

# **NATIONAL COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

**ISRAEL-2015**

## **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

### **PART I: GENERAL**

#### **Article 1: General Principles**

1. The National Competition on International Humanitarian Law, Israel-2015 (the Competition) is the ninth 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) with the assistance of ALMA – the Association for the Promotion of International Humanitarian Law in Israel (ALMA).
3. The Organizing Committee for the National Competition on IHL, composed of members of ICRC staff and a representative of ALMA, in its capacity as a partner organization, (the Organizing Committee) shall be responsible for the organization and administration of the Competition.
4. Application to the Competition and participation in it shall be in accordance with these Competition Regulations and the annexed Application Form.
5. The Organizing Committee may amend the present regulations at any time.
6. 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 by electronic mail to [tel\\_ihl@icrc.org](mailto:tel_ihl@icrc.org).

#### **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; and
4. Preparing participants for IHL-related professional pursuits.

## **PART II: SELECTION OF TEAMS**

### **Article 3: Student Eligibility**

1. Teams comprised of three (3) students, who are registered in a Participating Institution and whom that institution has selected to represent it, may apply to the Competition by means of the annexed Application Form and within the published application deadline.
2. Each Participating Institution may select up to two teams to represent it.
3. Eligible to apply are students who have or will have completed an accredited course on International Humanitarian Law or Public International Law by the time the competition begins. However, the Organizing Committee reserves discretion to admit students who have not completed such a course provided they demonstrate sufficiently good knowledge of international law.
4. 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.
5. All three team members must be individually eligible in order for the team to be eligible to participate.
6. In order to avoid any inequality between teams that may arise from the participation of extremely qualified or experienced participants, the Organizing Committee may, at its discretion, 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.
7. For the purposes of this Article, the Organizing 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, (i) a team's completed Application Form and (ii) a letter signed by an official representative of the Institution (dean, director) authorizing the team to participate in the Competition and represent the Institution must be received at [tel\\_ihl@icrc.org](mailto:tel_ihl@icrc.org) before 16:00 on Sunday June 28, 2015.
2. By applying to the Competition, team members waive all claims against the Organizing Committee and their members or against the ICRC and its employees and ALMA and its members with regard 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 Organizing Committee and ALMA to use their names on the Competition Website and for publicity and promotion 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.
2. No more than twelve (12) teams in total will be admitted to the Competition. The teams deemed to have submitted the best applications will be admitted. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to cancel the competition if less than 8 teams applied to the competition.
3. The Organizing Committee may choose to select up to two (2) teams from the same Institution, however it may also decide not to select any of the teams that applied from a particular institution if their applications are deemed inadequate.
4. 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.
5. Decisions of the Organizing Committee, 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, and shall attend the competition final.\*

## 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.

ALMA will be holding a summer course on IHL for the benefit of the participants. Information about the course will be posted on the competition website: <http://www.alma-ihl.org/ihl-competition/ihl-competition2015>.

## 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

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\* 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 Organizing Committee 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. With regards to the final, teams are expected to commit to attend, *inter alia*, so that the Organizing Committee may present them with certificates acknowledging their participation in the competition.

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. Teamwork (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.
  4. The Organizing Committee shall issue an evaluation rubric which ascribes a numerical point system to the judging criteria. This rubric shall be used to judge the participating teams on their performance, and copies of such evaluations shall be given to participating teams following the conclusion of the competition.

### **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 ALMA website at <http://www.alma-ihl.org/ihl-competition/ihl-competition2015>. Other general information about the competition will also be available on this website. Therefore, it is recommended participants check the competition website on a regular basis.

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. However, a team may participate in the competition even if a coach was not appointed by the institution. Coaches will be available to help

teams prepare for the Competition in the months before the competition and will be permitted to accompany teams throughout the Competition. Upon the completion of each test round – but not while the test round is underway - coaches will be permitted to provide feedback to their teams in relation to all aspects of their performance in the test round in question.

2. 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.
3. Any infringement of the role of the coach may lead to an immediate disqualification of coach and team.
4. Coaches of each participating team, appointed by a Participating Institution, are eligible to receive a grant from the ICRC for the purpose of training and coaching the respective participating team, subject to terms and conditions to be stipulated by the ICRC. Without derogating from the foregoing, coaches of each team will be eligible to be paid, on a pro-rata basis, the aforementioned grant in a sum of US\$1,500 (including VAT) per team (up to a maximum of US\$3,000 (including VAT)) for two teams from a Participating Institution.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ICRC reserves the right not to make any such grant, in accordance with its sole and reasonable discretion, if the Organizing Committee, concludes that a coach:

- a. Has intentionally violated these regulations in such a manner which harms the competition and/or the participating students and/or Participating Institutions; or
- b. Has neglected to fulfil his/her responsibility to provide coaching and training to her team prior to the competition; or
- c. Has neglected to be present at the competition itself (in such a manner which has resulted in the relevant team being unaccompanied and denied post-round feedback for more than 1 competition round); or
- d. Has absented his/herself from the competition final.

In the aforementioned instances, the ICRC may rescind such grant. With regards to sub-sections (c) and (d), the Organizing Committee may, in accordance with its sole and reasonable discretion, exempt a coach from presence during the competition, or at the competition final, to the extent that the reasons for such absentia are based on extenuating and exceptional personal circumstances, and are brought to the attention of the Organizing Committee.

### **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 to serve as jury in the Competition. The selection of the jury and their instructions will be within the Organizing Committee's discretion.
3. Decisions of the jury shall be final.
4. The affiliation of the Participating Institution of each participating team shall not be disclosed to the jury. To this end, no coach or participant shall disclose the affiliation of his or her team and/or any other team participating in the competition to the jury. Infringement of this regulation shall result in a penalty in accordance with the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee (such penalty may include an evaluation point deduction, or, in circumstances which the Organizing Committee deems particularly severe, disqualification).

#### **Article 14: Awards, Prizes and Certificates**

1. The winning team will receive the IHL Competition Award and will be granted a prize by the Organizing Committee. The Prize will be sponsorship of the winning team's participation in an international IHL Competition during 2015, 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 Organizing Committee may, at its discretion, 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 Organizing Committee shall award, at its sole discretion, the "Uriel Massad" award to the best individual speaker. The Organizing Committee may offer additional awards or prizes, at its exclusive discretion.
4. The Organizing Committee 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 Organizing Committee will in any manner whatsoever be involved in the accreditation or in the grading of the performance of students *for academic purposes*.
6. Apart from designating the Competition finalists and award winners, which will be done by the Jury, the Organizing Committee retains exclusive discretion in all matters dealt with under this Article, including the decision on including a semi-final round and the number of finalist teams (to be determined by the Organizing Committee).

#### **PART VI: LOGISTICAL ASPECTS**

##### **Article 15: Costs covered**

The following are covered by admission to the Competition:

1. All materials and documents, which will be provided by the Organizing Committee; and
2. Full board for 3 nights at the Competition venue. (from the morning of 23 November 2015, until the evening of 26 November 2015). 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 Organizing Committee nor any of their members, the ICRC and its employees, or ALMA and its members 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 Organizing Committee and its members, or against the ICRC and its employees and ALMA and its members.

##### **Article 17: Final Provisions**

1. The Organizing Committee and/or the ICRC may publicize the Competition and related events. The Organizing Committee may open the Competition or parts thereof to the public, including the media, prospective employers, academic staff and so forth.

2. The Organizing Committee shall have, in connection with the ninth 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 Organizing Committee 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**