



**6th SIR DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT
COMPETITION 2025
BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZIA
BEFORE THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

GENERAL RULES

1 – Organisation

- a. The Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition (hereinafter “the Competition”, the “SDKJ Moot”) is organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - The Gambia and the Faculty of Law, University of The Gambia.
- b. All materials developed by the Organizing Committee of the Competition, including, but not limited to, the Rules of Procedure and the Hypothetical Case, are the sole property of the NHRC. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than participation in or administration of the Competition without the express and prior written consent of the NHRC.
- c. Teams of students will argue a hypothetical case before lawyers and human rights experts as if they were before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

2- Host

The final rounds of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition (the Competition) will be held as part of the commemoration of International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2025.

3 - Composition of panels of judges

The Competition's Panels of Judges consist of legal practitioners and academics who will be selected by the NHRC.

4 - Object

The present Rules of Procedure (“Rules”) govern the SDKJ Moot, held in the English Language, organized and hosted by the NHRC.

5 - Subject

All Teams participating in the Competition are presumed to have knowledge of and shall be subject to these Rules.

6 - Problem to be argued

The hypothetical case (the problem) to be argued will be available to all participants.

7- Oral Rounds

- a. There will be oral rounds, argued before panels of Judges, and a final round.
- b. Upon submission and assessment of memorials, the four (4) teams that emerge with best cumulative score (Memorial for Applicant score plus Memorial for Respondent score) will proceed to the oral rounds.
- c. Lots will be drawn to pair the opposing teams during the oral rounds. The total scores of each team in these rounds will determine which team proceeds to the final.
- d. In the semi-final round, a team will argue the problem 2 times (Once as applicant and once as respondent).
- e. In the Final, each team will argue the case once (either as Applicant or Respondent).
- f. The pairing for the final will be determined by drawing of lots-
 - i. The first team to be drawn will argue the case as Applicant;
 - ii. The second/last team to be drawn will argue the case as respondent.
- g. Judges may ask questions during the oral submissions.

8- Eligibility

To be qualified to participate in the SDKJ Moot, the applicants must be in their second year or above in their LLB Programme at an accredited African University.

9- Assistance

Assistance rendered to a team in the preparation of its case, including by Faculty members, must be limited to a general discussion of issues, suggestions as to research sources and decision-making.

10- Composition of a Participating Team

- a. A team will be composed of two (2) student members only, preferably of different genders.
- b. The composition in paragraph (a) above does not include the lead and assistant coaches.
- c. Organisers would cover the travel expenses of the two speakers (for each team) that made it to the final to the Gambia.

11- Each participating university is required to fill the online registration form on the NHRC website (<https://www.gm-nhrc.org/SDK-MOOT>)

12- Memorials

Each team must prepare separate memorials (heads of argument or written pleadings) in support of the case of the Applicant and the Respondent.

- a) One (1) copy of the memorial for each side (one for the Applicant and one for the Respondent) should be received by or submitted to the organisers on or before **28 November 2025**. Each team must register by sending an email to the organisers with their names, the university they are representing and their contact email.
- b) Memorials should be sent as attachments via email to: blbah@gm-nhrc.org.
- c) Memorial marking: Memorials will be marked by independent experts before the oral round of the Competition.
- d) Each memorial will be marked out of 100 and the total sum of the two memorials will be the memorial score of the team.
- e) The four teams with the best cumulative marks for the memorials will proceed to the oral rounds.

13- General Format of the Memorial

(1) Each memorial must:

- a) Have a standard cover page;
- b) Begin with jurisdiction and admissibility;
- c) Have each issue argued separately;
- d) Contain the Prayers.
- e) Not exceed 5000 words, including footnotes and Table of Contents if these are used;
- f) Be double-spaced;
- g) Be submitted only in Microsoft Word; and
- h) Be in the Arial Font type and Font size 12 .

NB: Failure to abide by these requirements may lead to disqualification.

(2) Footnotes

- a) Footnotes must be in Arial font style, font size 10. Footnotes of more than one line in length must be single-spaced.
- b) The spacing between each footnote shall be single.
- c) Consistency in reference to sources throughout the Memorial is required. One reference style (OSCOLA reference style) only shall be used throughout the Memorial.
- d) All the sources included in the Index of Authorities must be included in the footnotes as well.
- e) Abbreviations of sources within footnotes are allowed.
- f) Violations of the above items (a-e) are sanctioned with one (1) penalty point per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article will be considered as one violation in total.

14- Final Round Memorials

During the oral rounds, each team must prepare/ revise its Memorial to a three-page summary. The summarized version of the final rounds' memorials should be shared with the opposing teams and the Judges no less than three hours before the commencement of the final rounds.

15- Oral Pleadings/ Submissions

General procedure

- a. The order of pleadings will be: Applicant team, Respondent team, rebuttal by Applicant team.
- b. All team members must act as oralists during the oral rounds and during the final round.
- c. No team will plead for longer than 30 minutes (including rebuttal) during the oral rounds, and 32 minutes in the final round.
- d. One oralist may not use more than 15 minutes during oral rounds, and 20 minutes during the final round.
- e. Rebuttal may not exceed 5 minutes. Only one member of the team appearing as an applicant has the opportunity for rebuttal. Time for rebuttal must be reserved in advance.

16- Ex-parte proceedings

- a. Where a team fails to appear for a scheduled round, the Judges may allow the round to proceed ex-parte after waiting for ten minutes. Where the teams appear after ten minutes, the Judges may invoke their discretion to allow the team to participate with or without a reduction of points.
- b. In an ex-parte proceeding, the attending team presents its oral pleading, which is scored by the Judges. In such a case, the team that fails to participate in the scheduled round will forfeit all points for that round.

17- Scope of pleadings/submissions

The scope of a team's oral pleading is not limited to the scope of its memorial. However, the scope of the Applicant's rebuttal is limited to the scope of the Respondent's oral pleadings.

18 - Oral and written communication

No oral or written communication may take place between team tables and any spectator during a round.

19- Absence from the courtroom

No team member will be allowed to leave the courtroom for the duration of the proceedings of a specific case in which he, she or they are taking part.

20- Best oralists

The name of the best oralist for the final rounds will be announced at the end of the competition during the prize-giving ceremony

21- Scoring in the Oral and Final round

In the oral round and final round, teams shall be scored exclusively on their oral pleadings.

22- Clarification of the Problem

- a. Participants may submit written requests for clarification of points on issues in the hypothetical case which are manifestly unclear.

- b. These requests must be sent to blbah@gm-nhrc.org and clearly labelled in the subject of the email 'Request for clarification'.
- c. Upon receipt of the request, this clarification must be provided to the participants to develop their pleadings on or before the **20 November 2025**.

23- The Awards

- a. The following Awards will be given by the NHRC after the Final Round:
 - i. Winner;
 - ii. Runner-up;
 - iii. Best Memorial;
 - iv. Best Oralist.
- b. Upon completion of the entire program, each Participant shall receive a Certificate of Participation.
- c. For participants who are not in The Gambia, electronic copies of their certificates will be sent to them.