**2025 Tashkent International Mediation Competition**

**Competition Rules**

**I. Competition Timeline**

The 2025 Tashkent International Mediation Competition will follow the timeline below. All deadlines are final, and teams must comply with them to participate.

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| **Stage** | **Deadline** | **Notes** |
| Release of Competition Rules | 13.03.25 | Rules made publicly available to all interested participants. |
| Team Registration Opens | 10.04.25 | Teams can start applying for the competition. |
| Team Registration Deadline | 30.04.25 | Final date to submit team applications. Late applications will not be accepted. |
| Announcement of Selected Teams | 05.05.25 | The list of selected teams will be published. |
| Case Problem Released | 05.05.25 | Teams receive the general and confidential information for the case. |
| Deadline for Clarification Requests |  | Teams can submit up to [X] clarification questions. |
| Clarifications Published |  | Organizing Committee responds to selected clarification questions. |
| Competition Dates | 30-31.05.25 | Official competition rounds take place in Tashkent. |
| Award Ceremony | 31.05.25 | Announcement of winners and special awards. |

**II. Definitions**

Here’s the **revised and detailed** **Definitions** section, incorporating key terms from the **CPR** and **ICC** rules while ensuring originality and clarity.

**General Terms**

2.1. **Competition** – Refers to the 2025 Tashkent International Mediation Competition (TIMC), conducted within the framework of Law Spring 2025 in Tashkent.

**2.2. Organizing Committee** – The group of organizers and the volunteers of the Competition responsible for planning, managing, and ensuring the proper execution of the Competition.

**2.3. Team** – A group of students representing a university or higher education institution that participates in the Competition.

**2.4. Coach** – A professor, legal professional, mediator, or experienced individual who advises a Team in preparing for the Competition.

**2.5. Language Track** – selected language by a Team for a Competition.

**Roles in the Mediation Session**

**2.6. Mediation Session** – A structured, time-limited session where two Teams (acting as the disputing parties) attempt to negotiate a resolution with the assistance of a neutral Mediator. Sessions follow an interest-based negotiation approach, focusing on mutual problem-solving rather than legal argumentation.

**2.7. Client** – A participant who plays the role of a party in the dispute. The Client presents their interests, concerns, and objectives in the negotiation process.

**2.8. Counsel** – A participant who plays the role of the Client’s legal or business advisor. The Counsel assists in structuring arguments, managing negotiation strategies, and ensuring the Client’s interests are effectively communicated.

**2.9. Mediator** – A neutral, third-party professional assigned to facilitate the Mediation Session. The Mediator helps guide discussions, clarify interests, and assist Teams in finding a resolution but does not evaluate or score Teams.

**2.10. Judge** – A professional selected by the Organizing Committee to observe and evaluate Teams' performance based on predefined criteria. Judges provide scores and constructive feedback but do not intervene in the Mediation Session.

**Session Mechanics**

**2.11. General Information** – A summary of the case problem, including the background of the dispute and key issues. It is provided to all participants, including Mediators and Judges.

**2.12. Confidential Information** – Additional details provided separately to each Team, outlining specific negotiation goals, internal constraints, and strategic considerations. Teams must not disclose their Confidential Information to the opposing Team or Mediator.

**2.13. Caucus** – A private meeting between the Mediator and one Team (Client and Counsel), conducted during a Mediation Session. The other Team must leave the room, and the discussion remains confidential.

**2.14. Break** – A short pause requested by a Team during a Mediation Session for internal discussions between Client and Counsel, without the presence of the Mediator or the opposing Team.

**2.15. Negotiation Strategy** – The approach a Team takes in the Mediation Session to advocate for its interests while working toward a resolution. Strategies may involve BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement), concessions, offers, and active listening techniques.

**Competition Structure & Scoring**

**2.16. General Rounds** – The preliminary stage of the Competition, where all Teams participate in multiple Mediation Sessions. Teams accumulate scores based on their performance, and the highest-scoring Teams advance to the Final Rounds.

**2.17. Final Rounds** – The elimination stage, including the semi-finals and final round, where the top-performing Teams from the General Rounds compete for awards.

**2.18. Score Sheet** – The official evaluation document used by Judges to assess each Team’s performance in a Mediation Session. The Score Sheet contains predefined criteria, including communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and professionalism.

**2.19. Special Awards** – Additional recognitions granted to outstanding participants or Teams for exceptional performance in specific areas, such as Best Client, Best Counsel, and Best Mediation Advocacy.

**2.20. Rule Violations** – Any breach of the Competition rules, including unauthorized communication, disclosure of Confidential Information, coaching during sessions, or disruptive behavior, which may result in penalties or disqualification.

**III. Introduction & Overview**

**Purpose of the Competition**

**3.1.** The **2025 Tashkent International Mediation Competition** aims to promote the use of mediation as an effective dispute resolution method. The Competition provides law students with practical experience in negotiation and mediation, enhancing their advocacy, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in a simulated professional environment.

**Structure & Format**

**3.2.1.** The Competition will be conducted in two languages: English and Uzbek. Teams must indicate their preferred language during registration. Separate mediation sessions will be held for each language track, and Teams will compete only within their chosen track.

**3.2.2.** Each Mediation Session involves:

* Two Teams (one representing each party in the dispute).
* One Mediator (an expert neutral third party facilitating the discussion).
* Three Judges (evaluating the performance of the participants).

**3.2.3.** The Competition consists of:

* General Rounds – All participating Teams compete in at least two Mediation Sessions.
* Final Rounds – The highest-scoring Teams advance to the final stages, culminating in a championship round.

**Key Features**

**3.3.1.** The Competition focuses on interest-based negotiation, where Teams must seek mutually beneficial solutions rather than adversarial positions.

**3.3.2.** Only one case will be used throughout the Competition, with separate General Information and Confidential Information for each round.

**3.3.3.** Caucuses and Breaks may be used strategically during Mediation Sessions but must follow the time limits and rules set by the Organizing Committee.

**3.3.4.** The Competition is judged by experienced professionals, including mediators, lawyers, and dispute resolution experts.

**IV. Participation & Eligibility**

**4.1. Eligible Participants**

**4.1.1.** The Competition is open to law students currently enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate law program at a recognized university or higher education institution.

**4.1.2.** Students must be at least 18 years old at the time of the Competition.

**4.1.3.** Both full-time and part-time students are eligible to participate, provided they are officially enrolled in a law program at the time of registration.

**4.1.4.** The following individuals are not eligible to compete:

* Practicing lawyers.
* Individuals who have passed a bar exam or obtained a license to practice law in any jurisdiction.
* Students who have previously competed in the Final Rounds of this Competition or an equivalent international mediation competition.

**4.1.5.** Each university or institution may register only one Team per language track (English or Uzbek). A university may not have multiple Teams in the same track.

**4.1.6.** Universities offering programs in both English and Uzbek may register one Team per language track, but each Team must be completely independent (no shared members or Coaches).

**4.1.7.** By registering, Teams confirm their commitment to:

* Comply with all rules and deadlines set by the Organizing Committee.
* Attend all required Mediation Sessions.
* Conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner throughout the Competition.

**4.2. Team Composition**

**4.2.1.** Each Team must consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) members.

**4.2.2.** Each Team member must participate in at least one Mediation Session during the Competition.

**4.2.3.** In each Mediation Session, a Team must assign:

* One participant as the Client (representing the business or individual involved in the dispute).
* One participant as the Counsel (advising the Client on legal or business matters).

**4.2.4.** Teams may rotate roles between Mediation Sessions, but each round must always have a Client and Counsel structure.

**4.2.5.** Once the Competition begins, no new Team members may be added or replaced, except in cases of:

* Serious illness or medical emergency.
* Unforeseen circumstances preventing a Team member from continuing.

Such substitutions require written approval from the Organizing Committee and must be requested as soon as possible.

**4.3 Role of Coaches**

**4.3.1.** Each Team may have one (1) official Coach, who may be a:

* University professor or academic faculty member.
* Practicing lawyer or legal professional.
* Mediator or dispute resolution expert.
* Other professional with relevant experience in negotiation and mediation.

**4.3.2.** A Coach must not be a current student participating in the Competition, even if they are from a different university.

**4.3.3.** A Coach may supervise only one Team per language track. If a university has one Team in the English track and one in the Uzbek track, they may have the same or different Coaches.

**4.3.4.** The Coach’s role is to support the Team’s preparation by:

* Providing guidance on negotiation and mediation strategies.
* Assisting with case analysis and preparation before the Competition.
* Offering feedback on practice rounds.

**4.3.5.** The Coach must not:

* Participate in Mediation Sessions.
* Provide real-time assistance, instructions, or coaching during a Mediation Session.
* Communicate with the Team in any way once a session has started.

**4.3.6.** Coaches may attend their Team’s Mediation Sessions as silent observers, but they must:

* Remain seated and avoid any gestures or reactions that could influence participants.
* Refrain from speaking to the Team, Mediator, or Judges during the session.
* Not interfere in any way with the Competition process.

**4.3.7.** Any violation of these rules may result in penalties for the Team, including score reductions or disqualification.

**V. Registration & Fees**

**Application Process**

**5.1.1.** Teams must submit their application through the official Competition registration portal within the deadline specified in the Competition Timeline.

**5.1.2.** Each application must include:

* The full names of all Team members and their designated roles (Client/Counsel).
* The preferred language track (English or Uzbek).
* The name of the university or institution being represented.
* The contact details of the Team’s primary representative.
* Any additional information required by the Organizing Committee.

**5.1.3.** Applications must be fully completed before submission. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**5.1.4.** A university may submit applications for both language tracks, but each Team must be independent, with no shared members.

**5.1.5.** If a university wishes to withdraw its Team after registration, it must notify the Organizing Committee in writing at least [X] days before the Competition begins.

**5.2. Selection Criteria**

**5.2.1.** If the number of applications exceeds the available slots, the Organizing Committee will select Teams based on the following factors:

* Geographic and institutional diversity – Preference may be given to Teams from different regions or universities.
* Demonstrated interest in mediation and dispute resolution – Participation in related courses, events, or competitions may be considered.

**5.2.2.** The Organizing Committee’s decision on Team selection is final and non-appealable.

**5.2.3.** A waiting list may be maintained for Teams not initially selected. If a selected Team withdraws before the deadline, a Team from the waiting list may be invited to participate.

**5.3. Registration Fees & Payment Policies**

**5.3.1.** A non-refundable registration fee must be paid by each selected Team before the deadline to confirm participation.

**5.3.2.** The Organizing Committee will determine the fee amount, payment method, and deadlines. This information will be communicated to selected Teams upon confirmation.

**5.3.3.** Failure to pay the registration fee by the deadline will result in automatic disqualification, and the spot may be offered to a Team from the waiting list.

**5.3.4.** The registration fee covers participation in the Competition but does not include:

* Travel expenses.
* Accommodation costs.
* Meals and personal expenses.
* Visa fees (if applicable).

**5.3.5.** The Organizing Committee may provide limited financial assistance or fee waivers in exceptional cases. Requests must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation.

**VI. Competition Format & Rounds**

**General Structure**

**6.1.1.** **VI. Competition Format & Rounds**

**6.1. General Structure**

**6.1.1.** The Competition consists of a series of simulated Mediation Sessions, where Teams compete as Client-Counsel pairs to negotiate a commercial dispute under the guidance of a neutral Mediator.

**6.1.2.** The Competition is conducted in two language tracks: English and Uzbek.

* Teams must select their preferred language track upon registration.
* Teams will compete only within their chosen track, and switching after registration is not permitted.
* The case problem, scoring criteria, and rules remain the same across both language tracks.

**6.1.3.** Each Mediation Session will involve:

* Two Teams – One representing each side of the dispute.
* One Mediator – A neutral third-party professional facilitating discussions.
* Three Judges – Evaluating the Teams’ performance based on pre-defined criteria.

**6.1.4.** The Competition is structured as follows:

* General Rounds – Each Team competes in at least two Mediation Sessions, playing different roles in the dispute.
* Final Rounds – The highest-scoring Teams from the General Rounds advance to the elimination rounds, culminating in a championship round to determine the overall winner.

**6.2. General Rounds**

**6.2.1**. Each Team will participate in at least two Mediation Sessions during the General Rounds.

**6.2.2.** In each session, the Organizing Committee will assign the Teams to play one of the following roles:

* Requesting Party – The party initiating the mediation.
* Responding Party – The party responding to the mediation request.

**6.2.3.** Teams will face a different opposing Team in each session, ensuring fairness in competition pairings.

**6.2.4.** After completing all General Rounds, the highest-scoring Teams will advance to the Final Rounds.

**6.2.5.** If there is a tie in Team rankings, the following criteria will be used to determine advancement:

* The Team’s average score across all General Rounds.
* Judges’ qualitative feedback on performance.
* The Team’s performance in the most recent Mediation Session.

**6.3. Final Rounds**

**6.3.1.** The highest-scoring Teams from the General Rounds will proceed to the Final Rounds, which consist of:

* Quarter-finals (if applicable, depending on the number of participating Teams).
* Semi-finals – The four best Teams compete for a place in the Final.
* Championship Round – The top two Teams compete for the title of Competition Winner.

**6.3.2.** The number of Teams advancing will depend on the total number of participating Teams and will be determined by the Organizing Committee before the Competition begins.

**6.3.3.** In the Final Rounds, the winning Team from each session advances, following an elimination format.

**6.3.4.** The Final Rounds may introduce additional confidential details related to the dispute, requiring Teams to adjust their negotiation strategies dynamically.

**6.3.5.** The final rankings will be determined based on:

* The results of the Final Rounds.
* The cumulative scores from all rounds (in case of a tie).

**6.4. Mediation Case & Confidential Information**

**6.4.1.** The Competition will use one case problem for all rounds.

**6.4.2.** The case problem will be divided into:

* General Information – Available to all participants, including Mediators and Judges, outlining the dispute’s background.
* Confidential Information – Provided separately to each Team before their Mediation Session, detailing their client’s specific goals, constraints, and negotiation strategy.

**6.4.3.** Each Team’s Confidential Information must not be shared with the opposing Team, the Mediator, or any third party at any point during the Competition.

**6.4.4.** Additional Confidential Information may be introduced in later rounds to reflect changing circumstances in the case, requiring Teams to adapt their approach accordingly.

**6.5. Team Obligations During Sessions**

**6.5.1.** Each Team must:

* Arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled Mediation Session.
* Ensure their Client and Counsel understand their respective roles.
* Respect time limits and session procedures.
* Conduct themselves professionally and adhere to mediation ethics.

**6.5.2.** If a Team fails to appear at the scheduled time without valid justification, the session may be forfeited, resulting in a zero score for that round.

**6.5.3.** If a technical or procedural issue arises, the Mediator or Organizing Committee may grant a brief extension at their discretion.

**6.6. Mediation Session Procedures**

**6.6.1.** Mediation Sessions will follow a structured format:

1. Opening Statements – Each Team briefly introduces its interests and objectives.
2. Joint Discussion & Negotiation – Teams work collaboratively, using mediation techniques to resolve the dispute.
3. Caucuses (if requested) – Private meetings between the Mediator and one Team.
4. Breaks (if requested) – Internal discussions between Client and Counsel without the Mediator.
5. Closing Statements – Each Team summarizes key agreements or unresolved issues.

**6.6.2.** Teams must:

* Prioritize interest-based negotiation rather than positional bargaining.
* Engage with the Mediator constructively.
* Aim for a realistic and practical resolution of the dispute.

**VII. Mediation Session**

**7.1. Time Allocation**

**7.1.1.** Each Mediation Session will last 90 minutes, divided as follows:

* Opening Statements – Up to 10 minutes.
* Joint Discussion and Negotiation – Up to 60 minutes.
* Caucuses and Breaks (if used) – Included within the 60-minute discussion period.
* Closing Statements – Up to 10 minutes.
* Feedback from Judges – Up to 30 minutes (not included in scoring).

**7.1.2.** The Mediator is responsible for ensuring adherence to the session’s time limits and managing the discussion efficiently.

**7.1.3.** If a Team exceeds the allocated time for any section, the Judges may impose a score deduction at their discretion.

**7.1.4.** If a Mediation Session is delayed due to technical issues, procedural concerns, or unexpected disruptions, the Organizing Committee may grant a limited time extension, provided it does not interfere with other scheduled sessions.

**7.2. Use of Breaks & Caucuses**

**7.2.1.** Each Team is allowed one (1) Break per session (maximum 5 minutes), which may be used for internal discussions between the Client and Counsel.

* The opposing Team and the Mediator must leave the room during the Break.
* Judges will remain in the room but will not engage with the Team during this time.

**7.2.2.** Caucuses (private meetings between the Mediator and one Team) are permitted but must not exceed 10 minutes each.

* A Caucus may be requested by either the Mediator or a Team.
* The opposing Team must leave the room while the Caucus is conducted.
* Judges will remain present but will not participate or influence discussions.

**7.2.3.** The total time spent on Caucuses and Breaks is deducted from the 60-minute negotiation period.

**7.2.4.** The Mediator has the discretion to deny a Caucus or Break request if:

* The request is deemed unnecessary or excessive.
* The session is running out of time.
* The request is being used to disrupt or delay the process.

**7.3. Rules on Communication & Assistance**

**7.3.1.** Only the Client and Counsel may speak during a Mediation Session.

* Coaches, other Team members, and external advisors may not communicate with participants once a session has begun.

**7.3.2.** Written notes may be exchanged between the Client and Counsel during the session, but:

* Notes must be handwritten or printed before the session.
* Electronic communication devices (phones, laptops, smartwatches, etc.) are strictly prohibited during the session.

**7.3.3.** Participants must engage in professional and respectful communication throughout the session. This includes:

* Demonstrating active listening and constructive dialogue.
* Refraining from interruptions, aggressive behavior, or disrespectful remarks toward the opposing Team, Mediator, or Judges.
* Adhering to mediation ethics and confidentiality.

**7.3.4.** Any violation of communication rules may result in:

* A warning for minor infractions.
* Score deductions for repeated or significant violations.
* Disqualification in cases of severe misconduct or unethical behavior.

**VIII. Judges & Mediators**

**8.1. Selection & Qualifications**

**8.1.1.** Judges and Mediators will be selected by the Organizing Committee from experienced professionals in mediation, negotiation, or dispute resolution.

**8.1.2.** Judges may include lawyers, mediators, business professionals, and academics with expertise in mediation and negotiation.

**8.1.3.** Mediators will be neutral third-party experts and will not score the Teams but will facilitate the session.

**8.1.4.** A Judge or Mediator must disclose any potential conflict of interest with participating Teams before the Competition.

**8.2. Role & Responsibilities**

**8.2.1.** **Judges** will:

* Observe and evaluate the performance of Teams.
* Provide scores based on the Competition’s evaluation criteria.
* Offer constructive feedback after each session (not influencing scores).

**8.2.2.** **Mediators** will:

* Facilitate the Mediation Session neutrally.
* Encourage dialogue and guide negotiations but not evaluate or score the Teams.
* Ensure adherence to mediation procedures and time limits.

**8.2.3.** Judges and Mediators must remain impartial and professional at all times.

**8.3. Code of Conduct**

**8.3.1.** Judges and Mediators must treat all participants fairly and avoid favoritism.

**8.3.2.** Judges must not provide coaching or strategic advice to any Team during the Competition.

**8.3.3.** Any violation of neutrality or professionalism may result in disqualification from the judging panel.

**IX. Scoring & Awards**

**9.1. Evaluation Criteria**

**9.1.1.** Teams will be scored based on their negotiation and mediation advocacy skills, not on whether they reach a final agreement.

**9.1.2.** Judges will evaluate Teams using the following criteria:

* Effective Communication – Clarity, persuasiveness, and active listening.
* Strategy & Problem-Solving – Creativity in resolving the dispute and balancing legal and business interests.
* Collaboration & Teamwork – Coordination between Client and Counsel, and cooperation with the opposing Team.
* Use of Mediation Techniques – Ability to engage with the Mediator and use interest-based negotiation strategies.
* Professionalism & Ethics – Respectful conduct and adherence to mediation principles.

**9.1.3.** The total score for each session will be an average of the individual Judges’ scores.

**9.2. Advancement Rules**

**9.2.1.** After the General Rounds, the highest-scoring Teams will advance to the Final Rounds based on cumulative scores.

**9.2.2.** In case of a tie, the Organizing Committee will consider:

1. Team performance in the most recent round.
2. Consistency across rounds.
3. Judges’ qualitative feedback.

**9.3. Special Awards**

**9.3.1.** The Competition will recognize outstanding performances through special awards, including but not limited to:

* Best Client – For the participant who demonstrates exceptional negotiation skills in the Client role.
* Best Counsel – For the participant who provides the most effective legal/business representation.
* Best Overall Team – For the Team with the highest cumulative score.
* Best Mediation Advocacy – For the Team that best integrates mediation techniques.

**9.3.2.** Special awards will be based on Judges’ scoring and qualitative feedback.

**X. Penalties & Disqualification**

**Violations & Sanctions**

**10.1.1.** A Team may be penalized or disqualified for violating the Competition rules, including but not limited to:

* Failure to adhere to session time limits.
* Use of unauthorized communication devices during Mediation Sessions.
* Coaching or external assistance during a session.
* Disclosing Confidential Information to the opposing Team or Mediator.
* Unprofessional or disruptive behavior toward Judges, Mediators, or other participants.

**10.1.2.** Possible penalties include:

* Warning – For minor infractions.
* Score deduction – Judges may reduce points for rule violations.
* Session forfeiture – A Team may be disqualified from a Mediation Session.
* Competition disqualification – In severe cases, the Team may be removed from the Competition.

**Appeals & Complaints Process**

**10.2.1.** If a Team believes a violation has occurred or a scoring decision is unfair, they may file a complaint with the Organizing Committee within 30 minutes after the session.

**10.2.2.** The Organizing Committee’s decision on any complaint will be final and binding.