

Competition Rules

A. Format of the Competition

The competition will take place in person at the Charles University, Faculty of Law premises and will consist of Preliminary Rounds and Finals.

Rounds

- Preliminary Rounds
A total of three mediations will be held, involving six competing negotiator Teams and 3 mediators.
- Finals
The two Teams with the highest score will proceed to the Finals, together with the highest scored mediator.

General Information

The Competition will be conducted in English language. The parties may assume that they have already signed the Mediation Agreement, in which they also appointed their mediator. All participants are authorized to participate in the mediation, negotiate during it, and potentially reach a mediation agreement.

Competitors who are still involved in the competition may not attend mediations as spectators.

If it is discovered that competitors have attempted to gather information from the other party outside the scope of the competition, or through a third party who was present as a spectator in any mediation, the parties acknowledge that they may be disqualified from the competition or otherwise penalized.

During the mediation session, teams and the mediator may not communicate with third parties observing the session.

B. General organization of the Mediation Session

Mediation Session Composition

A Mediation Session will consist of a mediator and two negotiating teams on each side representing respectively the Requesting Party and the Responding Party. Two Judges will be present in order to evaluate the teams' performance based on the scoring sheets and at least one Mediation Session Supervisor will be present as well.

General Organization of the Mediation Session

Before the competition, each team/mediator will receive General Information for the cases. This will allow all the parties to prepare adequately. Then, 1 hour before the start of the individual mediation, each team will receive confidential information (secret information) from the Organizers. Each team will be randomly assigned as Requesting/Responding party. The team will have 1 hour to prepare with their confidential information. During this time, the negotiation team may only consult between each other, including their coach and other members of their team.

Mediators will only receive General Information.

Judges will receive full set of information before the competition.

Any questions regarding the General Information must be submitted by October 15, 2023.

All parties must stay within the facts of the case provided to them by the Organizers. The invention of facts is a breach of the Competition Rules and may be penalized.

After the start of the mediation session, each party (mediator and both negotiator teams) will be asked to provide an opening statement. This opening statement will be evaluated by the judges. Thereafter, the mediation process is in the hands of the mediator. Joint sessions or caucuses may be conducted.

C. Team members

Each negotiator team must be composed of 1 client and 1 counsel. Team members may change those roles between individual mediations.

A mediator will act alone. Co-mediations are not allowed.

Each team may bring one coach.

D. Timing of the Rounds

Each mediation will last for 90 minutes. This will be followed by a 15-minute break during which the judges will evaluate the performances, and then an additional 15 minutes will be dedicated to the evaluation of the participants and feedback.

If necessary, any party, including the mediator, may propose a 3-minute break. If a team calls for a break, both teams together with the Mediation Session Supervisor must leave the room during such break. All the other participants in the session must stay silently in the room.

During the mediation, any party, including the mediator, may propose a caucus, which is a separate meeting between one party and the mediator, lasting 5 minutes. If a caucus takes place with one party, it will not automatically be followed by a caucus with the other party. This option can be used once per mediation for each individual party. If a caucus is called, the party calling the caucus stays in the room with the mediator and the other party is asked to leave. Team members who are not participating in a caucus may talk only to each other outside the room.

Parties are obligated to monitor the time as specified, and they may be penalized for violations of these rules. The Mediation Session Supervisor will also keep the time and his/her decision on the timing is final.

E. Electronic Devices, Recordings, and notes

The participants may not use any electronic devices during the mediation session. Use of calculator is allowed, provided the device has no functions which could be used for making notes or communicating electronically.

Except for the Organizers, no party has the right to make any audio, visual or audiovisual recordings.

Parties may take notes during the mediation, and it is their responsibility to ensure they have the necessary tools to do so. Each party may present a handout during the mediation. If that is the case, the handouts must be provided to both judges before the mediation session. A handout cannot exceed one A4 page.