

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE DROIT SPATIAL
DE LA FEDERATION ASTRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL ROUND

<p>SPECIFIC REGIONAL RULES Pursuant to Article 2(2) of the Official Rules</p>

Article 1: General

1. These Specific Regional Rules (the “**Regional Rules**”), as amended from time to time, are in force for the Asia-Pacific Regional Round, as held from year to year at locations throughout the Asia-Pacific region as determined by the Regional Organiser.
2. The Regional Rules are enacted pursuant to Article 2(2) of the Official Rules provided by the International Institute of Space Law (“**IISL**”), for the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (the “**Competition**”), as in force from time to time.
3. Subject to Article 1(4), the Regional Rules are supplementary to the Official Rules of the Competition and, during the course of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round, the Regional Rules shall prevail in cases of inconsistency.
4. The Regional Organiser has the exclusive right to interpret the Regional Rules and his or her interpretation of the Regional Rules shall be final and binding.

Article 2: Eligibility and Participation

1. In order to participate in the Regional Round of the Competition, a team from an eligible university or institution must comply with the deadline and documentary and financial requirements for registration as posted on the website of the Competition as modified by the Regional Organiser from time to time.
2. Subject to Article 2A(9) below, teams from a university or institution from a developing country that suffers from financial hardship may apply to the Regional Organiser in writing before the registration deadline referred to above to have all or part of its registration fees waived, subject to it demonstrating such financial hardship. No application for a waiver of registration fees will be accepted after the registration deadline. If a waiver of registration fees is granted to a team that fails to pay the reduced amount or any other requisite fees by the registration deadline, the Regional Organiser has the absolute discretion to revoke the waiver granted to the team.
3. No registration or other fees paid by a team withdrawing after the registration deadline will be refunded under any circumstance. If any waiver of fees was granted pursuant to Article 2(2) above, such waiver will be deemed to be automatically revoked and a debt equal in amount to the registration fees will immediately become due and payable by the withdrawing university or institution to the Competition. Until payment, the university or institution may be regarded to be in bad financial standing by the Competition.

4. For the purposes of and in addition to Article 3 of the Official Rules, the following categories of students are deemed to be *prima facie* eligible to participate:
 - (a) students enrolled in an undergraduate law qualification or equivalent at some time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round;
 - (b) students enrolled in a postgraduate coursework law qualification or equivalent at some time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round; and
 - (c) students enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework qualification or equivalent with demonstrable elements of space law or international law as part of the teaching programme at some time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round.
5. For students seeking to be eligible in accordance with Paragraph 1(c) above, the student must apply to the Regional Organiser in writing enclosing relevant written evidence that the teaching programme of the course enrolled contain elements of space law or public international law.
6. For the purposes of and in addition to Article 3 of the Official Rules, the following categories of students are deemed to be ineligible to participate:
 - (a) students enrolled in a postgraduate qualification by research or equivalent at any time within six (6) months prior to the start of the oral arguments of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round;
 - (b) students who have previously participated in the Competition without prior written approval of the Regional Organiser pursuant to Article 3(4) of the Official Rules; and
 - (c) students representing a university that is in bad financial standing with or disqualified from participating in the Competition in accordance with the Official Rules or these Regional Rules.
7. If a student is ineligible pursuant to Paragraph 3(c) above for reasons of bad financial standing, the student may participate in the Competition only when the university or institution represented by the student has paid all its outstanding amounts due and payable to the Competition.
8. Any university or institution that utilises an ineligible team member or improper outside assistance, the Bench Memorial or the use of another team's memorial may be disqualified.
9. Registration must be accompanied by the payment of registration fees and other requisite fees, including Award Dinner fees, and no registration can be deemed effective unless full payment has been made except where the Regional Organiser has deemed otherwise.
10. The Regional Organiser has the absolute discretion to extend the deadline for registration for one or more teams and may require such team(s) to pay a requisite late fee, provided that any such late fee does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the registration fees as payable if the team had registered and made full payment of the said registration fees prior to the unextended deadline.

Article 2A: Domestic Funding Rounds Generally

1. With the written approval of the Regional Organiser, a sponsor or sponsors in a country in the Asia-Pacific Region may organise a domestic competition for funding in which the winning team will have its participation costs in the Competition, including registration fees, fully funded or partly funded (a "**Funding Round**").

2. Funding Rounds must not be a qualifying requirement in any character, such as where participation in such a round is compulsory for teams from that country or if the defeated teams in the Funding Round lose their right to proceed directly to the Regional Round.
3. If a university or other institution is participating from a country where a Funding Round is held:
 - (a) subject to Article 2B, the university or other institution may elect to participate in that Funding Round or otherwise without prejudice to their rights of participating directly in the Regional Round;
 - (b) the winner of a Funding Round will have its costs of participation paid for by the sponsoring organisation of the Funding Round; and
 - (c) teams participating in a Funding Round must comply with all requirements under the Official Rules and these Regional Rules, such as registration, fees payable and the submission of memorials.
4. A Funding Round may adopt its own supplementary rules consistent with these Regional Rules, which will have precedence and prevail over any inconsistencies, and approved in writing by the Regional Organiser.
5. A Funding Round must be conducted in a manner that is completely fair, impartial and unbiased in all aspects and must do all acts to ensure the interests and reputation of the Competition is protected or enhanced at all times. Further, the organiser of a Funding Round must comply with all directions of the Regional Organiser in the organisation and conduct of a Funding Round.
6. The organiser of a Funding Round may choose any suitable date(s) and venue(s) for the Funding Round, provided such dates are no earlier than the regional deadline for submission of memorials and no later than four (4) weeks before the start of the Regional Round, taking into account the possible need for the participating teams to apply for visas and other travel authorities from the government hosting the Regional Round.
7. The organiser of a Funding Round must inform the Regional Organiser of all matters arising from the organisation of the Funding Round as soon as practicable, including chosen date(s) and venue(s), the participating teams, the format of the round, the draw, judges involved in each round and the results.
8. The failure by a Funding Round to comply with the provisions of this Article 2A may result in the approval of the funding round being revoked.
9. No consideration will be given to any request for reduction or waiver of registration fees from a university or institution from a country with a Funding Round.

Article 2B: Specific Requirements for Funding Rounds

1. All teams from countries in which a Funding Round is held are required to complete registration requirements for both the Regional Round and the Funding Round and must indicate on the registration form for the Regional Round, its election to either:
 - (a) compete in the Regional Round regardless of the outcome of the Funding Round;
 - (b) compete in the Regional Round only if successful in the Funding Round; or
 - (c) compete in the Regional Round without competing in the Funding Round.

2. Teams electing to compete in the Regional Round only if they are successful in the Funding Round:
 - (a) must register with both the Regional Round and the Funding Round and comply with all applicable registration requirements; and
 - (b) may postpone the payment of the registration fees and compulsory dinner fees unless and until it is successful in the Funding Round.
3. Teams electing to compete in the Regional Round regardless of the outcome of its corresponding Funding Round and teams electing to compete in the Regional Round without competing in the Funding Round must:
 - (a) register with both the Regional Round and the Funding Round and comply with all applicable registration requirements;
 - (b) pay the registration fees and compulsory dinner fees with their registration for the Regional Round;
 - (c) provide sufficient written evidence to the satisfaction of the Regional Organiser at the time of registration that real and reasonable prospects of raising all necessary funds independent of the Funding Round; and
 - (d) provide sufficient written evidence to the satisfaction of the Regional Organiser at the time of the submission of memorials that sufficient funding necessary for participation in the Regional Round has been secured.

Article 3: Memorials

1. Each team must prepare a memorial for both the Applicant and the Respondent and comply with all requirements under the Official Rules, particularly the requirements under Article 5 of the Official Rules. The memorials must be sent, postmarked by the due date, by the means required under Article 6(1) of the Official Rules.
2. The memorials must be printed double-sided and stapled. No other means of binding is acceptable except without the express prior written permission of the Regional Organiser.
3. It is the responsibility of each participating team to ensure that the electronic copies of the memorials:
 - (a) can be opened legibly in the English versions of Microsoft Word for Windows or Adobe Acrobat Reader, as the case may be;
 - (b) are submitted as two (2) files only: one containing the memorial for the Applicant and the other of the Respondent;
 - (c) only the team number and side are indicated in the name of the file (eg. 901A.doc or 611R.pdf);
 - (d) submitted on floppy disk or CD-Rom that may be read in most standard computer devices; and
 - (e) also submitted by e-mail to the Regional Organiser by the specified due date.
4. For teams participating in a Funding Round, electronic and five (5) printed copies of each memorial must also be sent to the organiser of the Funding Round.

5. For teams whose participation is subject to success in a Funding Round, only two (2) printed copies of each memorial is to be submitted to the Regional Organiser.
6. For the purposes of Article 5(2) of the Official Rules, the style guide to be followed is the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (2nd edition), electronic copies of which may be obtained and hard copies purchased from the Regional Organiser.
7. Teams not based in the city where the Regional Round of that year is to be held must submit with their memorials documentary evidence of having sufficient funding to participate in the Regional Round. This may take the form of a photocopy of the plane tickets, paid receipt for the airfare or letter(s) committing specified sums of money as funding from the university or sponsor(s). Failure to comply with this requirement without prior written approval from the Regional Organiser will result in the disqualification of the team in question.

Article 4: Oral Rounds Generally

1. Teams must use their assigned Team Numbers to identify themselves and must not conduct themselves in any way that would reveal or suggest the identity of their represented university to any timekeeper or judge.
2. All teams must comply with all reasonable directions given by the Regional Organiser, his or her staff and any timekeeper concerning the conduct of each oral round.
3. Pursuant to Article 7(3) of the Official Rules, each side shall argue for thirty (30) minutes in total and comply with time limits as stated in that provision.
4. Only the two (2) speaking members of each team may be seated at the bar table and may communicate amongst themselves by written notes only. Once a moot is in progress, any form of communications between the bar table with any external person, except with the judges, is strictly prohibited.
5. The decisions of the judges in each round are final and no contemporaneous or subsequent correspondence will be entered into.
6. The Regional Organiser may, where and when necessary, require coaches to act as backup judges during the preliminary rounds and, where requested, a coach must make himself or herself available as a backup judge during the preliminary rounds.
7. No person may make any audio or video recording of an oral round without the prior consent of the participating teams, the judges and the timekeeper.

Article 5: Preliminary Rounds

1. Each team shall be required to compete in four (4) moots during the preliminary phase of the competition. In any given year, the Regional Organiser may decide to require each team to compete in two (2) or three (3) moots during the preliminary phase, in which case the Organiser shall do so no less than one (1) month before the date of commencement of the Regional Round.
2. Each moot shall be decided by the award of a maximum of nine (9) points:
 - (a) two (2) points to be awarded by each of the three (3) judges of the oral submissions to the team with the superior oral submissions or, in the case of a tie, one (1) point to be awarded to each team;

- (b) where the difference in memorial scores, as determined prior to the Regional Round pursuant to Article 6 of the Official Rules and scaled, equal to or exceed seven percent (7%), then three (3) points are to be award to the team with the superior memorial; and
 - (c) where the difference in memorial scores, as determined prior to the Regional Round pursuant to Article 6 of the Official Rules and scaled, is less than seven percent (7%), then two (2) points are to be award to the team with the superior memorial and one (1) point is to be award to the other team.
3. The judges will not disclose the result at the conclusion of preliminary round moots and the decisions of the judges are final. No correspondence will be subsequently entered into concerning the results.
4. Each team must return their opponent's memorial to the timekeeper at the conclusion of each preliminary round moot, the failure to do so shall result in the imposition of 1 penalty point from the result as decided by Article 5(2) of the Regional Rules.
5. Except for the Regional Final, team members or persons directly or indirectly associated with any team may only attend Preliminary Rounds and Final Rounds in which their team is participating. Similarly, team members or persons directly or indirectly associated with any team must not participate or observe in any occasion where two or more teams practice, moot or assist each other in any manner whatsoever before or during the Asia Pacific Regional Rounds.
6. In the interest of clarity, Article 5(5) is contravened when a team participates in or observes a funding round not authorised by the Regional Organiser pursuant to Article 2A above.

Article 6: Determination of Finalists

1. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the Regional Organiser shall tabulate the scores for each team and, subject to Article 6(2) and (3) below, announce the four (4) teams with the highest point totals as teams proceeding to the Regional Semi-Finals.
2. If there are six (6) teams or less in the competition, the Regional Organiser shall announce the two (2) teams with the highest point totals as teams proceeding to the Regional Final.
3. If there are more than twelve (12) teams in the competition, the Regional Organiser shall announce the eight (8) teams with the highest point totals as teams proceeding to the Regional Quarter-Finals.
4. In the case of two teams having equal points, the tie shall be broken by, in order:
 - (a) to the number of victories during the four preliminary round moots;
 - (b) the combined score of both memorials;
 - (c) the combined score of the Applicant memorial;
 - (d) the Regional Organiser having drawn lots to choose a particular memorial judge, the score given for the memorial to the two teams by that judge, with the exercise repeated until a result is reached or the number of memorial judges are exhausted; and
 - (e) a coin toss with the team having the higher team number calling the toss, unless the tie may result in a team not qualifying for the final rounds, in which case the teams have the option of requesting that the tie be broken by the Regional Organiser or a person unconnected with any team in the competition as designated by the Regional Organiser making a fresh assessment of the memorials.

5. The Regional Organiser may alter the structure of the final rounds competition to allow more teams to proceed to the final rounds, provided that the Regional Organiser informs all teams in writing before the start of the preliminary rounds.

Article 7: Regional Finals

1. The draw for Regional Quarter-Finals or Regional Semi-Finals shall be determined by the top ranking team competing against the lowest ranking team and the second-highest ranking team against the second-lowest ranking team, and so on.
2. If the teams have competed against each other previously, then the teams will argue the side that they did not take on the previous occasion. Otherwise the side each team will argue in each final round moot shall be determined by a coin toss, and the team with the higher ranking shall call the toss. The coin toss shall take place at the time following the announcement of the advancing teams.
3. Each moot shall be decided by the award of a maximum of nine (9) points:
 - (a) two (2) points to be awarded by each of the three (3) judges of the oral submissions to the team with the superior oral submissions or, in the case of a tie, one (1) point to be awarded to each team;
 - (b) where the difference in memorial scores, as determined prior to the Regional Round pursuant to Article 6 of the Official Rules, equal to or exceed seven (7) points, then three (3) points are to be awarded to the team with the superior memorial; and
 - (c) where the difference in memorial scores, as determined prior to the Regional Round pursuant to Article 6 of the Official Rules, is less than seven (7) points, then two (2) points are to be awarded to the team with the superior memorial and one (1) point is to be awarded to the other team.
4. The judges will announce the winner at the conclusion of each moot.
5. The winner of each Quarter-Final or Semi-Final shall advance to the Semi-Finals or the Final, respectively. In the former case, the draw of the Semi-Finals shall be determined accordingly to the rankings of the teams given at the end of the preliminary rounds and the method provided in Article 6(1) of the Regional Rules.

Article 8: Regional Awards

1. The winner of the Regional Final will receive the Alexis Goh Trophy for the Asia Pacific Regional Champion and attains the right to advance to the world finals of the Competition as organised by the IISL each year.
2. The team with the best aggregate score for the memorials will receive the International Law Association Award for the Best Memorials of the Asia Pacific Regional Round. In the case of a tie, the Regional Organiser shall determine the winner with reference to raw scores awarded by the judges of the memorials.
3. There shall be awards given to the runners-up, the best oralist of the preliminary rounds and the best oralist of the final rounds. In the case of a tie, the Regional Organiser shall determine the winner with reference to scores awarded by the judges of the oral rounds.

Article 9: Penalties

1. The Regional Organiser has the exclusive discretion in the imposition of penalties under the Official Rules and these Regional Rules and, unless expressly stated otherwise by the Regional Organiser, the penalties imposed are final and not subject to appeal.
2. The Regional Organiser may delegate the responsibility of the imposition of penalties to another person unconnected with any team.
3. If team or member(s) thereof has, in the opinion of the Regional Organiser, conducted itself in a manner that brought the Competition into serious disrepute, the Regional Organiser may impose penalty points of unlimited discretion on that team's preliminary round points, oralist points or memorial points, impose a monetary penalty and may also disqualify a team from the Competition in that year.
4. For any violation of the Regional Rules for which no applicable penalty is found in the Official Rules, the Regional Organiser has the discretion to impose up to two (2) penalty points to a preliminary round result as determined under Article 5(2) or up to ten (10) percentage points to a final round result.

Notes:

Last amended on 1 December 2007.