



The Holmes Initiative Crime Scene Investigation Competition – Guidelines

(As part of MIFCON – Manipal International Forensic Science Conference)



About the Competition

The Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Competition is designed to test the participants' knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking in investigating a simulated crime scene. It integrates forensic science, law, criminology, and criminal justice principles to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to solving crimes.



Structure of the Competition

1. Orientation Session

- A briefing will be provided on the competition rules, case background, and expectations.

2. Crime Scene Visit (15 minutes)

- Teams will be allowed to observe the mock crime scene.
- Participants **must not alter** any element at the scene.

3. Tasks to be Performed:

- **Crime Scene Observation and Documentation** (sketches, photographs)
- **Evidence Collection**
- **Hypothesis Formation & Brief Forensic Report**
- **Presentation to Jury** (5–7 minutes, followed by Q&A)

4. Report Writing (30 minutes)

- Based on their observation, participants must prepare a detailed report including:
 - **Background of the crime**
 - **Sketch and photographs** of the scene

- **Evidence Log**
- **Classification of evidence** and its **legal relevance**
- **Hypothesis** of suspect(s)
- **Reasoning** for the hypothesis and possible **modus operandi**

4. Presentation Round

- Teams must present their investigation findings.
- The presentation should highlight:
 - Evidentiary value
 - Relevant legal provisions
 - Crime reconstruction



Rules & Regulations




- All participants must adhere to the dress code: **Formal attire**.
- Participants are **not allowed** to use personal cameras or mobile phones during the event.
- Official photography devices will be provided.
- Evidence identified may be marked by volunteers, and supporting forensic data will be provided upon request.
- **Any tampering** with the crime scene will lead to **disqualification**.
- **No changes** in team composition are allowed after registration, unless permitted by the organizers.



Judgement Criteria

- Observation and attention to detail
 - Analytical and logical reasoning
 - Sketching and documentation skills
 - Quality and accuracy of the report
 - Presentation clarity and legal understanding
 - Ability to deduce sequence of events, suspect, and motive
 - **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Scene documentation quality and thoroughness
 - Logic and scientific reasoning behind the hypothesis
 - Knowledge of evidence handling and forensic procedures
 - Teamwork and time management
 - Clarity and confidence in presentation
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Awards & Recognition

-  **Winner:** Cash Prize+ Trophy
-  **1st Runner-Up:** Cash Prize + Trophy
-  **2nd Runner-Up:** Cash Prize + Trophy
- All participants will receive: Certificate of Participation

2. Important Notes:

- Participants must report at least **30 minutes prior** to their assigned slot.
- Any form of malpractice will lead to immediate disqualification.
- The decisions of the judges and organizing committee will be final and binding.
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Important Dates

- **Last date for registration:** September 15th 2025.
- **Event dates:** October 5th 2025.