Ames Information Session

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Kyle Tramonte, Upper-Level Ames Committee Chair, ktramonte@jd20.law.harvard.edu
General Ames Questions: ameshls@gmail.com
# Schedule

**September 2019**

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- *Info session*
- *Registration deadline at noon*
- *Record issued at 6*
- *Last day for record & rules questions*
- *Advancing teams notified*
- *Briefs distributed*
- *Appellee briefs due electronically*
- *Appellant briefs due in paper*

**October 2019**

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- *Appellant briefs due*
- *Withdrawal/replacement deadline*

**November 2019**

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- *Oral arguments*

Print free Calendar Template from www.30calendar.com
Rules

• You are responsible for knowing the rules
• Submit questions about the rules to ameshls@gmail.com by Thursday, September 19
• All questions & answers will be shared with all participants
I.A. Team Members

- **Qualifying Round**: 4 members, must be 2Ls
  - Withdraw / Replacement of Teammate Date: Friday, October 18
  - Any withdrawal / replacement after this date is discretionary and may not be permitted

- **Semi-final Round**: 6 members (original 4, and 2 new members who must have participated in the qualifying round)

- **Both Rounds**: Designate one member as Captain, all communications with Ames administrators will be done by / with the Captain
I.B. Team Responsibilities

• Any participant or team who withdraws after the deadline may be referred to the Administrative Board.
• Any participant or team who does not appear at a scheduled oral argument may be referred to the Administrative Board.
• Every participant must make a good-faith effort in both briefs and oral argument to receive a Written Work Requirement credit.
I.C. Team Organization

• **Phase 1 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will write one appellant brief
  • Half of the teams (not to exceed 16) Phase 2 of Qualifying Round

• **Phase 2 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will write two appellee briefs in response to two appellant briefs

• **Phase 2 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will participate in four oral arguments
  • Each team member must participate in only two arguments

• **If you do not advance to the second phase of the Qualifying Round, you will NOT participate in oral argument.**
I.D. Research and Outside Assistance

• You **cannot** consult any person not on your team
• You **can** consult briefs or oral arguments from real practice or moot court, **only** if those materials are generally available on the Internet
• Research using **only** the materials generally available in the Harvard University library system (e.g. LEXIS, Westlaw)
I.E. Changes to and Clarifications of the Record or Rules

• **Qualifying Round Record questions:**
  • Captains must submit questions about the record by Thursday, September 19
  • The Record Writer answers the record questions
  • If necessary, the Record Writer will amend the record

• **Qualifying Round Rules questions:**
  • Captains must submit questions about the rules by Thursday, September 19
  • Ames Chairs will answer rules questions

• **All questions must be sent by Team Captains**
  • All answers will be sent to Team Captains
II. Briefs: Helpful Tips

• Pay special attention to the rules when writing your brief
• Note what does and what does not count toward your word limit
• Leave sufficient time for printing and copying. Teams must submit 12 paper copies of appellant briefs, in addition to an electronic copy
• Qualifying Round briefs can be used to help satisfy the Written Work Requirement. But must write both appellant and appellee briefs, even if you do not advance to the Qualifying Round second phase
III. Oral Argument

• Review these rules if you make it to the Phase 2 of Qualifying Round
• If you discuss materials in oral argument not cited in the briefs, you must distribute copies to the judges and opposing counsel at oral argument
• Judges will be made up of HLS faculty, practitioners, and 3L BSAs.
• Guests are not permitted
IV. Advancing to the Semi-Final Round

• The four highest scoring teams across both Phases of the Qualifying Round will advance to the semi-final round

• The score is calculated by adding:
  • Appellant Brief Score + Appellee Brief Score + Team Average Oral Advocacy Appellant Score/2 + Team Average Oral Advocacy Appellee Score/2

• The current draft semi-final schedule begins over J-term, with oral arguments before spring break
Feedback

• If you request feedback on your brief, you will receive your brief scores and short written feedback from your BSA judges.

• For oral argument, you will receive your individual, averaged oral argument score (your highest and lowest score will be dropped). You will also receive in-person feedback after your argument.
Changes to the Competition

• Due date for Appellee briefs is faster
• Due date for paper copies of Appellee briefs pushed back a day from due date for electronic copies
• Number of teams moving on to Q2 is now 16
• Appellant and Appellee briefs will be anonymous
• Weight of oral arguments cut in half
• We will post the Qualifying Round briefs of last year’s semifinalists