

**Rules for the  
Twenty-Fifth Annual  
Stetson International Environmental  
Moot Court Competition  
2020–2021**

**Supplemental Rules for the  
North American Regional Round\***



**The North American Regional Round will be hosted online  
January 8–9, 2021**

In cooperation with the

Stetson Center for Excellence in Advocacy

Stetson Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy

**\*Note: These supplemental rules apply only to the North American Regional Round. The rules for the International Finals are available on the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition website ([www.stetson.edu/iemcc](http://www.stetson.edu/iemcc)).**

## Important Dates

Problem distributed .....	July 31, 2020
Deadline for requests for clarification of the Record .....	September 7, 2020
Memorial due ( <b>must be received by this date</b> ).....	November 13, 2020
Deadline for protests concerning memorials .....ten days after memorials have been shared with the teams (memorials for the North American Regional Round will be shared with the teams on or about the week of November 16, 2020)	
Check-in and Orientation .....	January 8, 2021
Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2.....	January 8, 2021
Preliminary Round 3.....	January 9, 2021
Semifinal Rounds .....	January 9, 2021
Final Round.....	January 9, 2021
Awards Ceremony.....	January 9, 2021

Check-in will begin at 12:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, January 8. The orientation for coaches and competitors will begin at 12:15 p.m. on January 8. All team members **must** check in and attend the orientation.

The Final Round will start at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9. The Awards Ceremony will start shortly after the conclusion of the Final Round (approximately 8:30 p.m.) and will end at around 9:00 p.m.

The problem (or Record) is available on the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition website (<http://www.stetson.edu/iemcc>).

**SUPPLEMENTAL RULES FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL ROUND  
OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
MOOT COURT COMPETITION  
2020–2021<sup>1</sup>**

[Rules A and B remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

**C. TEAM COMPOSITION**

**1. Team Defined**

- a. A team consists of two or three persons, each of whom satisfies the criteria listed in Rule C(2).

[Subsection C(1)(b) has been omitted for the North American Regional Round. Subsections C(1)(c)–(e) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- f. Only two team members may sit together during a round. If there is a third team member, he or she should sit behind his or her teammates. If there is a third team member, he or she is not allowed to communicate (verbally, in writing, electronically, or otherwise) with his or her teammates during the round, even if the teammates are not arguing at that particular moment.

[The remainder of Rule C remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

**D. SCORING AND AWARDS**

**1. Breakdown**

- a. Except for the Final Round, scores for each round will be determined by counting the team's memorial score as one-third of the total score and oral score as two-thirds of the total score.
- b. [Unchanged from International Finals Rules]
- c. In the Final Round, the winner will be determined solely on the decision of the judges. The teams' memorial scores do not factor into the score for the Final Round.

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<sup>1</sup> These supplemental rules apply only to the North American Regional Round. Except as provided for in these supplemental rules, the International Finals Rules also apply to the North American Regional Round.

## **2. Awards**

- a. The North American Regional Round will conclude with the announcement of the following awards:
  - (1) the Regional Champion;
  - (2) runner-up;
  - (3) best overall memorial;
  - (4) top three oralists in the Preliminary Rounds; and
  - (5) best individual oralist in the Final Round.
- b. To be eligible for an oralist award in the Preliminary Rounds, a competitor must argue at least two times. For those who argue three times, the low round score will be dropped.
- c. The same individual cannot win both best oralist awards—the best individual oralist in the Preliminary Rounds and the best individual oralist in the Final Round.

## **E. MEMORIALS (BRIEFS)**

### **1. Sides**

[Subsection E(1)(a) remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- b. Teams will prepare an Applicant or Respondent memorial in accordance with the rules. A team may choose to write for either the Applicant or Respondent (subject to Rule E(1)(c) below).
- c. If a school enters more than one team in the North American Regional Round, one team must represent the Applicant, and the other team must represent the Respondent. The two teams cannot collaborate during the memorial-writing process.

[The remainder of Rule E remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

## F. ORAL ARGUMENT PROCEDURES

### 1. Time and Place

- a. All oral arguments will be presented online on January 8–9, 2021.
- b. Links to the virtual courtrooms will be provided via email.
- c. The first and second Preliminary Rounds will be held on Friday, January 8, and the third Preliminary Round will be held on Saturday, January 9.
- d. **During the Preliminary Rounds, each team will argue three times and will argue for both the Applicant and Respondent.**
- e. Each team must check in and attend the mandatory orientation meeting on Friday, January 8, at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Time per Team and Rebuttal Time

[Subsections F(2)(a)–(g) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- h. During the oral arguments, a bailiff will keep time for each team and show the following time cards on the screen: 10, 7, 5, 3, 1, and stop. Oralists are welcome to use their own timer; however, the bailiff's timer is the official time. (If an oralist uses a timer, the timer must not make any sounds or be used for any other purpose other than keeping time.)
- i. During the oral arguments, laptops, tablets, phones, or other similar electronic devices are permitted only for the purposes of virtually delivering the oral arguments.

### 3. Anonymity

- a. [Unchanged from International Finals Rules]
- b. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers must refrain from identifying a team's school at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, using or having a background that allows observers to identify the team's school; wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, patches, or pins; or using identifying material, such as a notebook or pen with a school logo.
- c. [Omitted for the North American Regional Round]

[Subsections F(4)–(5) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

## **6. Critiques**

Each judge will be requested to provide a short oral critique at the end of each round. The minimum score on any individual oralist's argument will be 60.

## **7. Announcements**

- a. After all of the Preliminary Rounds have been completed, the four teams advancing to the Semifinal Rounds will be announced.
- b. [Omitted for the North American Regional Round]
- c. After the conclusion of the Semifinal Rounds, the two teams advancing to the Final Round will be announced.
- d. The winner of the Final Round will be announced during the Awards Reception.

## **8. Stetson's Participation**

Stetson may not enter a team in the North American Regional Round.

[Subsections F(9)–(10) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

## **11. Additional Rules for Virtual Oral Arguments**

- a. Teams may use computers, tablets, or phones to participate in the virtual rounds, and oralists may use a phone or stopwatch to keep time during oral arguments. An oralist also may open and use an electronic document containing the oralist's notes for oral argument. Teams are prohibited from using electronic devices for any other purpose during the competition (e.g., teams cannot look up answers to questions or research treaties or cases during a round). Teams must close all other computer, tablet, or phone applications during the rounds.
- b. Only two team members may present arguments or otherwise participate in a particular round (all three may argue during the competition, but only two may argue in any particular round). A third team member and/or coach(es) may watch the round (with microphone muted and video off), but the two oralists cannot communicate (verbally, in writing, electronically, or otherwise) with a third team member or their coach(es) during a round. Team

members may be in the same physical location during a round, but the third team member and coach(es) must sit behind the oralist(s).

- c. Oralists are encouraged to stand while presenting, if possible. While one oralist is presenting, all other competitors should remain seated.
- d. Competitors should minimize background noise and visual distractions.
- e. Competitors should dress professionally.
- f. Oralists may (but are not required to) use headphones during oral arguments.
- g. If significant technical issues occur (e.g., an oralist loses connection while presenting), the bailiff or presiding judge will pause the round until the issue is resolved, and the time will not count against an oralist's allotted time. Judges will be instructed not to consider such technical issues when scoring.
- h. At the beginning of each oralist's argument during every round, the oralist should state his or her name and team number, and each oralist then must state substantially the following: "I hereby attest that my participation in the virtual rounds is in compliance with all competition rules and that I will not use technology for any prohibited purpose during this round."
- i. Teams cannot record video or audio during the rounds. By participating in the North American Regional Round, teams agree that the Competition Committee may record and use video or audio of the Final Round and may take and use photos/screenshots of any round.
- j. Scouting is prohibited. Team members and their coach(es) may watch only rounds in which their team is competing, except that all teams competing in the North American Regional Round may watch the Final Round.

**G. SEQUENCE OF ORAL ROUNDS AND ADVANCEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL FINALS**

**1. Preliminary Rounds**

- a. Three Preliminary Rounds will be held.

[Subsections G(1)(b)–(c) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- d. During the first and second Preliminary Rounds, teams will be power-protected based on memorial score (higher memorial scores compete against lower memorial scores).
- e. During the third Preliminary Round, teams will be power-matched based on their record in the first two Preliminary Rounds (highest-ranking team competes against second highest-ranking team, etc.). The Competition Committee may alter the power-matched rankings so that teams will not compete against any team more than once during the Preliminary Rounds.
- f. The schedules for the first two Preliminary Rounds will be provided to the teams by Thursday, January 7. Since the third Preliminary Round is power-matched (see Rule G(1)(e) above), the schedule for the third Preliminary Round will be announced after the completion of the second Preliminary Round.

[Subsections G(1)(g)–(h) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- i. The teams with the best won-lost records will advance to the Semifinal Rounds.
- j. In the event of a tie in won-lost records, the team winning the highest percentage of judges' ballots during the three Preliminary Rounds will advance.
- k. If a tie occurs on the percentage of ballots won, the team with the highest positive point differential over its opponents during the three Preliminary Rounds will advance.

[Subsections G(1)(l)–(m) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules. Subsection G(2) has been omitted for the North American Regional Round.]

### **3. Semifinal Rounds**

[Subsection G(3)(a) remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- b. The highest-ranking team will argue against the lowest-ranking team. Teams will randomly be assigned to represent either the Applicant or the Respondent.

[Subsection G(3)(c) remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]



- d. Each team's score will be compared to its opponent's score in that round, and the winning team in that virtual courtroom will advance. (Scores of teams in one virtual courtroom will not be compared to scores of teams in another virtual courtroom.)

[Subsections G(3)(e)–(f) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

- g. The two winning teams will advance to the Final Round, based on memorial scores and oral scores earned during the Semifinal Rounds. Advancement will be determined in the manner described in subsections G(3)(c)–(f) above.

#### **4. Final Round**

- a. The two winning teams from the Semifinal Rounds will meet in the Final Round. Teams will randomly be assigned to represent either the Applicant or the Respondent. The Final Round will be live-streamed online.
- b. The winner of the Final Round will be determined solely on the basis of oral presentation in the Final Round. The judges will caucus to determine the winning team and the best oralist in the Final Round. The judges are not obligated to use score sheets.
- c. The winner of the Final Round will be designated the Regional Champion.

**[Rules H and I remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]**

### **J. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **1. [Unchanged from International Finals Rules]**

#### **2. Scores**

Scores will not be made available, either orally or in writing, until the Competition is completed. After the Competition is completed, the Competition Committee will provide only the memorial rankings by quartile to each team's designated representative via email.

[Subsections J(3)–(4) remain unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]

#### **5. Fees**

Each team participating in the North American Regional Round must pay a registration fee by check, wire transfer, or credit card by November 20,

2020. The amount due per team for the North American Regional Round will be \$200. Checks should be payable to “Stetson University College of Law” and mailed to:

International Environmental Moot Court Competition  
Attn: Professor Roy Gardner  
Stetson University College of Law  
1401 61st Street South  
Gulfport, Florida 33707

For wire transfer or credit card information, email Rob Ratkiewicz, Associate Director of Business Operations, Stetson University College of Law, at [ratkiewicz@law.stetson.edu](mailto:ratkiewicz@law.stetson.edu), and copy Erin Okuno at [okuno@law.stetson.edu](mailto:okuno@law.stetson.edu).

The teams that advance to the International Finals will be required to pay a separate registration fee for the International Finals (see the fee schedule provided in the International Finals Rules).

**[Addendum A remains unchanged from the International Finals Rules.]**