



# NBLSA<sup>TM</sup>

*Striving to Balance Since 1968.*

## 2020-2021 NMINC Rules – Virtual Competition Addendum

### **I. Virtual Competition**

#### **A. General**

- The 2020-2021 Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition will be held virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing platform.
- The negotiations sessions will run for the previously at most 95 minutes
  - Sessions include: 5 min pre-negotiation introduction, 50 min negotiation session, 5 min break/caucus per team (if desired), 10 min period per team to analyze their performance (in separate breakout rooms), a 5 min period per team to discuss their self-analysis in the presence of judges, followed by a 5 min period for judges' comments to each team

#### **B. Registration**

- Registration will be held online. The registration fee will be \$100 for each team – \$60 for the law student team and \$40 for the law student coach.
- Each team must submit the following for each team member in a compressed pdf format to [inc@nblsa.org](mailto:inc@nblsa.org)
  - Registration form
  - Letter of good academic standing from the law school
  - Letter of good standing from their NBLSA Chapter President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary
  - Remittance of the registration fee
  - The name and contact information of each team's coach
- After the competition registration period closes – each team will receive a random letter accompanied by a predetermined competitor ID number which they are responsible for retaining.
- Two weeks prior to the administration of the competition – competition participants (judges, competitors, coaches) will receive the competition schedule via email
  - Competition schedules will include each team's assigned letters and competitor IDs, the times of each session, and an addendum containing session etiquette

### **II. Format**

#### **A. Competition Rounds**

- Two days before the competition – competition participants will be provided with a Zoom meeting ID and password.
- Competitors, judges, and coaches will be required to sign in to the meeting 15 minutes prior to the start of the negotiation session.
- Participants will be required to include their designated session number and/or randomized letter and predetermined competitor ID in their Zoom display name.
  - For example, the display name for a judge or coach should read (ex. Jane Doe – Session 1.A) while a competitor's should read (ex. John Smith – A.1234).

- The NMINC director will be the host of the meeting and will be responsible for placing participants in their respective breakout rooms.
- Team members, registered coaches, and judges are the only participants authorized into the breakout rooms.
- One bailiff will be assigned to each breakout room and will confirm all participants are present – once all are present, the bailiff will advise participants that they may begin negotiation session.
  - Bailiff responsibilities will include:
    - Beginning the negotiation session
    - Address any technical difficulties – will inform the NMINC director or assistant director as necessary
    - If a caucus is called - inform competitors when their 5 minutes have elapsed and must return to the breakout room
    - To end the negotiation session after 50 minutes elapses, regardless of where students are in the negotiation process.
  - Bailiffs will not be expected to update participants on the time elapsing during the negotiation session, that responsibility will remain with the competitors.
- At the conclusion of the 50 minute negotiation session – each team will have 10 minutes to prepare for self-analysis
  - Bailiff will instruct teams to return to the main room where they will be placed into separate breakout rooms to prepare for their self-analysis
- After 10 minutes have elapsed - both teams will return to the main room wherein Team A will be placed back into the negotiation session breakout room (with judges) for their self-analysis in the presence of the judges followed by the judges’ comments while Team B waits for their self-analysis session to begin.
- Once Team A’s self-analysis/comments with judges has concluded, Team A will leave the negotiation session breakout room and wait in the main room while Team B has their self-analysis and comment period with the judges.
- After Team B’s self-analysis period with the judges concludes, Team A will be placed back into the negotiation session breakout room to collectively hear overall comments from the judges.
- After the judges’ comments, the bailiff will remind competitors that if they have a grievance to file it must be brought to the bailiff’s attention before leaving the negotiation session.
  - If there are no grievances, competitors will be allowed to leave the Zoom meeting while judges fill out their score sheets electronically.
- Judges will be asked to fill out and subsequently submit their scoresheets to the NMINC director, via email, before leaving the Zoom meeting.
- The NMINC director and/or assistant director will compile the judges score sheets to determine which teams will advance to the next rounds.

## **B. Competitors**

- Will be required to dress professional
- Must be visible from the waist up with their camera and audio on at all times.
- Prior to each round, the bailiff will ask all team members to certify that there is no one in the room providing any form of substantive assistance or any other assistance prohibited by the rules
- Competitors will be allowed to chat with their teammates during the session – i.e. for negotiation strategy. Competitors are prohibited from using the chat to communicate with coaches, judges, or other competitors.
- Competitors cannot wear any form of school or organization paraphernalia per the NMINC Rules.

## **C. Coaches**

- Registered coaches are permitted in the breakout rooms.

- Registered coaches must not chat with, pass notes, or otherwise communicate with team members during the session.
- Registered coaches must have their audio off and if there are distracting in the background – their video should be turned off.

#### **D. Bailiffs**

- Each breakout room will have one bailiff
- Bailiffs responsibilities are outlined above
- Bailiffs will be comprised of pre-law students – an email will be sent out during or after the competition registration period – will liaise with Pre-Law Director.
- The NMINC director and/or assistant director will set up multiple bailiff orientations to inform the students of their responsibilities.
- NMINC director and/or assistant director will set up a mock negotiation session to replicate the competition setting. This negotiation session will also be recorded and will likely be distributed to competition participants so that they know how the competition is expected to proceed.
  - Note – will likely ask NBSA board members and/or executives to assist in the mock negotiation session
- A GroupMe will be set up during the competition session so that bailiffs and the NMINC director and assistant director can have an open line of communication at all times.

#### **E. Awards**

- Awards will either be emailed or mailed to the team's schools

#### **F. Technical Requirements**

- All participants must use a competitor or a laptop during the negotiation sessions – use of cellular devices and other electronic devices are prohibited in order to minimize disruption.
- All participants are expected to find a suitable quiet location with a reliable internet source.
- If preferred, team members can be in the same location – one video – so long as their video remains on and both participants are visible at all times.
- Virtual backgrounds are prohibited.

#### **G. Prohibited**

- All participants are prohibited from recording the negotiation sessions.
  - Note: NBSA reserves the right to record the negotiation sessions per the NMINC Rules.