



منافسة التحكيم التجاري الدولية
SCCA Int. Arabic Moot

SIAM Rules & Conditions





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I. Definition of SIAM

The **SCCA International Arabic Moot**, organized by the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration in the Arabic language, is a practical model of arbitration procedures and the conduct of proceedings before arbitral tribunals. Students play the role of the parties to arbitration (claimant and respondent) before a tribunal of experienced, skilled arbitrators and with an audience of students arguing the case. This enhances the students' skills and gives them important practical experience.

II. Target Group

Undergraduate students from the faculties of Sharia and law at Arab and global universities.

III. Objectives of SIAM

1. Familiarization with arbitral proceedings, how different arbitral tribunals operate, and the rules and procedures in use.
2. Practical application of curricula.
3. Development of the skills necessary to operate as a party to arbitration through preparation of a claim and a defense by alternating between the roles of claimant and respondent and by formulating legal memoranda.
4. Development of students' abilities to represent others and present a case in front of an audience; increased self-confidence in defending their ideas.
5. Enhancement of skills for courtroom advocacy and/or representing litigants before arbitral tribunals and filing memoranda.
6. Demonstration of the importance of rules and procedures for the understanding and practice of institutional arbitration.
7. Promoting a spirit of competition among participating students.

IV. Skills Gained

1. Students gain skills in oral advocacy and the writing of memoranda.
2. Students gain familiarity with the practice of arbitration to qualify them for future work in arbitration and institutional arbitration.
3. Students gain necessary experience for their post-graduation working life.

V. SIAM Rules

1. Definitions:

In the application of these rules, the following words and terms will have the meanings indicated for each unless the context requires otherwise:

- a. **“Competition”** or **“SIAM”** refers to the Arabic-language arbitration moot competition organized by SCCA.
- b. **“Case”** refers to the notional facts and related legal issues prepared by law experts for the purposes of arguing and competing in SIAM.
- c. **“Parties to the case”** refers to the two litigants in the arbitration case (the claimant and the respondent) subject of the competition.
- d. **“Arbitral tribunal”**: The arbitral tribunal is composed of a group of legal experts selected by SCCA in coordination with the Organizing Committee, and who carry out the evaluation of written submissions and oral arguments during the competition. The definition covers a three-person arbitral tribunal or any arbitrator who is a member of such a tribunal, as determined by SCCA and/or the Organizing Committee.
- e. **“The facts”** are the collection of names and attributes of the circumstances and issues in the case [and] the necessary inferences therefrom.
- f. **“Finals”** or **“Final rounds”** are the semifinal rounds, the determination of third place, and the final rounds of the competition.
- g. **“SCCA”** is the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration.
- h. **“Academic Committee”** is the committee selected by SCCA to prepare the documents and notional facts of the case subject of the competition.
- i. **“Organizing Committee”** is the committee appointed by SCCA to organize and supervise SIAM and to announce the results in connection to the winning team and all related matters.
- j. **“Team code”** is the code the Organizing Committee assigns to each team registered in the competition, which will be used to identify written submissions and oral arguments. The identities of the teams will not be disclosed to the arbitral tribunal in any way.

2. Interpretation of competition rules:

- a. Any questions regarding the case or the interpretation of the SIAM rules will be sent to the Organizing Committee by filling out the Academic Committee contact form on the SIAM page at www.ArabicMoot.org no later than 31 October 2024.

- b. The Organizing Committee will have exclusive authority to interpret the SIAM rules. When a matter arises during competition that is not covered by the current rules, the Organizing Committee will issue a decision on that matter in the light of principles of justice and equity. Organizing Committee decisions, whether related to interpretation or application of the rules or otherwise, will be final and binding on all participating teams.
- c. Teams will be provided with clarifications and explanations concerning the case or the competition rules as needed.

3. Competition stages:

The competition consists of two stages:

- a. Written submissions: At this stage, each team prepares written two submissions for each party to the case in light of the defenses and issues raised in the case. The filing deadlines are detailed in the SIAM Schedule contained in Annex 1.
- b. Oral arguments: At this stage, each of the participating teams competes in oral arguments on behalf of the party to the case it is representing in accordance with the timetable to be published by the Organizing Committee.

4. Competition language:

Arabic is the approved language during the competition and must be used in all correspondence to or from the Organizing Committee. The written submissions and oral arguments will be in Arabic.

5. The case:

- a. The details of the case will be published on the SIAM page at www.ArabicMoot.org.
- b. The Academic Committee will write the documents and case file and will answer questions concerning the details and notional facts of the case. The Academic Committee will include commercial arbitration experts and practitioners as SCCA deems appropriate.
- c. No member of the Academic Committee may advise or direct any student or team participating in any matter related to the competition.
- d. The case will be published on the SIAM page (www.ArabicMoot.org) at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, 1 September 2024.
- e. After registering online, each participating team will be entitled to ask up to three questions to request clarification of the case facts through the SIAM page at

www.ArabicMoot.org until 31 October 2024. No questions will be accepted after this date unless the Organizing Committee decides otherwise.

- f. The Academic Committee will respond to the questions as it deems appropriate, and changes and clarifications will be published in the second version of the case. The second version of the case will also include the second procedural order, which in turn will address the answers to the questions submitted by the participating teams as appropriate. The answers can be used in written submissions and/or oral arguments, and such changes or clarifications (if any) will be an integral part of the case facts in the competition.
- g. In the written submissions and oral arguments, the participating teams may rely on all the facts mentioned in the case and the facts necessarily inferred therefrom. No team may alter or change the nature of the case facts; otherwise, this will be taken into account in the evaluation criteria.
- h. If relying on the facts in a written submission, the teams must cite the page and paragraph from which a given fact in the memorandum is derived. In oral arguments, the oralist must be prepared to cite the facts supporting the argument.
- i. No team may rely on non-legal sources of expertise unless they are provided in the case file. As for sources of expertise from statute and Islamic law, the participating teams may rely on them as needed.
- j. The facts will be regarded as contemporary to the facts of the case in terms of time; time passes in the hypothetical case parallel to the passage of time in real life, and dates, days, and time periods will be marked accordingly.

6. Arbitral tribunal:

- a. The arbitral tribunal will evaluate the participating teams' written submissions and the oral arguments of each individual member of the participating teams.
- b. In the final round, the arbitral tribunal will be composed of legal experts from the arbitration community selected by SCCA in coordination with the Academic Committee.
- c. Throughout the duration of SIAM, the arbitral tribunal will comply with the requirements of impartiality and independence.

7. Selection of participating teams:

- a. Undergraduate students of both sexes from the faculties of Sharia and law at Arab and global universities are entitled to participate in SIAM.
- b. A team will be regarded as participating in the competition once it has indicated its desire to participate by filling out the form available on the SIAM page at www.ArabicMoot.org unless the Organizing Committee finds that there is a barrier to the said team's participation. In such instance, the team must be notified, within five working days of the date the form is completed and submitted, that its application is not accepted.
- c. A team will consist of a minimum of two members and may not exceed six members. All team members must be Bachelor's-level university students in a faculty of Sharia or law at a participating university. A single university may not have more than one team in the competition unless the university has two separate teams (a team of male students and a team of female students in the event of separate departments). The acceptance of teams is subject to the discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- d. Unless the Organizing Committee decides otherwise and for reasons acceptable to SCCA, all team members must be students at the same university. No member of a participating team may register on more than one team or represent any university with which he or she is not affiliated.
- e. Each team may employ up to two coaches. It is recommended that the first coach be a member of the university faculty. A practicing professional from outside the university can be brought in as a second coach.
- f. A team may train a student who has participated with another university in previous editions of the competition.
- g. Team members must record their personal information in the designated registration on the SIAM page at www.ArabicMoot.org.
- h. The composition of a team cannot be modified after the official registration deadline on 31 October 2024. The Organizing Committee has the right to consider extraordinary modification requests as it deems appropriate. Team modifications will be made by filling out the modification request form through the SIAM page.
- i. Participants must display a spirit of honest competition at all stages of the competition and adhere to the demands of ethics and mutual respect.

- j. Each team will be identified using a team code to be provided by the Organizing Committee after the registration deadline. The university name and team members' names and nationalities will not be mentioned in the written submissions stage.

VI. Written Submissions:

1. All participating teams commit to sending written submissions to the Organizing Committee in Word and PDF format using the designated form at www.ArabicMoot.org in accordance with the timetable contained in Annex 1.
2. The written submissions will be evaluated based solely on the electronic version uploaded to the website.
3. No team may revise, replace, add to, delete, or amend written submissions after the filing deadline has expired.

4. Outside assistance:

During the preparation of written submissions, outside assistance – whether provided by a university faculty member, coach, or otherwise – will be limited to general discussion of the case, suggestions of academic sources, and linguistic assistance in general. It will not include drafting or revising any part of the memoranda.

5. Formatting of written submissions:

- a. Each team will file two written submissions, one on behalf of the claimant and one on behalf of the respondent. Any participating team is entitled to participate in oral arguments if at least one memorandum has been submitted.
- b. The formatting rules for written submissions are as follows:
 1. The maximum word count is 7,000 (seven thousand) words per memorandum for each party to the case (claimant or respondent), not including footnotes or codes, with a 5-point penalty for exceeding the word allowed word count.
 2. The memoranda will be written in Arabic only, using the font Traditional Arabic. If foreign-language references are used, the sources must be cited in the footnotes.
 3. The submissions will be written in 18-point font, with line spacing of 1.5.
 4. The footnotes will be written in 12-point font, single spaced.
 5. Page borders will not be used in written submissions.
 6. The first page of each memorandum must include the competition title first, then the participating team's code, then the client designation (specify which party to the case

– either the claimant or the respondent – the team is representing). The pages must be numbered at the bottom of each page.

7. All paragraphs of the memorandum must be numbered sequentially except for the headings.
8. Each memorandum should be divided into five main sections as follows:

I. Introduction

II. Summary of defenses/arguments

III. Facts

IV. Detailed defenses/arguments

V. Requests

9. The submission must cite legal and factual evidence to support. That evidence will be referenced in the footnotes as follows:

- a) For factual evidence from the case file provided by the competition organizers:

Document name, page number, paragraph number if any

For example: Request for Arbitration, p. 6, para. 23

- b) For legal references:

- i. Provisions of law: **Name of the law, date of promulgation, relevant article number**

For example: UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, 1985 (with amendments as adopted in 2006), Article 18

- ii. Books: **Author's name, book title, edition, page number**

- iii. Articles: **Author's name, article title, publication date, journal/site of publication, page number (if any)**

10. Each team will submit a memorandum in which it is representing the claimant and another memorandum in which it is representing the respondent.

6. Evaluation of written submissions

- a. The arbitral tribunal will evaluate each team's claimant memorandum and respondent memorandum separately, in accordance with the following criteria:
 - Accurate narrative of the facts of the case: 10 points
 - Correct and legal defenses/arguments and reliance on correct and relevant legal rules and principles: 10 points

- Clear analysis of defenses/arguments, full and correct acknowledgment and weighting of problems, and correct application of relevant legal rules and principles: 30 points
 - Use of diverse legal references: 10 points
 - Knowledge and use of the case facts so that legal defenses are based on facts: 20 points
 - Presentation and style: 10 points
 - Language skills, i.e. persuasiveness (logic, structure, quotations, comprehensiveness, style, and rhetoric): 10 points
 - 5 points will be deducted from the total if the memorandum exceeds the allowed word count.
 - 5 points will be deducted from the total in case if the written submission does not comply with the formatting described above.
- b. The maximum point total and perfect score for each memorandum is 100 points according to the allocation and criteria in the above paragraph.
- c. In the event of **plagiarism** in any memorandum, whether of a legal source, another student's work, or any information lacking a citation, the memorandum will be ineligible for any of the memorandum prizes, and SCCA will have full authority to expel the team from the competition if it deems it necessary.
- d. The scores will be recorded on the official written submissions results form and will be communicated to the participating teams only after the final round of competition is completed.
- 7. Copyright:**
- a. Within the framework of SIAM procedures, the Organizing Committee will print and distribute the written submissions after assigning each team a code.
 - b. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to print, publish, and distribute the participating teams' written submissions for the purposes required by SIAM. When printing, publishing, or distributing, the Organizing Committee may mention the team name and code and the team members who filed the memorandum.
 - c. All members of the competing teams expressly consent to the right of SCCA – as well as of the Organizing Committee – to refer to, use, publish, or distribute all memoranda, oral

arguments, materials, and means used in the competition (including, but not limited to, memoranda submitted during competition or hearings during the final rounds) for purposes of training, education, or organizing other competitions in the future.

VII. Oral Arguments

1. Powers of the arbitral tribunal

In addition to the stipulated powers and anything the Organizing Committee may authorize the arbitral tribunal to do, the arbitral tribunal will administer hearings outright. As such, it may take any action it deems appropriate for control of the hearings and regulation of the process and manner of the arguments before it.

2. Roles

- a. Each team must prepare a defense to plead on behalf of each party to the case (the claimant and the respondent). Each team will be free to choose two members in each hearing to argue on behalf of each of the parties to the case. The two members can be changed at each hearing as desired by the team.
- b. A maximum of two team members may speak in any round of competition (team members only are eligible to attend for learning purposes).
- c. A team may not listen to another team to find out their arguments in any possible manner in the final rounds (as defined in paragraph VII-9).
- d. Each of the teams will represent both roles (claimant and respondent in the preliminary stages, while the team's role in the advanced stages will be based on drawing lots).

3. Friendlies

While preparing their oral arguments, teams may participate in friendly hearings to be evaluated by arbitrators, lawyers, and legal practitioners, alone or in competition with others, unless the team knows or could know that the two teams will meet in oral arguments later. If either is aware of that, it will be necessary to cancel or withdraw from the friendly hearing.

4. Communication during oral arguments and attendance at hearings

- a. The right to speak during oral arguments is limited to the arbitral tribunal and the team members selected by the team, whose names will be communicated to the relevant committee or arbitral tribunal prior to arguments. No communication between the members of the participating team and any member of the audience will be permitted during the hearings.

- b. During oral arguments, team members will communicate with one another in writing only. No team may engage in any behavior that may affect the course of the hearing or the competing team's arguments.
- c. With the exception of the arbitral tribunal, no member other than the member acting as oralist at the time may speak or interrupt the oralist.
- d. Prolonged reading from memoranda is not permitted during oral arguments. This excludes brief readings from the case or quotations when needed, the oralist's written notes, and legal texts that the oralist may use in his or her argument.

5. Time allotment and order of oral arguments

- a. In both preliminary and final rounds, each team will be allotted 30 minutes for arguments.
- b. Each team is responsible for informing the arbitral tribunal how it will distribute its time among team members prior to commencement of the hearing.
- c. Each team is responsible for not exceeding the allotted time.
- d. The two teams may agree on the order of arguments or authorize the arbitral tribunal to determine the order. If the two teams agree in the proposed order, the arbitral tribunal will respect that arrangement; if the two teams do not agree on the order of arguments, each team will submit its justification for the proposed order and then submit it to the arbitrators to decide. This will not count toward the time allotments specified in paragraph (a) above.

6. Exceeding the time allotted for oral arguments

- a. In the event that an oralist does not adhere to the time allotted for oral arguments, the arbitral tribunal will warn the team to conclude its arguments. The chairman of the arbitral tribunal, however, may extend the allotted time for any team if necessary. The other team may not object to any decision of the arbitral tribunal.
- b. The arbitral tribunal will treat the teams alike and maintain the same distance from all teams. When additional time is given to one of the two teams in the case, the other side may be granted an identical amount of additional time if it so requests, not to exceed three minutes as described above.
- c. If a team's additional time goes unused for any reason, the time does not carry over and will be lost once the hearing ends, without affecting the outcome in any way.

7. Scope of oral arguments

Members of the arbitral tribunal have the right to question the speaker at any time during arguments as the arbitral tribunal deems appropriate, provided that the questions are within the time for oral arguments. Questions should focus primarily on issues related to the case, though the arbitral tribunal's questions may also address other, general topics concerning the legal issues raised by the case. In the event that an oralist is unable to finish his or her oral arguments because there are too many questions, the arbitral tribunal will not deduct points from the oralist unless the arbitral tribunal decides otherwise.

8. Evaluation of oral arguments

a. The team's oral arguments score for the round will be calculated based on the points each competitor obtains from the three arbitral tribunal members individually. Each arbitrator will score each competitor in each hearing on a 100-point scale according to the criteria listed below, so that the maximum score that may be awarded to each team in each hearing is 200 points. There are four score bands:

- 59– 50: Needs improvement
- 74– 60: Good
- 90– 75: Very good
- 100– 91: Excellent

b. In both preliminary and final rounds, the teams' oral arguments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Sound legal analysis, proper application of relevant articles of law, general knowledge of the legal issues raised, and understanding of relevant requirements and principles of law.
- Knowledge and effective use of the case facts, enlistment of these facts to serve the defense strategy, and proper representation of the client in the oral proceedings.
- Ability to answer the questions and arguments presented, effectiveness in responding to the arbitral tribunal's questions, and professionalism before the arbitral tribunal.
- Manner and style of presentation, means of persuasion (the ability to represent the party concerned convincingly).

- c. In the preliminary rounds, the arbitral tribunal members will evaluate the competing team's performance in confidential deliberations after the end of each hearing. Each arbitrator is free to score the oralist as he or she deems appropriate, bearing in mind that the tribunal members' scores should not vary by more than 1 point unless the arbitrator explains the reason in his or her evaluation.
- d. After the end of each hearing and evaluation, the arbitral tribunal members will give their observations on the two teams' overall performance during the hearing, without disclosing the final score for any oralist.
- e. Following the end of the preliminary rounds, the Organizing Committee will announce the teams that qualify for the final rounds without disclosing the specific results of the preliminary rounds.
- f. The scores announced by the Organizing Committee are binding and final, and no party may challenge them in any way unless there has been an error in the announcement.
- g. In the advanced stages, the evaluation result will be adopted either unanimously or by a majority.

9. Final rounds / Final results:

Except as stated above, the following rules apply in the final rounds:

- a. A drawing of lots by the Organizing Committee in the presence of all participating teams will determine which team will represent each party in the final rounds.

The arbitral tribunal that presides over the final round will not calculate the winning and losing scores according to the rules applicable to the preliminary rounds, but will announce the winning team and the best speaker in the final round on the basis of secret deliberation among its members. The tribunal will make its decisions by absolute majority without recording any scores for any team. Those decisions will be final and cannot be challenged for any reason.

10. Recording and photography of oral arguments

- a. The recording and broadcast of oral arguments by any person (even a member of the competing teams) is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from all interested parties (including the arbitral tribunal and the Organizing Committee).
- b. Photography during oral hearings is permitted only to the Organizing Committee, its representatives, or SCCA personnel named by the Organizing Committee.

Annexes:
Annex 1
Competition Timetable

Phase	Gregorian date	Hijri date
Team registration begins	1 June 2024	24 Dhul Qadah 1445
Case published on the website	1 September 2024	28 Safar 1446
Team registration deadline	31 October 2024	28 Rabie al-Thani 1446
Deadline for case clarification requests	31 October 2024	28 Rabie al-Thani 1446
Start applying for visas	3-30 November 2024	1-28 Jumada al-Ula 1446
SIAM introduction session (remote)	6 November 2024	4 Jumada al-Ula 1446
Claimant memorandum submission deadline	20 November 2024	18 Jumada al-Ula 1446
Respondent memorandum submission deadline	20 December 2024	19 Jumada al-Thaniyya 1446
Training programs	To be announced later	To be announced later
Arbitrator workshop	To be announced later	To be announced later
Remote oral hearings (initial stages)	25-30 January 2025	25-30 Safar 1446
In-person oral hearings (advanced stages)	23-26 February 2025	24 to 27 Shaaban 1446
Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW)	23-27 February 2025	24 to 28 Shaaban 1446
Announcement of results and closing ceremony	26 February 2025	27 Shaaban 1446