



BOĞAZIÇIMUN 2026

US CIVIL COURT Rules of Procedure

Agenda Item:

1) Ethan Rodriguez and Others v JUUL Labs, Inc.

Under Secretary-General: Atanur Duman

Academic Assistants: Metehan Yıldırım, Özge Zorlu



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A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Scope

1. Rules of Procedure is adopted prior to the Oral Proceedings before the conference and shall not be appealed.
2. The provisions of Rules of Procedure shall be applicable throughout all sessions of BoğaziçiMUN 2026 Conference (hereinafter will be referred as BoğaziçiMUN 2026) unless otherwise is stated by the Secretariat.
3. The Rules of Procedure shall be explained to all court members, at the beginning of the first session by the members of the Secretariat. The Court members shall not diverge from these rules specified by the Secretariat.
4. The Secretariat and the President of the Court are exclusively authorized to interpret the stipulated rules in accordance with the purpose and the spirit of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 2: Official Language

1. English shall be the official and the working language of BoğaziçiMUN 2026.
2. No other language shall be accepted by the Secretariat.

Article 3: Dress Code

The dress code is formal business wear and it's mandatory during the Conference.

Article 4: Participation

1. All the jurors have equal vote within the Court
2. Motions and Decisions shall always accepted by majority
3. During deliberations, jurors will make decisions based on the majority of the court. In the event of a tie, the Judge will cast the deciding vote.

Article 5: Credentials

1. The credentials of all participants have been accepted upon registration.
2. No actions regarding the modification of rights, privileges, or credentials of any Member may be initiated without the written consent of the Secretary-General.



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3. Any representative whose admission is objected to by a Member will be provisionally seated with the same rights as other representatives, pending a decision from the Secretary-General.
4. Badges given upon registration are used to show the verification of credentials. Every participant is required to have their badges with them at all times. BoğaziçiMUN holds the right to restrict the participation of anyone without a badge.

Article 6: Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall consist of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General, Under Secretaries-General and Academic Assistants. The Secretariat shall be responsible for following the Rules of Procedure and the members shall refrain from such behaviors and actions that might not fall under the provisions of this document.
2. The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by her/him at any time may deliver either written or oral statements to the Courts.
3. The Secretary-General may address to the court in anytime
4. In the absence of the Secretary-General, the Under Secretary-General of the Court will act as their representative and carry out the duties of the Secretary-General.
5. The decisions of the Secretariat shall not be appealed.

Article 7: The Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General will have full authority during the BoğaziçiMUN 2026. Their decisions and directives will be final and must be adhered to.
2. The Secretary-General will avoid any actions that could compromise their role as an international official accountable solely to BoğaziçiMUN 2026.
3. Each participant agrees to fully respect the international nature and responsibilities of the Secretary-General and their staff and will refrain from attempting to influence them in carrying out their duties.

Article 8: Courtesy and Disciplinary Rules

1. All participants are responsible for demonstrating diplomatic courtesy during the sessions and showing the highest respect to the members of the Court.



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2. An official warning can only be issued by the Secretary-General if a participant consistently violates the Rules of Procedure.

Article 9: Note Passing

1. Communication between the jurors and the Judge will be conducted through note passing with the assistance of Administrative Staff. Notes will be sent using the Message Papers prepared by BoğaziçiMUN 2026.
2. Note passing between the Parties and the jurors -excluding the Judge- or between the Claimant and the Respondent side are strictly forbidden.

Article 10: Electronic Devices

1. The Judge may permit Counsels and jurors to use electronic devices; however, they also have the authority to prohibit their use at any time if deemed necessary.
2. Electronic devices shall only be used in the benefit of the Court Proceedings.
3. Using electronic devices for purposes that do not fall under the mission of the Court and provisions of this document is strictly prohibited.

Article 11: Quorum

1. A quorum is established when a simple majority of the registered jurors (including the Judge), the Rapporteur, and one Counsel from each side are present at the start of each session.
2. A formal Roll Call will be conducted at the beginning of each session to establish the quorum.
3. Members who arrive late to the session must submit a note to the Judge to participate in the proceedings and be included in the roll call.
4. The required majorities shall be calculated according to members recorded as present in the Roll Call.
5. If one of the Parties is more than thirty minutes late, regarding the designated time announced on the BoğaziçiMUN 2026 Schedule, the Judge has the authority to start the session.



B. COMPOSITION OF THE COURT

Article 12: Members of the Court

The court consists of the Judge, Vice Judge, Rapporteur, the jurors, and the Counsels of two opposing parties.

Article 13: Judge

1. The Judge shall moderate the Oral Proceedings and represent the Secretariat. He/she shall be responsible for applying the Rules of Procedure during the sessions.
2. The Judge should remain impartial during the Conference
3. The Judge is responsible for reporting any inconveniences or rule violations by the Court members to the Secretariat.
4. Vote of the Judge shall be equal with the other jurors.
5. the Judge has the authority to skip the voting procedure for motions raised by the Counsels and has full discretion in deciding on these motions.
6. The Judge will also act in accordance with the specified provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 14: Vice Judge

1. The Vice Judge shall act as the deputy of the responsible Judge.
2. In the absence of the Judge, the Vice Judge holds the ultimate authority to moderate the sessions.
3. In the absence of the Registrar/ Clerk, the Vice Judge shall take notes of the Oral proceedings.
4. The Vice Judge shall also act in accordance with the stipulated provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 15: Rapporteur/Clerk

1. The Rapporteur shall be responsible for taking notes of court proceedings, arguments of the parties, substantive deliberations of the jurors, testimonies of witnesses, and procedural decisions taken by the Judge. When needed, these notes will be used in deliberations and Verdict writing.



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2. The Rapporteur is not a juror and does not have the right to participate in deliberations or oral proceedings. During the voting process, the Rapporteur is not allowed to express their opinions.
3. The Rapporteur must have a thorough understanding of the case and will only be consulted on the motions put forth by the jurors.
4. The Rapporteur will serve as the primary contact for the BoğaziçiMUN 2026 Press Team. Relevant information and updates will be provided from the Rapporteur's records. However, the Rapporteur is not permitted to share any substantive outcomes or conclusions reached by the jurors.

Article 16: jurors/Arbitrators

1. The jurors are expected to identify the relevant facts of the case and apply the appropriate law accordingly. Their statements should be based on a legal basis.
2. The argumentations made within the Deliberations by the jurors are expected to be included in the Verdict.
3. The jurors shall write the Verdict. The Judge shall announce the Verdict in the last session of BoğaziçiMUN 2026. The Verdict will be sent to all members of the court upon request.
4. The jurors, with respect to the solemn undertaking, are expected to be impartial during the proceedings. If any of the jurors fail to provide the impartiality, the Judge shall give an official warning in accordance with the Secretariat.
5. Jurors should avoid compromising the confidentiality of the proceedings. Therefore, they are strongly expected not to share any information related to the deliberations or other court proceedings. If jurors exhibit partiality or disclose any confidential information, they may receive a warning from the Secretariat.
6. All jurors have an equal vote in substantive and procedural matters.
7. During the Oral Proceedings, the jurors may be allowed to ask questions to the Counsels.

Article 17: Counsels

1. The Counsels are representatives of the Claimant and the Respondent.
2. The Counsels are required to act in the best interests of their party in all matters related to the proceedings.



3. The Counsels are not eligible for voting in substantive or procedural matters.
4. The Counsels must avoid acting against the directives of the Judge, the Secretariat, and the Rules of Procedure. The Judge or the Secretariat may issue a warning to Counsels if they display such actions or behaviour.
5. The Secretariat and the Judge shall ensure that the jurors are fully aware of the pre-hearing submissions of the Parties.
6. The Counsels are required to make all of their statements standing before the Court.

C. ORAL HEARINGS BEFORE THE COURT

Article 18: Oaths

1. Before exercising their functions under the Rules of Procedure, the Oaths given in the following paragraphs shall be made by the Board, and the jurors. The Registrar shall take the Oaths prior to the Oral Proceedings. The Oath for the Judge/Vice Judge shall be taken as follows:

“I, as the Judge of the Court, solemnly undertake that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers honorably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously, and that I will respect the confidentiality of the submissions and the secrecy of Deliberations”

2. The Oath for jurors shall be taken as follows:

“I, as the juror/ Arbitrator of the Court, solemnly undertake that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers honorably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously, and that I will respect the confidentiality of the submissions and the secrecy of Deliberations.”

3. The Oath for Counsels shall be taken as follows:

“I solemnly declare upon my conscience and honor that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”



Article 19: Opening Statements

1. The Hearing shall commence with the Opening Statements of the Claimant and then followed by the Respondent.
2. Opening Statements should emphasize and clarify the written arguments in the briefs on the merits. Oral Statements read from a prepared text are not favored.
3. During the Opening Statements, questions from the jurors cannot interrupt the Counsel. The Questioning shall take place at the end of each Opening Statements of the Parties.
4. The Judge shall announce the time allocated for Opening Statements which shall be equal to both Parties.
5. The Counsels may raise a motion – immediately after the announcement of the duration- to alter the time allocated for the Opening Statements.
6. Opening Statements cannot be split between two speakers for each party. Only one Counsel from each party is allowed to deliver the speech.
7. During the Opening Statements, Counsels shall not allow the use of the projector.

Article 20: Evidence Presentation

1. The Claimant shall be the first to present Evidence Material, followed by the Respondent.
2. Parties must present any relevant evidence, including legal sources, reports, resolutions from international organizations, news articles, maps, charts, videos, photographs, written statements from experts, or any other materials that support their case or are considered pertinent to it.
3. Each piece of evidence must be submitted to the Court prior to its presentation. Evidence not submitted during the written proceedings will not be considered during the oral proceedings.
4. The Court has the authority to freely evaluate all submitted evidence at its discretion to determine its relevance and admissibility.
5. The time allocated for Evidence Presentation shall be announced by the Judge – equal to both Parties- and the motion to alter the time will be accepted after the announcement.



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6. During the presentation of evidence, the Counsels are expected to introduce the evidence and then explain its context and relevance. They will be permitted to use the projector for this purpose.
7. After the Claimant has presented their evidence, the Respondent will proceed with their own evidence presentation, following the same rules applied to the Claimant.
8. The opposing party may raise objections during the other party's evidence presentation. These objections may interrupt the speaker.
9. The following objections will be permitted during the evidence presentation: • Immaterial • Irrelevant • Prejudicial
10. If any issues were unknown at the time the evidence was submitted, the opposing party may submit them in writing using a Message Paper without interrupting the speaker.
11. Any evidence deemed immaterial by the Court will not be considered, and the jurors may not reference it in their final decision.
12. The presentation phase may be split between the Counsels; however, no Counsel may be granted the floor twice during the evidence presentation phase.
13. In the USCC, the parties are allowed to present relevant case law to support their arguments.

Article 21: Witness Testimonies

1. During the hearing, each party may present up to two witnesses.
2. The questioning of witnesses will begin with the Claimant, followed by the Respondent, in the stated order.
3. Parties may not introduce their clients as additional witnesses. Clients will count as one of the two allowed witnesses.
4. Witness lists, including names, professions, and their relevance to the case, must be submitted during the Written Proceedings. Witnesses cannot be introduced during the Oral Proceedings.
5. The time allocated for witness testimony, which applies equally to all witnesses, will be set by the Judge. Motions for extensions will be considered after this announcement.



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6. Before questioning, Counsel must introduce each witness to the court, providing their name, profession, age, and relevance to the case.
7. Witness testimony will follow the order outlined below:
 - Witness #1 by the Claimant
 - Witness #1 by the Respondent
 - Witness #2 by the Claimant
 - Witness #2 by the Respondent
8. Witness testimony begins with the party that called the witness conducting a direct examination by asking questions. Once this party has no further questions, they shall say "*your witness*," allowing the opposing party to begin cross-examination. Cross-examination questions must be limited to the scope of the direct examination. When the opposing party has finished, they will state "*no further questions*."
9. Counsels may only ask questions; providing explanations or leading arguments is strictly prohibited.
10. Each witness testimony must be handled by one counsel for both direct and cross-examination. Splitting this phase is not allowed.
11. After each witness has testified, the jurors may ask additional questions. The Judge may limit the time for questioning if needed. While there is no limit on the number of questions, jurors may ask only one at a time, with the Judge overseeing the process.
12. If a juror wishes to ask a follow-up question, they must raise a motion. The Judge may approve or deny the request. The follow-up must relate to the prior question asked.
13. The following objections are permitted during witness testimony:
 - Ambiguous
 - Argumentative
 - Badgering
 - Composed
 - Incompetent



- Leading Question
- Nothing Pending
- Prejudicial Speculation

Article 22: Rebuttal and Surrebuttal

1. The Rebuttal/Surrebuttal phase is for addressing the opposing party's arguments and covering any gaps in the presenting party's case. The Rebuttal/Surrebuttal is based on the evidence presented, questions from the jurors, counter-claims, witness testimonies, and memorials.
2. This phase begins with the Claimant's Rebuttal, followed by the Respondent's Surrebuttal.
3. The time allotted for Rebuttal and Surrebuttal, equal for both sides, will be set by the Judge, and requests for adjustments to this time will be considered.
4. No new arguments may be introduced during the Rebuttal/Surrebuttal.
5. The phase may be divided between two Counsels; however, no Counsel may speak twice during the evidence presentation.
6. jurors may interrupt with questions during the Rebuttal and Surrebuttal.
7. The scope of the Surrebuttal is limited to the content of the Rebuttal.

Article 23: Questioning of Parties by jurors

1. jurors shall ask one question at a time, but there is no limit on the number of questions a juror may ask.
2. A juror may request a follow-up question if the Judge allows it. The Judge has full discretion on this matter.
3. Only one Counsel may answer a question at a time. During questioning, the responding Counsel may request to consult with their Co-Counsel for up to thirty seconds, subject to the Judge's discretion.
4. jurors cannot ask leading questions; their role is to clarify the facts presented by both parties.



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5. jurors must take into consideration all materials and statements submitted during the Court Proceedings.

Article 24: Statements of Experts

1. 1. jurors have the authority to summon Experts to appear before the Court. The Registrar/Clerk will administer the Expert's Oath, which must be recited as follows:

“I solemnly declare, upon my honour and conscience, that I shall speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

2. 2. Experts must possess the legal qualifications required to provide testimony under oath.
3. Experts will present their opinions on the specific matters they were called to address.
4. The time for this phase is not restricted, and the Bench will decide on the duration and when to conclude it.

Article 25: Closing Statements

1. During the Closing Statements, each party will briefly summarise the points they have proven and discussed in previous phases.
2. The Claimant will present their Closing Statement first, followed by the Respondent.
3. The Closing Statement for each party cannot be split between Counsels; only one Counsel may present it.
4. jurors are not permitted to interrupt with questions during the Closing Statements.
5. The time allocated for the Closing Statements will be determined and announced by the Judge.



D. PROVISIONS GOVERNING DELIBERATIONS

Article 26:

1. Deliberation will begin after all Oral Hearings, including Opening and Closing Statements, Evidence Presentation, and Witness Testimonies.
2. The Deliberation phase will be conducted in secrecy. Press team members may only enter the Court during this phase if permitted by the Judge.
3. Jurors are not required to stand when making statements.
4. Deliberations will start with the identification of the topic to be discussed, initiated by a motion from the jurors. The Judge may consider suggestions from the jurors when selecting topics.
5. Deliberations will consist of moderated or unmoderated discussions. The Judge will speak last in any discussions, and the format of the deliberation may be changed at the Judge's discretion.
6. In moderated discussions, jurors must receive permission from the Judge before speaking.
7. In unmoderated discussions, jurors may speak without permission, but they cannot interrupt each other. If a juror's speech becomes too lengthy and disrupts the discussion, the Judge may ask them to conclude.
8. The Judge will determine the time allotted for each Deliberation and whether a time limit will be imposed for speakers, depending on the progress of the discussions.
9. If a deliberation topic is not fully discussed, the Judge may end the Deliberation, resume Oral Hearings, and address the remaining topics in the next Deliberation.

Article 27: Summons for the Advocates

1. The Court may summon Counsels for further questioning upon a motion from a juror or at the discretion of the Judge. A simple majority of the jurors must approve the motion to summon.
2. During the Summons, Counsels will join the Deliberation under the following rules:



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- a. Their participation is strictly limited to:
 - i. Answering questions from jurors, with explicit permission from the Judge.
 - ii. Asking questions to fellow Counsels, with explicit permission from the Judge.
3. There will be no set time limit for this phase, but the Bench may end it at their discretion based on the flow of discussions.

Article 28: Tour de Table

1. A Tour de Table may be initiated at the discretion of the Judge or by motion.
2. During the Tour de Table, jurors will express their views on a matter presented by the Judge.
3. Jurors will speak in alphabetical order by last name, with the Judge speaking last.
4. The Judge will set an equal time limit for each juror's speech.

Article 29: Points of Order

1. If a Court member notices an improper application of the Rules of Procedure, they may raise a point of order directly to the Bench.
2. The Judge will consider the point and review the application of the rule in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
3. The Judge will make the final decision on the matter independently.
4. A point of order should not interrupt the speaker unless immediate correction is needed to prevent irreparable consequences.

Article 30: Points of Parliamentary Inquiry



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1. A point of parliamentary inquiry may be raised directly to the Judge if there is a question about the Rules of Procedure. The Judge will provide clarification.
2. This point may not interrupt the speaker.

Article 31: Points of Personal Privilege

1. A point of personal privilege can be raised to address any personal inconvenience or discomfort that affects participation in the proceedings (e.g., room temperature or inaudibility).
2. This point may not interrupt the speaker unless it concerns inaudibility.
3. If a Court member needs to leave the courtroom, they must seek permission from the Judge through a Message Paper (e.g., to use the restroom).

Article 32: Moderated Caucus

1. A juror may propose a Moderated Caucus by raising a motion during Deliberations to facilitate debate on a specific issue, when the Judge opens the floor for motions.
2. The juror proposing the motion must state the purpose of the caucus and propose a total time, not exceeding 20 minutes. The Judge may grant or overrule the motion, and the decision cannot be appealed.
3. Adoption of the motion requires approval by a simple majority of the jurors.
4. Once the motion passes, jurors must raise their placards to be recognized by the Judge. The recognized juror will then speak, and others will follow in turn.

Article 33: Unmoderated Caucus

1. A juror may propose an unmoderated caucus by raising a motion during Deliberations when the floor is open for motions.



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2. The juror proposing the motion must specify the topic and duration of the caucus.
3. The Judge has final authority on whether to grant the motion.
4. Adoption of the motion requires approval by a simple majority of the jurors.
5. Once the motion passes, jurors may discuss freely without being recognized by the Judge, as long as they do not interrupt one another.

Article 34: Suspension and Adjournment

1. Before designated coffee breaks, the meeting will be formally suspended by the Judge's decision.
2. After the announcement of the Verdict in the final session, the Judge will declare the adjournment of the court.

Article 35: Verdict/juorment

1. Substantive issues in the case will be resolved by a simple majority of the jurors. Abstention is not allowed during substantive voting.
2. The jurors will draft the Verdict, with the final decision and last word written by the Judge.
3. The Judge will announce the Verdict in the presence of the Press and Counsels.

E. OBJECTIONS

Article 36: General Rules for Objections



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1. Parties can raise objections to question the legal propriety of the opposing party's actions.
2. To raise an objection, the participant must stand, state the type of objection, and provide its legal basis.
3. Objections are allowed to interrupt the speaker.
4. The Judge has the final say in granting or overruling an objection, and this decision cannot be appealed.
5. If the objection is upheld, the contested statement will be removed from the Court record, and no further reference to it will be allowed by either party.

Article 37: Immaterial Objection

1. A party may raise an Immaterial Objection if they believe a submission from the opposing party lacks legal foundation or authenticity.
2. The Judge's decision on this objection may be appealed by a juror or the opposing party.
3. This objection can be raised during Evidence Presentation, Rebuttal, and Surrebuttal.

Article 38: Ambiguous Objection

1. During direct or cross-examination, questions must be clear and precise. If a question is vague or confusing, and prevents the witness from answering properly, this objection may be raised.

Article 39: Argumentative Objection



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1. If a party makes a statement instead of asking a question during direct or cross-examination, an argumentative objection can be raised.

Article 40: Badgering Objection

1. Parties must avoid harassing or distressing the witness during examination. Badgering objections may be raised when this occurs.

Article 41: Compound Question Objection

1. Only one question should be asked at a time. If a party combines multiple questions into one, a compound question objection may be raised.

Article 42: Incompetence Objection

1. If a party is asked to provide a statement or opinion beyond their technical expertise or outside the scope of direct examination, an incompetence objection can be raised.

Article 43: Irrelevance Objection

1. All statements made by the parties must be relevant to the case.
2. This objection can be raised during Evidence Presentation, Rebuttal, and Surrebuttal.



Article 44: Leading Question Objection

1. A leading question objection **shall not** apply to all **yes** or **no** questions. It can only be raised if the question leads the witness to answer in line with the Counsel's suggestion.
2. This objection is only valid during cross-examinations.
3. The Judge must assess whether the question significantly directs the witness toward a particular response.

Article 45: Objection Nothing Pending

1. If a witness provides a response that doesn't address the question during direct or cross-examination, the opposing party may raise an objection.

Article 46: Objection Prejudicial

1. Prejudice refers to a preconceived opinion or bias formed without a factual foundation.
2. All legal and factual statements must uphold the personal integrity of the Court members.
3. This objection can be raised at any stage of the proceedings.

Article 47: Objection Speculation

1. Speculation arises when a witness is asked to predict potential outcomes or theorize without having direct knowledge of the situation.



Article 48: Objection Testifying

1. An objection to testifying occurs when a party challenges to exercise speech as they witnessed the specific situation.

Article 48: Objections That Not Specified At The List

1. If a party rise and objection that did not specified at the list above, Judge or vice Judge stops the timer in order to make an research.