

# Sports Arbitration Moot Rules —

2022 EDITION



SPORTS  
ARBITRATION  
MOOT

# The Sports Arbitration Moot

The Sports Arbitration Moot (the “**SAM**”) is an annual team competition for students in law schools. Moot competitions are fundamental tools for the legal education of future practitioners, who get to develop their advocacy skills while completing their studies. The SAM aims at contributing to the creation of a broader and more knowledgeable sports arbitration community.

The SAM consists of a competition where teams will make oral submissions as claimant and respondent. The 2022 edition of the SAM will be held online, with the final taking place at FIFA headquarters, Zurich. The calendar of the SAM can be found on the SAM’s website.

The SAM is entirely conducted in English.

## Eligibility

### MOOTIES

Any student enrolled in a law faculty in 2021 or 2022 can participate in the SAM, irrespective of their law degree (undergraduate, LL.M, PhD, etc.).

However, except with the permission of the SAM Organization\*:

1. Mooties who are qualified in systems where there is no Bar should not have more than two-year post-qualification experience.
2. Mooties who are qualified in systems where there is a Bar should not have any post-qualification experience.

\* To request a waiver, please contact the SAM Organization at [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com).

## LAW SCHOOLS

All law schools are eligible to participate in the SAM. Schools that are not law schools but offer a law degree are also eligible.

Each school can only enroll one team. The selection of the team should be done at the level of the law school.

## COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

Teams must be composed of at least two and a maximum of six students. Teams are free to decide how they allocate the workload. Oral arguments are made by two team members at a time. These team members can change between oral rounds.

Once the team registration is confirmed, no members may be dropped or added without special permission. Any changes in the composition of the team must be specifically communicated in writing to, and confirmed by, the SAM Organization, by no later than 31 January 2022.

## COACHES

Teams can have coaches to train and assist them. Coaches do not need to be affiliated with the law school and can also be students. SAM's ambassadors and arbitrators can also act as coaches. Coaches need to be registered together with the team. Coaches cannot plead in oral rounds but there is no restriction on the amount of assistance they can provide. When providing their assistance, coaches should bear in mind that the SAM's goal is to be a learning experience for students.

## ARBITRATORS

Arbitrators in the SAM can come from any legal system. Coaches can act as arbitrators, except for the teams they have coached. SAM's ambassadors can also act as arbitrators.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE SAM

Participants in the SAM will be directly eligible to participate in the SAM Camp – a daily two-to-three-hour course held for five days in preparation for the SAM.

The SAM Camp is not open to students that are not participating in the SAM.

Mooties must confirm their participation in the SAM Camp by no later than 12 November 2021. Coaches may participate in the SAM Camp together with the team members.

Students should attend minimum 80% of the activities of the SAM Camp. Those participants who have schedule conflicts should contact the SAM Organization for further information.

# Registration

## REGISTRATION FORM

In order to register, each team must complete a registration form, available on the SAM's website. After registering, the team will receive an e-mail with further instructions to proceed with the payment of the registration fee and to confirm its presence in the SAM Camp.

## F E E S

To enroll in the SAM, teams will have to pay a registration fee of EUR 400, which covers the Moot and the SAM Camp (the registration fee includes a team up to six Mooties plus a coach). Registration prior to 15 October 2021 will be reduced to EUR 300.

The payment of the registration fee can be made either by the students, the law school or a sponsor (e.g. law firms, companies, associations, etc.).

The registration fee must be paid by 29 November 2021 in order to participate in the Moot, unless the SAM Organization has specifically agreed to a later date.

Once the registration fee has been received by the SAM Organization, a confirmation letter will be sent to the teams by email.

The registration fee will not be refunded to teams withdrawing after 31 December 2021.

# Structure of the Moot

## SKELETON ARGUMENTS

Contrary to other moots, the SAM does not have written submissions.

However, one week prior to the start of the oral rounds, teams are expected to send two sets of documents (in total four documents, two for claimant and two for respondent), which shall consist of:

1. Each party's skeleton arguments (claimant and respondent), i.e., a one-page document with bullet points structured in the order of the team's oral pleadings. Model skeleton arguments will be provided in due course by the SAM Organization. These skeleton arguments will be essential to guide arbitrators through the team's arguments in the oral rounds.
2. The case-law and legal authorities on which each party (claimant and respondent) relies. This document should not exceed two pages and should contain the names of maximum twenty legal sources on which each party relies (including case-law and legal authorities).

## ORAL ARGUMENTS

The number and type of oral rounds will depend on the number of teams participating in the Moot. This information will be provided during the month of December 2021.

In each oral round, each team will have 20 minutes to make its oral arguments (only two team members can plead in any given round; the division of the allocated time is left up to the team to decide). This means that there will be a total of 40 minutes per oral round, which arbitrators can decide to extend up to one hour for questioning.

The arbitrators shall act in the oral rounds as they would in a real hearing (including by interrupting a line of reasoning, asking questions, etc.). The arbitrators may, at their discretion, extend the time allocated to a team, bearing in mind the principle of equality between the parties.

## ONLINE HEARINGS

A protocol for the online hearings will be provided to the teams during the month of December 2021.

## SCORING

The scoring will be left to the arbitrators during the oral rounds.

The score will be from a scale of 1 to 100, taking into account the following factors:

1. A maximum of 10 points for preparation to the hearing (namely, the team's capability of presenting itself at the oral rounds as if it was an actual hearing).
2. A maximum of 15 points for the organization of the arguments (the team's capability of following a structure, presenting conclusions, etc.).
3. A maximum of 20 points for knowledge of the case (the team's capability of making references to the case, pinpointing the right part of the document they're referring to, leading the arbitrators through the relevant exhibits, etc.).
4. A maximum of 20 points for legal study (the team's capability of referring to legal authorities and case-law, using legal materials, etc.).
5. A maximum of 10 points for persuasion in argument presentation.
6. A maximum of 10 points for time management.
7. A maximum of 15 points for handling questions from the arbitrators.

The scores will be reflected in a scoring sheet which will be provided to the arbitrators by the SAM Organization in due course.

The teams that will attend the semi-final will be the four teams with the best scores in the quarterfinal. The teams that will attend the final will be the two teams with the best scores in the semi-final. The winner will be the team with the best score in the final.

# Awards

Each participant will receive a certificate of participation in the SAM.

Additionally, there will be awards for:

1. **Best team** (collective prize for the team that wins the final round)
2. **Best claimant** (collective prize for the team that gets the highest score while acting as claimant)
3. **Best respondent** (collective prize for the team that gets the highest score while acting as respondent)
4. **Best oralist** (individual prize for the best oralist)
5. **Best legal research**

The winners of best claimant, best respondent, best oralist and best legal research will be decided by a person designated by the SAM Organization. Prizes will be announced in due course.

# Others

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Any questions related to the interpretation of the present Rules must be sent to [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com) by 30 November 2021.

The response to such questions will be published on FAQ section of the SAM's website.

## PRIVACY AND DATA REGULATION

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies to the SAM.

The Moot is an educational event and it is necessary that personal data be collected for the operation of the event. The SAM Organization will not disclose any personal data to third parties unless your specific permission has been obtained. If you have concerns or queries about the way your data is being used please contact the SAM Organization.

## CONTACT DETAILS

All communications regarding the SAM must be sent by email to the SAM Organization to the following email address: [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com).