

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ARBITRATION MOOT (2023 EDITION)

The International Football Arbitration Moot (IFAM) is an annual team mooting competition. It is the first and only moot that is specifically focussed on football law.

Football law is an exciting and rapidly developing area of law that students rarely encounter during their university studies. The IFAM gives a unique opportunity to explore and engage with this niche area.

The competition is designed to provide competitors a holistic experience of arbitration in international football disputes. The moot is built to mirror the real processes before FIFA's Football Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Teams will work from their homes on written rounds after which the oral hearings take place in an action-packed three-day event, held in person, at Platja d'Aro on the scenic Costa Brava in Spain.

The IFAM is more than just a mooting competition; as well as the moots, the event includes a series of lectures, seminars, networking and fun social events. Moreover, all participants will have access to the Football Moot Crash Course, a few days of online classes to have all the legal knowledge necessary to successfully compete in the competition. All in all, the IFAM will prove to be an unforgettable experience for its participants and will pave the way for the next generation of football lawyers.

Eligibility

The goal of the IFAM is to introduce people to football law, as such, our philosophy is to keep accessibility to the competition as wide as possible - within the bounds of fairness. Whilst the competition is designed principally for university students, it is open to any applicant who wants more experience in the field. This includes practitioners (qualified lawyers) with little or no experience in sports/football law.

In case of any uncertainty, please contact the organisers of the IFAM and explain your situation. The final determination of eligibility will be made by the Organisers of the IFAM on a case by case basis.

Teams

Participants may register as teams or as individuals. Teams must have a minimum of two and a maximum of five members. If individuals would like to compete but cannot find a team, they can register individually and the IFAM organisers will pair them with other participants in a similar situation. Teams may belong to a university or other organisation - this should be indicated on the registration form.

Participants who cannot find other teammates but would like to compete are requested to write to the IFAM organisers via the provided channels in the Contacts section of our website.

It is left to the discretion of teams and their coaches/universities as to who is chosen and how the workload is allocated. Once the participants are registered, any changes in participants must be requested to the IFAM organisers in writing.

Teams may nominate a coach to assist the participants in the preparation of the competition. There is not a limit to the assistance a coach may provide, however, we encourage the coach to permit the participants to act as freely as possible given that the purpose of the competition is educational. If a team struggles to find a coach, the IFAM may be able to provide one (but cannot guarantee this). Teams should write to the IFAM to make requests to be provided a coach by the IFAM.

Registration

Teams must register via the website (www.footballmoot.com). The registration form must be completed and submitted. The teams will then receive an email with instructions as to the next steps to complete registration – Please check your spam folder in case the email was not correctly received.

The registration fees for the IFAM Competition 2023 Edition can be found in the Register section of the Website. These fees cover the Football Moot Crash Course, written rounds, oral rounds, and attendance at all the in-person activities listed on the website at the three-day event in Spain.

The registration fee does not cover any travel expenses, accommodation, or any meals, with the exception of those explicitly named in the programme. The IFAM has a special agreement with some hotels in Platja d’Aro where participants can make reservations at a discounted price. The promotional codes will be sent to all registered teams.

The registration fee must be paid in full, at the very latest by the registration deadline on 27 January 2023. When payment is received by the IFAM organisers, a letter of receipt will be sent to the teams and their successful registration will be confirmed. The registration fee cannot be refunded after the registration deadline.

Structure of the Moot

1. The problem will be released the day after registration for the competition closes. All teams will be sent a bundle of documents to their given email address. The bundle will consist of:
 - i. A summary of facts to be taken as true
 - ii. A small number of exhibits to serve as evidence that may be used for the moot
 - iii. A FIFA Football Tribunal decision with grounds
2. The teams will have ample time to study the case. The IFAM organisers will be accepting questions to an official forum/ email address to resolve any concerns or doubts. We will aim to answer as many of these questions as possible (made available to all teams) and will compile a document with the most relevant doubts answered.
3. The first task for the participants is to draft and submit a written Statement of Appeal/Appeal Brief to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, appealing the Football Tribunal decision. This task is aimed at developing the written argumentation skills of participants. It is an important step to include in the competition in order to give the most realistic experience possible.
4. Shortly after the submission deadline of the Appeal, a Model Appeal will be provided to all teams.
5. The teams will then have to draft a Response to the Model Appeal. The IFAM uses a Model Appeal so that all teams have an equal task in drafting their Responses, thus there is uniformity in scoring and fairness in the competition.
6. Once both written tasks are complete, participants will be marked based on the Official Scoring Criteria. This can be found as ANNEX 1 to this document.
7. Finally, to ensure that the oral rounds can run smoothly and arbitrators are not overwhelmed by bundles, the teams should prepare skeleton arguments for both the Appellant and Respondent positions. These should be no longer than two pages each and should be a summary of the arguments that will be used by the teams. Skeletons must be submitted before the event.
8. At the event, there will be three oral rounds that will take place in-person over the first two days. The teams will be drawn randomly against each other. Each team will be guaranteed at least one moot as the Appellant and one moot as the Respondent. The moots will be marked based on the Official Scoring Criteria and will be down to the sole discretion of the presiding arbitrator(s).
9. All the scores from the oral and written rounds will be compiled. The top four teams will be able to compete in the semi-finals on the third day of the event. The team with the highest score will face the team with the fourth highest score whilst the teams with the second and third highest scores will face each other. These rounds are direct knock out. The two winners will qualify for the finals.
10. The finals will be held before a large audience, and before a panel of 3 premiere arbitrators. One team will win based on the higher score.

Structure of the Hearings

Teams will receive a further document on the precise structure the hearings will take. This document will inform teams of the amount of time they have and the expectations in relation to opening/closing statements.

Awards

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

The participants will also be able to win the following awards:

- IFAM 2023 Winning Team
- IFAM 2023 Runner Up Team
- IFAM 2023 Semi-Finalist Team (x2)
- IFAM 2023 Best Written Submission (Appellant)
- IFAM 2023 Best Written Submission (Respondent)
- IFAM 2023 Best Orator (individual award)

Contact Details

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ANNEX 1

Scoring of the Moot – Official Scoring Criteria

Written Submissions:

A maximum of 100 points in the following division:

Legal Argumentation (45)

- The ability of competitors to make legally correct and compelling arguments for their position. The use of case law, regulations and law is crucial. Arguments should be presented in a clear and concise manner, appearing in a logical order that is easy to follow. Finally, the arguments must be persuasive and reach logical conclusions. For the Respondent, successful rebuttal of the Appellant's argument is an important factor.

Use of Evidence (15)

- The ability of competitors to choose the relevant evidence to give foundation to their claims and explain persuasively why it proves their case.

Procedural Correctness (20)

- The ability of competitors to adhere to the procedural requirements of the CAS and provide all requested information and evidence in the form that is required by the Procedural Code.

Request for Relief (10)

- The ability of competitors to make the correct request for relief, arguably the most important part of any claim or response.

Good Order (10)

- The ability of competitors to write accurately and to the standard required of professional lawyers.

Hearings:

A maximum of 100 points in the following division:

Legal Argumentation (45)

- The ability of competitors to make legally correct and compelling arguments for their position. The use of case law, regulations and law is crucial. Arguments should be presented in a clear and concise manner, appearing in a logical order that is easy to follow. Finally, the arguments must be persuasive and reach logical conclusions. For the Respondent, successful rebuttal of the Appellant's argument is an important factor.

Use of Evidence (15)

- The ability of competitors to effectively reference evidence in a hearing and allow the arbitrator(s) to easily follow, explaining why and how it is relevant for the case.

Procedural Correctness (20)

- The ability of competitors to adhere to the procedural requirements of the CAS and act as is expected from Counsel before a CAS Panel, namely, to pay attention to their savoir-être.

Responding to the Arbitrators (20)

- The ability of competitors to answer questions posed by the arbitrator(s), to resolve any doubts and speak to the point so as to make their position clear and logical whilst acting in the correct manner.