

**FRITS KALSHOVEN
INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN
LAW
COMPETITION**

Participation Regulations

2023 Frits Kalshoven International Humanitarian
Law Competition

Hosted by The Netherlands Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross-Flanders



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 or roleplays, 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 16th edition will take place from Wednesday 8 to Friday 19 March 2022 in The Hague, The Netherlands. This competition week will be preceded by four lectures in both hybrid and online format which will take place on between November 2022 and February 2023.

Objectives of the competition

- Develop, increase and ensure a profound understanding of IHL among participants;
- Develop skills among participants required to apply the law in a practical and relevant manner to real-life situations;
- Develop, support and strengthen an IHL network in The Netherlands and Belgium;
- Raise awareness of and keep IHL on the educational agenda at Dutch and Belgian academic institutions which offer curricular activities on international law;
- Increase awareness and relevance of IHL among the general public.

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. Any questions or inquiries for the FKC committee should be directed to ihlcompetition@redcross.nl.

The FKC committee has the solemn discretion to alter these regulations and provide any clarification for the existing rules.

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:

- 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;
- b. an electronic photograph of each team member;
- c. a team motivation letter (max. 500 words);
- d. a legal paper addressing the question specified in the application form (max. 500 words);
- e. 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](#). In addition, it is highly recommended for each team member to agree to the inclusion of their mobile phone number in the competition's Whatsapp group, which you can find in the same form (see also below under Preparation).

The deadline for application is 23 October 2022 (23h59).

Team Selection

Teams will be selected based on the submission of their completed application forms and the quality of their legal papers. Only one team per institution will be accepted. The admission of a maximum of 10 teams is foreseen, a maximum of 12 teams may be considered by the FKC committee.

Selected teams are informed of the result of the selection in the week of 24 October 2022 per 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 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 €350,- per team, which must be paid only if the application is accepted. The invoice and payment details will be transferred to the university or academy after the acceptance mail.

The university or academy will be accorded 30 working days from the receipt of the invoice 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 invoice), the application of that team may 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 university or academy. In case of unavailability, please contact the FKC committee via ihlcompetition@redcross.nl.

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 (starting on 6 March 2023). We expect participants to hold themselves accountable to these rules and engage in fair competition.

Preparation

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

All participants will be given access to the FKC designed team on MS Teams after their admission to the competition, on which essential documents and communication will be shared. A detailed instruction manual will be shared with the participants, to ensure smooth access to the platform.

Additionally, a Whatsapp group shall be set up by the FKC committee, which participants are highly recommended to participate in, to keep track of updates given.

Schedule of the competition

Lectures

The participants must ensure their availability on three evenings between November 2022 and February 2023, of which the dates and timeslots will officially be communicated with the participants after their admission.

**FRITS KALSHOVEN
INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN
LAW
COMPETITION**

The lectures will be held either online, in a hybrid format or solely in person with a possibility of watching the recording afterwards. Participants are encouraged to attend in person when possible, but may ultimately choose how to participate.

Transport to and from the locations of the lectures are to be covered by the universities / participants.

Online lectures will be held via the platform MS Teams, of which the FKC committee will provide the entrance link to the participants. Hybrid lectures will be held both in person, of which the location will officially be shared with the participants after their admission, as well as online via a platform determined by the hosting location. The necessary instructions thereof and access thereto will be shared with the participants in due time before the start of the lectures.

When participating online, 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.

Competition week

Furthermore, participants must ensure their availability during the competition week on 8, 9 and 10 March 2023, as well as their online availability on the evenings of 6 and 7 March 2023. Ideally, participants are equally available throughout the days of 6 and 7 March 2023 to start preparing for the moot court, as the case will be shared on the morning of 6 March 2023.

All sessions of the competition week from 8 to 10 March 2023 will be held in person, during which all participants are expected to stay overnight. Accommodation, meals and public transport throughout these three days are arranged and covered by the FKC committee. Transport to and from the competition are to be covered by the universities / participants.

The moot court preliminary rounds and final rounds will be organized on 10 March 2023. In the moot court final round, the two best performing teams throughout the preliminary rounds will compete.

A more detailed schedule of the competition week will be communicated before the start thereof.

For all competition related sessions, the presence and active participation of all participants is mandatory, including the lectures and the moot court finals.

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.

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. Knowledge of the case facts;
4. Team work & time management;
5. 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.

Awards

On the final day of the competition, four distinguished prizes will be awarded:

- Best Orator (individual);
- Best Role-play (team);
- Winning team of the Moot Court (team);
- Finalist of the Moot Court (team).