

**FRITS KALSHOVEN  
INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN  
LAW  
COMPETITION**



# Participation Regulations

2021 Frits Kalshoven International Humanitarian  
Law Competition

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*Hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross-Flanders*

# FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION



## Introduction

The Frits Kalshoven International Humanitarian Law Competition (hereafter “the competition”) is an annual event, jointly organized by the Netherlands Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross-Flanders. The competition aims to provide students with an opportunity to practically engage with international humanitarian law (IHL) and deepen their knowledge thereof by attending expert lectures, engaging in real-life armed conflict simulations, expand their professional network and ultimately, by competing against other teams during the Moot Court, in which they will plead a fictional case related to IHL.

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition will take place from 8 to 12 February 2021. Due to the ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, all components will be conducted in an online format.

## Objectives of the Competition

- Ensure a profound understanding of IHL among participants;
- Develop skills required to apply the law in a practical and relevant manner to real-life situations;
- Inspire the participants to pursue a career in or related to IHL;
- Support the IHL education given at Dutch and Belgian universities and military institutions.

## Organizing Committee

The Frits Kalshoven Competition organizing committee (hereafter “the FKC committee”) consists of IHL units of the Netherlands Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross-Flanders on an equal basis. The FKC committee has the solemn discretion to alter this regulation and provide any clarification for the existing rules. Any questions or inquiries for the FKC committee should be directed to [ihlcompetition@redcross.nl](mailto:ihlcompetition@redcross.nl) (Dutch universities) or [humanitair.recht@rodekruis.be](mailto:humanitair.recht@rodekruis.be) (Belgian universities).

## Eligibility and Team Composition

A team must consist of three students representing a single Dutch or Belgian university or military academy.

At the time of application, participants are required to:

# FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION



- a. Be enrolled in a law program at a Dutch or Belgian university or military academy (Master level);
- b. Have a good knowledge of public international law and a keen interest in international humanitarian law;
- c. Have a good command of the English language;

Understanding that each eligible school may have different procedures and protocols for selecting team members, the FKC committee defers to local institutions in determining which students may apply to participate in the Competition.

## **Application/ Registration**

To successfully apply, each team should jointly fill in one [application form](#). Each application should include:

- a. a curriculum vitae of each team member, an electronic photograph of each team member;
- b. a team motivation letter (max. 500 words);
- c. a legal paper addressing the question specified in the application form;
- d. a signed letter from an official of your institution indicating your institution's commitment to participate and to comply with the rules of the competition.

Additionally, each individual team member should agree to [the Competition's privacy regulations and the Declaration of Consent for visual material](#). To allow smooth communication in running-up to the Competition, it is highly recommended for each team member to agree to the inclusion of their mobile phone number in the Competition's Whatsapp group.

The deadline for application is 8 November 2020.

## **Team Selection**

Teams will be selected based on the submission of their completed application forms. Only one team per institution will be accepted.

Selected teams are informed of the result of the selection by the week of 16 November 2020 via e-mail.

Replacement of a team member after registration is not allowed unless compelling circumstances occur. Such a replacement must be submitted in writing to the FKC committee

# FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION



at the earliest possible convenience, along with reasons justifying this change. The FKC committee will then assess and decide according to the admissibility conditions. The new team member's qualifications should comply with application criteria.

## **Registration Fee**

The registration fee for the competition is €110,- per participant, which depending on the policy of the university or academy in question may be borne by the latter.

The registration fee must be paid only if the application is accepted. The invoice and payment details will be shared with the selected teams after the acceptance mail.

The selected teams will be accorded 30 working days from the receipt of the invoice mail to submit the proof of the payment of the registration fee.

Reimbursement of the registration fee is not possible unless the competition is cancelled.

In case of non-payment of the registration fee until the given deadline (30 working days from the receipt of the acceptance email), the application of that team will be deemed invalid.

## **Language**

All the competition's components and related correspondence will be conducted in English.

## **Coaching and mentoring**

To ensure coordinated and instructed preparation, a selected team is supported by a coach assigned by the respective institute. In case of unavailability, please contact the FKC committee via [ihlcompetition@redcross.nl](mailto:ihlcompetition@redcross.nl) (Dutch universities) or [humanitair.recht@rodekruis.be](mailto:humanitair.recht@rodekruis.be) (Belgian universities).

Coaches are not allowed to attend the various sessions throughout the competition week, with the exception of the moot court rounds. Additionally, it is not allowed for participants to consult external actors, including their coaches, once the competition week has started. We expect participants to hold themselves accountable to these rules and engage in fair competition.

# **FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION**



## **Preparation**

The selected teams will be provided with a preparation package before the competition. They will also receive specific instructions for their different assignments throughout the week of the Competition. The time given to prepare for the different assignments is restricted and needs to be respected by all teams. Showing up late at the sessions will impact your result.

## **Performance**

As the Competition focuses IHL, it is critical that teams build their arguments on this particular field of international law. If a particular exercise requires further attention to any other branch of international law, additional instructions will be included. Keep in mind that a question may not necessarily always have a 'right' or 'wrong' answer: it is the legal reasoning and the way in which a team handles a difficult situation that matters.

## **Mandatory presence**

During the competition the presence and active participation of all team members is mandatory. This applies to all elements of the competition, including the moot court finals.

## **Schedule of the 2021 Competition**

The applicants must ensure their online availability on 8, 9 and 10 February from 9h to 21h CEST (breaks included), on 11 February at various time slots between 9h to 22h and on 12 February from 10h15 to 13h CET.

The preliminary rounds will be organized on 11 February.

The final round will take place on 12 February 2021. At the final session, the two best performing teams throughout the preliminary rounds will compete.

A more detailed schedule per team will be communicated at the start of the competition.

## **Flow of 2021 Competition**

A more detailed instruction manual on the online course of the competition will be provided to the participants, jury members, role players and lecturers in due time. The manual will include guidelines on the use of MS Teams, how technical issues are to be resolved and how interaction between teams, role players and jury members will be conducted.

# **FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION**



## Platform

The Competition will entirely take place on Microsoft Teams. The FKC committee will provide the entrance link exclusively to the participants.

A general test connection will be conducted at the start of the Competition week, as well as an hour before the moot court rounds, to confirm that no team has any problem with their camera, microphone, internet connection or has any platform-related issues.

Please ensure that you name yourself on Teams as follows "Law School" to help the FKC committee place you into breakout rooms.

## Format

At the time of writing, teams are expected to be present at the same location during the role plays and moot court sessions to facilitate teamwork during each of these sessions.

If one or more team members has however any COVID-related complaints/feel unwell during the week before the start of the competition or the governmental COVID-restrictions at the time do not allow it, the FKC committee will reconsider this policy and communicate accordingly at the latest at the start of the competition.

The role plays and preliminary rounds of the moot court will be conducted in closed sessions and in breakout rooms. The network event will equally take place in breakout rooms to ensure rotating sessions with professionals.

The lectures and moot court final round will take place in plenary sessions and be live-streamed for external participants.

Coaches are allowed to attend both the preliminary rounds and the final round of the moot court, taking into account the rules set out above.

## Questions

We welcome participants to ask case-related questions, which will be collected by the FKC committee through the Teams chat of the participants' channel and addressed during various foreseen timeslots in the competition's week.

# FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION



## Participants' Obligations

Throughout the preparation period prior to the Competition, teams are expected to actively communicate to the FKC committee about their ability to participate at the same location during the role plays and moot court sessions.

The participants are responsible for having a viable internet connection. We recommend the participants to have a cellular internet connection as a back-up plan to reconnect.

The participants will be asked to keep the camera and microphone on during the sessions. The participants must have a calm environment during the session without noises and failure of connection to the internet.

The moderator can turn off the microphones if deemed necessary to ensure that the participant who takes the floor will not be sabotaged.

The moderator will terminate the session; hence the participants cannot leave the session on their initiative before. The participants must leave the meeting when the exercise ends.

## **Evaluation**

The moot court will be evaluated on the following points, listed in order of priority:

1. Knowledge of the law, in particular international humanitarian law;
2. Ability to argue and to answer questions;
3. Team work & Time Management;
4. Style, Pose & Demeanor.

The role plays will be evaluated on the following points, listed in order of priority:

1. Knowledge of the law, in particular international humanitarian law;
2. Role play;
3. Ability to argue and to answer questions;
4. Knowledge of the Facts;
5. Teamwork & Time management.

# **FRITS KALSHOVEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION**



## **Awards**

On the final day of the Frits Kalshoven Competition, four distinguished prizes will be awarded:

- Best Oralist (individual);
- Best Roleplay (team);
- Finalist of the Moot Court (team);
- Winning team of the Moot Court (team).