmootcourt

§ 5 Competition

- 1) No application fee or participation fee is charged.
- 2) The NMC consists of the Application Phase, Written Phase, and Oral Rounds.
- 3) To participate in the NMC, Teams need to submit an application with a letter of motivation in accordance with Rule 7 (Application Phase).
- 4) Teams will be selected to advance to the Written Phase based on their letter of motivation and equitable geographic representation in accordance with Rule 8.
- 5) For the Oral Rounds, Teams will be selected based on their results for the Written Memoranda and equitable geographic representation. The Organizers reserve the right to limit the number of teams participating in the NMC Oral Rounds.
- 6) The Organizers provide funding (covering travel expenses, accommodations, and per diem) to three Teams (comprising three Team Members + one Team Coach) from conflict or post-conflict countries.



§ 6 Eligibility

- 1) Any undergraduate or graduate law student is eligible to participate in the NMC as a Team Member.
- 2) Teams may comprise three to five Team Members.
- 3) Each Team needs to nominate an official Team Coordinator. The Team Coordinator will be the contact person for the Organizers throughout the NMC.
- 4) One institution is allowed to send only one team.
- 5) The substitution of Team Members is not permitted once the application deadline has passed. The Organizers may grant exceptions in some instances.

§ 7 Application Phase

- 1) Teams shall apply through their Team Coordinator by submitting an online application form on the NMC Official Website no later than Sunday, 16 February 2020, 23:59:59 CET. The application shall contain the following information:
 - a) The name of the institution represented by the Team
 - b) Personal information about the Team Coordinator, Team Coach, and all Team Members
 - c) Passport details if the Team needs a visa to travel to Germany
 - d) A letter of motivation
 - e) Whether the Team is applying for funding to participate in the NMC
- 2) The letter of motivation should include a minimum of 750 and a maximum of 1,300 words. If the Team applies for funding, a motivation of 250 words should also be included to explain why funding is necessary.

The letter of motivation shall include the following: reasons for applying to the NMC, the relevance of the NMC to the Team Members' studies and career plans, as well as their interest in the field of international criminal law.
- 3) Teams will be selected based on their letter of motivation and equitable geographic representation.

§ 8 Written Phase

- 1) A Team Number will be assigned to each selected Team.
- 2) Each Team, via their Team Coordinator, will receive the Team Number and the NMC Case by email.
- 3) Each Team shall send a Written Memorandum comprising two submissions in preparation for the hearings: one for the Prosecution and one for the Defense.
- 4) Each Team shall research, draft, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without any help or advice from anyone outside their Team. The Team Coach may only provide general advice to the Team:

For example, the Team Coach may provide general guidance on international criminal law, research methods, or pleading options and case strategies.
- 5) Each Team shall submit their Written Memorandum in a PDF format, A4 size paper.
- 6) The Written Memorandum shall be in Times New Roman, size 12. Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10.
- 7) Each page shall have a margin of 2 cm/ 0.79 inches on every side of the text.
- 8) The text shall use a 1.5 line spacing. Footnotes shall be single-spaced.
- 9) Each submission (Defense and Prosecution Memoranda) shall not exceed 14 pages, including the front page, table of contents, and footnotes. The front page shall only indicate the Team Number, the party to the proceeding (Prosecution or Defense), and "Nuremberg Moot Court 2020".
- 10) Pages shall be numbered.
- 11) No information identifying the Team Members, their university, or country may appear in the Written Memoranda, including cover pages.
- 12) The Rules of Citation and the List of Abbreviations, available on the NMC Official website, shall be strictly observed and adhered to.
- 13) The Written Memorandum comprising the two submissions shall be sent electronically no later than Sunday, 19 April 2020, 23:59:59 CET. No late submissions will be accepted.



§ 9 Scoring of the Written Memoranda

- 1) The maximum score for each submission of the Written Memorandum is 50 points:
 - Up to 40 points may be awarded to the handling of substantive issues. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and analysis of the facts: max 10 points
 - Understanding of legal issues and the applicable law: max 10 points
 - Legal analysis (quality of argument): max 10 points
 - Logic (structure of argument): max 10 points
 - Up to 10 points may be awarded to the overall presentation. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Grammar: max 3 points
 - Style: max 3 points
 - Use of legal terminology: max 4 points
- 2) Late submissions or plagiarism will be sanctioned with disqualification.
- 3) The Organizers may apply a penalty of five points per page for violation of Rule 8 (4) to (11).
- 4) Each Team will receive individual feedback about their Written Memoranda.
- 5) The results of the Written Memoranda and the Team Number of the Teams participating in the Oral Rounds will be published on the NMC Official website and Facebook page.
- 6) Those Teams that did not advance to the Oral Rounds will receive a certificate confirming their participation in the Written Phase.
- 7) In exceptional circumstances or if a selected Team cannot attend the Oral Rounds, the Organizers may contact the Team with the next best results and invite it to participate.

§ 10 Oral Rounds

- 1) The Teams that advance to the Oral Rounds shall confirm their participation to the Organizers and send the signed photo consent form by Monday, 1 June 2020.
- 2) The Oral Rounds consist of the Opening Ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, 29 July 2020, at 17:00 CET and three days of competition. The Preliminary Rounds will take place on 30–31 July 2020. The Last 16, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Finals will be held on Saturday, 1 August 2020, at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. The Finals will take place in the historic Courtroom 600.
- 3) The timetable of hearings for the NMC will be announced during the Opening Ceremony.
- 4) All Team Members shall participate in the hearings; the Organizers may grant exceptions in exceptional circumstances.
- 5) Each Team will plead twice during the Preliminary Rounds: once for the Prosecution and once for the Defense in accordance with Rule 12.
- 6) For the last rounds (Last 16, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Finals), the distribution of roles (Prosecution and Defense) between the Teams will be determined by drawing lots.

§ 11 Pleadings

- 1) The total speaking time for each role (Prosecution and Defense) is 25 minutes.
- 2) Each Team may use an extra five minutes for rebuttals.
- 3) The order of the pleadings is as follows:
 1. Oral Pleading by the Prosecution
 2. Oral Pleading by the Defense
 3. Rebuttal by the Prosecution
 4. Sur-rebuttal by the Defense
- 4) New issues cannot be raised in the rebuttal and sur-rebuttal (rebuttals). All issues raised by the Prosecution during the main presentation may be discussed during the rebuttal. All issues raised by the Defense during the main presentation and rebuttal may be addressed during the sur-rebuttal.
- 5) Objections are not allowed.



- § 12 Team Participation**
- 1) At the beginning of each hearing, the Team shall inform the Bench about the role allocation within the Team, in accordance with Rule 12(2). The role allocation used during Preliminary Round I will be final and cannot be changed during the competition.
 - 2) For each round, every Team Member shall plead once – for the Prosecution or for the Defense (rebuttals do not count). The same Team Member cannot plead for both sides. Different combinations are possible depending on the number of Team Members:

Three Team Members	Four Team Members	Five Team Members
<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two Team Members • Defense: one Team Member <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one Team Member • Defense: two Team Members 	<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two Team Members • Defense: two Team Members <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one Team Member • Defense: three Team Members <p>Option 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: three Team Members • Defense: one Team Member 	<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two Team Members • Defense: three Team Members <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: three Team Members • Defense: two Team Members <p>Option 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: four Team Members • Defense: one Team Member <p>Option 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one Team Member • Defense: four Team Members

- 3) Teams are free to decide which Team Member(s) will present the rebuttals. It does not have to be the same Team Member(s) who made the primary pleading. The Team Member(s) submitting the rebuttals can change throughout the competition.

- § 13 Communication during the Pleadings**
- 1) The Team Coach cannot sit with his or her Team and cannot give advice during the pleading.
 - 2) Team Members are allowed to use electric devices, such as laptops, watches, iPads ...
 - 3) Team members may communicate with each other in writing to support the speaker, as long as they do not disrupt the speaker.

- § 14 Appearance**
- 1) In case of late appearance, the Bench can decide to give penalty points.
 - 2) In case of exceptional circumstances, the Organizers may reschedule the hearing.

- § 15 Hearings**
- 1) Hearings are open to the public, including to members of other Teams.
 - 2) Selected hearings may be live-streamed and/or recorded by the Organizers.

- § 16 Bench**
- 1) During the Preliminary Rounds, the Bench is composed of one or two judges and one Presiding Judge.
 - 2) The Bench follows the Rules and Procedures in accordance with accepted judicial practice.



- § 17 Scoring of Oral Rounds**
- 1) The Bench will attribute a score to each Team and announce the winning Team after their deliberation. Scores will not be disclosed.
 - 2) The maximum score that can be obtained during the Preliminary Rounds is 23 points. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and understanding of the facts and legal issues of the case: max 5 points
 - Use and understanding of the law and international jurisprudence: max 5 points
 - Reasoning: max 5 points
 - Overall presentation: max 5 points
 - Winning Team: 3 points bonus
 - 3) The 16 Teams with the highest scores will advance to the Last 16. If several Teams have the same score, the Teams with the highest scores for the Written Memorandum will proceed to the next round.
 - 4) The results of the Preliminary Rounds will be announced on the evening of Friday, 31 July 2020, and published on the NMC Official website and Facebook page.
 - 5) For the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, only the winning teams will advance to the next round.

- § 18 Best Speakers**
- 1) During each round, the Bench will award two points to the best speakers and one point to the second-best speaker. These points are not added to the points awarded to the Teams.
 - 2) The speakers with the highest scores at the end of the competition will receive the “Best Speaker” and “Second-Best Speaker” Award.

- § 19 Penalty Points and Behavior**
- 1) Every Team shall maintain the utmost dignity and decorum in the courtroom and during the competition.
 - 2) The Organizers and the Bench reserve the right to allocate penalty points in the event of any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior.
 - 3) Inappropriate behavior may result in the disqualification of the Team at any stage of the competition.

§ 20 Awards The Organizers will give the following awards during the Awards ceremony:

1. First Place
2. Second Place
3. Best Speaker
4. Second-Best Speaker
5. Best Memorandum – Prosecution
6. Best Memorandum – Defense

Each Team Member will receive a certificate of participation for the written and oral phases.

- § 21 Modification of the Rules** The Organizers reserve the right to modify the Rules at any time without prior notice. Modifications will immediately be posted on the NMC website and sent to the Teams.

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