

NATIONAL COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

ISRAEL-2007

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

PART I: GENERAL

Article 1: General Principles

1. The National Competition of International Humanitarian Law in Israel, 2007 is the first edition of an annual competition in International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and is launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the support, as appropriate, of other institutions.
2. To that end, the ICRC established the Competition Committee, composed of officers of the institutions.
3. The Competition Committee is solely entitled to decide on all questions related to the Competition. It can at its discretion delegate part of its powers.
4. The Competition Committee has the sole power to amend at any time the present Regulations and the attached annexes.
5. All requests for derogations from the Regulations related to the application must be addressed to the Competition Committee in writing four days at the latest before submitting the application file. The Competition Committee shall have the exclusive competence to decide on such questions.

Article 2: Purposes of the IHL Competition

The purposes of the IHL Competition include:

1. Promote among students broad knowledge and profound understanding of IHL;
2. Develop in students the skills and ability required to apply the law in a practical and relevant manner to real-life situations;
3. Prepare participants for IHL or IHL-related careers;
4. Support the teaching of IHL in academic institutions.

PART II: SELECTION OF TEAMS

Article 3: Student Eligibility

1. One *or more* teams of three (3) students registered in a Participating Institution and representing that institution may apply to the IHL Competition, using the annexed Application Form, and within the published application deadline.
2. Eligible to apply are students who successfully completed an accredited IHL course in their institutions. However, students who have not previously completed an accredited IHL course, but have successfully completed the public international law course may also apply, providing they have a good knowledge of public international law and that they attend, on a voluntary basis, a non-accredited crash IHL course organized by the Competition Committee, at its expense. The Competition Committee will publish the dates and places of this supplementary training.
3. All three team members must be eligible in order for the team to be eligible to participate.

4. Eligible students may include law students as well as students from other faculties as long as they comply with the requirement of the preceding paragraphs.
5. In order to avoid any inequality between teams that may arise from the participation of extremely qualified or experienced participants, the Competition Committee may decide not to accept the participation of students over the age of thirty-five years old with a strong experience in international humanitarian law or in humanitarian action field.
6. For the purposes of this Article, the Competition Committee shall determine which are to be considered 'Participating Institutions'.

Article 4: Student Application

1. For a team to be included in the selection process, two requirements must be met:
 - a. A team's completed Application Form must be received at educ.jer@icrc.org before 16:00 p.m. on Sunday, 17 June 2007, together with all relevant electronic materials, including:
 - i. Three CVs of team members;
 - ii. One electronic photographs of each team members; and
 - iii. One e-mail address for the team; and
 - b. In addition, non-electronic documents must be received in the ICRC's offices in Tel Aviv before 16:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 June 2007, in a sealed envelope addressed to IHL Competition Committee, International Committee of the Red Cross, at 185 Hayarkon St. Tel Aviv, 63453, by registered mail or personal delivery, including:
 - i. A letter signed by an official representative of the Institution (dean, director) authorizing the team to participate in the Competition and represent the Institution;
 - ii. Signed paper copy of the application form; and
 - iii. Any other document if needed.
2. By applying to the Competition, team members waive all claims against the ICRC, its employees, the Competition Committee or its officers in regards to the selection process, the organization of the Competition, its proceedings and the interpretation and application of these Regulations. In addition, team members thereby allow the Competition Committee to use their names and the photos on its Website and for publicity purposes.

Article 5: Admissions

1. The Competition Committee will receive team applications, admit teams, as it deems appropriate and announce the selection within one month of the application deadline. It may select *more than one team* from an Institution.
2. Once a Team has been selected, no team member can be substituted unless the Competition Committee has expressly authorized such substitution. Substitutions will be allowed in exceptional cases only, such as for health reasons attested by a medical certificate.
3. Decisions of the Competition Committee, in accordance with Article 16, are final.
4. Team members admitted conditionally on the basis of Article 3.2 of these Regulations must comply with the requirements of that paragraph and the conditions of admission. Noncompliance with the terms of conditional admission may lead to disqualification of the team and/or the institution.

PART IV: PRELIMINARY TRAINING

Article 6: Training Prior To the Competition

1. Admitted teams are expected to undertake independent study of IHL.

2. In addition, and apart from supplementary training which may be required under Article 3.2 of these Regulations, admitted teams must attend:
 - a. Two training days organized by the Competition Committee, on dates to be announced; and
 - b. Regular training in their respective institutions, by a coach designated by the institution, at frequency to be determined by the institution (normally, this should take place during the first term of 2007/8).

PART V – HOLDING OF THE COMPETITION

Article 7: Criteria for Evaluating Teams

1. The Competition focuses on the knowledge of IHL *and* the ability to use it in a practical manner. Teams are evaluated primarily on their knowledge of IHL and capacity to use it (evaluating available information to determine critical elements which directly relate to the implementation of IHL).
2. In addition, the Teams will be judged on the following criteria:
 - a. Knowledge of public international law;
 - b. Demonstrated ability to work within the simulations including the capacity to position oneself within the given scenarios; to grasp the ‘big picture’ and identify the strategic issues, opportunities and risks; ability to understand the complexities of the events and the assigned roles during the various simulations; a demonstrated understanding of the political dynamics while maintaining the IHL focus; use of the given information without inventing new facts.
 - c. Demonstrated respect for the work and opinions of the other teams (evidence of a genuine interest in understanding the positions and arguments of the others).
 - d. Team work (respect for co-team members, distribution of tasks among team members and complementarity, cooperation, mutual support of each other’s contributions);
 - e. Commitment (towards the competition, the simulation and, if appropriate in simulations, vis-à-vis the spirit of IHL);
 - f. Capacity to argue (conviction in presenting arguments, use of law in creative and innovative ways, appropriate combination of analysis with emotion and passion);
 - g. Ability to listen to others (within and outside of the team); and
 - h. Quality of oral expression (including *inter alia* the ability to be convincing, articulate, logical; the appropriate balance between emotional and rational aspects; ability to translate complex issues and ideas into understandable concepts).
3. Proficiency in English is NOT a criterion of evaluation.

Article 8: Competition Schedule

The tests take place according to schedules given to the participants during the competition.

Article 9: Language

The language used in all matters related to the Competition is English. All application material, correspondence *etc.* must be in English.

Article 10: Facts

The general framework for the case study will be made available on the competition website (address to be announced). Additional factual and legal elements will be provided to the participants during the Competition. During the weeks prior to the Competition, teams may receive IHL training materials and pedagogical materials in IHL from the Competition Committee in order to help prepare the Competition.

Article 11: Coaches

1. Before and during the Competition, teams will benefit from training and coaching by coaches designated by their institution and trained by the Competition Committee. The coaches are available to help the team prepare for the Competition and can accompany the teams throughout the Competition. The coach may assist the participants in improving their role-play skills, their oral expression, and in the organization and distribution of the work within the team. Prior to the Competition, the coaches may also assist the team on questions of law and substance. During the Competition itself, the coaches *may not*, however, assist the teams on questions of law or substance. The coaches will not participate in the selection of the best teams during the Competition; this task rests solely upon the jury, and the coaches will not have any discussions on this matter with the members of the jury.
2. Any infringement of the role of the coach may lead to an immediate disqualification of coach and team.

Article 12: Jury

1. The Competition Committee shall decide on the composition and identity of the jury.
2. To that end, it shall invite, *inter alia*, experienced foreign IHL experts of the highest level to serve as jury in the Competition. The selection of the jury and their instructions will be within the Competition Committee's discretion. Should it prove appropriate, the Competition Committee shall invite Israeli experts to serve as jury in the final or other stages of the Competition.
3. Decisions of the jury shall be final.

Article 13: Awards, Prizes and Certificates

1. The winning team will receive the IHL Competition Award and be granted a prize by the Competition Committee. The Prize will be ICRC sponsorship of the winning team's participation in an international IHL Competition during 2008, such as the Jean Pictet Competition, if that team applies and is admitted to such a Competition. If the team duly applies and is not admitted, the Competition Committee may decide to offer team members a scholarship, to be applied towards their tuition fees, at a rate to be decided by the Competition Committee.
2. All teams are strongly advised to prepare in advance their applications to such international competitions, as part of their training, based on the understanding that only winning teams should proceed to have their applications submitted.
3. The Competition Committee may offer additional awards or prizes, in its exclusive discretion. In particular, the Competition Committee may give an Award to the best individual speaker.
4. The Competition Committee will issue certificates of participation to all participating students.
5. Other than designation of finalist teams, winning teams, *etc.* by the Jury, neither the latter nor the Competition Committee will in any manner whatsoever be involved in the accreditation or in the grading of the performance of students *for academic purposes*. Although some arrangements on accreditation were reached with participating institutions, the implementation of such arrangements are part of the institution-student relationship.
6. The Competition Committee retains exclusive discretion in all matters dealt with under this Article, including the decision on the number of finalist teams.

PART VI: LOGISTICAL ASPECTS

Article 14: Costs covered

The following are covered by admission to the Competition:

1. Training in IHL before Competition, as provided in Article 6, as well as during the Competition;
2. The provision of a coach in the preparation and the evaluation of achievements, as provided in Article 11;
3. All materials and documents, which will be provided by the Competition Committee; and
4. Full board for 4 nights (from the morning of December 3rd, until the late morning of December 7th). Participants and coaches must stay on premises throughout this period. The Competition will not cover transportation to and from the Competition venue and all personal expenses of the team members including, laundry, telephone, *etc.*

Article 15: Insurance

All participants and coaches must have adequate insurance, taken themselves or by their Institutions. Under no circumstances will the ICRC, its employees, or the Competition Committee be held responsible for any sickness, injury, transport costs, *etc.* By applying to the Competition, participants and coaches agree to waive any claim whatsoever against the ICRC, its employees, or the Competition Committee.

Article 16: Final Provisions

1. The Competition Committee and/or the ICRC may publicize the Competition and related events, and may open the Competition or parts thereof to the public, including the media, prospective employers, academic staff and so forth.
2. The Competition Committee shall have, in connection with the first Annual National IHL Competition, exclusive discretion in the development, timing, format, content and implementation of the competition including, but not limited to, organization and substance, governance, funding, expenditure, jury, student selection, the Competition Regulations and so forth.
3. In Particular, the ICRC may decide not to hold the competition should conditions make it impossible to hold (such as low team application or admission rate, low turn-up or low institutions participation rate).

Annex: Application Form