

NATIONAL COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

ISRAEL-2008

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

PART I: GENERAL

Article 1: General Principles

1. The National Competition on International Humanitarian Law, Israel-2008 (the Competition) is the second annual national competition in international humanitarian law (IHL) to be held in Israel.
2. The Competition is organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in cooperation with Israeli academic institutes.
3. The Advisory Committee for the National Competition on IHL (the Advisory Committee), composed of representatives from the ICRC and from Israeli academic institutes, has been established to provide direction on the governance of the Competition.
4. The Organizing Committee for the National Competition on IHL composed of members of the ICRC staff (the Organizing Committee) shall be responsible for the organization and day-to-day administration of the Competition.
5. The Advisory Committee and the Organizing Committee are jointly referred to herein below as the Competition Administration.
6. Application to the Competition and participation in it shall be in accordance with these Competition Regulations and the attached annexes.
7. The Competition Administration may amend the present regulations and the attached annexe at any time.
8. Any request for derogation from these Regulations must be received by the Organizing Committee in writing no later than four days before the team requesting such derogation submits its application to participate in the Competition. The Organizing Committee shall have the exclusive competence to decide on such requests. Requests should be sent to the Organizing Committee either by electronic mail to educ.jer@icrc.org or in hardcopy to the Communication Department, International Committee of the Red Cross, 185 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv 63453.

Article 2: Purposes of the IHL Competition

The purposes of the IHL Competition include:

1. Enhancing students' knowledge and understanding of IHL;
2. Developing students' capacity to apply the law in a practical and relevant manner to real-life situations;
3. Supporting the teaching of IHL in academic institutions;
4. Preparing participants for IHL-related professional pursuits.

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 Competition by means of the annexed Application Form and within the published application deadline.
2. Eligible to apply are students who have or will have completed an accredited IHL course in their institutions by the date on which the competition is due to begin. However, students who have not completed an accredited IHL course, but will have completed a course on public international law by the time the competition begins and have good knowledge of international law, may also apply.
3. Eligible students may include students of law as well as students from other faculties provided that they comply with the requirement of the preceding paragraph.
4. All three team members must be eligible in order for the team to be eligible to participate.
5. In order to avoid any inequality between teams that may arise from the participation of extremely qualified or experienced participants, the Competition Administration may decide not to accept the participation of students over the age of thirty-five with significant experience in the field of international humanitarian law or humanitarian action.
6. For the purposes of this Article, the Competition Administration 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 on Monday, 30 June 2008 and should include:
 - i. CVs of each of the three team members;
 - ii. One electronic photograph of each team member; and
 - iii. One e-mail address for the team
 - b. In addition, non-electronic documents must be received in the ICRC's offices in Tel Aviv before 16:00 on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, in a sealed envelope addressed to the IHL department, International Committee of the Red Cross, 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. A 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 Advisory Committee and the Organizing Committee and their members or against the ICRC and its employees with 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 Administration to use their names and photographs on the Competition Website and for publicity purposes.

Article 5: Admissions

1. The Organizing Committee will receive team applications, admit teams, as it deems appropriate and announce the selection within one month of the application deadline. The Organizing Committee may decide not to select any of the teams that applied from a particular institution and may also choose to select *more than one team* from an Institution.
2. Once a team has been selected, no team member can be substituted unless the Organizing 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 Administration, in accordance with these Regulations are final.

Article 6: Commitment

By applying to the Competition, teams undertake a commitment that, if admitted, they will participate in the Competition.*

PART IV: PRELIMINARY TRAINING

Article 7: Training Prior to the Competition

Admitted teams are expected to undertake independent study of IHL and may be required to attend supplementary training at their respective institutions. In addition, the Organizing Committee may organize one or more preparatory sessions that all members of the participating teams will be required to attend.

PART V – HOLDING OF THE COMPETITION

Article 8: Criteria for Evaluating Teams

1. The Competition focuses on knowledge of IHL *as well as* 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 that 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).

* This undertaking is required for two primary reasons. Firstly, since planning of the Competition and related expenditure is based on the number of teams admitted, any withdrawal of a team once admitted will have deleterious financial and organizational implications for the Competition Administration and is likely to undermine the Competition. Secondly, since the number of teams able to participate in the Competition is restricted, withdrawal of an admitted team is unfair towards other teams who might have been admitted if their place had not been taken by the withdrawing team.

- 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).

Proficiency in English is NOT a criterion of evaluation.

Article 9: Competition Schedule

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

Article 10: Language

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

Article 11: Facts

The general framework for the case study will be made available on the competition webpage (www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/Israel-event-150208?opendocument). 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 on IHL from the Organizing Committee in order to help them prepare for the Competition.

Article 12: Coaches

1. Before and during the Competition, teams might benefit from training and coaching by coaches designated by their institution. If appointed, coaches will be available to help teams prepare for the Competition and will be permitted to accompany 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 13: Jury

1. The Organizing Committee shall decide on the composition and identity of the jury.

2. To that end, it shall invite experienced 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 Organizing Committee's discretion taking due consideration of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.
3. Decisions of the jury shall be final.

Article 14: Awards, Prizes and Certificates

1. The winning team will receive the IHL Competition Award and will be granted a prize by the Competition Administration. The Prize will be sponsorship of the winning team's participation in an international IHL Competition during 2009, such as the Jean Pictet Competition, provided the team applies and is admitted to such a Competition. If the team duly applies and is not admitted, the Competition Administration may decide to offer team members an alternative award.
2. All teams are strongly advised to prepare their applications to such international competitions in advance, as part of their training. Upon completion of the Competition, the winning team will then submit its application.
3. The Competition Administration may offer additional awards or prizes, at its exclusive discretion. In particular, the Competition Administration may give an Award to the best individual speaker.
4. The Competition Administration will issue certificates of participation to all participating students.
5. Other than designation of finalist teams and award winners by the Jury, neither the latter nor the Competition Administration 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. Apart from designating the Competition finalists and award winners, which will be done by the Jury, the Competition Administration retains exclusive discretion in all matters dealt with under this Article, including the decision on the number of finalist teams (to be determined by the Organizing Committee on behalf of the Competition Administration).

PART VI: LOGISTICAL ASPECTS

Article 15: Costs covered

The following are covered by admission to the Competition:

1. Any preparatory session or training in IHL organized by the Organizing Committee before or during the Competition;
2. All materials and documents, which will be provided by the Organizing Committee; and
3. Full board for 4 nights (from the morning of 24 November 2008, until the late morning of 28 November 2008). Participants are required to remain 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 16: Insurance

All participants and coaches must have adequate insurance, taken themselves or by their Institutions. Under no circumstances will the Advisory Committee or the Organizing Committee nor any of their members, or the ICRC and its employees 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 Competition Administration and its composite Committees and members, or against the ICRC and its employees.

Article 17: Final Provisions

1. The Competition Administration and/or the ICRC may publicize the Competition and related events. The Competition Administration may open the Competition or parts thereof to the public, including the media, prospective employers, academic staff and so forth.
2. The Competition Administration shall have, in connection with the second Annual National Competition on IHL and in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, 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 Competition Administration may decide not to hold the competition should it deem this necessary in view of the prevailing circumstances (such as low team application or admission rate, low turn-up or low institutions participation rate).

Annex: Application Form