

CHAPTER 3. MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES AFFECTING LEGAL SKILLS COMPETITIONS

SECTION 5-301. PURPOSE, COMPOSITION, AND DUTIES OF LEGAL SKILLS COMPETITION BOARD

(a) General. Legal Skills competitions are an important method of developing and practicing a wide variety of legal skills, including negotiation, trial advocacy, and appellate advocacy. A variety of legal skills competitions exist, and The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, through its Legal Skills Competition Board, encourages interested and eligible students to participate in local, regional, and national competitions. The Legal Skills Competition Board (The Board) exists to assist each student to (1) develop advocacy skills, (2) represent The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (College of Law) successfully in competitions, and (3) maximize his or her educational experience in law school.

(b) Composition of Board. The Board shall consist of three faculty members and four student members. The faculty members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the legal writing faculty and at least one other of whom shall have experience coaching a legal skills competition team, shall be appointed on an annual basis by the Dean. The student members shall be appointed each year by the Dean based on nominations from the faculty. At least three of the students shall have competed on one of the College of Law's "established competition teams" (the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, National NALSA competition, Jessup Competition, Pace Environmental Law competition, and National Trial Competition). The Dean shall designate one of the faculty members to serve as Chair of the Board.

(c) Duties of Board. The Board shall have the following primary duties:

(1) Coordinate distribution of information about the College of Law's established competition teams.

(A) The Board shall be responsible for coordinating the distribution to students of information about the established teams, including creating a webpage with this information. The Board shall solicit information about structure and content of these established competition teams from the coaches of those teams. That information should include, at minimum, procedures for team selection, academic credit, and competition dates and deadlines. The webpage should also contain information to assist students in locating information about other competitions and information about the approval process set forth below in Section 2-304.

(B) If a coach wishes to communicate directly with the student body, the coach must seek approval from the Board. In considering such requests, the Board shall keep in mind the deadlines of the competition in question, as well as the timing of other team requests and other student obligations.

(2) Determine, based on the criteria in Section 2-304, in which, if any, additional competitions the College of Law wishes to participate.

(3) To maximize learning opportunities for students and ensure that the members of each team have equal access to those opportunities, the Board should explore offering one or more legal-skills workshops open to all members of established competition teams.

(4) Establish uniform criteria for reimbursements. In consultation with the Dean and the Financial Office, the Board shall establish uniform criteria for reimbursing student competition expenses.

(A) The Pace Environmental Law team currently does not receive funding from the College of Law; should any funding become available from sources related to the College of Law, however, reimbursements would be governed under this section.

(B) The remaining four “established teams” receive funding from a variety of sources. The same criteria for reimbursement shall apply, however, regardless of the funding source.

The Dean may assign additional duties to the Board as issues arise, provided those duties are connected to the Board’s purpose.

SECTION 5-302. SELECTION AND DUTIES OF COACHES

(a) Selection of Coaches. Each of the established competition teams shall continue to select their coaches using established selection procedures. The Board shall approve the selection of the coach of any other team as part of the approval process in Section 2-304.

(b) Duties of Coaches. Coaches shall be responsible for:

(1) Complying with the rules of the competition regarding what coaches are able to do, and providing such guidance, feedback, and assistance as is permitted;

(2) Working with competitors to set deadlines for completing the brief;

(3) Working with competitors to schedule oral argument practice times;

(4) Recruiting judges for oral argument practice rounds;

(5) Determining whether students are sufficiently prepared to represent the school at competition; and

(6) Determining (based on the requirements in section 2-303) whether each member of the competition team should receive the academic credit authorized by the faculty.

SECTION 5-303. STUDENT COMPETITORS

(a) Student Eligibility. Students are eligible to be a member of a competition team if the student has completed the first year of law school, is in good standing, and meets the other eligibility requirements established by the team.

(b) Duties of Student Competitors. Competitors will be responsible for:

- (1)** Representing the University of Arizona in an ethical, civil, and professional manner at all times at competitions around the country;
- (2)** Complying with the College of Law's Honor Code and the University of Arizona's Student Code of Conduct;
- (3)** Meeting registration and filing deadlines established by the competition;
- (4)** Understanding that being selected to represent the College of Law is a privilege that carries with it a reciprocal obligation to other team members;
- (5)** Being flexible and available to attend all scheduled meetings and practices;
- (6)** Working together to research and write the brief in the time limits set forth by the Competition and Coaches;
- (7)** Working with the coaches to establish an oral argument practice schedule;
and
- (8)** Submitting travel reimbursements in the format and within the deadlines established by the College of Law and the Board.

A student who fails in any of these requirements may, at the coach's discretion, be removed from the team.

(c) Academic Credit. Students who satisfy the requirements of section 2-303 shall be eligible to receive academic credit for their participation. The Board shall review the current procedures for assigning academic credit and make any necessary recommendations for change to the curriculum committee. If the Board approves participation in another competition under Section 2-304, part of that approval process shall include making recommendations to the Curriculum Committee regarding academic credit.

SECTION 5-304. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN OTHER LEGAL SKILLS COMPETITIONS.

- (a) The five established moot court teams are deemed to be approved on an ongoing basis and do not need to seek Board approval pursuant to this section. The Board has the authority to approve, on an *ad hoc* basis, participation in other legal skills competitions. Approval of the right to represent the College of Law in a legal skills competition does not include an automatic right to reimbursement of participation expenses by the College of Law.
- (b) **Approval process.** Students or faculty members seeking approval to create a team to represent the College of Law at a legal skills competition shall submit an application to the Board. An application must be submitted to the Board no later than sixty days before the first competition deadline. That application shall contain, at minimum:
- (1) Identification of the competition host;
 - (2) Information about the structure and history of the competition, including details about competition dates and deadlines;
 - (3) Information about how team members will be identified and selected;
 - (4) Description of how participation in the competition would benefit the students and the College of Law;
 - (5) Identification of qualified individuals to advise and coach the team;
 - (6) Information about how a coach will be selected;
 - (7) Cost of preparation and attendance;
 - (8) Academic credit sought, if any.
- (c) **Decision criteria.** In deciding whether to approve an application, the Board shall consider the following factors:
- (1) Past participation and success in the competition by College of Law teams;
 - (2) Quality of the host and organization of the competition;
 - (3) Cost of preparation and attendance;
 - (4) Availability of faculty and attorney advisors in the area of law that is the subject of the competition;
 - (5) Educational opportunities and benefits for students, including any potential overlap with established competition teams;

(6) Relationship of competition subject matter to College of Law goals and priorities; and

(7) Potential pool of interested and qualified students.

(d) The Board shall act on each application in a timely manner, mindful of competition dates and deadlines.

(e) **Burden to Obtain Approval.** The burden is on the applicant(s) to establish that the competition meets all the requirements of this section and that qualified individual is willing to serve as a coach. The Board may require the applicant(s) to furnish whatever documentation it considers necessary to make its decision. The judgments and determinations of the Board are final.

(f) **Funding.** If the Board approves participation, the applicants and coach must apply to the Dean for funding and/or for approval of any fundraising efforts. Among the considerations the Dean will take into account is whether the applicants and coach have exhausted other potential College of Law and University sources of funding.