

# RULES & GUIDELINES

**SOLVERS' CUP  
2019**



The following rules shall govern all participants of the Solvers' Cup 2019. It is expected that members of each team familiarize themselves with these rules and guidelines and that they will abide by them in the spirit of the competition.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Solvers' Cup is an exclusive international case competition for students of the most prestigious universities. The participants are not only there to prove that they are among the best case solvers, but also to get to know other talents and to improve each other by sharing their unique views.

The teams of four students must solve two complex business strategy cases and present their solutions in front of a professional jury. The winning team in each case will get the Solvers' Cup.

Solvers' Cup is organized by Case Solvers, an organization with six years of experience in case solving trainings and competitions.

## 2. COMPETITION FORMAT

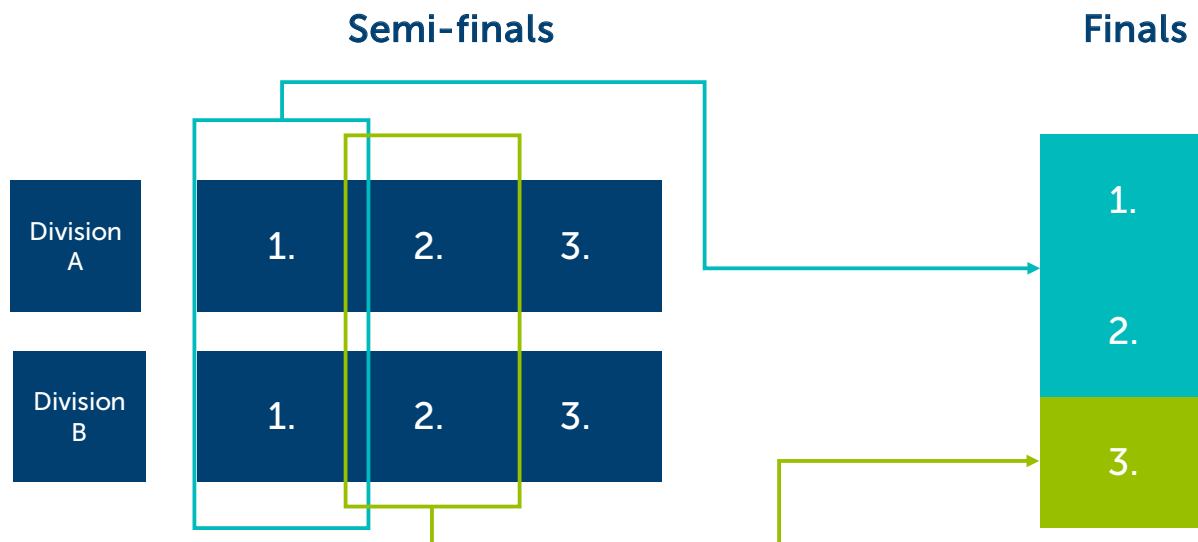
Solvers' Cup will be held between the 8th and 11th of August 2019 in Budapest. The concept of the competition is built around the idea of connecting the original, **live format of case competitions** with an **online competition**. This way, not only the teams who are invited to Budapest, but everyone can join the competition and compete for the Solvers' Cup.

### 2.1. SOLVERS' CUP INVITATIONAL COMPETITION

Teams will be separated into three divisions. Each team will be assigned to a division with the help of a live lottery system to ensure transparency and to avoid any misunderstandings. The participation fee is 1250 €/team. In case an advisor accompanies the team, the participation fee for the advisor is 350 €.

The Competition will comprise two cases: a four-hour (4) case and a ten-hour (10) case. In terms of each case, every team presents their solution to a divisional jury.

Those teams who score the best within the divisions can compete for the first and second place in the Finals of the given case. Those who score second within divisions can compete for the third place in the Finals of the given case. The two cases will be rewarded separately at the closing ceremony of the competition.



The 2 case sponsors will be announced on 1st August 2019 but we will not be disclosing which company is the long case and short case.

- \ Case 1: Each team will solve one, four-hour (4) case and prepare a PowerPoint Presentation. Round one, both case solving and presentation, will take place on 9th August 2019 (Friday).
- \ Case 2: Each team will solve one, ten-hour (10) case and prepare a PowerPoint Presentation. Round two will take place on 10th - 11th August: each team will have 10 hours to solve the case, prepare a PowerPoint Presentation and have to present their solution on 11th August (Sunday).

### 2.1.1. ELIGIBILITY

Each team must meet the following criteria to be allowed to participate in the competition:

- \ each team must consist of four people,
- \ each team member must have undergraduate student status at their home university (BA/BSc),
- \ the members must be under the age of 30 on the first day of the competition.

The eligibility criteria is to ensure that the competition is fair, although the Competition Committee reserves the right to make exceptions if justifiable.

### 2.1.2. TEAM BUDDY

Each team will be accompanied by a team buddy before and during the competition, whose responsibility will be to take care of the team members, channel all the information to and from them and help them navigate around the city.

The team buddies will be introduced to the teams prior to the competition and they will provide support during the whole event. They are young and motivated students with strong academic background but they are not part of the Case Solvers team.

### 2.1.3. CASE PREPARATION

Work on the case study must be completed by team members only. Teams are not allowed to communicate with anybody online or offline except the Organizers and their buddy during case solving. Teams will be situated at their hotel room during case solving. During the case solving period, teams are only allowed to leave the area of case solving accompanied by at least one buddy or organizer. All presentations will be collected when the dedicated preparation time elapses and after that the teams will not be allowed to change their presentation.

The following materials will be provided for each team:

- \ four copies of the case study in English,
- \ scrap paper, pens, highlighters,
- \ snacks and drinks.

All teams will be provided unlimited internet access. Students will be allowed to access the documents on their laptops and any website, including password-protected databases from their university. Teams will have to use their own laptops (1 laptop per team member).

Teams are expected to use PowerPoint (Microsoft Office 2013 or a later version, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) for preparing slides and presentations. The presentations should be submitted with a **Standard (4:3) slide format in PowerPoint and PDF format**. There is no slide limit to the teams' presentations. (Note that animation, video or audio features are permitted but not supported in PDF files, thus

teams should prepare their slides accordingly.) Additional slides may be prepared at the team's discretion in anticipation of questions from the judges.

Advisors will receive the case studies at the Jury & Advisors briefing before the divisional presentations. **Advisors cannot communicate with the teams until they have presented their solution.** In case the team advances to the next round, this rule applies until the end of their presentation in the Finals.

#### 2.1.4. PRESENTATION

Each team will have **10 minutes to present** their solution to the Judges for Case 1 and Case 2 as well. Upon entry, the teams will be given a maximum of one-minute preparation time before the presentation room coordinator reads out the rules and gives permission to start.

The presentations must be prepared and presented in English. Each member of the team should speak during the presentation. A wireless presenter (remote clicker) will be provided to every team. During the divisional presentations only the jury panel, the presenting team, the team's buddy, the advisors and Organizers are permitted to be present in the presentation rooms. Advisors are allowed to attend any presentations, but can only enter and leave the rooms between presentations. In the divisional presentations, teams should present their solution at the table, like they would to a board of executives. The Finals are open for everybody, however the competing teams of the Finals will not be allowed to watch each other's presentations. In the Finals, teams are presenting their solution standing in front of the audience.

The presentation room coordinator will show a sign when there are 5 minutes, 2 minutes and 1 minute remaining from the presentation time. When the 10 minutes have elapsed, the presentation room coordinator will end the presentation regardless of whether the team has finished the presentation or not. This is necessary to ensure that each team uses equal amount of time to provide fair competition conditions.

The presentation format of the semi-finals and the final will be the same except for the number of Judges in the panel. The judging panel will consist of former case competitors, representatives of the competition's sponsors, professors or experts of the field of the case.

### 2.1.5. Q&A SECTION

Once the formal presentation is completed, a maximum of **10 minutes** will be allocated for the Judges to ask questions. Teams may show **backup slides** during the Q&A session should they be relevant to the question asked. These slides must be part of the documents submitted at the end of the case solving session. The presentation room coordinator will announce when there is time for one final question. Once the 10 minutes have elapsed, they will announce that the question period is over, the jury members are not allowed to ask further questions and will provide a 15 second grace period for the team to complete their current answer.

### 2.1.6. EVALUATION

The jury will use an evaluation form to evaluate the recommendation, presentation and Q&A session. One winner from each division will advance to the final rounds. Teams proceeding to the Finals will present their solution again for the Final's jury panel. They will not be able to make any changes to their PowerPoint presentations. However, teams will be able to change what they say for the final round.

The jury will evaluate the teams based on the following aspects (these will be judged in equal weight):

1. Solution to the given problem - Analytical insights, original approach, validity and power of suggested solution
2. Level and quality of implementation details - The suggested solution can be implemented in terms of timing, financial and other resources and capabilities
3. Effectiveness of oral presentation and slides - Clarity of key strategic proposition as well as how it is to be implemented
4. Q&A performance - Professional interaction with judges, valid responses provided to questions

### 2.1.7. FEEDBACK SESSION

Following both divisional and final round of the case presentations, the jury will call back the presenting teams one by one to give them brief feedback without revealing the identity of the winning team. Students will be given the opportunity to ask questions and take notes. However, the feedback sessions will be limited to **5 minutes** per team. Only the advisor, the team and organizers can be present.

## 2.2. SOLVERS' CUP ONLINE COMPETITION

Teams from all around the world can apply for the online part of the competition. Each team member must meet the following criteria to be allowed to participate:

- \ each team must consist of three-four people,
- \ the members must have student status at a university,
- \ each team member must be under the age of 30 on the first day of the competition.

Teams should register on Case Solvers' webpage at the following link: <https://case-solvers.com/events/solvers-cup-2019/>

The registered teams will receive a case via e-mail on the 10th August 9.00 am. During the preparation period, the participants can use the internet and all publicly available information. The case solutions (PowerPoint Presentation and PDF) should be delivered to the organizers via e-mail on the 10th August 19.00 (7.00 pm, CET)

For the rules regarding the format of the PowerPoint Presentation and other materials please see: 2.1.3. and 2.1.4.

The winner of the online competition will be selected by a special committee made up of selected trainers of Case Solvers. The winner will be notified no later than 09.00 (09.00 am, CET), 11th August via e-mail. If the winning team of the online competition is a Hungarian team, we will invite them to the closing ceremony of the competition.

Please note that the two competitions will use the same case study and the participants will have the same timeframe to solve the case but they are separate competitions with different rules and prizes.

## 3. NON-DISCLOSED OCCASIONS

The Competition is intended to provide a learning experience for the students that will encourage healthy competition, professionalism and interaction by our future business leaders, both amongst themselves and with our business community. The Rules and Guidelines are not fully comprehensive and situations may arise that have not been covered. It is the expectation of the Organizers (Case Solvers Organizing Committee) that any issues or disputes will be resolved in the spirit of the competition.

Any concerns or disputes regarding the implementation of these rules must be brought to the immediate attention of the Organizers. In exceptional circumstances the Competition Committee will be available to settle disputes. The Competition Committee will consist of the Competition's Director and a selection of the participating teams' faculty advisors, jury members. However, please note that the decision of the Competition's Director is final, and is not subject to review.

Please note that the Organizers reserve the right to make additional changes in the Rules&Guidelines. If a change occurs, participating teams will be informed of the change.