

**TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
SPORTS LAW SOCIETY**

**19TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
BASEBALL
ARBITRATION COMPETITION (2026)**

OFFICIAL RULES

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Section I: Administration

1. The Tulane University Law School Sports Law Society organizes the International Baseball Arbitration Competition. These rules reference the International Baseball Arbitration Competition Committee (“Committee”), which is a component organization of the Sports Law Society. The Committee directly administers the Competition by coordinating the joint efforts of student participants, guest arbitrators, and the Competition’s staff.
2. The Committee will consider the submission of exhibits to constitute each team members’ attestation that the entire team has complied with all provisions of these rules.

Section II: Competition Overview

The International Baseball Arbitration Competition is a simulated salary arbitration Competition modeled closely on the procedures used by Major League Baseball (“MLB”) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (“MLBPA”). Like most law school moot court Competitions, the International Baseball Arbitration Competition’s main goal is to provide participants with the opportunity to sharpen their oral and written advocacy skills. The Competition, however, is unique in that it allows law students to sharpen these skills within the specialized context of MLB salary arbitration proceedings.

Section III: Recommended Reading

The Committee highly recommends all student competitors to read “A Most Interesting Part of Baseball’s Monetary Structure – Salary Arbitration in its Thirty-Fifth Year” by Ed Edmonds. The citation is: 20 Marq. Sports L. Rev. 1 (2009). After reading the article, students will have a better understanding of MLB salary arbitration, and be better prepared for this Competition’s cases. In addition, please review the 2022-2026 Major League Baseball Basic Agreement (“CBA”) for current arbitration rules.

Section IV: Teams

1. Each team entering the Competition must submit a registration form and the applicable entry fee. A team will not be registered until the Committee receives both. Registration will close once teams from sixty

different schools are registered or until the final registration deadline passes, whichever is earlier.

2. Entry Fee – Traditional Competition
 - a. The early entry fee for teams with two members is \$1,050.
 - b. The early entry fee for teams with three members is \$1,150.
 - c. The late entry fee for teams with two members is \$1,100.
 - d. The late entry fee for teams with three members is \$1,200.
3. Entry Fee – Written-Only Competition
 - a. Competitors may enter the competition as an individual or as part of a two-person or three-person team.
 - b. The entry fee for teams is \$400.
4. A school may indicate its desire to send three teams to the Competition.
5. Each team must consist of two or three law students attending the same American Bar Association (“ABA”) approved law school. Only individuals pursuing a J.D. or L.L.M. degree are eligible to participate in the primary bracket.
6. Schools from non-J.D. Graduate programs or other undergraduate programs are able to participate in a separate bracket. Each team must consist of two or three students attending the same institution.
7. Schools that have a qualifying internal Competition may register a team without specifying the team member names in the registration form. In that case, the registration form must include the contact information of the person in charge of the school’s internal qualifying Competition.
8. After a registration form and entry fee have been submitted, a team must obtain approval from the Committee to substitute a team member.

Section V: Venue Rules

By participating in the Competition, team members agree to refrain from disturbing any furniture, equipment (including projectors), or Competition materials in the Lavin-Bernick Center, A. B. Freeman School of Business, or Weinmann Hall. Any issues regarding room assignments, time changes, or the specific placement of arbitrators shall be left to the behest of the Committee.

Section VI: Competition Mechanics

1. The Committee will randomly divide the pool of 60 teams into four groups of 15.
 - a. If there is an irregular number of teams for any reason, then the Committee retains the power to format the Competition in the best interest of the rest of the participating teams.
2. The Committee will create three different salary arbitration cases. Each case will include the Player's filing number and the Club's filing number. The Committee will then assign teams to a side—Player or Club—for two cases, and to **both** sides for one case. Teams will be required to prepare oral presentations and exhibit books for each of the four assignments, as well as two briefs (one Player brief and one Club brief for the case that has been assigned as **both** sides).
 - a. All teams in a group will have the same assignments.
 - b. The players used in this Competition are Major League Baseball players eligible for salary arbitration in this year's round of arbitration. Teams must ignore anything occurring after the cases are released.
 - c. Each case's filing numbers are projections of the Committee in an attempt to create the most realistic hearings possible.
3. The Committee will post cases to the Competition's website on Dec, 29, 2025. Cases will be distributed to participating teams through email by December 22, 2025.
4. Teams will submit **two briefs** total. The Committee will indicate one case for which Teams will prepare arguments for both the Player and the Club side.

5. Teams will submit **four exhibits** in total. The Committee will assign either the Player or Club side for two of the cases. The other two assignments are the Player *and* Club side for the case used for the brief. For each assignment, teams will submit an exhibit book (outlining and supporting oral arguments) and prepare an oral argument.

6. Teams will be ranked within their group based on brief and exhibit quality. This ranking will be confidential. The hearing matchups will be determined based on ranking within the groups.

7. The Committee will email exhibits to opposing teams in advance of hearings (i.e. the “exchange”).

8. Three Preliminary Rounds (Thursday):

- a. Each team will be scheduled for three separate hearings.
- b. Throughout the three preliminary rounds, teams within Group A will argue against teams within Group C, and vice-versa. Likewise, teams within Group B will argue against teams within Group D, and vice-versa; however, as noted above, if there are an irregular number of teams for any reason, then the Committee retains the power to format the Competition in the best interest of the rest of the participating teams. All matchups will be emailed to teams following the exhibit submission date in order to facilitate the exhibit exchange.
- c. In each hearing, an arbitrator will evaluate the exhibits and oral arguments based on a provided rubric. The arbitrator may provide oral feedback at the conclusion of the round, time permitting.
- d. Teams may not request access to their numerical score for any round.

9. After the preliminary rounds, the top two teams with the highest composite score in each sub-group will advance to the quarterfinals. In the case of a tie, a team’s margin of victory will determine the team that advances to the playoff rounds. A team’s margin of victory will be calculated by subtracting the opposing team’s point total from the winning team’s point total.

10. Playoff Rounds (Friday):

- a. Quarterfinals: The highest and lowest scoring teams will argue against one another, and so on, in a tournament-style bracket format. The teams will reargue one of the three cases.
- b. Semifinals: The winners of the quarterfinal matchups will advance to the semifinals. They will be notified of the player and side they will argue for this round upon completion of the quarterfinal round. Teams **must** be prepared to argue either side of the case for which they have prepared both sides.
- c. Finals: The winner of each semifinal matchup will advance to the finals. The teams will be notified of the player and side they will argue upon completion of the semifinal round. Again, teams **must** be prepared to argue either side of the case for which they have prepared both sides.

Section VII: Briefs and Exhibits

1. Section VI(E)(10)(a-c) of the 2022-2026 Basic Agreement governs the scope of permissible information.
2. Sources of Information
 - a. Player statistics must be obtained from a publicly available and reliable source of information (including, but not limited to, MLB's official website, a Club's official website, Baseball-Reference and FanGraphs).
 - b. Other information may be obtained from any publicly available and reliable material.
 - c. The universe of comparable players and any other limitations set forth in the Problems supersede any instructions provided in this Rulebook.
3. Briefs shall serve as outlines of corresponding exhibit books for each case (see examples on the Competition's website).
 - a. Each brief may not exceed 10 pages, exclusive of cover page and optional table of contents, but inclusive of footnotes, charts, tables, lists, or other appendices.
 - b. The font of the brief's body must be 12-point Times New Roman and the font of the brief's footnotes must be 10-point Times New Roman.

- c. Briefs must be double-spaced, except footnotes, headings, and extended quotations.
 - d. No citations are required for statistical information; however, any citations to non-statistical information should allow the Committee to quickly and easily verify the accuracy of the information.
- 4. Exhibit books shall serve as slides to accompany oral argument and must include all relevant information to be covered in each case's opening remarks. Submitted exhibits **must** include all comparative player salaries to be used in opening remarks, but need not include any rebuttal slides. However, exhibits may not be supplemented or modified after the submission date without the express written consent of the Committee and, if such revised exhibit is submitted after the exchange, the team's opponent for the applicable Competition round. Any such consent of the opponent shall be coordinated through the Committee. Any revised exhibits may be used in subsequent rounds of the Competition, at the Committee's discretion.
 - a. Each exhibit may not exceed 50 pages.
- 5. Service
 - a. Each team must submit one electronic copy of **each** brief and exhibit.
 - b. Both electronic briefs must be submitted together by e-mail to tulane.baseball.arbitration@gmail.com as Portable Document Format ("PDF") files by January 5th, 2026 at 5:00 PM **central time**. The subject line should read "TIBAC Briefs—[Team number]." File names should read "Team[InsertTeamNo.Here].Brief.[PlayerLastName/MLBTeam Name].pdf."
 - c. All four electronic exhibit books must be submitted together by e-mail to tulane.baseball.arbitration@gmail.com as PDF documents by January 12th, 2026 at 5:00 PM **central time**. The subject line should read "TIBAC Exhibits—[Team number]." File names should read: "Team[InsertTeamNo.Here].Exhibit.[PlayerLastName/MLBTeamName].pdf."
 - d. Teams **must** provide at least one bound hard copy exhibit book to opposing counsel at the start of each hearing and one bound

hard copy exhibit book to arbitrators at the start of each preliminary round. Teams must provide three bound hard copy exhibit books to arbitrators at the start of quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. In addition, teams must have exhibit books available in PowerPoint format on a zip drive for projection should they reach the quarterfinals (projectors may be used in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final round).

- e. Teams that fail to submit either the briefs or exhibits by the corresponding deadlines will receive an initial 2-point penalty against their score, with an additional 2-point penalty for every subsequent 24-hour period that their brief is late.
6. The Committee will assign matchups and coordinate the exchange no later than January 14, 2026.
7. Teams may only revise or amend the rebuttal portion of exhibits after submission, subject to the Committee's discretion and in accordance with the guidelines above.

Section VIII: Oral Arguments

1. Section VI(E)(10)(a-c) of the 2022-2026 Basic Agreement governs the scope of permissible information.

2. Oral arguments will only reference information as indicated in the **2026 International Arbitration Competition Problems** provided to all competitors.

3. If a team acts in violation of section 8.1 or 8.2, or if they provide information that is found to be factually incorrect, the opposing team must object to the arbitrator immediately. No objections will be allowed once the hearing has concluded.

4. One laptop computer per team is permitted for use in the hearing room for the purpose of forming rebuttals and fact-checking opposing counsel. Team coaches may not use computers.

5. Two team members **must** participate in each round of arbitration. One team member **must** deliver the 15-minute Opening Remarks, and the other **must** deliver the 7.5-minute Rebuttal. The member(s) not giving a portion of the oral argument may assist their

fellow member in strategy and preparation of the exhibits and arguments.

6. If a team has three members, all members must participate in at least one round of arbitration..

7. During opening remarks, teams may not use comparable player salaries not included in their exhibits submitted electronically.

8. After both teams have concluded their Opening Remarks, there will be a 5-minute break to prepare for Rebuttal. During this break, both teams **must** leave the room, and the arbitrator **must** remain in the room.

9. A maximum of two coaches per team may accompany the team throughout the competition. Coaches may be present during the hearings but may not make objections or interrupt the proceedings in any way. A coach includes any faculty member or student advisor not competing in the competition.

10. All rounds will last 50 minutes. The format will be as follows:

Player's Side Opening Remarks	15 minutes
Club's Side Opening Remarks	15 minutes
Preparation for Rebuttal	5 minutes
Player's Side Rebuttal	7.5 minutes
Club's Side Rebuttal	7.5 minutes

11. The aforementioned time constraints are inclusive of any questions posed by arbitrators.

12. A team may ask for additional time to respond to a question asked prior to time expiring. The arbitrator, at his or her discretion, may grant such a request.

13. Following the 50 minutes allotted for oral arguments, the arbitrators may deliver feedback to the teams.

14. Should an entire team no-show any of their scheduled oral arguments for reasons other than uncontrollable circumstances, they will forfeit that round and all subsequent rounds. They will also be banned from participating in the Tulane International Baseball Arbitration Competition for two years. Should an event arise where a team cannot

compete in any of their oral arguments, refund of the entry fee will be at the Committee's discretion.

Section IX: Scoring

1. Written Material Scoring
 - a. Members of the Committee will evaluate the written briefs. Briefs and exhibits will be blind-graded, meaning that the Committee will have no knowledge of the identifying information of any particular law school or team member.
 - b. The evaluation of written materials will be based upon a provided scoring rubric.
 - c. The rubric template will be posted in the Competition's website along with the salary arbitration cases.
2. Oral Argument Scoring:
 - a. Each arbitrator will evaluate the oral arguments based upon a provided scoring rubric.
 - b. The rubric template will be posted in the Competition's website along with the salary arbitration cases.
 - c. Arbitrators will deliver oral feedback at the conclusion of the round. The individual comments written on the score sheets and the scores themselves will be kept confidential.
 - d. Should panels of arbitrators hear playoff rounds, a simple majority of the arbitrators determines the round's winner.
 - e. Unless an Arbitrator informs the TIBAC Co-Chairs of scoring error, all Arbitrators scoring shall be deemed final and non-appealable.
 - i. In the event of a confirmed scoring error, a Wild Card round will take place before Friday's hearings, or the Committee may, at its discretion, make any changes to the list of teams advancing necessary to correct the error.
 - d. In the event that a team forfeits a round due to an unforeseeable occurrence, the team's scheduled opponent will be declared the

winner of that round and may be required to argue their case before the arbitrator for scoring purposes.

Section X: Assistance

1. Team members may discuss the mechanics of salary arbitration with faculty members or coaches; however, faculty members may not be involved in research or creation of any presentation materials used.

2. After exhibits have been filed, team members may receive assistance in the preparation of oral arguments.

Section XI: Penalties

The Committee, in its sole discretion, will assess penalties for violation of these rules. Uniform penalties will be assessed for each type of violation.

Section XII: Rule Interpretation

The Committee, in its sole discretion, shall interpret these rules. All decisions are final.

Section XIII: Supplemental Rules

The Committee, in its sole discretion, may create additional rules and standards to address situations not presently covered or contemplated by these rules.

Section XIV: Information

1. The Committee will post any additional information to the website or send it out via e-mail.

2. Any request for information or rule interpretation should be sent to the Committee via e-mail at tulane.baseball.arbitration@gmail.com.