



International Court of Justice
Rules of Procedure

Formalities

Roll Call

Oath

"I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as Judge/Applicant/ Defendant honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

Introductory

Presentation of the Case

Stipulations

The previously prepared document of stipulations will be read aloud.

(optional)

There can be objections at this point but after this is sealed, the stipulations cannot be changed or violated within the course of this case.

Opening Statements

(6-10 minutes)
per party

The applicant party followed by the defendant party will be called to give opening statements. This gives the jury a first impression of the case.

Note: Ideally Only 1 person from each party will be doing this part.

All members of the court must attentively consider all content mentioned from this part forward as anything said by advocates verbally can be referred to later in the case.

Note: Respondent Party may not make references to anything said in the applicant's opening statement.

Evidence

Presentation

(15 mins per piece of
evidence) for
presentation and
questioning

All real evidence is presented one by one. Each one is described in detail mentioning its relevance and support to the case. This is the time for advocates to convince the court of their innocence using each piece of evidence while keeping to factual content only.

Opposing council may object on relevant grounds during this (in the verbal form of "objection grounds").

The grounds for objections are:

Authenticity- this can be objected if there is question of the reliability of the source from which opposing council found the evidence. Alternatively, it can also be used if there is question of interference of an unauthorized third party into the evidence presented.

Bias- The purpose with which the evidence has been made can be objected if it is in doubt to be favorable to opposing council.

Relevance- This can be grounds for an objection to evidence that should not be considered because it exceeds the case that is in question at the ICJ. This can be debatable because opposing council may link it to their argument however it is important to rightfully time the objection to ensure clarity is exposed to the jury.

Questioning

The opposing party will get a chance to question each piece of evidence presented. Between the two advocates, as many questions as time permits can be asked.

Following the advocates, the jury will question each piece of evidence. Between the whole jury, there should be an appropriate balance of questions challenging the evidence but also questions to which the answers are in favor of the presenting party clarifying and emphasizing facts. Again, this is limited to time rather than number of questions.

Deliberation

(13-15 minutes)

Once all evidence has been presented and questioned, the advocates will leave the room while the judges deliberate each piece of evidence, and the president calls for a vote. Each piece of evidence needs half the panel of Jury to pass.

Witness

Preparation

(10 minutes per witness)

Each witness must be prepared within a given 10 minutes.
This part is undoubtedly one of the most essential to building the case.

Here the anonymous witness must be explained their role: name, who they are in terms of individual or company, which side of the case they are on, what they must answer to some questions and most importantly how they should answer during the cross- examination.

Questioning

(10 minutes per witness)

Remember, if the opposing council asks a basic question and the witness is hesitant, confused, or contradictory, it is a drawback to your case

"I swear by the ISHMUN Bible that the evidence I shall give the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

The applicant party will call their first witness and introduce them by 1 or 2 simple questions like, "Who are you?"

Followingly, well-constructed questions will be asked that the witness can answer such that their answer strengthens the case.

Applicants can make brief remarks to segue towards the following question.

After cross examination, the defendant party will call their first witness. They will following the same procedure and the alternating

	will repeat until wither witness entertainment time elapses or all witnesses have been called.
Cross- Examination (10 minutes per witness)	During the cross, the opposing council must ask well-constructed questions to challenge the witness and expose anything that might be favorable to their own case or weakening to the other party. Opposing council may object on relevant grounds during this (in the verbal form of “objection <i>grounds</i>”). The grounds for objections are: Leading Question- When the question is phrased such that, or followed by statements such that, the witness is limited from expressing their answer and rather guided to the advocate’s desired answer. Hearsay- When the question mentions a person, organization, or state for whom the witness cannot speak. This is when the question is not directly about the witness’ knowledge and rather their uncertainty on a third party who is absent to defend themselves. This is also when the witness is asked to guess or predict what an absent body did or may have done. Badgering- This is when the advocate(s) questioning has piled consecutive question without giving enough time for answers, adapted an aggressive or hostile manner towards the witness, or used volume or tone to cause the witness an overwhelming feeling to force an answer. Ambiguous Question- When the question is too general, not clear enough for the witness to understand the context and answer. Also, for questions that are recognizably chosen to mislead the witness into confusion such the upcoming question will be answered with doubt or uncertainty. In such a case, the Presidency may sustain the object but ask for evidence to back up the line of questioning. Competence- The question is beyond the witness’s position, specialty, or knowledge. In other words, a question that asks for an answer that the witness is not expected to be aware of. Relevance- The question is irrelevant to the case discussed, it is wasting time, it is mockery, or it is bringing up a vulnerability that is unrelated to this very case.
Judges Questioning (5 minutes per witness)	Jury will question any unmentioned but relevant aspects.

Concluding

Closing Remarks
(10 minutes each)

Both parties will make closing remarks, concluding their case with summarized arguments of only the approved evidence and witnesses. This is not a moment to introduce anything entirely new to the courtroom. This time can be used to rearrange the presented case emphasizing the parts of the happened case that back up the respective party best.

Verdict

Deliberation
(15-20 minutes)
Announcement

Advocates will leave the room for the final time while the jury decides on the verdict.

The final verdict will be announced in the Closing Ceremony