



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY

ICLU
Erlangen-Nuremberg
International Criminal Law
Research Unit of the FAU

Nuremberg Moot Court 2023 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 and practical 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 NMC will be held in Nuremberg, Germany. The final round of the NMC will take place at the historic Courtroom 600, the courtroom of the Nuremberg trials after the Second World War, thus connecting the past with the present while offering a unique and historic educational experience. The organisers reserve the right to change the format and venue of the NMC at any time.

§ 2 The Organisers The NMC is organised by the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the International Criminal Law Research Unit of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (the organisers):

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- § 3 Rules**
- 1) The NMC 2023 rules (rules) regulate the NMC from the opening of the registration to the awards ceremony.
 - 2) The organisers 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 organisers immediately. Retroactive complaints will not be heard.



§ 4 General Provisions

a) Timetable

Monday, 5 December 2022, 2.00 pm CET	Opening of the application phase
Monday, 30 January 2023, 11.59 pm CET	Closing of the application phase
Monday, 13 February 2023, 2.00 pm CET	End of the selection process (distribution of the Nuremberg Moot Court case)
Monday, 20 February 2023, 11.59 pm CET	Deadline for submitting the requests for clarifications of points of fact
Monday, 27 February 2023, 2.00 pm CET	Publication of the answers to the clarification requests
Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 11.59 pm CEST	Deadline for submitting the written memoranda
Monday, 22 May 2023, 2.00 pm CEST	Announcement of the results and the sponsored teams
Saturday, 27 May 2023, 11.59 pm CEST	Deadline for updating the team members' details on the team's account
Wednesday, 19 July 2023	Opening ceremony of the Nuremberg Moot Court 2023
Thursday, 20 July 2023	Preliminary round I
Friday, 21 July 2023	Preliminary round II
Saturday, 22 July 2023	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 team, such as registration and communication with the organisers.
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 but is not necessarily a member of the 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 during the NMC. PhD students and individuals registered with a bar school are also eligible. Team members need to be registered with the institution throughout the entire competition (until July 2023).
Team number	The team number is the anonymous identification number given to each team participating in the NMC.
Team's account	The team's account is the account created on the NMC official website. It allows the teams to submit their application, upload their memoranda and confirm their participation.
Written memoranda	Written memoranda include two written submissions: one for the Prosecution and one for the Defence.
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 in accordance with Rule 7 (application phase).
- 4) A maximum of 150 teams will be selected to advance to the written phase based on their 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 (maximum three teams per country). The number of teams participating in the NMC oral rounds is limited to 32 teams.

§ 6 Eligibility

- 1) Any undergraduate or graduate law student is eligible to participate in the NMC as a team member.
- 2) Teams may consist of 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 team throughout the NMC.
- 4) One institution is allowed to send only one team. If several teams from one university apply, the organisers will select the best application based on the motivation.
- 5) The substitution of team members or coaches during the written phase is not permitted after 13 February 2023. The substitution of team members or coaches is possible for the oral rounds until 22 May 2023. The organisers may grant exceptions in some limited instances.

§ 7 Application Phase

- 1) Teams shall apply through their team coordinator by creating an account (team's account) on the NMC official website and submitting an online application form no later than Monday, 30 January 2023, 11.59 pm 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. A motivation
- 2) A team number will be automatically assigned to each team applying.
- 3) The motivation should include a minimum of 750 and a maximum of 1,300 words. The 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.
- 4) In exceptional cases, students from two different universities can form a team and submit a joint application.
- 5) Teams will be selected based on their motivation and equitable geographic representation.
- 6) Teams will be informed, via their team's account, about the outcome of their application on Monday, 13 February 2023, 2.00 pm CET. The team coordinator will receive an email inviting him/her to check the team's account.

§ 8 Written Phase

- 1) The case will be published on the NMC official website on Monday, 13 February 2023, 2.00 pm CET.
- 2) Teams can submit, via their team's account, a maximum of three requests for clarifications of points of fact no later than Monday, 20 February 2023, 11.59 pm CET. The answers will be published on the NMC official website on Monday, 27 February 2023, 2.00 pm CET.
- 3) Each team shall prepare written memoranda: one for the Prosecution and one for the Defence.
- 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 memoranda in a PDF format, A4 size paper.



- 6) The written memoranda 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 memorandum (Prosecution and Defence) 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 Defence) and “Nuremberg Moot Court 2023”.
- 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 Table of Abbreviations, available on the NMC official website, shall be strictly observed and adhered to.
- 13) The written memoranda shall be uploaded on the team’s account no later than Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 11.59 pm CEST. No late submissions will be accepted.

§ 9 Scoring of the Written Memoranda

- 1) The maximum score for each 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) Plagiarism will be sanctioned with disqualification.
- 3) The organisers may apply a penalty of up to five points for violation of Rule 8 (4) to (12).
- 4) The results of the written phase and the team number of the 32 teams selected to participate in the oral rounds will be published on the NMC official website on Monday, 22 May 2023, 2.00 pm CEST.
- 5) Each team will receive individual feedback about their written memoranda.
- 6) Those teams that did not advance to the oral rounds will also 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 organisers may contact the team with the next best results and invite it to participate.

§ 10 Oral Rounds

- 1) Those teams that advance to the oral rounds shall confirm their participation on the team’s account by Saturday, 27 May 2023, 11.59 pm CEST. Teams will be asked to:
 - a. confirm their participation
 - b. upload a signed photo/video consent form
 - c. provide an official letter of representation from their university
 - d. indicate the chosen role allocation for the oral rounds (in accordance with Rule 12)and
- 2) The oral rounds start with the opening ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, 19 July 2023. The preliminary rounds will take place from 20 to 21 July 2023. The last 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the finals will be held on 22 July 2023.
- 3) The timetable of hearings will be announced during the opening ceremony and published on the NMC official website before the competition.
- 4) The finals will be live streamed on the Nuremberg Moot Court’s YouTube channel.



- § 11 Pleadings**
- 1) All team members shall plead during the hearings; the organisers may grant exceptions in exceptional circumstances.
 - 2) Each team will plead twice during the preliminary rounds: once for the Prosecution and once for the Defence in accordance with Rule 12.
 - 3) For the last 16, the distribution of roles (Prosecution or Defence) will be determined by drawing lots. For the last rounds (quarter-finals, semi-finals and the finals), teams will represent the role that they have not represented in the last 16. When two teams pleading against each other had the same role during the last 16, the distribution will be determined by drawing lots.
 - 4) The total speaking time for each role (Prosecution and Defence) is 25 minutes. Teams are responsible for their own timekeeping – no extensions shall be granted outside of the exceptions listed in Rule 15.
 - 5) Each team may use an extra five minutes for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.
 - 6) It is within the discretion of the team to decide which team member shall present the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
 - 7) The order of the pleadings is as follows:
 1. Team appearances
 2. Oral pleading by the Prosecution
 3. Oral pleading by the Defence
 4. Rebuttal by the Prosecution
 5. Sur-rebuttal by the Defence
 - 8) During the team appearances, team members pleading shall introduce themselves to the Court. The name of the team's university shall not be stated at any time during the competition.
 - 9) 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 Defence during the main presentation and rebuttal may be addressed during the sur-rebuttal.
 - 10) Objections are not allowed.

- § 12 Role Allocation**
- 1) The teams shall inform the organisers about the role allocation within the team, in accordance with Rules 10 and 12(2). The role allocation chosen will be final and cannot be changed during the competition.
 - 2) For each round, each team member must be assigned to plead for either the Prosecution or the Defence. The same team member may not plead for both sides. Depending on the number of team members, different constellations are possible, but it must be assured by each team that all team members take the floor during each round:

Three Team Members	Four Team Members	Five Team Members
<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two team members • Defence: one team member <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one team member • Defence: two team members 	<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two team members • Defence: two team members <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one team member • Defence: three team members <p>Option 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: three team members • Defence: one team member 	<p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: two team members • Defence: three team members <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: three team members • Defence: two team members <p>Option 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: four team members • Defence: one team member <p>Option 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution: one team member • Defence: 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 oral submissions. The team member(s) submitting the rebuttals can change throughout the competition.

§ 13 Communication

- 1) The team coach may not sit with his or her team and may not give advice during the pleading.
- 2) The team members are allowed to use technical appliances, such as laptops, watches, tablets.
- 3) Team members are allowed to communicate with each other in writing in order to support the speaker, as long as they do not disturb the speaker.

§ 14 Appearance

- 1) In the event of late appearance, it is within the discretion of the Bench to decide on penalty points.
- 2) If there are exceptional circumstances the organisers may reschedule the hearing.

§ 15 Hearings

- 1) The hearings are open to the public, including to members of other teams.
- 2) Selected hearings may be live-streamed and/or recorded.

§ 16 Bench

- 1) During the preliminary rounds, the Bench is composed of one or two judges and one presiding judge.
- 2) The Bench follows its rules and procedures in accordance with accepted judicial practice.
- 3) The Bench scores the hearing by single evaluation. The Bench will inform the teams immediately after deliberation on the result of the round.

§ 17 Scoring of Oral Rounds

- 1) During the deliberations, the Bench will attribute a score to each team, select the winning team and two best speakers.
- 2) The Bench will provide feedback and announce the winning team after their deliberation. Scores and the two best speakers will not be disclosed.
- 3) The maximum score that can be obtained during the preliminary rounds is 53 points. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and understanding of the facts of the case: max 10 points
 - Knowledge and understanding of the legal issues of the case: max 10 points
 - Use and understanding of the law and international jurisprudence: max 10 points
 - Reasoning: max 10 points
 - Overall presentation: max 10 points
 - Winning team: 3 bonus points
- 4) 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 memoranda will proceed to the next round.
- 5) The results of the preliminary rounds, including the scores, will be announced on the evening of Friday, 21 July 2023 and published on the NMC official website.
- 6) 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 speaker 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” awards.



§ 19 Penalty Points and Behavior

- 1) Every team shall maintain the utmost dignity and decorum in the courtroom and during the competition.
- 2) The organisers and the Bench reserve the right to allocate penalty points in the event of any violation of the rules or inappropriate behaviour.
- 3) Inappropriate behaviour may result in the disqualification of the team at any stage of the competition.

§ 20 Awards

The organisers 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 – Defence

Each team member will receive a certificate of participation for the written and oral phases.

§ 21 Modification of the Rules

The organisers reserve the right to modify the rules at any time without prior notice. Modifications will immediately be posted on the NMC official website and sent to the teams.

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