

COMPETITION RULES

The Rules of the 28th Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition apply to the SEARR, without prejudice to the rules stated herein.

Team Composition

- a. Each team member must comply with the criteria provided under the Rules of the 28th Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition (“Rules”). The Competition Committee reserves the right to disqualify and/or withdraw any award to any team, which will later be determined to have included a team member, not qualified under the Rules.
- b. Only two team members may present arguments at each round. Only two members may sit at the counsel table during a round. The two oralists are not permitted to communicate with their team, coach, or the audience during a round.

Time per Team and Rebuttal Time

- a. Each oral round will be limited to sixty minutes; each team will have thirty minutes.
- b. Teams representing the Applicant in a round may reserve up to five minutes of their time for rebuttal by:
 - i. informing the bailiff before the round how much rebuttal time will be reserved and the time breakdown for each team member; and

- ii. requesting rebuttal time from the presiding judge at the start of Applicant's argument.
- c. Only one team member may argue on rebuttal; either participating member may give rebuttal. The team member arguing the rebuttal does not need to be designated in advance of the argument.
- d. Previously reserved rebuttal time may be waived by the Applicant following the close of Respondent's argument. However, the Applicant may not otherwise reallocate rebuttal time once the round begins.
- e. Sur-rebuttal by the Respondent will not be allowed.
- f. Each participating team member must intend to speak for at least ten minutes (in addition to rebuttal time).
- g. Nothing in this rule requires a 50/50 split of time between co-counsel. However, any reserved time not used by one oralist will not be reallocated to another oralist.
- h. During the oral arguments, a bailiff will keep time for each team and provide the following time cards: 10, 7, 5, 3, 1, and stop. Oralists are welcome to take a timer to the podium; however, the bailiff's timer is the "official" time. (And if a timer is taken to the podium, the timer cannot have email or Internet capabilities, and the timer must not make any sounds.)
- i. During the oral arguments, laptops or other similar electronic devices are not permitted at the counsel table.

Anonymity

- a. Although counsel may introduce themselves to the tribunal in the usual manner, the team's law-school affiliation or country of origin must not be mentioned at any time **before, during, or**

after the oral argument (because some judges may preside in more than one round).

- b. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers must refrain from identifying a team's school or country of origin at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, patches, or pins, or carrying identifying material (such as a notebook with a school logo). This rule applies until the team is eliminated from the competition.
- c. Each team will be provided with a table card with the school's team number. The card should be placed on counsel table facing the judges at the beginning of the round and should remain on the table throughout the round. Teams should keep their table cards with them throughout the Competition.

Contact with Judges

- a. All team members and individuals affiliated with a team are prohibited from speaking with the judges before a round.
- b. Also, since individuals may judge more than one round, until a team is eliminated from the Competition, team members and individuals affiliated with the team should not speak with judges about any substantive matters or a team's identification.

Judges and Judging Criteria

- a. Barring unforeseen circumstances, each round will be judged by at least three persons.
- b. Oral argument judges will be provided with copies of the teams' memorials but these will not be a factor in scoring.

- c. Each judge will score each participating team member; the judges' scores for that round will be averaged to determine the team's oral-argument score for a round.
- d. Each judge will receive a grading form outlining the factors to be considered during the judging process; the grading form will also identify what excellent, average, and below average scores should be in each category.
- e. The factors to be considered include, but are not limited to: organization and clarity; analysis and thoroughness; knowledge of facts and law; courtroom manner and style; ability to answer questions and control argument; persuasiveness; and professionalism. The minimum score on any individual oralist's argument will be 60. Judge's scores for the oral arguments will not be released until after the Competition.

Critiques

Each judge will be requested to provide a short oral critique at the end of each round. Judges' scores for the oral arguments will be anonymized and emailed after the Competition. Each team will receive only its own oral argument scores; a team will not receive any other team's oral argument scores. It may take several weeks after the Competition for teams to receive their compiled oral argument scores.

Collaboration and Observation

- a. Teams are not allowed to collaborate or assist each other in any manner. This applies even if teams come from the same university or law school. A coach may not advise more than one team.

- b. While a team is still active in the competition, no team member, coach, friends and relatives of the team members or any supporter or other person affiliated with the team may watch the rounds where such team is not competing. This will be considered “scouting” and may lead to the disqualification of the team.
- c. If there are two teams from the same university or law school, friends, relatives and other supporters may not watch both teams. This will also be considered as scouting.
- d. Once eliminated, teams are free to watch the remaining rounds but may not assist any team in any manner.
- e. Team members, their friends, families and other supporters are not allowed to record the match.

English

All oral arguments will be conducted in English. Judges may take into consideration that English may not be a team’s first language in scoring the competition.

Visual Aids

Visual aids and other similar devices may not be used during oral argument. No documents (cases, reports, etc.) may be handed to the judges.

Preliminary Rounds

- a. Four Preliminary Rounds will be held.
- b. During the first three Preliminary Rounds, teams will be power-protected based on memorial score (higher memorial scores compete against lower memorial scores).

- c. During the last Preliminary Round, teams will be power-matched based on their record in the first three Preliminary Rounds (highest-ranked team competes against second highest-ranked team, etc.). The Competition Committee may alter the power-matched rankings so that teams will not compete against any team more than once during the Preliminary Round.
- d. Since the fourth preliminary round is power-matched, the schedule for the fourth round will be announced after the completion of the third preliminary round.
- e. Each team will be scored on a combination of its average memorial score and average oral score (1/3 memorial and 2/3 oral).
- f. Each team's score will be compared to its opponent's score in that round, and the differential determined.
- g. The teams with the best won-lost records will advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds.
- h. The Competition Committee will not change pairings simply because teams from the same school are scheduled to argue against one another.

Quarterfinal Rounds

- a. The eight highest-ranking teams from the Preliminary Rounds will advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds.
- b. The highest-ranking teams will argue against the lowest-ranking teams. The higher-ranked team will choose which side they wish to represent.
- c. The winners of each match (based on memorial scores and oral scores earned during the Quarterfinal Rounds) will advance to the Semifinal Rounds.

Semifinal Rounds

- a. The four winning teams will advance to the Semifinal Rounds.
- b. The higher-ranked team will choose which side to represent.
- c. The two winning teams will advance to the Final Round.

Final Round

- a. The winners of the Semifinal Rounds will meet in the Final Round. The higher-ranking team will choose which side to represent.
- b. The winner of the Final Round will be designated the Competition Champion.