

THE SPORTS ARBITRATION MOOT RULES

EDITION 2026



SPORTS
ARBITRATION
MOOT

The Sports Arbitration Moot	3
Eligibility	4
Registration	8
Structure of the Moot	11
Prizes	19
Miscellaneous	21
Annex I	23
Annex II	25
Annex III	31

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 to contribute 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 Appellant and Respondent. The Online General Rounds of the 2026 edition of the SAM, as well as the SAM Camp, will be held online, with the SAM Elimination Rounds (i.e. in which compete the "**Best 16**" Teams) taking place in person in Madrid, Spain.¹ The calendar of the SAM can be found in Annex 1 and on the [SAM's website](#).

The SAM is entirely conducted in English.

The SAM Rules should be read conjointly with the [SAM FAQ](#).

¹ Further details on the contribution to the Teams' travel expenses will be disclosed in due course.

Eligibility

MOOTIES

Any student enrolled in a law faculty in 2025 or 2026 can participate in the SAM, irrespective of their law degree (undergraduate, LLM, PhD, etc.).

However, except with the approval of the SAM Organization*:

1. Mooties who are qualified in systems where there is no Bar should not have more than two years of 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 complete [this form](#) from 8 September 2025 onwards.

An individual student who has already acted as an oralist in any of the oral rounds (whether the General Rounds or Elimination Rounds) may only participate again as a coach. It is the responsibility of the prospective Team to ensure that this rule is observed.

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. In case of multiple registrations from the same school institution, the competing Team will be the one that first completes the registration process (including the payment of the fees).

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. During each oral round (the "**Hearing**"), two Team members will be presenting oral arguments, therefore, pleading alone is not allowed. Teams are most welcome to alternate oralists in between rounds i.e. A given member may plead during one round while not pleading during the second. The chosen oralists should be mindful of balancing their pleading time among themselves.

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 us, by no later than 31 January 2026.

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.

Notwithstanding the above, subject to qualification for the SAM Elimination Rounds, only one coach per qualified Team shall be allowed to attend the final events free of charge (i.e. the SAM Conference, the SAM Final and the SAM Closing Cocktail). It is the responsibility of each qualified Team to indicate to us which coach is to attend the SAM Elimination Rounds.

Any additional coaches must purchase a ticket to attend the SAM Elimination Rounds. Further information in this regard will be communicated by us upon the announcement of the Best 16 Teams qualified for the Elimination Rounds.

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, subject to the same exception regarding Teams they may have coached.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SAM CAMP

The SAM Camp is a week-long crash course which aims to introduce students to sports arbitration and advocacy in preparation for the SAM General Rounds. The SAM Camp lectures focus on four core aspects, with additional special lectures occurring on occasion: Legal Research, Oral Advocacy, Merits issues and Jurisdictional issues.

Participation in the SAM Camp is reserved for Teams enrolled in the Competition and is included in the registration fees paid by the applicable deadline. The SAM Camp is not open to students or any other individuals who are not participating in the SAM. This exclusion does not apply to coaches, who may participate in the SAM Camp together with their Team members.

Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

In order to register, each Team must complete a registration form by no later than 7 November 2025, available on the [SAM's website](#). After registering, the Team will receive an email with further instructions to proceed with the payment of the registration fee by no later than 21 November 2025.

Universities or law schools conducting internal selections should conduct their recruitment process with consideration for the SAM Calendar. No extension of the deadline to register will be granted to a Team whose internal selection is not complete by the registration deadline of 7 November 2025.

Teams applying for an exemption from the registration fee must have completed their registration by the deadline of 7 November 2025.

FEES

To enroll in the SAM, Teams will have to pay a registration fee of EUR 430 which covers participation in the Moot and the SAM Camp (the registration fee includes a Team of up to six Mooties plus a coach(es), if any). Registration prior to 3 October 2025 will be reduced to EUR 330.

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.).

There cannot be any extension to the deadline for payment of the registration fee of 21 November 2025. Non-compliance with the deadline will result in the withdrawal of the Team from enrolment in the Competition.

Once the registration fee has been received by us, a confirmation email will be sent to the concerned Team.

The registration fee will not be refunded to Teams withdrawing after 31 December 2025.

WAIVERS

A full or partial waiver of the registration fee may be granted to Teams in need. Priority is given to Teams coming from low-economy countries and depending on the circumstances. Each application is reviewed and decided on a case-by-case basis.

Applications for registration fee waivers shall be submitted via [this form](#) from 8 September 2025 onwards.

Any application shall notably include:

- (a) a formal letter explaining the reasons for applying for a waiver;
and
- (b) a formal letter from the university dean or law school director supporting the Team's participation in the SAM and certifying the absence of funding allocated to participating in international moot competitions.

The deadline to apply for a full or partial waiver is 3 October 2025. There cannot be any extension of the deadline to apply for a fee waiver. Any application received by us after this deadline will be automatically dismissed.

The submission of the application does not guarantee assistance from us. Teams are therefore encouraged to seek external support to finance their registration.

A decision on the application shall be made by 20 October 2025.

The grant of a waiver of the registration fee does not preclude the obligation for a given Team to finalize its registration by the applicable deadline, i.e. 7 November 2025.

SPONSORSHIPS

Teams are required to inform us that their participation is sponsored when completing the registration form. If the form has been submitted before the sponsorship was secured, Teams are required to promptly communicate their sponsor's details to us via email.²

Where a Team is applying for a registration fee waiver or has been granted the same, failure to inform us of the procurement of a sponsorship will result in the dismissal of the waiver application or waiver decision.

² We may be contacted at info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com.

Structure of the Moot

The format of the SAM is hybrid.

The pleadings are first structured around a virtual phase, officially named the **SAM Online General Rounds**. These involve three virtual Hearings. The Hearings will be conducted once before a sole arbitrator and twice before a panel of three arbitrators. After each Hearing, the teams are scored, and their cumulative scores from the General Rounds determine a global ranking.

On this basis, the top 16 teams in this ranking will qualify for the second phase of the competition, held in person, and also referred to as the **SAM Elimination Rounds**.

All applicable dates for the competition are available in Annex I and on the [SAM website](#).

SKELETON ARGUMENTS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Contrary to other moots, the SAM does not involve drafting memoranda.

However, one week prior to the start of the SAM Online General Rounds, Teams shall submit³ two sets of documents (in total four documents, two for the Appellant and two for the Respondent⁴), which shall consist of:

³ Teams must send the documents to info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com.

⁴ For the avoidance of doubt, each SAM Team must prepare to act as Appellant and as Respondent. This means that each SAM Team is expected to file skeleton arguments and list of legal authorities on behalf of Appellant and of Respondent.

1. A **Skeleton Argument** for each party (Appellant and Respondent), i.e., a one-page document (Times New Roman, size 11) with bullet points structured in the order in which they intend to address their oral pleadings. A model for skeleton arguments will be provided in due course.

The Skeleton Arguments must be sent in **PDF format**. Each of the PDFs must be named as follows:

- Team Name_Skeleton_Appellant
- Team Name_Skeleton_Respondent

These skeleton arguments will be essential to guide arbitrators through the Team's arguments in the oral rounds.

Parties should, to the extent possible, follow an argumentation in line with their skeleton arguments. That said, Parties are not bound to those arguments and can come up with new ones as they advance during the oral rounds.

The Appellant and Respondent will receive the counterparty's skeleton argument at least one day prior to the Hearing. However, they are expected to be prepared for any argument that may be raised by the counterparty.

2. A **list of Legal Authorities** with the case law, doctrine, commentary, etc. on which each party (Appellant and Respondent) will rely. This document should not exceed two pages and should contain the names of a maximum of twenty (20) legal sources on which each party relies (inclu-

ding case law and legal authorities). A model list of Legal Authorities will be provided in due course.

The list of Legal Authorities must be sent in **PDF format**, making sure that all hyperlinks are working. Each of these PDFs must be named as follows:

- Team Name_List of LA_Appellant
- Team Name_List of LA_Respondent

Teams must limit the attached/hyperlinked files to the relevant extracts of the supporting materials they want to submit as a certain legal authority. Therefore, it is forbidden to include the full version of a book instead of the particular extract they want to rely on. Non-compliance with the aforementioned requirements will cause the legal authorities affected to be immediately removed from the list of Legal Authorities, with no chance to submit new ones in their place.

Appellant and Respondent shall be bound by the list of Legal Authorities during the General Rounds. This means that in making their oral pleadings in the General Rounds, the Appellant and Respondent should not invoke Legal Authorities that are not on their lists, except if prompted to by the Panel or in their rebuttal.

ORAL ARGUMENTS

Structure of Hearing

The number and type of online Hearings will depend on the number of Teams participating in the Moot. This information will be provided during the month of December 2025.

In each oral round, each Team will have 20 minutes to make its oral arguments (only two Team members plead in any given round; the division of the allocated time between the two oralists is decided by the Team with consideration for balance). This means that there will be a total of 40 minutes per oral round. The arbitral panel can decide, at their discretion, to extend the Hearing duration up to 60 minutes to allow for questioning, bearing in mind the principle of equality between the Parties.

Prior to the start or at the beginning of the Hearing, the two Teams competing against each other should aim to reach an agreement regarding how the pleadings will be structured and how the time will be split. In the absence of an agreement, the Panel shall decide.

For the avoidance of doubt, please refer to the following table as an indication of the classic structure of a SAM Hearing:

Appellant Pleadings	20 minutes maximum
Respondent Pleadings	20 minutes maximum

Extension allowance for questions (to be decided by the arbitral panel)	20 minutes maximum
Hearing duration	Without extension allowance: 40 minutes maximum (excl. rebuttals) With extension allowance: 60 minutes maximum (excl. rebuttals)
Rebuttal and Surrebuttal	1 minute each maximum

The Panel of arbitrators is responsible for the observance of time and shall at all times have total control of the Hearing and act as they would in a real Hearing (including by interrupting a line of reasoning, asking questions, asking the Parties to address arguments in a different order, etc.). Parties, however, shall track their time as well, in order to raise any necessary requests and/or concerns in relation to time. Oralists should ensure to have a balanced speaking time, as it may otherwise affect scoring.

Rebuttal

Rebuttal and surrebuttal shall not exceed 1 minute per Party. Any agreement by the Parties or the Panel extending the rebuttal time will be dismissed.

The time for rebuttal and surrebuttal is not included in the 20 minutes for the oral arguments. In other words, rebuttal time is not deducted from the overall pleading time.

Taking notes and communicating with other Team members

At any point during the Hearing, Teams are allowed to take written notes.

Oralists are allowed to communicate with each other during the Hearing provided that this does not disrupt the smooth running of the Hearing. Other Team members (and coaches) are not allowed to communicate with the two oralists during the Hearing.

Electronic devices

The usage of electronic devices (e.g. phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) is strictly forbidden during the SAM Elimination Rounds. The competing Teams may rely on their phone only for the purpose of keeping track of time. It is recommended that the Teams anticipate and refer to hard copies, if so needed.

Likewise, Teams are not allowed to use any materials different from the ones referred to in the present Rules (e.g. the SAM Case, Procedural Orders, skeleton arguments, legal authorities, etc.) or others that may be contained on their laptop (e.g. a PowerPoint presentation). This applies without distinction to the SAM Online General Rounds and Eliminations Rounds.

Virtual Hearing Protocol

The Virtual Hearing Protocol is enclosed below as Annex II.

SCORING

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

1. A maximum of 30 points for structure and persuasion

*Assesses the clarity and logical flow of the arguments, the **effective use of structure** to guide the arbitrators, and the overall persuasiveness of the presentation.*

2. A maximum of 25 points for Case mastery

*Evaluates the depth of **knowledge** of the case facts and exhibits, the ability to reference relevant information accurately and efficiently, and the skill in guiding the arbitrators through key materials. In this respect, the Team should be evaluated having regard to their ability to **present** themselves in a formal manner and in accordance with arbitration Hearing settings used in practice.*

3. A maximum of 25 points for time management and responsiveness

*Assesses the efficient use of the allotted time, the ability to address questions **thoughtfully** and directly from the arbitrators, and the skill in handling interruptions while maintaining the flow of argument. In this regard, the ability of the oralists to work as a team to efficiently monitor time and handle questions should be valued.*

4. A maximum of 20 points for legal authority and application

*Measures the appropriate and effective research of **legal authorities and case law** cited in the written submissions, and the ability to clearly explain their relevance to the arguments presented.*

The scores will be reflected in a scoring sheet that each arbitrator will fill in, during or right after the Hearing.

SAM AWARD COMPETITION

The SAM Award Competition is a parallel contest organised on the occasion of the Sports Arbitration Moot. It serves the purpose of introducing Teams to the drafting process of an arbitral award.

Participation in the SAM Award Competition is open exclusively to all the Teams participating in the Sports Arbitration Moot. Since this is not a mandatory activity within the Moot, running the competition is subject to the participation of a sufficient number of Teams. Confirmation in this respect will be communicated after the SAM Final.

The Teams' performance in the SAM Award Competition is evaluated independently from the Sports Arbitration Moot.

The Rules applicable to this competition are enclosed below in Annex III.

Prizes

Upon request, each participant will receive a certificate of participation in the SAM. Additionally, there will be prizes for:

1. **Best Team** (collective prize for the Team that wins the Final)
2. **Best Appellant** (collective prize for the Team that gets the highest score while acting as Appellant)
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** (collective prize for the Team that provides the highest-scored legal study)
6. **Best Team Spirit** (collective prize for the Team that best represented and promoted the values of the SAM during its participation)
7. **Best Award** (collective prize for the Team with the highest-scored arbitral award as part of the SAM Award Competition)

For the purpose of giving the prizes for Best Appellant, Best Respondent, Best Oralist and Best Legal Research, only the scores of the Online General Rounds will be taken into account. The award for Best Team will be given to the winner of the SAM. All prizes will be announced during the Closing Ceremony, after the SAM Final.

The winner of the SAM shall be awarded the sum of EUR 1,500.

The winner of the SAM Award Competition shall be awarded the sum of EUR 1,000.

The runner-up of the SAM shall be awarded the sum of EUR 500.

Miscellaneous

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For questions about these rules, please email us at info@sportsarbitration-moot.com by 28 November 2025. We will publish our responses to any necessary clarifications or unclear issues on the SAM website.

The most frequently asked questions in relation to the conduct of the Moot, its preparation and its organization are answered in a dedicated section available on the SAM website: The [SAM FAQ](#). The latter has an equal force value to the present SAM Rules.

PRIVACY AND DATA REGULATION

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP) apply to the personal data collected by the SAM. You are therefore entitled to the protections and rights provided under these regulations.

By participating in the SAM, all participants consent that recordings, photographs and/or digital images (such as screenshots) may be taken for the use of promotional and/ or educational materials of the SAM. Participants agree to the use of their images for the described purposes and acknowledge that their identity may be revealed in connection with the published image(s). Participants authorize the use of these images without requesting any compensation. Consent to the use of photographs or any digital means

can be withdrawn at any time by written notification to info@sportsarbitration.com.

The Moot is an educational event, and it is necessary that personal data be collected for its operation. We will not disclose any personal data to third parties unless your specific permission has been obtained.

Likewise, we will not communicate a given Team's personal contact to another to help arrange for rehearsal Hearings. We suggest Teams adjust accordingly and consider reaching a Team through another channel (e.g. LinkedIn).

If you have concerns or queries about the way your data is being used, please contact us.

CONTACT DETAILS

All communications regarding the SAM must be sent by email to info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com. Contact shall be made exclusively through the Team's general email address. Such email address shall be indicated by the Team in the registration form.

Annex I

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

8 September 2025	Team Registration Start
3 October 2025	Team Early Bird Deadline
7 November 2025	Team Registration Deadline
10 November 2025	SAM Moot Case Release
12 - 16 January 2026	SAM Camp
19 January 2026	Clarification Questions Deadline
9 February 2026	Procedural Order Release
2 - 20 March 2026	SAM Online General Rounds
21 & 22 May 2026	SAM Elimination Rounds, Madrid, Spain

The detailed Calendar of Hearings of the SAM Online General Rounds will be communicated no later than the week before the start date.

The SAM Online General Rounds occur on weekdays only, anytime between 8 AM and 8 PM in the Team's local time zone. Please refer to the above-mentioned Hearing structure for more information.

Registered participants should note the dates of the SAM Online General Rounds and plan accordingly. Upon enrollment in the competition, participants are expected to anticipate any scheduling conflicts with exams, internships, or other commitments and find arrangements to avoid disruptions.

Upon release, no requests for modifications to the Calendar of Hearings of the SAM Online General Rounds or the SAM Elimination Rounds will be admitted.

Annex II

VIRTUAL HEARING PROTOCOL

The SAM competition is mainly composed of oral rounds, during which Mooties will have the opportunity to practice their oral advocacy skills. To ensure that as many Teams as possible can join the competition, the oral rounds will take place online via videoconference, except for the SAM Elimination Rounds, which will be held in person.

The online oral rounds will be conducted through the Zoom platform. For this, each Team will need at least a camera and a microphone. Teams are free to join together from the same location or to have their participants join from different locations. Teams are strongly encouraged to use a desktop or laptop device, with an external or integrated camera. Otherwise, participants may also join in using their phones or tablets. Participants should ensure that their devices support Zoom and that they have sufficient battery to last throughout the oral round.

Teams are encouraged to keep a smartphone or tablet, having at least a 4G data connection and mobile hotspot functionality, available as a backup internet connection at all times during the Hearing.

Furthermore, Teams are encouraged to join from a quiet location, where they will not be disturbed, with appropriate lighting and a stable internet connection.

SCHEDULE

Two weeks before the start of the oral rounds, each Team will receive the following information via the Team e-mail account:

- The date and time of the Team's oral rounds.
- The information about the Teams that they will be competing against.
- A Zoom link to access the virtual Hearing room.

The times of the oral rounds are displayed in Zurich local time (GMT+1).

The times of the oral rounds are displayed in Zurich local time (GMT+1).

The SAM Online General Rounds occur on weekdays only, anytime between 8 AM and 8 PM in the Team's local time zone. However, please contact us, **at least one month before the start of the Online General Rounds**, if your Team has any specific scheduling issues during the weeks of the SAM Online General Rounds.

JOINING ZOOM

If you don't have an account with Zoom, please sign up at <https://zoom.us/signup> using your email. Make sure to use your full name, to ensure you are allowed into the Hearing room.

Please join the Zoom session 15-10 minutes before the oral round is scheduled. You will be placed in the Waiting Room and the host will let you in. Joining ahead of time can also be an opportunity to arrange the structure of our pleadings with the opposing Team.

Once you enter the room, please change your name following these instructions:

- If your Team is joining the session from the same physical location, use the Team Name (e.g. "Uni. Zurich").
- If your Team is joining from different locations, use the Team Name followed by the participant's name and surname (e.g. "Uni. Zurich-Christina Martin").

Teams will also be provided with the SAM's official background for the Zoom video, one for the Appellant and another for the Respondent. Please make sure to use the relevant background according to the party you are representing.

The Zoom session will have break-out rooms for the Appellant, the Respondent and the Panel. Participants will be allocated to their break-out rooms by the host whenever necessary, including during the Panel's deliberations.

The Panel's deliberations will be held at the end of the Hearing, for a maximum of 10 minutes. The Panel will then return to the main room to give feedback to the Teams, without divulging their scores. The arbitrators will then send us the completed scoring sheets, which will be used to determine the global ranking and the Best 16 teams advancing to the SAM Elimination Rounds.

HEARING ROOM ETIQUETTE

To ensure that the Hearing runs smoothly and there are no interferences:

- Team members who are not pleading must switch off their cameras during the pleadings and mute themselves.
- Team members who are pleading must mute their microphones when not speaking.
- If the Team is joining collectively from a same location, the camera shall be directed solely towards the oralists.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

If a connection is lost due to a technical issue, Teams and arbitrators shall try to re-establish the connection. If it is impossible for technical reasons to complete the argument within the allotted hour, the presiding arbitrator may extend the time for up to one hour of extra time. This extra time is only meant to address technical issues and not to extend the oral Hearing for the purpose of extending the time for presenting arguments.

If a connection to an arbitrator is lost during the oral Hearing, the two remaining arbitrators should wait for no more than 5 minutes for the arbitrator to reconnect. If the arbitrator does not reconnect in the aforementioned period, the two remaining arbitrators shall continue to conduct the oral Hearing. Each arbitrator shall score only the oralists he/she has heard. For the oralist(s), the missing score will be reached by adding the average of the two arbitrators who were in attendance throughout the online session.

If a second arbitrator experience technical issues and cannot be reconnected within 15 minutes, the remaining arbitrator will complete the argument and a single score will be entered for each oralist for that argument and multiplied by three.

DISPLAY OF EXHIBITS

Teams are allowed to display exhibits on the screen. However, they are advised against doing so, since this will deviate the arbitrators' attention from the oral pleadings to the exhibits.

We recommend that you print out the case and the exhibits, and that you direct the arbitrators' attention to the relevant exhibits during your presentation, using page numbers and paragraphs.

External exhibits are strictly forbidden. Teams must only use the exhibits provided in the Case.

RECORDINGS

Teams are allowed to record the online Hearings, provided all attendees agree at the beginning of the oral round. Recording by one Team should not disturb the smooth running of the Hearing.

The SAM Organization is not responsible for arranging the recording of the online Hearing(s).

The Hearings of the SAM Elimination Rounds shall not be recorded. Only the Final of the Competition will be be recorded by us and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

Teams are encouraged to practice their pleadings before the oral rounds begin. Feel free to connect with other Teams to practice your arguments. Mock Hearings organized between Teams will not count for the scoring in the official competition.

Once the oral rounds schedule is published, Teams must not hold practice sessions with Teams they will come up against during the general oral rounds.

CONSENT

By participating in the SAM, all participants consent that recordings, photographs and/or digital images (such as screenshots) may be taken for the use of promotional and/ or educational materials of the SAM. Participants agree to the use of their images for the described purposes and acknowledge that their identity may be revealed in connection with the published image(s).

Participants authorize the use of these images without requesting any compensation. Consent to the use of photographs or any digital means can be withdrawn at any time by written notification to info@sportsarbitration.com.

Annex III

SAM AWARD COMPETITION RULES

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the SAM Award Competition (the "**Competition**") is open exclusively to the universities participating in the 5th edition of the Sports Arbitration Moot ("**SAM**").

Each university may participate with only one representative team.

The participating team's members can only include members of the team that competed for the same university in the 5th edition of the SAM ("**The Moot**" / "**The Moot Competition**"). In other words, students who have not participated with the same university in the 5th edition of the SAM shall not be admitted.

The participating team does not need to include all members of the respective team that competed in the 5th edition of the Moot Competition. It shall be possible for participating teams to comprise only one or several students participating in the 5th edition of the Moot Competition.

Questions may be submitted to info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com.

The Competition shall only be confirmed and formally launched if at least ten teams register to participate.

TIMELINE

Teams that have not already registered to participate in the Competition must do so by 8 June 2026, 10:00 CEST.

Teams must submit their Awards by 24 August 2026, 23:59 CEST.

The results shall be announced before the end of the year 2026.

THE AWARD

The Award shall be written in English.

The Award shall contain, in the following order:

- (a) A cover page;
- (b) A table of contents;
- (c) A summary of the undisputed facts;
- (d) A summary of the Positions of the Parties;
- (e) A section setting out the tribunal's detailed reasoning; and
- (f) A 1-page dispositive section, which shall set out the tribunal's final decision on each of the Appellant's and Respondent's respective requests for relief as presented in the SAM Moot Case.

The Award shall be no longer than 7,000 words (seven thousand). This page limit is absolute and inclusive of all the above-described sections (cover page, table of contents etc.).

The Award shall be written in A4 Microsoft Word format. The font shall be Times New Roman, size 12, and the line spacing shall be 1.5.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements set out in these Rules shall disqualify an Award from the Competition.

By registering for the Competition, participants undertake to comply with these Rules and to draft their Awards without any third-party assistance, other than customary secretarial assistance. Participants should act as diligent arbitrators in a true arbitration.

Each Award shall be submitted in PDF format along with a Microsoft Word version which shall only serve verification purposes. The Award shall be **anonymous**, i.e., it shall not contain the name or logo of the university, the name of any of the team members or any feature that could easily allow the jury to identify the identity of the team.

The Awards shall be submitted to the organizers by email to info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com. The organizers shall ensure that the Awards comply with all requirements set out in these Rules and have been timely submitted. The organizers shall then transmit to the jury the anonymous PDF copies of all Awards that comply with the requirements set out in these Rules.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Awards shall be evaluated by a jury composed of individuals selected by the SAM Organizers among the SAM Arbitrators.

The Awards shall be evaluated on a scale of 1-100, based on the following criteria:

- (a) Clarity of structure and drafting (30 points);
- (b) Quality of legal reasoning (30 points);
- (c) Quality of factual reasoning (20 points); and
- (d) Adherence to the scope of the dispute and requests made by the Appellant and Respondent (20 points). The scope of the dispute is determined by (i) the Moot Case of the 5th edition of the SAM; (ii) the Clarifications and Answers to Questions of the 5th edition of the SAM; (iii) any follow-up emails sent by the organizers during the 4th edition of the SAM; and (iv) the Positions of the Parties.

For the avoidance of doubt, teams are *not* confined to:

- (a) The legal sources indicated in the Positions of the Parties; in application of the principle of *jura novit curia*, teams may develop their reasoning based on additional legal sources not submitted by the hypothetical parties; and
- (b) The legal sources submitted by them prior to the oral rounds of the SAM.

In case of a tie, the team achieving the highest mark in terms of clarity of structure and drafting shall prevail. In case of a tie in terms of clarity of structure and drafting, the relevant teams shall share their position in the

overall rankings (and the Prize described in section E, if they share the first place in the overall rankings) *ex aequo*.

PRIZE

The Award achieving the highest mark pursuant to the evaluation process described in Section D shall be awarded the sum of EUR 1,000.

The three best-rated Awards shall be published on the SAM official website.

Last update: 1 September 2025