



SPORTS
ARBITRATION
MOOT

COMPETITION REPORT

EDITION 2026

Sports Arbitration Moot Competition Report

5TH EDITION 2025 - 2026

A word from the SAM Organization	01
Our year at a glance	02
Insight into the SAM Pledges	04
Insight into the SAM Participants	05
Insight into the SAM Case	10
Insight into the SAM Camp	12
Insight into the SAM Hearings	14
Insight into the SAM Conference	23
Insight into the SAM Promotion	26
Our long-term vision	28



A word from the **SAM Organization**

Every year, we are lucky to welcome new talents as participants in the Sports Arbitration Moot (SAM), raising the standard of advocacy and of sports arbitration as a subject matter. This project is built on the value of teamwork, and a core part of our role as an organisation is to strive for a competition of the highest quality. This is why we have decided to produce reports to give participants, arbitrators, lecturers, sponsors and partners insight into how a large-scale international moot such as the SAM is run behind the scenes.

As the legal profession evolves, we are called to embrace innovative ideas now shaping the training of aspiring lawyers. In this fifth edition, artificial intelligence (AI) has obviously become an important part of that shift. But as AI improves, advocacy - central to the SAM - matters just as much, and initiatives such as international moots will only become all the more valuable for students.

The SAM 2026 marked our fifth anniversary. When we founded the SAM in 2021, we did not expect it to attract such enthusiasm and interest in sports arbitration. We have grown rapidly with an ever-increasing number of students, which in turn means we need more arbitrators. Welcoming every qualified student to the SAM Elimination Rounds remains at the core of our objectives, and we are particularly grateful for our sponsors' continuous support in helping us achieve this goal. For the first time, we welcomed all 16 teams to Madrid in person, an important milestone we hope to repeat in future editions.

Our year At a glance

What sets the SAM apart from other competitions is the sense of community it has built since its creation in 2021. As we celebrated our fifth year, this edition was a true testament to the loyalty of our participating universities, partners and arbitrators.

82

Registered
entrant Teams



76

Participating
Teams



25

Countries
represented



356

Students



84

Coaches



129

Hearings
organised



196

Unique
Arbitrators



70%

Returning
Teams



8/12

Prizes awarded
to Best 16
Teams



Our year At a glance

THE CONSECRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

The SAM brought together **76 teams from 25 countries across all six continents**, with **356 student participants and 84 coaches reported**. Asia and Europe together account for 75% of participating teams, with **India and France as the largest national delegations**. The SAM is, more than ever, shaping into a true international community.

Teams not only participate, but they also return. According to our records, **almost 70% of the participating teams at SAM 2026 are returning institutions** that have competed in at least one previous edition of the SAM. We take great pride in seeing engagement grow as fast as our expansion.

The University of Miami's win is also a reflection of the values of commitment, dedication and teamwork so central to the SAM. Indeed, this was Miami's fifth participation, and its students placed first in the ranking of the Online General Rounds in both the SAM 2025 and the SAM 2026. This impressive performance eventually culminated in this year's victory for the team from the University of Miami, represented by **Mariana Patricia Moreno Chacon, Alexis Castillo, Cristian Alvarez and Alfonso Figuerola**, and their long-standing coaches, Mr Enric Ripoll and Ms Paula Arias.



Insight into the **SAM Pledges**

01

Capacity building

We aspire to prepare the next generation of sports arbitration practitioners.

02

Innovation

We aim to give students innovative and reality-linked opportunities to develop their advocacy skills.



03

Flexibility

We endorse a hybrid format: the General Rounds are held online, giving universities worldwide the opportunity to participate; the Elimination Rounds take place in person, giving students the chance to meet and develop their networks.

04

Diversity & Team building

We bring together students from all over the world, with different legal backgrounds and cultures. We foster the creation of strong, long-lasting relationships between students, arbitrators and lecturers, to create an international SAM Community.

Insight into the SAM Participants

“ I've learned more from this competition about how to argue on behalf of something that's sports related than I've ever had before...”

For its fifth anniversary edition, the Sports Arbitration Moot welcomed a record number of teams. The SAM 2026 brought together **76 participating teams (out of 82 registered entrant teams*)**. This represents an 11.76% increase in participation compared to the SAM 2025 and a 65.22% increase compared with the SAM 2022. The most common team size remains six students.

Team composition	Number of teams	Percentage of teams	Number of students represented	Percentage of students
2 students	6	7.90%	12	3.40%
3 students	7	9.20%	21	5.90%
4 students	22	28.90%	88	24.70%
5 students	11	14.50%	55	15.40%
6 students	30	39.50%	180	50.60%
Total	76	100%	356	100%

We keep working to allow all teams to participate in the SAM, regardless of where they are based. Notably, our registration fee waiver programme permits teams in need to enter the competition and access a platform and community they might otherwise never encounter during their legal studies. To this end, the registration fee waiver programme provides both full and partial waivers to eligible teams facing financial constraints.

**The final participating teams' count excludes teams that withdrew after completing registration.*

Insight into the SAM Participants

During the registration period, teams may apply for a waiver by providing evidence that financial constraints would otherwise prevent their participation, with applications assessed on a case-by-case basis. By reducing financial barriers to entry, the programme helps ensure that participation in the SAM is determined by interest and merit rather than resources alone.

Over the past three editions, the SAM has granted **36 full or partial registration fee waivers**, underscoring its commitment to ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent talented students from participating in the competition.



CARLOS III
Spain



EDACS
France



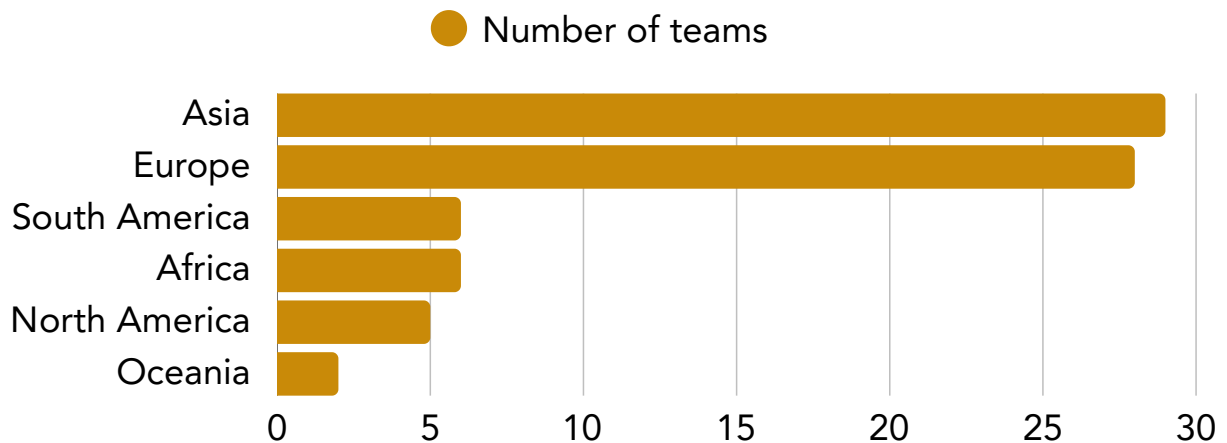
UNIVERSIDAD DEL PACÍFICO
Peru



INNER TEMPLE
United Kingdom

Insight into the SAM Participants

GEOGRAPHIC REACH



We are proud to have a diverse patchwork of legal cultures and jurisdictions involved in the SAM. Among the teams, the majority of our participants come from Asia and Europe, and we are witnessing a growing trend in the Americas.

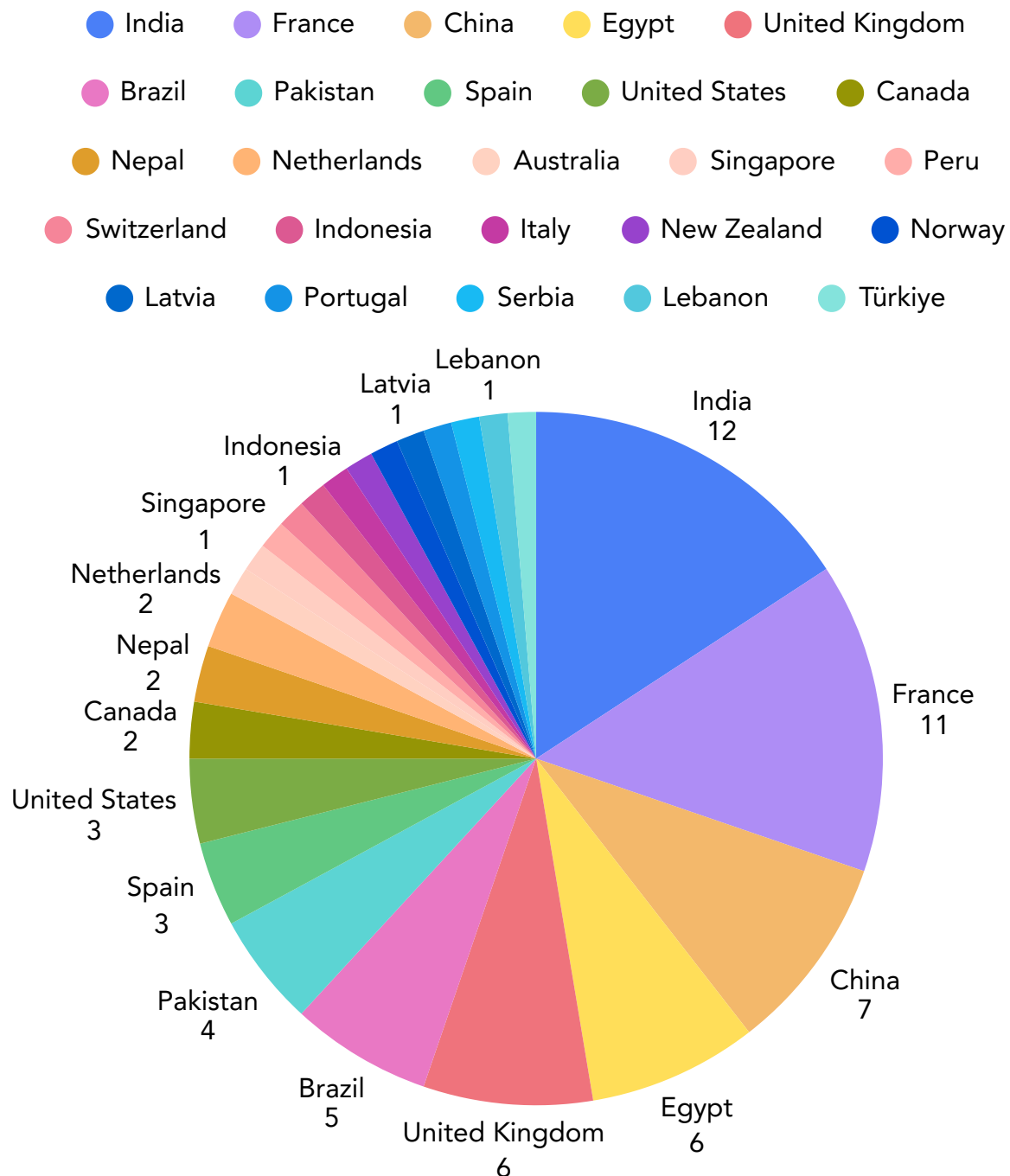
Our global reach is also a testimony of the outstanding work of the [SAM Ambassadors](#) who continue to attract more teams to the competition. India and France were particularly well represented, jointly accounting for approximately one-third of all participants. At the same time, the pool of participants remained geographically diverse, illustrating the SAM's ability to bring together students from a wide range of legal, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds.



Insight into the SAM Participants

GEOGRAPHIC REACH

SAM 2026 - Countries distribution



Insight into the SAM Participants

TEAM ENGAGEMENT

As we reflect on the past five years, the SAM has become as much a tradition for us as for the universities that have taken part in every edition of the SAM since we started in 2021:

1. Ain Shams, Egypt
2. Bond University, Australia
3. Christ University, India
4. Edge Hill, UK
5. IDAI Cairo, Egypt
6. Lisbon University, Portugal
7. Mackenzie, Brazil
8. NALSAR, India
9. Nirma University, India
10. NLSIU, India
11. University of Miami, USA



We also found that **7 in 10 teams are returning teams** that competed in at least one previous edition of the SAM, with new universities joining the competition each year.

Category	Number of Teams	Cohort Proportion
SAM 2026 Returning teams	53	69.70%
SAM 2026 First-time participants	23	30.30%
Returning from SAM 2025	46	60.50%
Returned after missing the SAM 2025	7	9.20%

Insight into the SAM Case

The SAM Case 2026, *Antonio Fortuna v. FIFA*, centred on one of the most topical integrity issues in modern sport: match-fixing in football. The fictional dispute arose from a FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Iridonia and Cometland, where unusual betting patterns, match-performance analysis and other evidence led FIFA to investigate the alleged manipulation of the match.

The Case offered a particularly rich combination of substantive and procedural issues. On the procedure, the Case raised the admissibility of the CAS appeal itself, including the circumstances surrounding the filing of the statement of appeal and an alleged cyber-attack affecting the Appellant's email system. On the merits, teams had to address whether the evidence was sufficient to establish match manipulation, the admissibility of an anonymous witness statement and anonymous email, and the legal consequences of the player's refusal to provide his mobile-phone data.

The principal regulatory framework was the 2025 FIFA Disciplinary Code, in particular Articles 12 and 20, dealing respectively with the duty to collaborate and the manipulation of football matches and competitions. The Case also required consideration of fundamental rights under Articles 6 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), alongside the procedural framework governing the appeal before CAS.

The choice of football and match-fixing also marked an interesting shift from the SAM Case 2025, which dealt with athletics and a para-athlete's use of mechanical aids for competing in able-bodied events. That Case focused on issues including exhaustion of internal remedies, evidence, the field-of-play doctrine and the scope of CAS review.

By contrast, the 2026 Case moved into sports integrity, disciplinary proceedings and betting-related corruption.

Insight into the **SAM Case**

The Case was praised as complex and intellectually challenging, while addressing genuinely topical questions in sports arbitration and sports integrity. Participants also noted that the issues raised were not merely academic: the Case provided strong opportunities to engage with arguments and legal questions that arise in real-life sports disputes and ongoing developments in the field.



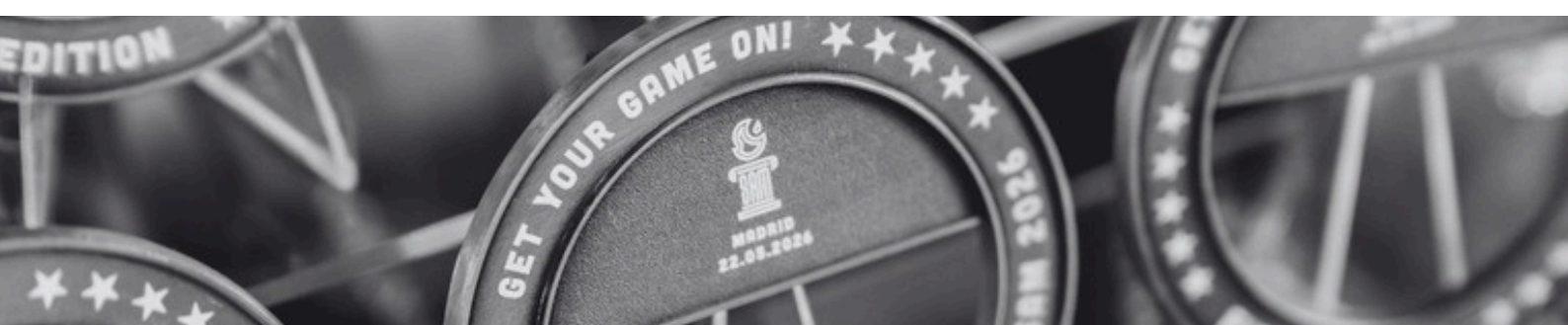
Insight into the SAM Camp

The SAM Camp 2026 was designed as a dedicated educational programme supporting teams throughout their preparation for the competition. Across five sessions, it covered **Legal Research, Oral Advocacy, Merits, Jurisdictional Issues and a dedicated Q&A**, addressing both the substantive and practical dimensions of participating in the SAM.

The programme combined sessions focused on the core skills required for a successful moot, such as developing effective legal research and oral advocacy strategies, with case-specific discussions on the merits and jurisdictional issues raised by the SAM Case 2026. The final Q&A session provided teams with an opportunity to clarify outstanding questions and deepen their understanding of the competition.

Attendance showed strong interest in this preparatory format. Across the five sessions, there were **over 640 participant attendances**, corresponding to an average of **approximately 130 participants per session**. To ensure equal access for participants across different time zones and schedules, all sessions were recorded and made available to teams throughout the weeks leading up to the hearings, allowing participants to revisit the material and engage with the training at their own pace. In total, the SAM Camp delivered **more than 8 hours of educational content**, with the individual sessions running between approximately one hour and two hours.

Beyond the numbers, the SAM Camp reinforced the educational dimension of the competition by giving students direct access to structured guidance at different stages of their preparation. It also created an additional forum to discuss the practical skills of mooting and the substantive legal questions raised in sports arbitration.



Insight into the SAM Camp

The SAM Camp core educational sessions were hosted by leading professors and lawyers in the field:



Alfredo Bullard - Oral Advocacy

Alfredo Bullard is a founding partner of Bullard Falla Ezcurra+, with offices in Lima and Madrid, and a leading practitioner in international and investment arbitration. He has acted as counsel, legal expert, arbitrator and tribunal president in more than 300 arbitration proceedings, including matters under ICC, ICSID and other major institutional rules. He is also an experienced academic and teacher of arbitration, legal skills and law and economics, and holds an LL.M. from Yale University.



Dr Madalina Diaconu - Legal Research in Sports Arbitration

Dr. Madalina Diaconu is a Swiss-qualified attorney and Managing Partner at Egis Law in Neuchâtel, with more than 25 years of legal experience specialising in sports law, sports arbitration, gambling regulation and international dispute resolution. She is also a Professor at the University of Neuchâtel and has extensive experience in sports integrity, having worked with organisations including the International Olympic Committee and UEFA's disciplinary bodies.



Dr Björn Hessert - Merits issues

Dr. Björn Hessert is an attorney-at-law at Kellerhals Carrard in Lausanne and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Zurich. He previously served as Counsel at the Court of Arbitration for Sport and has developed particular expertise in sports law, sports arbitration and sports integrity. His academic and professional work covers areas including sports investigations, match manipulation, anti-doping, safeguarding and the protection of athletes' rights.



William Sternheimer - Jurisdictional issues

William Sternheimer is the Manager for Training and Education at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), where he is notably responsible for developing and overseeing training programmes for CAS arbitrators and mediators. Before returning to CAS in 2025, he led the football practice of Morgan Sports Law for six years as a partner, after spending 10 years at CAS, progressing from Counsel to Deputy Secretary General. He has overseen over 900 CAS procedures, a testament to his extensive expertise in sports arbitration.

Insight into the **SAM Hearings**

THE SAM ARBITRATORS

The success of the SAM continues to depend on the extraordinary commitment of the sports arbitration community. In 2026, **more than 195 practitioners and distinguished academics** in the field of international sports arbitration dedicated their time on a voluntary basis to both the online general rounds and the elimination rounds.

The contribution of SAM Arbitrators is particularly remarkable. During the Online General Rounds, **over 265 arbitrator assignments were fulfilled**, representing an estimated **532 hours dedicated to hearing and adjudicating cases**. This figure does not account for the substantial time invested by our arbitrators in studying the case file, reviewing the teams' submissions, and preparing for hearings as panel members and/or as sole arbitrators.



The commitment shown during the Elimination Rounds was equally significant. **58 arbitrators travelled to Madrid** at their own expense to arbitrate the 15 in-person hearings conducted during the final stages of the competition or to participate as speakers at the SAM Conference. None received any compensation or reimbursement for their travel expenses.

Beyond ensuring the quality and integrity of the competition, SAM Arbitrators play a central educational role. Through their questions, observations, and feedback, they challenge participants to refine their advocacy skills, deepen their legal analysis, and gain practical exposure to arbitral proceedings. Their willingness to volunteer their expertise year after year reflects the sports arbitration community's commitment to supporting and mentoring the next generation of practitioners.

Insight into the SAM Hearings

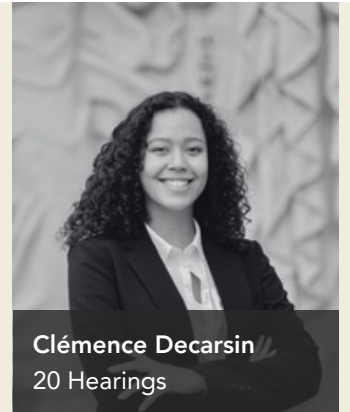
WORDS FROM OUR TOP SAM MODERATORS



Agathe Schneider
13 Hearings

"Driven by curiosity and a strong international outlook, my legal journey has taken me from France (Master's degree at Lyon III) to the United States (LL.M. and passing the New York Bar exam). At the heart of this professional trajectory, the SAM has been a decisive milestone. It all started in 2024: after registering with a classmate to try a new experience, our team advanced all the way to the final rounds in Madrid. Pleading in the offices of prestigious Spanish law firms, before international arbitrators, and alongside brilliant students from all over the world was a true turning point. The organization, worthy of a professional summit, and the wealth of encounters left a lasting impression on me. The SAM gave me so much that it felt natural to get involved in return. For the 2026 edition, I renewed the experience as a moderator for the online oral rounds. This commitment allowed me to experience the event from the inside and support a new generation of participants. More than just a competition, the SAM is an extraordinary human adventure that continues to enrich my professional path."

"I am currently a French trainee lawyer. My interest in dispute resolution incorporates international litigation and broadened into international arbitration following an LLM in International Business Law (IBL) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). I then joined the Master Arbitrage et Droit du Commerce International (MACI) at the University of Versailles, during which I competed in the third edition of the SAM, reached the Round of 16 with my team and won the Best Legal Research Award. In parallel with my professional training in arbitration, I have kept a keen interest in sports arbitration and in the competition, and continue to coach the MACI team and to support the organization of the SAM's rounds."



Clémence Decarsin
20 Hearings



Hadeel Al-Sharqawi
12 Hearings

"I hold a Master's in Football Law and a dual Bachelor's degree in Law and Business. My legal practice combines sports law and commercial law, and I have also published three academic articles internationally. I first came across the SAM after attending the SAM Conference while completing my Master's with ITTI and AIAF. One of the panels focused on the Diarra case, which happened to be the subject of my Master's research at the time. I was very engaged in the discussion and really intrigued by what SAM was doing, so I reached out to the organisers afterwards. I met the team and soon became part of the organising team myself. Moderating has been one of my favourite parts of the experience. Having seen the work that goes into preparing the case, it is always interesting to then watch students analyse it, break it down and approach the same issues from completely different angles."

Insight into the SAM Hearings

THE ONLINE GENERAL ROUNDS SCORING

Like the performance of our participants, the organization of the SAM is a true team effort. Over three consecutive weeks (from 2 March to 20 March 2026), we ran 114 hearings on a **12-hour daily programme, involving 18 active moderators**. Running the Online General Rounds requires a remarkably consistent and intensive schedule, with **at least 38 hearings held each week**.

Teams should note that the performance during the Online General Rounds does not necessarily reflect their performance in external practice rounds or in the Elimination Rounds. **Each hearing has its own settings and variables**. Akin to real arbitration hearings, teams face arbitrators from various jurisdictions, legal cultures and styles. It is also unlikely that a team will face the same opponent twice during the Online General Rounds.

The statistics below are therefore provided for information purposes and to assist the teams in analysing group performance more generally.

Scoring General Overview

SAM 2026	Total points
Maximum possible score	1400
Highest team score	1302
Lowest Best 16 score	1204
Average team score*	1102.1
Best 16 average score	1239.6
Lowest score*	323

*excluding one forfeited team.

Insight into the SAM Hearings

THE ONLINE GENERAL ROUNDS SCORING

During the Online General Rounds, each team appears in one hearing before a sole arbitrator (maximum 200 points) and two hearings before three-arbitrator panels (2 × 600 points), for a maximum of 1,400 points per team.

The final ranking is based on the cumulative scores awarded independently by all arbitrators across these three hearings, applying the methodology outlined in the SAM Rules (as applicable during a given edition).

Scoring Yearly Comparison

	SAM 2026	SAM 2025	SAM 2024
Participating Teams	76	68	66
Best Sole-Arbitrator Hearing	193 / 200 points NALSAR University	194 / 200 points Milton Campos	191 / 200 points NALSAR University
Best Three-Arbitrator Hearing	576 / 600 points SMU	577 / 600 points NLU Delhi	559 / 600 points NLSIU
Qualification threshold*	1204	1217	1194
Highest score	1302 University of Miami	1300 University of Miami	1295 Shanghai Jiao Tong
Gap 16th and 17th	8 points	3 points	5 points

**Qualification threshold: determined by the overall score reached by the 16th-ranked team.*

Insight into the SAM Hearings

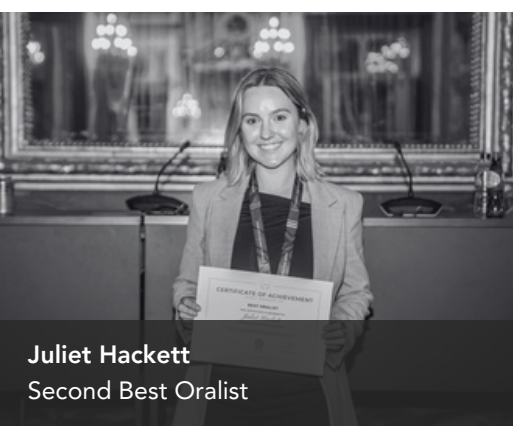
THE ONLINE GENERAL ROUNDS SCORING

Best oralist determination

While team rankings are determined by the cumulative score from the first, second, and third hearings, the Best Oralist Prize is calculated using the weighted average of an individual's scores across all three hearings, rather than a simple cumulative total.

This method ensures the prize recognizes consistent, high-level oral advocacy throughout the competition, regardless of how a team rotates its speakers.

Result	SAM 2026 Weighted Average	SAM 2025 Weighted Average	SAM 2024 Weighted Average
Winner	96.33 Salma Gharraf IDAI Cairo	98.67 Yashi Agarwal NLU Delhi	94.67 Sarib Ahmed Awan Bahria University
First Runner-Up	95.82 Juliet Hackett Paris II	95.33 Danilo Medenica Belgrade University	94.17 Xiaoya Zeng Shanghai Jiao Tong
Second Runner-Up	95.67 Maria Santos Rodrigues Curi Milton Campos	94.21 Melissa Sabamali Oslo University	94.00 Matthew Alexé Davis Pretoria University



Insight into the SAM Hearings

THE SAM ELIMINATION ROUNDS

For the first time, every team that qualified for the SAM Elimination Rounds was able to attend in person. An extraordinary line-up of **16 teams from the six continents competed for the win in Madrid**. 12 hearings were held on Thursday 21 May 2026 at the offices of Cuatrecasas and Uría Menéndez, long-standing partners of the competition.

On Friday 22 May 2026, we gathered at the Madrid International Court of Arbitration (Centro Internacional e Iberoamericano de Arbitraje de Madrid - CIIAM) to start the two semi-finals in the morning. In the afternoon, the SAM Final was held in the magnificent Palacio de Santoña between the University of Miami, a participant since the SAM's first edition, and the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple (Inner Temple), competing in the SAM for the third time. Both teams had the honour of being evaluated by esteemed arbitrators and lawyers: Lars Hilliger, Julia Lewis and William McAuliffe.

The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple - SAM 2026 Team

Represented by Ferdinand Flannery, Catherine Berus, Eleanor Margaret Kate Acworth, James Euan Piercy, Rachel Hannan and Katie Lauren Harney, and coached by David Sharpe KC (absent) and Louis Weston (absent).



Insight into the **SAM Hearings**

THE SAM ELIMINATION ROUNDS

The University of Miami - SAM 2026 Team

Represented by Alfonso Figuerola, Mariana Patricia Moreno Chacon, Alexis Castillo, and Cristian Alvarez, and coached by Mr Enric Ripoll (absent) and Ms Paula Arias.



The SAM 2026 Final Panel

Composed of Julia Lowis, Lars Hilliger (Presiding Arbitrator) and William McAuliffe.



Insight into the SAM Hearings

THE SAM ELIMINATION ROUNDS

We also awarded the SAM Prizes to the best-performing students of the SAM Online General Rounds, mostly present in person before an audience of over 100 attendees.

Result	Winner	1st Runner-Up	2nd Runner-Up
Best Legal Research	University of Miami Ranked 1st	IE University Ranked 3rd	Universidad del Pacífico Ranked 6th
Best Appellant	Inner Temple Ranked 4th	University of Miami Ranked 1st	Milton Campos Ranked 36th
Best Respondent	SMU Ranked 2nd	IDAI Cairo Ranked 35th	Bond University Ranked 5th
Best Oralist	IDAI Cairo Ranked 35th	Paris II University Ranked 7th	Milton Campos Ranked 36th

Based on the data above:

- Among the winners, 3 out of 4 teams were ranked within the Best 16.
- Among the 1st runners-up, 3 out of 4 teams were ranked within the Best 16.
- Among the 2nd runners-up, 2 out of 4 teams were ranked within the Best 16.

Across all 12 prize categories, 7 teams were ranked within the Best 16. Grouping all runners-up together, out of 8 placements, 5 teams were part of the Best 16, while the remaining 2 teams ranked in the top 40. This confirms that SAM Prizes are within reach for teams beyond the competition's highest-ranked tier.



Insight into the **SAM Conference**

The SAM Conference 2026 brought the sports arbitration community together in Madrid alongside the final rounds of the fifth edition of the Sports Arbitration Moot. Designed as a forum at the intersection of international sports law, arbitration and academia, the Conference provided participants with the opportunity to engage directly with leading practitioners and experts on some of the most topical issues shaping the field.

The 2026 programme featured three expert panels and one keynote speech, bringing together **13 speakers from international law firms, sports organisations, legal-tech companies, academia and governing bodies.**

The Conference opened on 21 May with **Panel 1: “Advocacy in the Age of AI”**, hosted at Uría Menéndez. The session explored AI’s impact on advocacy and legal practice, bringing together perspectives from both the legal profession and the emerging legal-technology sector. The panel featured:

- Ignacio Triguero, Senn Ferrero
- Atenea Martínez, Uría Menéndez
- Beatriz Molinuevo, Legora
- Georgi Gradev, SILA International Lawyers



Insight into the **SAM Conference**

On 22 May, the programme continued at the Centro Internacional e Iberoamericano de Arbitraje de Madrid (CIAM) with **Panel 2: “The Criminal Limb of Article 6 ECHR in Sports Arbitration: Settled or Still Contested?”**. The discussion addressed the interface between sports arbitration and fundamental procedural rights, with particular focus on the criminal-law dimension of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The panel brought together:

- Stefano Bastianon, Bastianon-Garavaglia Law Firm
- Ben Rutherford, International Tennis Integrity Agency
- Dr Björn Hessert, Kellerhals Carrard
- Dr Madalina Diaconu, Egis Law and University of Neuchâtel



The final session, **Panel 3: “CAS ad hoc divisions and expedited procedures”**, also held at CIAM, focused on the procedural mechanisms applicable to time-sensitive disputes before the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The topic connects directly to the practical reality of international sport, where disputes often need to be resolved within very short timeframes.

Insight into the SAM Conference

Panel 3 featured:

- Patrick Pithon, LKK Arbitration
- Giovanni Maria Fares, Gymnastics Ethics Foundation
- Maria Laura Guardamagna, GeALex – Guardamagna e Associati
- Miguel Liétard Fernández-Palacios, FIFA

The Conference also featured a **keynote speech by Antonio Rigozzi** of LKK Arbitration, delivered after the SAM Final, delivering an inspiring speech on the future of sports arbitration and the importance of nurturing the educational growth of aspiring lawyers.



Insight into the SAM Promotion

The 2026 edition of the Sports Arbitration Moot continued to benefit from a strong and growing network of partners and supporters, with **21 sponsors, 6 supporters and 11 SAM Ambassadors** contributing to the success and visibility of the competition.

The SAM's institutional partnerships also continued to play an important role, with **3 institutional partners** supporting the competition in distinct capacities: the Swiss Arbitration Academy, the University of Neuchâtel (Faculty of Law), and FIFA.

The SAM community continued to grow online, reaching **over 9,700 LinkedIn followers**, with more than 2,000 new followers gained over the past year. Over the same period, the SAM recorded **more than 22,000 annual visitors** to its website and LinkedIn page, including around 5,000 engaged users.



As in previous years, the [announcement of the Best 16 Teams](#) was the SAM's best-performing social media post. The announcement is always a highly anticipated milestone for participating teams and, beyond celebrating their achievement, provides an important opportunity to recognise the contribution of the partners, arbitrators, moderators and ambassadors whose collective effort makes this project possible.

To support the delivery of the competition and promote broader participation in sports arbitration, the SAM also maintains a structured sponsorship programme.

Our long-term Vision

Five editions in, the SAM has grown from a new idea into a genuine global community. Our ambition for the years ahead is simple: to keep that community growing without losing what makes it work.

We want the SAM to remain open to every qualified student, wherever they study, by continuing to invest in our fee waiver programme and by actively welcoming universities and regions not yet part of our community. Growth, for us, is about a wider and more diverse community – what we hope to see in the actual profession in years to come.

We also want to keep raising the bar on quality: sharper cases, stronger training through the SAM Camp and an arbitrator pool that continues to reflect the best of the profession. As AI reshapes legal practice, we see advocacy - the ability to think on your feet, argue persuasively and respond in real time - becoming ever more valuable, and we intend for the SAM to be where the next generation of advocates continues to be trained and tested.

None of this works without our community of coaches, moderators, arbitrators, sponsors and ambassadors, many of whom return year after year, some as former participants themselves. Nurturing this network, and giving back to it, will remain central to how we grow.

Finally, we are committed to building an organization that can sustain this ambition: financially resilient, well-run and worthy of the trust our community places in it.

Our fifth anniversary is a milestone, not a finish line.

The SAM Organization

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SPORTS
ARBITRATION
MOOT

Get your game on!