

**FIFTH EDITION OF THE SIR DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. General

Teams of students will argue a hypothetical case before benches of 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 Human Rights Moot Court Competition (the Competition) will be held as part of the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2024.

3. Selection and Composition of panels of judges

The National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia would select the panels of Judges for the Competition. Each panel, for each round, would consist of legal practitioners, human rights experts and academics.

4. Problem to be argued

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

5. Registration and Selection of Best Memorials and Teams

Each registered team will be designated a number for team identification. This number shall be used throughout the competition. Each registered team will be required to submit a memorial for the Applicant and Respondent. Eight teams will be selected from the top memorials submitted by the teams.

6. Rounds

There will be preliminary rounds, semi-final round, and a final round argued before panels of human rights experts.

7. Preliminary Rounds

- a. Opponent teams in the preliminary rounds are determined by ballot. In the preliminary rounds, a team argues the problem once, as an applicant or a respondent.
- b. The teams with the highest scores or points will proceed to the semi-finals.

8. Semi-final round

- a. In the Semi-final rounds a team will argue the problem once, either as Applicant or Respondent (to be determined by ballot). Lots will be drawn to pair the opposing teams during the semi-final round.

b. The winner of each semi final shall proceed to the final.

9. Eligibility

To be qualified to participate in the Moot Court Competition, the applicants must be in their second year or above in their LLB Programme at a recognized University in Africa.

10. Assistance

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

11. Composition of a Participating Team

A team will be composed of two (2) members only, preferably of different genders.

12. Registration

Each participating University is required to submit a formal request for registration by email to mgeorge@gm-nhrc.org and blbah@gm-nhrc.org with the heading ‘**Registration for the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition, 2024.**’

13. 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 memorials for each side (one for the Applicant and one for the Respondent) should be submitted, to reach the organisers by **15th November 2024 at 16:00 GMT**. The teams must register by sending email to the organisers with names and matriculation numbers.
- b) Memorials should be sent as attachments with subject ‘**Submission of Memorials**’ through an email message, to the following addresses: mgeorge@gm-nhrc.org and blbah@gm-nhrc.org.
- c) Memorials will be marked by independent experts identified by the National Human Rights Commission at the start of the preliminary rounds of the Competition.
- d) There will be prize presented for the best memorial.
- e) The team with the best memorials in the preliminary rounds will be announced at the prize-giving ceremony marking the end of the Competition.

14. Memorial general format

Each memorial must:

- a) Have a standard cover page;
- b) Table of Contents

- c) List of Abbreviations
- d) List of sources/Authorities
- b) Begin with jurisdiction and admissibility;
- c) Have each issue argued separately;
- d) Contain the Prayers.
- e) Not exceed 5000 words, excluding footnotes and table of content;
- f) Be double-spaced;
- g) Be submitted only in Microsoft Word; and
- h) Be in the Times New Roman Font type and Font size 12

15. Final Rounds Memorials

During the final 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.

16. 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 preliminary rounds. semi-final and the final round.
- c. No team will plead for longer than 30 minutes (including rebuttal) during the preliminary and semi-final rounds, and 32 minutes in the final round.
- d. One oralist may not use more than 15 minutes during preliminary rounds and the semi-final, and 20 minutes during the final round.
- e. Rebuttal may not exceed 5 minutes.
- f. Only one member of the team appearing as an applicant has the opportunity for rebuttal.
- g. Time for rebuttal must be reserved in advance.

17. 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.
- b. Where the teams appear after the ten minutes, the judges may invoke their discretion to allow the team to participate with or without reduction of points.
- c. 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 of the round's points.

18. 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.

19. Oral and written communication

No oral or written communication may take place between team tables and any spectator during a round. Violation of this rule may result in deduction of points to the offending team.

20. 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 is or they are taking part.

21. Best oralists

Prize will be awarded to the best individual oralist in the finals based on the scores of team members. The name of the top oralist in the final rounds, based on the points indicated for oral arguments on the score sheets, will be announced at the end of the Competition during the prize-giving ceremony.

22. Scoring in the Preliminary rounds

In the preliminary rounds, teams shall be scored exclusively based on their oral pleadings.

23. Scoring in the Semi-final and Final round

In the semi-final and final rounds, teams shall be scored exclusively on their oral pleadings.

24. Clarification of The Problem

Participants may submit written requests for clarification of points in the problem which are manifestly unclear and which must be clarified in order for the participants to develop their pleadings **1 November 2024** at 16:00 GMT. Please note that the clarifications will be shared with all participants to ensure equality is upheld.