

SOLVERS' CUP 2017

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following rules shall govern all participants of the Solvers' Cup 2017. 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 a complex business strategy case and present their solutions in front of a professional jury. The winning team will get the Solvers' Cup for one year. The program also includes company visits, trainings and several opportunities to meet both young and seasoned professionals.

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

2. COMPETITION FORMAT

Solvers' Cup will be held between the 15th and 18th of September 2017 in Budapest (see detailed agenda in the appendix, **Appendix #1**). 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 first place.

2.1. SOLVERS' CUP INVITATIONAL COMPETITION

The final list of the participating universities:

- American University of Beirut (Beirut, Lebanon)
- Babeş-Bolyai University (Cluj, Romania)
- Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic)
- Corvinus University of Budapest (Budapest, Hungary)
- Imperial College London (London, England)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (London, England)
- University of Belgrade (Belgrade, Serbia)
- University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
- University of Cologne (Cologne, Germany)
- University of Innsbruck (Innsbruck, Austria)
- University of St. Gallen (St. Gallen, Switzerland)
- Team International

The 12 teams will be separated into three divisions. Each team will be assigned to a division on the spot with the help of a live lottery system to ensure transparency and to avoid any misunderstandings.

2.1.1. ELIGIBILITY

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

- each team must consist of four people,
- the members must have student status at their home university,
- and must be under the age of 30 on the first day of the competition.

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

The official case release will happen at 10 a.m. on the 16th of September. Each team will be assigned to a working/meeting room and the following materials will be provided for each team:

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

The teams will have 14 hours (7 hours on Saturday and 7 hours on Sunday) to solve the case and prepare a PowerPoint Presentation and a one-page-long Executive Summary. However, team members can take their laptops and case-related materials with them at the end of the first day and will be allowed to continue working on the case outside the dedicated working hours. 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). On Saturday, the organizers will provide interview rounds with the representatives of the case company and external consultants.

Teams are expected to use PowerPoint (Microsoft Office 2013 or later version, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) for preparing slides and presentations. Use of animations, video or audio features will not be permitted and neither will any add-ons to standard PowerPoint features. Manual animation of slides or building of slides (bringing in one bullet at a time or one element at a time) is allowed.

The use of graphics beyond what is available in the Microsoft Office package is not permitted. However, charts and tables are permitted if they are created using tools available within Microsoft Office.

There are no limits to the number of slides and exhibits used to support the presentation to the Judges. Additional exhibits may be prepared at the team's discretion in anticipation of questions from the judges.

2.1.4. PRESENTATION

The presentations must be prepared and presented in English. The participants may not watch the presentations of their opposing teams. Each team will have 15 minutes to present their solution to the Judges. 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 presentation room coordinator will show a sign when there are 5 minutes, 3 minutes and 1-minute remaining from the presentation time. When the 15 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 the agenda is strictly being followed and delays are avoided.

Each member of the team should speak during the presentation. A wireless presenter (remote clicker) will be provided to every team.

The presentation format of the semi-finals and the final will be the same except for the number of Judges in the panel. In the semi-finals, the judging panel will consist of 3 or 4 judges in each division whereas in the final, all the Judges will sit together in the panel.

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 new slides during the Q&A section should they be relevant to the question asked. 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 and will provide a 15 second grace period for the team to complete their current answer. For the evaluation criteria, please see: **Appendix #2**.

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 four people,
- the members must have student status at a university,
- and must be under the age of 30 on the first day of the competition.

The registered teams will receive the case study on the 16th of September at 10:00 (10.00 a.m., CET). During the preparation period, the participants can use the internet and all publicly available information. The case solutions (PowerPoint Presentation and a one-page-long Executive Summary) should be delivered to the organizers via e-mail on the 17th of September by 17:00 (5.00 p.m., 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 23.59 (11.59 pm, CET), 17th of September via e-mail. If the winning team of the online competition is a Hungarian team, we will invite them to present their solution to the jury and the audience live. If the winning team of the online competition is an international team, we will use online streaming to provide the opportunity to present their solution.

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.

For the evaluation criteria, please see: **Appendix #2.**

2.3. GENERAL

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 all encompassing 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.

NOTICE:

Any concerns or disputes regarding the implementation of these rules must be brought to the immediate attention of the organizers. In exceptional circumstances, a body made up of at least one of the organizers and the representative of one of the sponsor companies (also the member of the judging panel) will be available to settle disputes.

However, please note that the decision of the judging panel is final, and is not subject to review.

Appendix

Appendix #1 - Agenda*

15 Sept, Friday - DAY 1		16 Sept, Saturday - DAY 2	
- 12.00	Arriving at the accommodation	9.00 - 9.30	Arriving at the venue
13.00 - 13.30	Opening ceremony	10.00 - 17.00	Case Solving
13.30 - 17.00	Sightseeing tour, treasure hunt	17.30 - 19.30	Dinner
17.00 - 19.00	Dinner	19.30 -	Optional program
19.00 - 22.00	Networking event		
17 Sept, Sunday - DAY 3		18 Sept, Monday - DAY 4	
9.00 - 9.30	Arriving at the venue	8.30 - 9.00	Arriving at the venue
10.00 - 17.00	Case Solving	9.00 - 11.30	Semi-finals
17.30 - 19.30	Dinner	11.30 - 12.30	Lunch
19.30 -	Optional program	13.00 - 15.00	Finals
		15.00 - 15.30	Jury's decision
		15.30 - 16.00	Announcing the winner
		16.00 - 17.00	Closing ceremony

- Sponsored Events (Case Sponsor)

- Sponsored Events (Gold Sponsor)

Appendix #2 - Evaluation form**

EVALUATION FORM

NAME OF THE TEAM:

	Criteria	Comments	Points
CONTENT	Analysis tools Environmental, industry and corporate analysis; Practical use of various analysis tools		
	Recommended solution The solution is based on facts and professional analysis; Strategic fit		
	Details of the solution The solution contains an action plan and specific operational tasks were defined by the team		
	Questions and answers Structure and content relevance of the given answers		
IMPLEMENTATION	Data use Facts are supported with data and the impact of the strategy is specified with numbers		
	Structure Logical reasoning; structure of the presentation		
PRESENTATION	#1 Team member		
	#2 Team member		
	#3 Team member		
	#4 Team member		
General comments:			

* Please note that we reserve the right to make additional changes in the Agenda

** The form only serves as a sample and the final version of the evaluation form might differ from what is pictured above