

# **NILOS MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**OFFICIAL RULES 2022**

## Table of Contents

<b>OFFICIAL RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Administration .....	2
1.2 Competition Structure.....	2
1.3 National or Regional Rounds.....	2
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Institutional or Team Eligibility .....	3
2.2 Team Composition and Member Eligibility .....	3
2.3 Outside Assistance and Coaches Assistance to Teams .....	3
2.4 Problem Corrections and Clarifications .....	3
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Team Registration .....	4
3.2 Waiver of Registration Fee .....	4
3.3 Team Number as Identification .....	4
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 4: MEMORIALS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 Submission of Memorials .....	4
4.2 Memorial Formatting .....	5
4.3 Memorial Content .....	5
4.4 Cover Page .....	6
4.6 Plagiarism and Citation Requirement.....	6
4.7 The Committee of Appointed Judges.....	6
4.8 Grading of the Memorials.....	7
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 5: ORAL PLEADINGS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Courtroom Rules.....	7
5.2 Order of Pleadings .....	8
5.3 Scope of Pleadings.....	8
5.4 Grading of the Oral Pleadings .....	9
5.5 The Final Round .....	10
5.6 Scouting .....	10
5.7 Spectators .....	10
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 6: PENALTIES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1 Memorial Penalties .....	10
6.2 Procedure in Case of Plagiarism .....	12
6.3 Oral Round Penalties .....	12
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 7: PRIZES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
7.1 Prizes.....	13
<b>OFFICIAL RULE 8: FINAL PROVISIONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
8.1 Interpretation of the Official Rules .....	14
8.2 NILOS' Decisions Based on the Official Rules.....	14

## **OFFICIAL RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION**

### **1.1 Administration**

**(a)** The NILOS Moot Court Competition (hereinafter to be referred to as ‘the Competition’) is organised by the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (hereinafter to be referred to as ‘NILOS’).

**(b)** NILOS is the permanent office of the Competition and is located at Utrecht University Law School, Utrecht, The Netherlands. It is also the executive office of the Competition.

**(c)** NILOS is responsible for the administration, organization and execution of the Competition.

### **1.2 Competition Structure**

**(a)** The Competition consists of two rounds: (1) National or Regional Rounds, and (2) the International Rounds. National or Regional Rounds are held in each country or region where more than one team participates in the Competition. The International Rounds represent the final level of the Competition and are held in Utrecht (The Netherlands). Each round consists of written pleadings (Memorials) and oral pleadings (Oral Rounds).

**(b)** Each participating country is permitted to enter one team in the International Rounds of the Competition.

### **1.3 National or Regional Rounds**

**(a)** After registration and payment of fees, in the case of registration from more than one university in a country or region, NILOS will inform the relevant universities of the necessity to appoint a National or Regional Administrator.

**(b)** The National or Regional Administrator will be responsible for designating the date and location for the National or Regional Round. The Administrator will conduct this round in a manner consistent with the present rules.

**(c)** The National or Regional Administrator shall invite duly qualified persons to act as members of the Moot Court for the National or Regional Rounds under her, his, or their competence.

**(d)** The National or Regional Administrator will consult the Official NILOS Schedule and choose a date that allows teams adequate opportunity to organize travel and prepare for the International Rounds. The National or Regional Administrator shall inform teams of the outcome of the National or Regional Round as soon as practicable but not less than three weeks before the international rounds.

**(e)** The National or Regional Administrator may not serve as a team coach or in any other way assist a team participating in the competition. An Administrator may not act as a judge in his, her, or their National or Regional Round.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In case of a National or Regional Round involving the Netherlands, the Administrator cannot be affiliated with Utrecht University.

## **OFFICIAL RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.1 Institutional or Team Eligibility**

- (a)** Any university offering a degree in law or related to international law and/or the law of the sea is eligible to participate in the Competition.
- (b)** Each institution may enter one team in the National or Regional Round regardless of the number of colleges, departments, faculties, or schools within that institution. The team may include students from one or more of its colleges, departments, faculties, or schools.
- (c)** NILOS may refuse the participation of universities with outstanding debts for fees or other Competition obligations until such fees have been paid or obligations met.

### **2.2 Team Composition and Member Eligibility**

- (a)** A person may be a team member if he, she, or they:
  - (i)** is/are pursuing a law degree, an international law or law of the sea-related degree, or an international relations-related degree at either a Bachelor's or Master's level;
  - (ii)** intend(s) to compete on behalf of an eligible institution at which he, she, or they is/are enrolled as a full-time or part-time student as of *(a)* the team member registration deadline, *(b)* the institution's National or Regional Rounds, or *(c)* the International Rounds; and
  - (iii)** has never participated as judge, either of Memorials or in any Oral Round, at any level of the Competition.
- (b)** Any team may be composed of no more than five team members but no less than two team members.
- (c)** The names of participating students are to be submitted by the date of the registration. Substitution of team members is not permitted after this date, unless for extenuating circumstances, which are left to the discretion of NILOS.

### **2.3 Outside Assistance and Coaches Assistance to Teams**

- (a)** Each team must produce their own legal and factual arguments without the assistance of persons who are not team members.
- (b)** Outside assistance must be confined to general commentary on either the Memorial or oral advocacy style. Any team that receives outside assistance may be penalized and may be disqualified from the Competition.
- (c)** A team shall have a maximum number of three team coaches to adequately prepare the team to participate fairly in the Competition. Team coaches may provide advice to a team, provided such advice is limited to general instructions and commentary in all aspects of the competition.

### **2.4 Problem Corrections and Clarifications**

Clarifications and corrections can be requested by the given deadline. Each team must ensure that these are received and duly noted.

## **OFFICIAL RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION**

### **3.1 Team Registration**

- (a)** Each team must register with NILOS and pay the registration fee by the stipulated deadline.
- (b)** Each team must allocate a contact person within the team with a valid email address at registration. Notice sent to the registered email address constitutes notice to all team members.
- (c)** It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that students are eligible under the provisions of Rule 2.2 (a).
- (d)** The name of each team member and the degree program in which he, she, or they is/are enrolled must be registered with NILOS via the registration form.
- (e)** The name of each team coach for a team must be registered by the set deadline.
- (f)** After the registration deadline has elapsed, any changes to registration information can only be made by communicating with NILOS.

### **3.2 Waiver of Registration Fee**

Teams unable to pay in full the registration fee levied pursuant to Rule 3.1(a) may apply for a waiver or discount from NILOS. It is at the discretion of NILOS to grant such a waiver/discount in exceptional circumstances. Such requests must be done by the stipulated deadline.

### **3.3 Team Number as Identification**

Once a team has completed registration, including paying in full the appropriate registration fee, NILOS will assign the team an official team number. The team will be identified by this number. They must use this number for all communications purposes and on the submission of their memorial.

## **OFFICIAL RULE 4: MEMORIALS**

### **4.1 Submission of Memorials**

- (a)** Each team participating in the Competition must prepare one Applicant and one Respondent Memorials.
- (b)** Each team must submit its Applicant and Respondent Memorials electronically to the Competition email (nilos.mcc@uu.nl), no later than the stipulated deadline. The submission of the Memorial must be done from the registered email of the allocated contact person within each team. The email must be addressed to NILOS with the Applicant and Respondent Memorials being attached separately. The files shall be entitled: "\*\*\*\*A" and "\*\*\*\*R" (where "\*\*\*\*" is the team's official team number assigned in line with Rule 3.3). If one of the Memorials is to be submitted late, a team can submit the timely Memorial separately without penalty. The late Memorial will be given penalties according to Rule 6.1.
- (c)** Each team may resubmit their Memorials without penalty until the Memorial deadline has passed. After the deadline has passed any resubmitted Memorial will be subject to the same penalty as a late Memorial according to Rule 6.1.

**(d)** Equipment failure or problems will not be considered justification for improper formatting or late submission of Memorials, unless in extenuating circumstances, and such is within the discretion of NILOS.

**(e)** All Memorials are to be submitted anonymously, as such the names of participants, and the countries or school name of teams, may not appear on or within the Memorials, and team members should not sign their Memorials. Any information contributing to the identification of a team or its members will be struck out on reception of the Memorial before it is submitted to a judge.

**(f)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

## **4.2 Memorial Formatting**

**(a)** All parts of each Memorial must be contained in a single file. Memorials must be submitted in Word format, without comments or track changes.

**(b)** Teams are encouraged to use the following format: all pages of the Memorial should be A4 format (21 cm x 29.7 cm), with margins of at least one inch (2.5 cm) on all four sides. The font and size of the text of all parts of the Memorial, including the Cover Page, page numbers and the footnotes, should be Times New Roman 12-point. Line spacing is 1.5 lines except for the Cover Page, Table of Contents, Index of Authorities, headings, and footnotes (which can be single-spaced). A quotation to sources outside of the Memorial may be block quoted (i.e., right and left indented) and single-spaced if the quotation (excluding footnotes) has at least 50 words.

**(c)** Failure to abide by the provisions of Rule 4.2(a) will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

## **4.3 Memorial Content**

**(a)** The Memorial must contain the following parts in the following order:

- (i)** Cover Page;
- (ii)** Table of Contents;
- (iii)** Index of Authorities;
- (iv)** Statement of Facts;
- (v)** Summary of Pleadings;
- (vi)** Pleadings;
- (vii)** Submissions and Prayer for Relief; and
- (viii)** Annexes (not compulsory).

**(b)** Parts not enumerated in paragraph (a), for example a Table of Abbreviations, are prohibited.

**(c)** Teams are obliged to follow the order as mentioned in paragraph (a). Each section shall include only information relevant to that section.

**(d)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

#### **4.4 Cover Page**

**(a)** The front cover of each Memorial must have the following information:

- (i)** the team number in the center followed by “A” if an Applicant Memorial or “R” if a Respondent Memorial (e.g., Team 123 would put “123A” in the center of the front cover of its Applicant Memorial);
- (ii)** the represented fictitious country;
- (iii)** the name of the court;
- (iv)** the name of the case; and
- (v)** the title of the document (i.e., “Memorial for Applicant” or “Memorial for Respondent”).

**(b)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

#### **4.5 Length**

**(a)** The word count for each Memorial shall be conducted using the standard “Word Count” feature in Microsoft Word.

**(b)** The Statement of Facts part (Rule 4.3(a)iv), including the section title, any section headings or sub-headings, conclusion, and associated footnotes must be no longer than 500 words.

**(c)** The Summary of Pleadings part (Rule 4.3(a)v), including the section title, any section headings or sub-headings, conclusion, and associated footnotes must be no longer than 1,000 words.

**(d)** The total length of the Pleadings and the Submissions and Prayer for Relief parts (Rule 4.3(a)vi-vii), including the section title, any section headings, section sub-headings and associated footnotes must be no longer than 10,000 words.

**(e)** A team may elect to add up to 5 pages of Annexes to their Memorial.

**(f)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

#### **4.6 Plagiarism and Citation Requirement**

**(a)** Teams shall not commit plagiarism. “Plagiarism” means the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of another’s writings, or the ideas or language of another, and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind.

**(b)** Appropriate footnoting must be used to identify sources in the Memorial. Footnotes may not include substantive pleadings alongside the citation. Citations used shall include enough information to allow for the identification of the source.

**(c)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rules 6.1-6.2.

#### **4.7 The Committee of Appointed Judges**

**(a)** The Memorials for the International Round shall be judged by the Committee of Appointed Judges.

**(b)** All participating teams shall appoint two duly qualified persons to sit on the Committee of Appointed Judges and confirm with them their willingness to judge Memorials. A written confirmation (e.g., an email or a letter) must be sent to NILOS by the teams at the time of the appointment. The deadline for the participating teams to inform NILOS of the names and contact details of members appointed to sit on the Committee of Appointed Judges is indicated on the Competition's Time Schedule. Preferably, no faculty members of the participating universities should be nominated. NILOS has the authority and discretion to grant a team a waiver of (part of) this duty.

**(c)** Failure to abide by the provisions of Rule 4.7(b) will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.1.

#### **4.8 Grading of the Memorials**

**(a)** Each Memorial shall be judged individually by three members of the Committee of Appointed Judges, acting independently of one another. No member of the Committee of Appointed Judges shall judge Memorials of a team that has appointed them.

**(b)** The members of the Committee of Appointed Judges shall score the Memorials submitted to them exclusively on official scoring sheets supplied by NILOS.

**(c)** A grade between 60 and 100 points per Memorial shall be awarded by each member of the Board (excellent = 90-100; good = 80-90; average = 70-80; poor = 60-70).

**(d)** The scoring factors, without regard to their order of importance, are:

**(i)** knowledge of the facts and the legal principles directly applicable to the facts;

**(ii)** proper and articulate analysis of the issues involved;

**(iii)** use of authorities and extent of research;

**(iv)** logic and reasoning;

**(v)** evidence of original thought;

**(vi)** clarity and organization;

**(vii)** persuasiveness;

**(viii)** thoroughness;

**(ix)** proper use of grammar and style.

**(e)** The final score for a Memorial shall be the sum of the points awarded by the members of the Committee of Appointed Judges minus any penalty points. The maximum number of points that a team can score for the Memorials is 600: 300 points for the Memorial on behalf of the Applicant and 300 points for the Memorial on behalf of the Respondent.

### **OFFICIAL RULE 5: ORAL PLEADINGS**

#### **5.1 Courtroom Rules**

**(a)** Each Oral Round can be presented by two members of a team.

**(b)** The rules related to time allocation and timekeeping during an Oral Round are as follows:

**(i)** Each Oral Round consists of 90 minutes of oral pleadings. The Applicant and Respondent are each allotted a 45-minute session.



**(ii)** Each team must indicate at the beginning of the first oralist pleading how much time will be given to each oralist, and either the rebuttal or surrebuttal.

**(iii)** An oralist can speak for a maximum of 25 minutes, including time allotted to rebuttal or surrebuttal.

**(iv)** A rebuttal or surrebuttal cannot be longer than five minutes. Time not used in the main pleading may not extend the time allocated to rebuttal or surrebuttal.

**(v)** Any oralist may exceed the given time at a judge's discretion, so in the case that further questions are asked and/or the judge allocates further time, no penalties will be imposed.

**(c)** Oral presentations shall be conducted without any visual presentations.

**(d)** No oral or written communication may take place between the team table or the oralist and their accompanying staff members or any member of the public during the session in which that team presents its oral argument, rebuttal or surrebuttal.

**(e)** No oral or written communication may take place between the team table and an oralist while the oralist is presenting his, her, or their argument, rebuttal or surrebuttal. This does not, however, preclude an oralist from taking a treaty or similar document (i.e., primary sources) from the team table when the oralist has been questioned about such a document.

**(f)** During an Oral Round, oralists and participants seated at a team table may not operate, for any purpose, mobile phones, laptop computers, tablets, or any other computing or electronic devices, including but not limited to those which are internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant messaging capabilities. All such devices must be turned off as soon as the bailiff first enters the courtroom and must remain off until the conclusion of the Oral Round.

**(g)** Team members are not permitted to wear judicial robes during the presentation of the oral arguments, nor may they wear garments which could indicate their country of origin.

**(h)** Failure to abide by the provisions of this Rule will result in penalties imposed in accordance with Rule 6.3.

## **5.2 Order of Pleadings**

**(a)** The order of the pleadings is:

Applicant 1 --> Applicant 2 --> Respondent 1 --> Respondent 2 --> Rebuttal (Applicant 1 or 2) --> Surrebuttal (Respondent 1 or 2).

**(b)** The rebuttal shall immediately follow Respondent 2, and the surrebuttal shall immediately follow the rebuttal. Teams may waive their right to rebuttal or surrebuttal.

**(c)** If the Applicant waives its rights to rebuttal, the Respondent can still give a surrebuttal to the Applicant's pleading.

## **5.3 Scope of Pleadings**

**(a)** Oral Pleadings are not limited to the scope of the team's Memorial.

**(b)** The scope of the Applicant's rebuttal is limited to responding to the Respondent's primary oral pleadings, and the scope of the Respondent's surrebuttal is limited to responding to the Applicant's rebuttal. However, there is no formal penalty for exceeding the scope of the rebuttal or surrebuttal.

## **5.4 Grading of the Oral Pleadings**

**(a)** The oral arguments at any Oral Round shall be judged by a Moot Court consisting of three judges. NILOS shall invite duly qualified persons to act as members of the Moot Court for the International Rounds.

**(b)** Each oral argument shall be judged individually by the three judges, acting independently of one another. Each judge will give a grade to teams and individual oralists separately.

**(c)** The score of each pleading shall be kept exclusively on official scoring sheets supplied by NILOS.

**(d)** A grade between 60 and 100 points shall be awarded by each judge (excellent = 90-100; good = 80-90; average = 70-80; poor = 60-70) to each team and to each individual oralist. The score per session for the oral argument of a team or an individual oralist shall be the total of the points awarded by the judges. The maximum number of points that a team or an individual oralist can score for the oral pleadings in any Oral Round is 600: 300 points for the Applicant's side and 300 points for the Respondent's side.

**(e)** The scoring factors to be considered when judging a team, without regard to their order of importance, are:

- (i)** competence, inclusion of all relevant factors;
- (ii)** structure and logic of the argument;
- (iii)** knowledge of points of international law and law of the sea directly applicable to the facts;
- (iv)** soundness of the argument presented;
- (v)** evidence of original thought;
- (vi)** and response to questions.

**(f)** The scoring factors to be considered when judging an individual oralist, without regard to their order of importance, are:

- (i)** the clarity and style of the presentation;
- (ii)** fluency;
- (iii)** debating skill;
- (iv)** and powers of persuasion;
- (v)** soundness of the argument presented.

**(g)** The final score for a team or an individual oralist shall be the sum of the points awarded by the judges for all the Oral Rounds the team or individual oralist participated in, minus the sum of the penalty points, divided by the number of Oral Rounds.

**(h)** The final score for a team during the Final Round shall be the sum of the points awarded by the judges for the Final Round, minus the sum of the penalty points.

**(i)** Judges are encouraged to provide direct feedback to teams regarding their performance at the completion of an Oral Round. This does not include comments on substantive issues or the scores. In providing such feedback, judges should give due regard to the time limitations and schedule of the Competition.

## **5.5 The Final Round**

**(a)** The Final Round shall be held between the best Applicant team and the best Respondent team. The best Applicant team and the best Respondent team are the teams with the highest total score on the Applicant-side and on the Respondent-side respectively, the highest total score being the sum of the final score for the Memorial and the final score for the oral argument on the Applicant-side and the Respondent-side respectively.

**(b)** If there are two or more teams on the Applicant's side with the same highest total score as defined above, the tie shall be broken by the following methods, starting with the first and working down only if the prior method does not break the tie:

- (i)** the team with the higher final score for the oral argument on the Applicant-side;
- (ii)** the team with the higher overall team score;
- (iii)** if the tie cannot be broken, the best Applicant team will be decided by ballot.

The same determination applies to the Respondent's side.

## **5.6 Scouting**

**(a)** Team members or persons directly affiliated with any team may attend only preliminary rounds in which that team is competing. Scouting (as defined in sub-paragraph (b)) is prohibited. Violation of this Rule should be brought to the attention of the bailiff and/or Organising Committee immediately, without disturbing the Oral Round, or immediately after the Oral Round has finished.

**(b)** There are two types of scouting, both of which are prohibited. "Direct Scouting" occurs when a team attends an Oral Round involving one or more teams against which it will compete in a future Oral Round. "Indirect Scouting" occurs when a team attends an Oral Round involving two teams against which it is not scheduled to compete in the preliminary rounds.

**(c)** A team that commits Direct or Indirect Scouting is subject to penalties according to Rule 6.3.

## **5.7 Spectators**

At any round of the Competition, spectators are permitted. In the case that a team wishes that spectators should not be present, they must raise this question with the bailiff and the opposing team. If both teams are in agreement, the bailiff shall put this forward to the judges which can waive the entrance of spectators during the whole pleading session.

## **OFFICIAL RULE 6: PENALTIES**

### **6.1 Memorial Penalties**

**(a)** Memorial penalties may be imposed by the National or Regional Administrator or NILOS and shall be deducted from the total score given by the judges to a team's Memorial.

**(b)** At the National or Regional Round stage, the Administrator shall notify all affected teams of imposed penalties prior to the first preliminary round and shall include with such notification a reasonable deadline for any appeals from the decision to impose penalties. A team may appeal any penalty imposed against its Memorials by completing the appeals form located on the Competition's website. NILOS shall decide upon the validity of any appeal from the imposition of a penalty. NILOS' decision is final and without appeal.

**(c)** Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules concerning Memorials by reference to the following table:

	Summary	Penalty	
4.1(b)	Late submission of Memorial to NILOS	10 points for first day, 6 points per day thereafter  If both Memorials have not been submitted seven days after the deadline, the team will be disqualified from the Competition.	
4.1(f)	Violation of anonymity in Memorial	Up to 20 points (one-time penalty)	
4.2(a)	Memorial submitted in more than one document  Failure to remove tracked changes or comments	Up to 10 points (one-time penalty)	
4.3	Failure to include all parts of Memorial, failure to follow the prescribed order, or inclusion of a part not stated in Rule 4.3.	4 points for each part listed in Rule 4.3 that is missing  4 points for each part that is not in the order prescribed in Rule 4.3  4 points for any additional part not listed in Rule 4.3	
4.4	Failure to include necessary and correct information on Memorial Cover Page	4 points (one-time penalty)	
4.5	Excessive length: Statement of Facts; Summary of Pleadings, or Annexes	4 points for each part over limit (one-time penalty)	
4.5	Excessive length: Pleadings and Submissions and Prayer for Relief	Up to 100 words over	3 points
		101 to 200 words over	6 points

		201 - 400 words over	12 points
		401 - 600 words over	18 points
		More than 601 words over	30 points
4.6	Plagiarism	2 to 100 points, or disqualification	
4.7(b)	Failure to properly nominate Appointed Judges	8 points per day for delay with a maximum of 56 points, divided equally between the two Memorials of the team	

## 6.2 Procedure in Case of Plagiarism

**(a)** At the National or Regional Round stage, the Administrator shall refer serious allegations of plagiarism to NILOS. The Administrator shall suggest a penalty corresponding to the degree of the violation.

**(b)** After investigation and review, NILOS may do one or both of the following: (1) apply a penalty; (2) notify the team's coaches and/or other university official(s) of the results of NILOS' investigation.

## 6.3 Oral Round Penalties

**(a)** Penalty points may be deducted only by the National or Regional Administrator or NILOS. In no instance shall judges themselves deduct any penalty points from the scores of the team or the individual oralists. Judges shall score the Oral Rounds as if no violation occurred and may take a violation into account only if so instructed by the National or Regional Administrator or NILOS.

**(b)** If a team or a judge believes that an infraction of the Rules has occurred during an Oral Round, the following procedure shall apply, respectively:

**(i)** the team may notify the bailiff in writing within five minutes of the conclusion of that Oral Round. If there is no bailiff, the team must approach the Administrator or a member of NILOS with its complaints. Written notification shall clearly describe the alleged violation and the parties involved. Teams shall not directly approach the judges regarding a violation of these Rules. When possible, the matter should be raised with the bailiff outside the presence of the judges. Failure by a team to follow the procedures described in this paragraph shall result in a waiver of the team's complaint;

**(ii)** the judge shall notify the bailiff orally or in writing within five minutes after the completion of that Oral Round. When possible, the matter should be raised with the bailiff outside the presence of the other judges;

**(iii)** the National or Regional Administrator or NILOS shall impose an Oral Round penalty only when he, she or they is/are satisfied that an event subject to such penalty

has occurred, if necessary, after consultation with the judges, bailiff, teams, and/or spectators.

**(c)** The Administrator shall deduct the penalty amount from the total score given by the judges to a team's Oral Round.

**(d)** At the National or Regional Round stage, the Administrator shall notify teams of his or her decision regarding the imposition of any Oral Round penalty as soon as practicable. Along with the decision, the Administrator shall set a reasonable deadline by which a team may appeal to NILOS. If an appeal is submitted, the National or Regional Administrator shall consult with NILOS in resolving it. NILOS' decision is final and without appeal.

**(e)** Penalties may be assessed for violations during an Oral Round by reference to the following table:

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
5.1(a)-(e)	Violation of courtroom rules	4 to 20 points
5.1(f)	Use of electronic devices in the courtroom	20 to 50 points
5.1(g)	Violation of anonymity in courtroom	Up to 30 points
5.6	Direct Scouting	300 points
	Indirect Scouting	150 points

## **OFFICIAL RULE 7: PRIZES**

### **7.1 Prizes**

At the end of the Competition, the following prizes will be announced:

**(a)** The Winner of the Competition is the team which wins the Final Round. It is the team which receives the highest score for oral pleadings during the Final Round, as determined under Rule 5.4(h).

**(b)** The Best Memorial for the Applicant and the Best Memorial for the Respondent are those which receive the highest scores, as determined under Rule 4.8(e).

**(c)** The Best Oral Argument for the Applicant and the Best Oral Argument for the Respondent are those which receive the highest average scores, as determined under Rule 5.4(g).

**(d)** The Best Oralist is the participant who receives the highest average score, as determined under Rule 5.4(g).

**(e)** The Team with the Highest Overall score is the team which receives the highest total for the sum of the final scores for the Memorials and the final scores for the oral arguments of both the Applicant and the Respondent side.

## **OFFICIAL RULE 8: FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **8.1 Interpretation of the Official Rules**

**(a)** NILOS shall serve as the final arbiter of implementation and interpretation of the Official Rules.

**(b)** In interpreting the present Official Rules, NILOS may take such other discretionary measures as it may deem advisable for the sake of fairness and the orderly conduct of the Competition. When NILOS departs from the present Official Rules, it shall inform all concerned parties as soon as possible, providing a statement of reasons for the departure.

### **8.2 NILOS' Decisions Based on the Official Rules**

Any decision or ruling handed down by NILOS on matters concerning the present Official Rules or any other matters regarding the state of affairs of the Competition is final. No appeal from these decisions or rulings is admissible.