2026

RULES OF PROCEDURE

APPLICABLE FOR MUNLawS 2026 INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE



UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA
Faculty of Law

this page is left intentionally blank

MUNLawS 2026
RULES OF PROCEDURE

It is prohibited to (re)upload or (re)use this document elsewhere without priorly consulting the MUNLawS 2026 Organising Team.

Last revision by Irma Alibabić, Živa Srše, Živa Rozina, Vito Vidmar and Maks Novak (October 2026)

this page is left intentionally blank

Table of contents

CHAPTER I 1
GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS 1
Article 1.1 Scope of the Rules 1
Article 1.2 Language 1
Article 1.3 Delegates 1
Article 1.4 Dress Code 1
Article 1.5 Courtroom Decorum and Courtesy 1
Article 1.6 Communication 2
Article 1.7 Electronic Devices 2
(A) General 2
(B) Use during Committee Sessions 3
Article 1.8 Academic Integrity 3
(A) General 3
(B) Violations of Academic Integrity 3
(C) Enforcement and Sanctions 4
Article 1.9 Credentials 4
Article 1.10 Sessions of the Court 4
Article 1.11 Quorum 4
Article 1.12 Validity and Applicability of the Rules 5
CHAPTER II 6
MEMBERS OF THE COURT 6
Article 2.1 President and Vice-President 6
Article 2.2 Rapporteur 6
Article 2.3 Judges and Agents 7
Article 2.4 Administrative Staff 8
CHAPTER III 9
ORAL PROCEEDINGS 9
Article 3.1 Opening of the Oral Proceedings 9
Article 3.2 Pleadings 9
Article 3.3 Rebuttal and Surrebuttal 10

Article 3.4 Use of Supporting Evidence 10
Article 3.5 Questioning by the Judges 10
Article 3.6 Conclusion of the Oral Proceedings 11
CHAPTER IV 12
OBJECTIONS 12
Article 4.1 General 12
Article 4.2 Relevance 12
Article 4.3 Prejudicial 12
Article 4.4 Competence 12
Article 4.5 New Issue 13
CHAPTER V 14
JUDGES DELIBERATION AND JUDGEMENT 14
Article 5.1 General 14
Article 5.2 Voting on Claims and Judgement 14
Article 5.3 Judgment 14
(A) Scope of the Judgment 14
(B) Separate and Dissenting Opinions 15
Article 5.4 Reading of the Judgement 15
APPENDIX I 16
TIMELINE OF THE PROCEDURE 16

CHAPTER I

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Article 1.1 Scope of the Rules

(1) These Rules apply to the International Court of Justice (*hereinafter referred to as '**the Court**'*), as simulated at the MUNLawS 2026 Conference.

(2) In case of doubt or conflict between these Rules of Procedure and any other procedural regulation laid down in either the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the International Court of Justice, or the Rules of Court, these Rules shall prevail.

Article 1.2 Language

The official and working language of the MUNLawS Conference is English. In case of necessity and where unavoidable, the Presidency may exceptionally and at their discretion allow usage of other languages, given the proper interpretation is provided by the delegates.

Article 1.3 Delegates

Delegates shall act as either Agents or Judges of the Court during the Court proceedings, in accordance with the roles assigned to them by the Secretariat prior to the commencement of the Conference.

Article 1.4 Dress Code

All members of the Court shall maintain a formal and professional appearance throughout the Conference, in accordance with the standards appropriate to proceedings before the Court.

Article 1.5 Courtroom Decorum and Courtesy

All members of the Court shall have the responsibility to show utmost respect to each other and shall act accordingly. A violation of this article may result in a verbal warning from the President. In case of recurring misconduct or serious violations of courtroom decorum and

courtesy, the President shall notify the Secretariat, which shall determine the appropriate sanction. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the revocation of voting rights or expulsion from the Court's sessions. The decision of the Secretariat shall be final.

Article 1.6 Communication

(1) Written notes shall be the only means of communication between members of the Court who have not been recognized to speak. They shall be transmitted by the MUNLawS Administrative Staff, unless otherwise instructed by the President.

(2) All written notes must be in the official and working language of the Conference, and their content shall not be irrelevant, inappropriate or abusive. The Administrative Staff reserves the right to examine the content of all written messages. In the event that a message contains irrelevant, inappropriate, or abusive content, the Administrative Staff shall refer it to the President for review, and the President may decide not to pass the message forward. Sanctions provided for in Article 1.5 may apply.

(3) Communication through note passing between a Judge and an Agent is strictly prohibited.

Article 1.7 Electronic Devices

(A) General

(1) Computers and tablets are allowed, provided they are used in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the rules set out in section (B) of this article.

(2) The use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited during Court sessions. Mobile phones must be switched off and must not be visible or audible at any time during these sessions.

(3) Taking photographs of other MUNLawS participants without their consent is strictly prohibited throughout the entire duration of the Conference. This prohibition applies to all Conference activities. Official photographs will be made available to all Conference participants.

(4) The President may take appropriate action in response to violations of this article by notifying the Secretariat.

(B) Use during Committee Sessions

(1) The Agents representing the Applicant and the Respondent may collectively use one computer per side, provided that the Agent currently presenting oral arguments does not use it.

(2) Judges may use computers solely for the purpose of drafting the judgment. This restriction does not apply to the President or the Vice-President of the Court.

Article 1.8 Academic Integrity

(A) General

All Delegates are required to uphold the principles of academic integrity, originality, and intellectual honesty throughout the Conference. Any conduct that compromises these principles is strictly forbidden.

(B) Violations of Academic Integrity

The following practices constitute violations of the Conference's academic integrity standards:

1. fabrication or misrepresentation of information: knowingly presenting invented, misleading, inaccurate, or falsified facts, statistics, or other information as authentic;
2. improper use of sources: incorporating information, research, or ideas obtained from external sources without providing appropriate acknowledgment or citations;
3. plagiarism: submitting, presenting, or claiming another individual's intellectual work or contributions as one's own;
4. use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems: generating content for submissions using these systems is strictly prohibited, and any Delegate found in violation, either by

the President, the Vice-president, the Administrative Staff or MUNLawS team members, may be disqualified from receiving an award.

(C) Enforcement and Sanctions

(1) The President, Vice-President and the Secretariat reserve the right to examine any written work submitted or produced by Delegates to determine whether it complies with the Conference's academic integrity requirements. Such examinations may include the use of plagiarism detection software and AI-content assessment tools.

(2) If the Secretariat determines that a violation of these rules has occurred, sanctions provided for in Article 1.5 may apply.

Article 1.9 Credentials

Members of the Court, the Secretariat, the Administrative Staff and all other registered participants of the Conference must wear approved credentials throughout the Conference. Anyone failing to do so shall be denied entry to the area where the meeting or event is held. The Secretary-General shall be the final arbiter of the validity of all credentials.

Article 1.10 Sessions of the Court

(1) Sessions of the Court may be attended by all registered participants of the Conference.

(2) Delegates must attend at least 80% of all Court's sessions to be eligible for awards and certificates of participation at the MUNLawS Conference. In exceptional circumstances, the Secretariat may issue a certificate of participation to a Delegate who has not fulfilled this attendance requirement, provided that the Delegate promptly informs the President of their absence and the reasons therefor.

Article 1.11 Quorum

(1) The quorum shall be met if at least two-thirds of the registered Judges are present, together with at least one Agent representing the Applicant and at least one Agent representing the Respondent.

(2) Verification of quorum shall take place at the beginning of every session by a roll call conducted by the President.

(3) If a member of the Court is late for the roll call of the session, they shall submit a written note to the President with a request for being noticed.

(4) Quorum shall be assumed when the Court proceedings begin, unless its absence is challenged. In such a case, the President shall proceed with quorum confirmation by conducting a roll call.

(5) Decisions taken during the Judges' deliberation sessions shall be taken by the referred majority of the Judges present.

Article 1.12 Validity and Applicability of the Rules

These Rules of Procedure are considered adopted prior to the Conference. The Secretary-General or by them appointed member(s) of the MUNLawS Secretariat shall have the final word on the validity, applicability, and interpretation of these Rules in case of a dispute.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERS OF THE COURT

Article 2.1 President and Vice-President

(1) The Court shall have one President and one Vice-President.

(2) The President and the Vice-President of the Court shall be appointed by the Secretariat prior to the Conference and they shall remain in duty until the closing of proceedings unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat.

(3) The President and the Vice-President shall be responsible for the implementation of these Rules.

(4) The President and the Vice-President shall also act as Judges. They shall have an equal vote and say with other Judges in all matters relating to the case before the Court. The President and the Vice-President shall also have one vote each in procedural voting.

(5) The President and the Vice-President shall follow the instructions given by the Secretariat. In case of any disagreement or ambiguity relating to the application of a certain article or provision of these to a specific situation, the decision of the Secretariat shall be final.

Article 2.2 Rapporteur

(1) The Rapporteur of the Court shall be appointed by the Secretariat prior to the Conference and they shall remain in duty until the closing of proceedings.

(2) The Rapporteur shall not have the right to participate in the decision-making process; they shall not have the right to vote in procedural and substantive matters.

(3) The Rapporteur shall take the oaths of the Agents before their oral pleadings. The Oath shall be declared as: “I solemnly declare upon my honour and conscience that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”.

Article 2.3 Judges and Agents

(A) Judges

(1)The Judges shall be appointed by the Secretariat amongst the applicants prior to the Conference and shall remain in duty until the closing of proceedings unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat.

(2) A solemn declaration shall be made by each Judge individually prior to the trial; “I, Judge ˝Surname˝, solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a Judge honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously”.

(B) Agents

(1) Agents shall be divided by the Secretariat prior to the Conference amongst the Applicant’s and Respondent’s party. They shall remain in duty until the closing of proceedings unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat.

(2) Agents shall represent state parties in the case, with three Agents representing the Applicant and three Agents representing the Respondent and shall act in the best interest of the party they represent. The written memorials, rebuttal and surrebuttal of their counter-party statements, and other methods of proof shall constitute their instruments while carrying out their duty.

(3) Agents, as any other member of the Court, shall be obliged to abide by these Rules and the final decisions of the President.

(4) Agents representing each side shall be required to submit a memorial in accordance with the 2026 MUNLawS Memorial Guidelines.

(5) Agents shall not have the right to vote on substantive or procedural matters.

(6) Agents may rise to a Point of Order, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry or Point of Personal Privilege, in accordance with the rules set out in Chapter VII of the 2026 MUNLawS Rules of Procedure for Political Committees.

Article 2.4 Administrative Staff

Members of the Administrative Staff shall be appointed by the Secretariat prior to the Conference. They shall perform their duties in accordance with the Secretariat's instructions and provide the necessary assistance to the members of the Court.

CHAPTER III

ORAL PROCEEDINGS

Article 3.1 Opening of the Oral Proceedings

The opening of the Court's oral proceedings shall be declared as: "All rise, the Court is now in session". Prior to the oral pleadings, the Rapporteur shall administer the oath to the Agents in accordance with Article 2.3, paragraph 3. An Agent refusing to take the oath shall be prohibited from continuing to represent their party in the proceedings.

Article 3.2 Pleadings

(1) The oral proceedings shall begin with the Applicant's pleading, which shall set out the details of their case and the relief sought against the Respondent. This pleading shall be limited to twenty (20) minutes. If all Agents representing the Applicant are present, the time shall be divided equally among them.

(2) The Applicant's pleading shall be limited to the content of the Applicant's memorial. While no new issues shall be introduced, new legal arguments, analysis and supporting evidence may be presented.

(3) After the Applicant's pleading, the Respondent shall have twenty (20) minutes to respond. If all Agents representing the Respondent are present, the time shall be divided equally among them.

(4) The Respondent's pleading shall be based on both the Respondent's memorial and the Applicant's pleading. The Respondent shall primarily address the Applicant's arguments. The Respondent may also raise new issues, but only those already included in the Respondent's memorial.

Article 3.3 Rebuttal and Surrebuttal

(1) Following the Respondent's pleading, the Applicant shall have ten (10) minutes for a rebuttal. No new issues may be introduced at this stage. If all Agents representing the Applicant are present, the time shall be divided equally among them.

(2) Following the rebuttal, the Respondent shall have ten (10) minutes for a surrebuttal, limited to responding to the rebuttal. If all Agents representing the Respondent are present, the time shall be divided equally among them.

Article 3.4 Use of Supporting Evidence

(1) During all stages of the oral proceedings, Agents may refer to the contents of the Fictional Case. Agents shall direct theJudges to specific pages and paragraphs of the Fictional Case when referring to its contents.

(2) The presentation of any additional evidence shall be forbidden.

Article 3.5 Questioning by the Judges

(1) Judges may interrupt a speaker at any time to ask a question related to their pleading. Only one question may be asked at a time, but there shall be no limit to the number of interruptions. The speaking time shall be paused while Judges ask questions and while Agents provide their answers.

(2) At the President's discretion, Judges may be temporarily paused from asking questions to allow a pleading to commence.

(3) Following the surrebuttal, Judges shall have 20 minutes to pose additional questions to the Agent. These questions may not be limited to the scope of the presentations. Judges may address questions to either side, and any Agent from that side may respond. Upon the written request of any Judge, the President may extend the allocated time for questioning. Such a request must be submitted before the expiration of the questioning period.

(4) The President may, at any time, rule any question posed by a Judge out of order. Such a decision shall be final and may not be appealed.

Article 3.6 Conclusion of the Oral Proceedings

After the questioning by the Judges, the President shall declare the oral proceedings concluded. The Rapporteur shall then escort the Agents out of the courtroom, and the Judges shall proceed with their deliberations.

CHAPTER IV

OBJECTIONS

Article 4.1 General

(1) Where one of the parties' action or statement is considered as falling under the scope of any objection set forth in this Chapter, the other party shall have the right to raise an objection.

(2) The final decision on an objection shall be made by the President and this decision shall not be subject to an appeal.

(3) The President shall announce the decision on the objection as "Granted" or "Overruled".

(4) Objections may interrupt the speaker.

Article 4.2 Relevance

(1) All assertions by the parties shall be relevant to the case at hand.

(2) If the assertion made is irrelevant to the case at hand, the other party shall have the right to object.

Article 4.3 Prejudicial

(1) All assertions of law and facts shall respect the personal integrity of the Agents, Judges and others present in the courtroom.

(2) If an assertion by one of the parties harms the personal integrity of a person, an objection may be raised by any of the persons mentioned above.

Article 4.4 Competence

This objection shall be raised when a speaker asserts to a technical detail which cannot be assessed by the mentioned speaker.

Article 4.5 New Issue

If a new issue is raised in violation of the rules set out in Chapter III of these Rules, the opposing party may raise an objection.

CHAPTER V

JUDGES DELIBERATION AND JUDGEMENT

Article 5.1 General

(1) Following the conclusion of the oral proceedings, the Judges shall discuss the claims of the parties and vote on them. After voting, they shall prepare a written judgement and vote upon it, as well as on any separate and dissenting opinions.

(2) During the Judges' deliberations, no Agents or other registered Conference participants shall be present in the courtroom, with the exception of the Secretariat and the Administrative Staff.

(3) Length of the Judges' deliberation shall be determined and announced by the President. The President may extend the time if needed; however, his or her final decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Article 5.2 Voting on Claims and Judgement

(1) A simple majority shall be required to decide on the claims and to issue a written judgement.

(2) Each Judge shall have one equal vote. In the event of a deadlock, the President or the Judge acting in their place shall have a casting vote.

Article 5.3 Judgment

(A) Scope of the Judgment

The judgment shall include the following elements:

1. **Date of judgment** refers to the date on which the judgment is rendered.
2. **Composition of the Court** includes the names and signatures of the Judges authorizing the judgment.
3. **Identification of the parties** lists the names of the parties to the dispute, together with the Agents who appeared on their behalf.

4. **Summary of the trial** outlines the procedural history of the case, including the filing of applications, written pleadings, oral hearings, and any procedural rulings.
5. **Statement of the facts** is a clear and concise account of the factual background underlying the dispute, as established by the Court.
6. **Legal ground** offers an identification of the applicable law, including relevant treaties, customary international law, general principles of law and judicial precedents.
7. **The merits of each claim** consist of the position of the parties, a balanced presentation of the principal arguments advanced by each party, both in writing and orally, and Court's assessment in form of reasoning, analysis, and evaluation of the facts and law, leading to its conclusions on each claim.
8. **Decision** is the dispositive section of the hudgment, setting out the Court's final rulings, orders, or declarations, clearly formulated and legally binding.

(B) Separate and Dissenting Opinions

(1) Separate opinions may be written and added to the judgment by Judges in agreement with the judgment on a different legal basis or reasoning, or to elaborate on an issue in greater detail. Multiple Judges may join in a single separate opinion.

(2) Dissenting opinions may be written and added to the judgment by Judges in disagreement to the judgment. Multiple Judges may join in a single dissenting opinion.

Article 5.4 Reading of the Judgement

Once the judgment has been drafted and voted upon, the President or the Judge acting in their place shall read the judgement. For the reading, Agents shall be called into the courtroom. Other registered Conference participants may also be present for the reading of the judgment.

APPENDIX I

TIMELINE OF THE PROCEDURE

Phase of proceedings	Description	Time allocated
Judges take their oaths	Starting with the President, followed by the Vice-President and other Judges, each Judge declares: "I, Judge ˝Surname˝, solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a Judge honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously".	/
Agents take their oaths	Staring with the Applicant side and followed by the Respondent side, all Agents declare: "I solemnly declare upon my honour and conscience that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth".	/
Commencement of oral proceedings	The President declares the Court in session.	/
Applicant's pleading	Details of the Applicant's case and the relief sought against the Respondent.	20 minutes
Respondent's pleading	Response to the Applicant's pleading.	20 minutes
Rebuttal	Response to Respondent's pleading.	10 minutes
Surrebuttal	Response to rebuttal.	10 minutes
Questioning by the Judges	Judges ask Agents additional questions, not limited to the scope of the presentations.	20 minutes (+ possible extension)

Judges' deliberation	Judges discuss the claims of the parties and vote on them.	President's discretion
Writing of the judgment	Judges write the judgment and then vote upon it.	/
Reading of the judgment	The President or the Judge acting in their place reads the judgement in the presence of Agents.	/

