



Switzerland: A Favourite Home to Arbitral Institutions and Tribunals

Several well-known arbitration institutions are located in Switzerland and many additional arbitral tribunals have their venue here.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC): While the seat of the ICC is in Paris, Switzerland is one of the two most popular venues of arbitration proceedings administered by the **International Court of Arbitration of the ICC**, in perennial friendly competition with Paris. On average, one out of eight ICC arbitration cases is seated in Switzerland putting it on a par with the ICC's headquarters. ICC arbitration always played a major role in Switzerland.

Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution: The **Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution** (the **Swiss Chambers**) is an arbitration institution organised and run by the Chambers of Commerce of seven Swiss cantons, namely Basel, Bern, Geneva, Neuchatel, Ticino, Vaud and Zurich. The Swiss Chambers administer international arbitration proceedings under the **Swiss Rules of International Arbitration** (revised 2012), which are based on the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. In addition, the Swiss Chambers also administers mediation proceedings under the **Swiss Rules of Commercial Mediation** (revised 2013). Approximately 60-100 international arbitrations per year are administered under the Swiss Rules. Through their modern approach and an efficient administration, the Swiss Rules have become a popular option for both domestic and international arbitrations.

Court of Arbitration for Sport: The **Court of Arbitration for Sport** (CAS) in Lausanne is *the* arbitral institution in the field of sports law. The CAS registers approximately 400 sports-related disputes per year, including both contractual (e.g. sponsorship, distribution and player contracts) and disciplinary disputes (e.g. doping cases). CAS proceedings are administered pursuant to the **CAS Code** (revised 2013), which contains the relevant statutes and rules. Specific rules provide for either ordinary or appellate jurisdiction; in the case of appellate jurisdiction, appeals are heard to decisions taken by numerous sports governing bodies also based in Switzerland, such as the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): The **WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center** in Geneva offers arbitration and mediation services under the WIPO Mediation, Arbitration, Expedited Arbitration or Expert Determination Rules. The rules may be applied to resolve any form of commercial disputes, although they are especially designed for the resolution of disputes involving intellectual property.

World Trade Organisation (WTO): The **Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO**, located in Geneva, hears and decides trade disputes among WTO member states.