

**2026 CPR INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION**  
**COMPETITION RULES**

**SUMMARY**

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION, GOALS AND OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.1.</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.2.</b>	<b>TEAM COACH.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.3.</b>	<b>COMPOSITION OF TEAMS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>TEAM APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>MEDIATION SESSION PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.1.</b>	<b>TIMING .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.2.</b>	<b>THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.3.</b>	<b>THE USE OF BREAKS AND CAUCUSES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.4.</b>	<b>PROBLEM AND APPLICABLE RULES .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.5.</b>	<b>MEDIATION RULES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.1.</b>	<b>PERMISSIBLE USE OF AI .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.2.</b>	<b>PROHIBITED USE OF AI.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>JUDGES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>SCORING, AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8.1.</b>	<b>SCORING .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8.2.</b>	<b>PRIZES AND SPECIAL AWARDS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8.3.</b>	<b>CERTIFICATES.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>VIOLATION OF RULES AND PENALTIES .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION.....</b>	<b>15</b>

## **DEFINITIONS**

**“Application”** = refers to the initial application of a potential Selected Team representing a university.

**“Break”** = is a time period that may be asked for by Negotiators Team in a Mediation Session. During the Break, the overall time of the Mediation Session continues to run.

**“Caucus”** = is a separate meeting between the sole Mediator and a Competing Team. During the Caucus, the overall time of the Mediation Session continues to run.

**“Clarification Questions”** = Each Competing Team may send a maximum of 5 Clarification Questions regarding the Problem and any clarification needed to its understanding. The Organizing Committee, in its sole discretion, will choose among the questions received which ones will be suitable to be answered and will publish the corresponding answers to the Competing Teams.

**“Client”** = is a participant from a Negotiators Team appointed to act as the Client in a Mediation Session.

**“Coach”** = individual responsible for supervising and assisting a Competing Team before and during the Competition.

**“Competition”** = is the 2026 CPR International Mediation Competition, which will occur on March 5-7, 2026, in São Paulo, Brazil – also known as the 2026 CPR International Mediation Competition or 2026 CPR IMC.

**“Competing Teams”** = shall consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 students each and be composed of a Negotiators Team and a Mediator Team.

**“Confidential Information”** = refers to the confidential elements to be taken into account in determining the strategy and tactics of the Negotiators Teams in a given Mediation Session. The Confidential Information is for exclusive use of the Negotiators Teams and the Judges, and shall not be disclosed to the Mediator Team.

**“Counsel”** = is a participant from a Negotiators Team appointed to act as the Counsel in a Mediation Session.

**“CPR”** = The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (<https://www.cpradr.org>).

**“Cross-Caucus”** refers to a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Counsels or a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Clients.

**“Eligible Student”** refers to a person who meets the criteria defined in Rule 2.1.

**“Final Round”** = refers to the round in which the two Negotiators Teams with the best performance in each one of the Semi-Finals (the winners of each Semi-Final session) and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize Mediator Team (or 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Mediator Team, in case the 1<sup>st</sup> prize Mediator Team is prevented from acting as a Mediator in that session due to conflicts of interest or any unforeseen circumstances as determined by the Organizing Committee) participate in the final Mediation Session of the Competition.

**“General Information”** = refers to the general information that should be taken into account by the Judges and all the participants in the Mediation (Mediator Team and Negotiators Team) and that contains the background of the dispute and where the dispute stands in a given Mediation session.

**“General Rounds”** = refers to the qualifying rounds for the Quarter-Finals rounds.

**“Guidelines and Instructions for Judges”** = refers to a set of instructions for Judges which outlines the dos and don’ts of the Competition, which will be communicated to the Judges by the Organizing Committee.

**“Judge”** = is an individual selected by the Organizing Committee who evaluates and scores the Competing Teams’ performance during a Mediation Session in accordance with the Score Sheet prepared by the Organizing Committee.

**“Mediation Session”** = refers to a session during which the Competing Teams will simulate a mediation procedure (90 minutes) and a period of time during which the Judges will provide feedback (45 minutes).

**“Mediator”** = is a participant from a Mediator Team appointed to act as the sole Mediator in a Mediation Session.

**“Mediator Team”** = refers to the student(s) of a Competing Team who are acting as mediator(s) during the Competition.

**“Negotiators Team”** = refers to the students of a Competing Team who are acting as client and/or counsel in the Competition.

**“Organizing Committee”** = refers to a group of Staff which is in charge of organizing and managing the Competition.

**“Problem”** = refers to the mock dispute that is the subject of the Mediation Session(s) during the Competition.

**“Registration”** = refers to the final registration of the Selected Teams for the Competition.

**“Score Sheet”** = refers to the document that contains the scoring criteria to be prepared by the Organizing Committee and observed by the Judges when evaluating Competing Teams’ performance. The Score Sheet will be made available to the Competing Teams before the Competition.

**“Selected Teams”, “Team” or “Team Members”** = refers to the Eligible Students representing a university that were accepted by the Organizing Committee to Register for the Competition as a Competing Team.

**“Semi-Finals”** = refers to the rounds in which the two teams that achieved the highest scores as a Mediator Team during the Quarter-Finals and the four Negotiators Teams with the highest score in the session (the winners of each Quarter-Final session) participate in a Mediation Session.

**“Staff”** = refers to CPR staff members or any such person/s who may be authorized by CPR to act on their behalf. Staff shall not include Judges.

**“Written Statement”** = each Competing Team will be required to submit to the Organizing Committee a Written Statement summarizing the background and present status of the dispute, and such other material and information as the Competing Team deems helpful to familiarize the Mediator with the dispute. Additional instructions for purposes of submitting the Written Statement will be provided to the teams when the Problem is released.

## **1. INTRODUCTION, GOALS AND OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION**

- 1.1.** The International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR) is an independent non-profit organization that helps global businesses and their counsel prevent and resolve commercial disputes more effectively—both directly, by enhancing their capabilities, and indirectly, by improving ADR capacity worldwide. CPR offers: cutting edge tools, resources and solutions; a full suite of innovative – and yet practical – ADR rules, procedures and services; a global roster of distinguished and experienced arbitrators and mediators (neutrals); and a collaborative community of members, consisting of top corporations and law firms, academic and government institutions, and leading mediators and arbitrators around the world. For more information, visit [www.cpradr.org](http://www.cpradr.org).
- 1.2.** CPR has decided to organize the Competition to promote, incite and disseminate the use of mediation among younger generations of professionals with a mind-set of effectively resolving disputes. CPR believes that the Competition will allow students with different backgrounds and academic training to have the opportunity to enhance their mediation skills in an international setting.

## **2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.1. ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS**

- 2.1.1.** Full-time and part-time students duly registered in a university at the time of Application are eligible to participate in the Competition.
- 2.1.1.1.** Each Competing Team must have at least 1 full-time or part-time student who is pursuing a degree in Law, to perform the role of counsel of the Negotiators Team in the Mediation Sessions.
- 2.1.1.2.** When completing Registration, each Selected Team will be required to provide the Organizing Committee with proof of enrollment of each student comprising the Selected Team at the University that the Selected Team represents at the time of Application.
- 2.1.2.** Students who are or have previously been practicing lawyers or are entitled to practice law in any jurisdiction, by having passed a bar exam or otherwise, at the time of Application of the respective team, are not Eligible Students.
- 2.1.3.** Students must be at least 18 years old to be part of a Competing Team.
- 2.1.4.** Team members and Coaches are not required to have the same nationality or have the nationality of their university.
- 2.1.5.** CPR assumes that students submitting an Application have secured any necessary authorizations from their university to represent the university in the Competition.
- 2.1.6.** Any Team or Team Member that breaches Rule 2.1 will be disqualified from the Competition. If only one member of the Team breaches Rule 2.1, it is at the discretion of the Organizing Committee to disqualify the whole Team or only that Team Member. If, as a result of disqualification of one Team Member, the Team has fewer than three students, the whole Team will be disqualified.

**2.2. TEAM COACH**

- 2.2.1.** Although recommended, Competing Teams are not required to have a Coach to participate in the Competition.
  - 2.2.1.1.** Each Competing Team may have a maximum of 1 Coach.
- 2.2.2.** The role of the Coach is to supervise and assist their respective Competing Team before and during the Competition. Coaches shall not act as a Competing Team Member nor shall serve as a Judge in the Competition.
- 2.2.3.** Coaches may be full-time or part-time professors, qualified mediators, lawyers, assistant professors and/or alternative dispute resolution practitioners, or anyone who has experience in mediation and mooting in general.
- 2.2.4.** A Coach can only supervise 1 Competing Team.

**2.3. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS**

- 2.3.1.** Each Competing Team may have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 members.
  - 2.3.1.1.** All Competing Teams must be composed of at least 3 students to allow the same Competing Team to perform simultaneously, if and when applicable, the roles (i) of counsel and client when acting as a Negotiators Team in one Mediation Session; and (ii) Mediator in another parallel Mediation Session.
- 2.3.2.** Students who are not pursuing a degree in Law shall not be allowed to act as counsel but can act as client in the Negotiators Team and/or as mediator in the Mediator Team.
- 2.3.3.** Teams may be composed of students from two different universities if one of such universities does not offer a Law degree in its *curriculum*, in order to allow compliance with Rule 2.1.1.1.
  - 2.3.3.1.** In the case that a Competing Team represents two universities, as allowed under Rule 2.3.3 above, the Competing Team will be identified under the name of both universities.
  - 2.3.3.2.** Under no other circumstances may a university nominate more than 1 team to the Competition. Competing Teams will either represent a single university or two universities, as allowed under Rule 2.3.3 above. Should the Organizing Committee receive more than one application or nomination from a university, the Organizing Committee has full discretion to either (i) select only one of the teams or (ii) void all teams from that university. Under no circumstance will more than one team from a university be selected for the Competition.

**3. TEAM APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION**

- 3.1.** Teams interested in competing must apply online on the Competition website (<https://www.cpradr.org/events/2026-international-mediation-competition>) no later than **11:59 pm ET on Friday, November 21, 2025**. CPR reserves the right to extend such deadline at its sole discretion. There is a \$25 USD non-refundable application fee for teams to apply. The

application fee will not be refunded for any reason, including for teams not selected to compete at the Competition or for teams who withdraw.

- 3.2.** Only one team may apply from a university, except as provided for in Rule 2.3.3. Applicants should independently verify if any other teams from their university have already applied.

- 3.2.1.** The Organizing Committee will have full discretion to decide which teams will be selected to complete Registration and become a Selected Team.

- 3.2.1.1.** During the Application process, each team is asked a series of questions regarding their training, experience, and reasons for participating in the Competition. The purpose of the Application is to help the Organizing Committee choose the Selected Teams.

- 3.2.1.1.1.** For those teams selected that would like to apply for support from the CPR Scholarship Fund, the Organizing Committee will request them to specify if they are seeking a waiver of the registration fee, financial support through the Scholarship Fund, if any, or both and briefly describe why they want to participate of the Competition, why they need assistance and, if applicable, the scholarship amount they are seeking and how they will secure the rest of the funding considering the cost estimate to attend the competition given the fact that the scholarship will most likely only partially cover their expenses. The Organizing Committee will analyze the requests for financial assistance, the assistance availability and, considering that, inform the teams if they will be or will not be assisted.

- 3.2.1.1.2.** If Applicant teams do not know which students will be the competitors yet, they should provide a contact person in the application form. If the team is accepted, the contact person shall provide the proposed Team Members who will compete within the time established by the Organizing Committee.

- 3.2.1.2.** The Organizing Committee will aim, primarily, to reach a diverse, both culturally and geographically, pool of Selected Teams. The Organizing Committee will also consider when choosing the Selected Teams whether a team has expressed early interest in the competition through an early Application in the Competition, as well as their responses to the Application questions.

- 3.2.2.** The Organizing Committee will notify the Application teams by **Friday, December 5, 2025**, of their admission or non-admission to the Competition. If such deadline is changed, the Application teams will be notified.

- 3.2.2.1.** Upon receiving the admission notice, the Selected Teams will be requested to complete Registration by **Friday, December 19, 2025**, or within a certain time limit which shall be notified to them with the admission notice. The admission notice will provide the Selected Teams with the necessary instructions on how to complete Registration. There will be a \$300 USD non-refundable Registration Fee per team. The Registration Fee will not be



refunded under any circumstances, including withdrawal or disqualification of a team, except at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

- 3.2.2.2. In the event a Selected Team fails to complete Registration within the deadline set forth on the admission notice with no justifiable reason as determined by the Organizing Committee, the Organizing Committee will exclude that team from the pool of Selected Teams and choose another team from the Application teams to participate in the Competition.
      - 3.2.2.3. When completing Registration, each team will also be required to declare that they comply with the terms of Rules 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, especially regarding eligibility of team members, team coaches, and composition of teams.
- 3.2.3. Each Selected Team is responsible for ensuring that their team members and Coach will have a valid passport and visa, if applicable, to enter Brazil by **February 5, 2026**, for the purposes of the Competition.
  - 3.2.3.1. Under no circumstances shall CPR and/or the Organizing Committee take responsibility for any consequences which may arise due to the failure of the Selected Teams to comply with any immigration requirements to participate in the Competition.
  - 3.2.3.2. Without prejudice to Rule 3.1.4.1 above, upon request in a timely manner, the Organizing Committee may issue letters of invitation to the Selected Teams to help the participants secure the visa, as and when necessary.

#### 4. FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

- 4.1. English will be the official language of the Competition.
- 4.2. In advance of the competition, each Competing Team will be required to submit to the Organizing Committee a Written Statement based on instructions provided when the problem is released. Pursuant to Article 5 of the CPR International Mediation Procedure, the purpose of the Written Statement is to prepare the mediator and the parties for the mediation session.
  - 4.2.1. The Written Statement shall be submitted by no later than **11:59 pm ET on Friday, February 13, 2026**. Written Statements received after the stated deadline will not be accepted or considered for scoring purposes and Competing Teams will thus be negatively affected for certain prize categories that rely on the Written Statement score.
  - 4.2.2. Written Statements that do not comply with instructions provided, including but not limited to word limits of the document, document format, and maintaining anonymity (not revealing Competing Team name or Team Members names in the Written Statement), may be disqualified, or at the discretion of the Organizing Committee, incur penalties and deduction of points.
  - 4.2.3. The Written Statements will be scored by Judges in advance of the Competition in accordance to the scoring criteria to be defined by the Organizing Committee and communicated to the Competing Teams. In the event of a tied score, the Written Statement with the higher score for Creativity criterion shall prevail. That is, if two or

more Competing Teams have the same overall score, the team with the highest score in Creativity will be declared the winner.

- 4.2.4. The score given to each Negotiators Team's Written Statement will be factored in the total score of the respective Negotiators Team during the General Rounds.
- 4.3. All rounds of the Competition will be conducted in São Paulo, Brazil, from **March 5-7, 2026**.
- 4.4. In every Mediation Session, 3 Competing Teams will be performing: 2 of the Competing Teams will be acting as a Negotiators Team, representing the parties involved in the Problem, while the other Competing Team will be performing as a Mediator Team.
  - 4.4.1. When acting as a Negotiators Team in a given Mediation Session, only 1 member of each Competing Team will be allowed to participate as counsel and 1 member of each Competing Team will be allowed to participate as client.
  - 4.4.2. When acting as Mediator Team in a given Mediation Session, only 1 member of each Competing Team will be allowed to act as a sole Mediator.
  - 4.4.3. In accordance with Rule 2.3.2, only Law students are allowed to perform the role of Counsel. Subject to Rule 2.3.2, all Competing Teams are free to choose, throughout all rounds of the Competition, which member of the team will be acting as Counsel and Client, if performing as a Negotiator Team, and as Mediator, if performing as Mediator Team.
  - 4.4.4. There is no rule preventing the same student from performing as Mediator in a given round and as Negotiator in another round. However, in order to be eligible for the Best Client or the Best Counsel Special Awards, the same competitor must perform the role of the Client or the Counsel, as applicable, in the two sessions of the General Rounds, once for one party and once for the other party.
- 4.5. The Competition will be structured around General Rounds, in which all Competing Teams will participate, and then Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final Rounds.
  - 4.5.1. During the General Rounds, every Competing Team will compete 3 times, 2 times as a Negotiators Team (one time for each party) and 1 time as a Mediator Team.
  - 4.5.2. The 8 teams that achieved the highest scores as Negotiators Team and the 4 teams that achieved the highest scores as a Mediator Team during the General Rounds will advance to the Quarter-Finals.
  - 4.5.3. The 2 teams that achieved the highest scores as a Mediator Team during the Quarter-Finals, along with the Negotiators Team with the highest score in the session (the winners of each Quarter-Final session) will advance to the Semi-Finals. The 2 Negotiators Teams that had the best performance in each one of the Semi-Finals (the winners of each Semi-Final session) will advance to the Final Round.
  - 4.5.4. The Mediator Team that has achieved the highest score in the Semi-Finals will be the winning Mediator Team of the Competition and will qualify to the Final Round.
    - 4.5.4.1. In case the winning Mediator Team represents the same university as one of the Negotiators Team participating in the Final Round, the second highest



scored Mediator Team will conduct the Final Round. In case the second highest scoring Mediator Team is also from the same university of one of the Negotiators Team participating in the Final Round, the third highest scored Mediator will conduct the Final Round.

**4.5.5.** In the event of a tie, the Teamwork criterion shall prevail. That is, if two or more Competing Teams achieve the same overall score in the General Round, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, or Final Round, the Team with the highest score in Teamwork will be considered the winner.

**4.5.6.** The Organizing Committee will:

- i) decide, at its own discretion, which 3 Competing Teams will perform in each Mediation Session at the General Rounds, and whether as a Negotiators or Mediator Team.
- ii) decide at its own discretion which party each Competing Team will represent in each Mediation Session where they are assigned to perform as a Negotiators Team, during the General Rounds, the Quarter-Finals (if applicable), the Semi-Finals and the Final Rounds.
- iii) organize the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals in such a way that no Mediator Team mediates a session where the Negotiators Team from the same university of the Mediator Team is performing.

**4.6.** Coaches and Team Members of each Competing Team may only attend the Mediation Sessions of their Competing Teams in the General Rounds and Quarter-Finals.

**4.6.1.** Attendance at the Semi-Final and Final Rounds will be open to all Competing Teams. However, if the number of people attending the Semi-Final or the Final Rounds exceed the number of people that the room can seat, the Organizing Committee will give preference for the Coaches and members of the Competing Teams acting as Negotiators or Mediators at the relevant round.

**4.7.** The Organizing Committee may at its discretion allow a limited number of people interested in the Competition to attend the Mediation Sessions as observers.

## **5. MEDIATION SESSION PROCEDURES**

### **5.1. TIMING**

**5.1.1.** Each Mediation Session will have a total time of 135 minutes. During the initial 90 minutes the Competing Teams will simulate a mediation procedure. Afterwards, the Judges will have 15 minutes to score. In the last 30 minutes the Judges will provide feedback.

**5.2. THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**5.2.1.** During the Mediation Session, the use of electronic devices (except computers such as laptops or tablets) by Competing Teams is permitted only in airplane mode and exclusively for timekeeping purposes. Competing Teams are not allowed to use laptops or tablets, even in the airplane mode. Any use that violates the Competition rules or disrupts the integrity of the Mediation Session will be reviewed by the Organizing Committee and may be subject to penalties.

**5.2.2.** Competing Teams cannot record the Mediation Sessions, including but not limited to photos and videos, with exception of the Final Round.

**5.3. THE USE OF BREAKS AND CAUCUSES**

**5.3.1.** The use of Breaks, Caucuses and Cross-Caucuses is not mandatory. Each Competing Team may use them as they deem necessary and/or appropriate. The decisions made by the Negotiators and/or Mediator Teams on whether to use Breaks, Caucuses or Cross-Caucuses will be evaluated by the Judges.

**5.3.1.1.** The length of Breaks, Caucuses and Cross-Caucuses will be one of the aspects evaluated by the Judges.

**5.3.1.2.** During the Breaks, Caucuses and Cross-Caucuses the overall time of the Mediation Session continues to run.

**5.3.2.** The Mediator or Negotiators Team may call for one or more Caucuses or Cross-Caucuses during each Mediation Session.

**5.3.2.1.** The length of each Caucus or Cross-Caucus shall be defined by the Mediator as he/she deems appropriate but shall not exceed 15 minutes.

**5.3.2.2.** For the duration of the Caucus or Cross-Caucus, the members of the Competing Team that are Counsel or Client but that are not part of the Caucus or Cross-Caucus must leave the room. Client and Counsel of the Competing Team who are not participating in a Caucus may talk to each other outside the room during a Caucus.

**5.3.2.3.** All others (Coaches, observers and other members of the Competing Teams that are not participants of the Mediation Session) must stay in the room and must not communicate with any member of the Negotiators Team or Mediator Team nor use any electronical devices. Silence is to be observed by those people staying in the room, including the Judges. Failure to observe this Rule will be analyzed by the Organizing Committee and may result in disqualification.

**5.3.2.4.** The Mediator is responsible for keeping track of the time limit of the Caucus or Cross-Caucus.

**5.3.3.** Each Negotiators Team may call for one Break during each Mediation Session.

- 5.3.3.1.** The length of each Break shall be defined by the Negotiators Team that has requested it but shall not exceed 5 minutes.
- 5.3.3.2.** For the duration of the Break, the Mediator and the members of the Negotiators Team that are Counsel or Client but that have not requested the Break must leave the room. Client and Counsel of the Competing Team who are not participating in the Break may talk to each other outside the room but shall not talk to the Mediator.
- 5.3.3.3.** All others (Coaches, observers and other members of the Competing Teams that are not participants of the Mediation Session) must stay in the room but must not communicate with any member of the Negotiators Team or Mediator Team nor use any electronic devices. Silence is to be observed by those people staying in the room, including the Judges. Failure to observe this Rule will be analyzed by the Organizing Committee and may result in disqualification.
- 5.3.3.4.** The Mediator is responsible for keeping track of the time limit of the Break and shall return to the room with the Counsel and Client of the Negotiators Team that has not requested the Break when the time limit is reached.

#### **5.4. PROBLEM AND APPLICABLE RULES**

- 5.4.1.** The Problem will not rely on the analysis of national or international governing law or applicable law.
- 5.4.2.** The Problem and instructions for the purposes of submitting Written Statements will be made available to the Selected Teams on **January 9, 2026**. Any subsequent modification of the Problem will be published on the Competition website.
  - 5.4.2.1.** Selected Teams will be duly notified of any modification to the Problem.
- 5.4.3.** The number of Clarification Questions related to the Problem will be limited to 5 (five) per Competing Team.
  - 5.4.3.1.** Each Selected Team may send up to 5 Clarification Questions regarding the Problem and any clarification needed for its understanding until **January 16, 2026**.
  - 5.4.3.2.** The Organizing Committee, in its sole discretion, will choose from among the Clarification Questions received which ones will be answered.
  - 5.4.3.3.** The Organizing Committee will make the answers to the selected questions available to the Competing Teams by **January 30, 2026**.
- 5.4.4.** General and Confidential Information applicable to the General Rounds, Quarter-Finals (if applicable), Semi-Finals and Final will be made available at least one hour before each relevant round.
  - 5.4.4.1.** The Mediator Teams will receive General Information which contains the background of the dispute and where the dispute stands in that specific round.

- 5.4.4.2.** The Negotiator Teams will receive Confidential Information applicable to the side they are role playing in that specific round. The Confidential Information will also include the General Information that is given to the Mediator Team.
- 5.4.4.3.** The Judges will have access to both sides' Confidential Information provided to the Negotiators Teams and to the General Information provided to the Mediator Team.
- 5.4.5.** All persons participating in the Competition including the Competing Teams, their Coaches and the Judges shall not disclose the Confidential Information, as they are relevant for scoring the Competing Teams' performance.

## **5.5. MEDIATION RULES**

- 5.5.1.** The moot mediation will be conducted pursuant to the CPR International Mediation Procedure (2017) which is available in digital format on CPR's website at <https://drs.cpradr.org/rules/international/mediation/cpr-international-meditation-procedure>

## **6. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):**

### **6.1. PERMISSIBLE USE OF AI**

- 6.1.1.** In recognition of the increasing use of AI, the Competing Teams are permitted to use the tools in the following strictly defined circumstances:
  - 6.1.1.1.** Use AI tools as search engines.
  - 6.1.1.2.** Use AI tools to translate and understand legal sources.
  - 6.1.1.3.** Use AI tools to generate overviews or briefings on relevant factual or legal topics, but solely for the Competing Teams' own understanding.

### **6.2. PROHIBITED USE OF AI**

- 6.2.1.** The Competing Teams are not allowed to use the AI tools to generate, write or submit the Written Statement, even if the text has been altered or amended by the teams' members.

## **7. JUDGES**

- 7.1.** Competing Teams will be evaluated by Judges, who will be selected by the Organizing Committee.
- 7.2.** Besides scoring the Competing Teams, Judges are also responsible for keeping the time of each Mediation Session.
- 7.3.** There will be 3 Judges for each Mediation Session.
- 7.4.** Judges shall be neutral and impartial throughout the Competition. Judges may not serve as Coaches at any time during the Competition and should avoid any conduct that could reasonably be perceived as favoring a Competing Team.

- 7.5. Judges will be required to submit a disclosure to the Organizing Committee identifying any kind of relationship they have with the Competing Teams. If, at any time after submitting the disclosure to the Organizing Committee or during the Competition, Judges discover any new fact that may give rise to a conflict of interest with any of the Competing Teams, particularly those they have been assigned to evaluate, they shall immediately provide and identify such fact to the Organizing Committee.

## **8. SCORING, AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES**

### **8.1. SCORING**

- 8.1.1. Judges will evaluate the Competing Teams based on the criteria set out in the Score Sheet to be prepared by the Organizing Committee.
- 8.1.2. There shall be no need for achieving a final settlement or resolution during the Mediation Session. Competing Teams will not be scored based on the achievement of a settlement or resolution during the Mediation Session.
- 8.1.3. Judges shall evaluate and score the Mediation Session once everyone including the Competing Teams, Coaches and any observers have left the room.
- 8.1.4. The scoring must not be revealed to any Competing Team during the Competition. However, the Judges will provide general oral feedback to the Competing Teams immediately after each Mediation Session.
- 8.1.4.1. At the discretion of the Organizing Committee, scoring information may be available to the Competing Teams after the Competition. In the event that the Organizing Committee decides to release scores to the Competing Teams, such information shall be provided privately to each Competing Team as a courtesy to aid in their self-assessment and to provide guidance for the Competing Team.
- 8.1.4.2. With the exception of such rankings as publicly announced by the Organizing Committee when granting Special Awards and Prizes at the conclusion of the Competition, **failure to maintain confidentiality of any scoring provided to a Competing Team after the conclusion of the Competition may result in forfeiture of any awards or prizes and may affect future participation of the Competing Team or the university they represent.**

### **8.2. PRIZES AND SPECIAL AWARDS**

- 8.2.1. At end of the Competition, the following Special Awards and Prizes will be granted:
- 8.2.1.1. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Negotiation (winning Negotiators Team).
- 8.2.1.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Negotiation (Runners up Negotiators Team of the finals).
- 8.2.1.3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Negotiation (Negotiators Team from the Semi-Finals which did not make to the Finals, but had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest score)
- 8.2.1.4. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mediation (winning Mediator Team of the Semi-Finals).

- 8.2.1.5.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mediation (second highest score Mediator Team of the Semi-Finals).
- 8.2.1.6.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Mediation (third highest score Mediator Team of Quarter-Finals).
- 8.2.1.7.** Best Counsel – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (for the individual that had the top score General Rounds).
- 8.2.1.8.** Best Counsel - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (second highest score of the General Rounds)
- 8.2.1.9.** Best Counsel – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (third highest score of the General Rounds)
- 8.2.1.10.** Best Client – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (for the individual that had the top score General Rounds).
- 8.2.1.11.** Best Client - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (second highest score of the General Rounds)
- 8.2.1.12.** Best Client – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (third highest score of the General Rounds)
- 8.2.1.13.** Best Written Statement – 1st Place (for the Negotiators Teams whose Written Statement received the highest score).
- 8.2.1.14.** Best Written Statement – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (for the Negotiators Teams whose Written Statement received the second highest score).
- 8.2.1.15.** Best Written Statement – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (for the Negotiators Teams whose Written Statement received the third highest score).
- 8.2.1.16.** Best Teamwork – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (for the Negotiators Teams with the best teamwork during the General Rounds)
- 8.2.1.17.** Best Teamwork – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (for the Negotiators Teams with the second best teamwork during the General Rounds).
- 8.2.1.18.** Best Teamwork – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (for the Negotiators Teams with the third best teamwork during the General Rounds).

- 8.2.2.** In order to be eligible for the Best Client or the Best Counsel Special Awards, the same competitor must perform the role of the Client or the Counsel, as applicable, in the two sessions of the General Rounds, once as claimant and once as respondent.

### **8.3. CERTIFICATES**

- 8.3.1.** One certificate of achievement will be issued for each Competing Team winning a Prize and for each Participant and/or Competing Team, as applicable, winning a Special Award.
- 8.3.2.** Certificates of participation will be issued to all Competing Teams.

## **9. VIOLATION OF RULES AND PENALTIES**

- 9.1.** The Organizing Committee may impose sanctions on any Competing Teams for any breach of the Rules, including, but not limited to, deducting scoring points or disqualifying Competing Teams.



**10. INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION**

- 10.1.** The Organizing Committee shall have, in its sole discretion, the exclusive power to interpret, supplement, and apply the Rules. Any matters not expressly addressed by the Rules, including but not limited to procedural or administrative issues arising in connection with the Competition, will be decided by the Organizing Committee on a case-by-case basis. The Organizing Committee may issue clarifications, guidelines or additional provisions at any time, which shall be binding upon all participants.
- 10.2.** The Organizing Committee's interpretation as to the implementation of the Rules is final and conclusive.
- 10.3.** The Organizing Committee may take other measures as are required for the orderly conduct of the Competition.

[END]