

The full Court consists of eleven judges, but where eleven are not available nine constitute a quorum.

The judges are to be nominated in the manner already indicated, and are to be elected by the Council and the Assembly voting separately. Candidates must receive a majority vote of both Council and Assembly to ensure election. This provision was made to ensure that the judges elected will be satisfactory to both the great and the small powers, as in the Council the great powers are in the majority, while in the Assembly the small powers predominate. Suitable provisions are made to avoid a deadlock and to ensure the due constitution of the Court.

The tenure of office is nine years and the members are eligible for re-election. The ordinary members of the Court must not exercise any political or administrative function, and no member of the Court can act as agent, counsel or advocate in any case of an international nature. The Court elects its own President and Vice-President for a period of three years. The seat of the Court is established at the Hague where the President and the Registrar must reside. A session of the Court is to be held every year, and unless otherwise provided by the rules the session will begin on the 15th day of June. The President may summon an extraordinary session of the Court whenever necessary.

For the speedy despatch of business the Court is authorized to form annually a Chamber composed of three judges, who at the request of the contesting parties may hear and determine cases by summary procedure. The Court is also required to appoint every three years a special Chamber of five judges to hear and determine labour cases, particularly cases referred to in the labour clauses of the Peace Treaties. This Chamber is to be assisted by four technical assessors sitting with them but without the right to vote, and chosen with a view to ensuring just representation of competing interests. Unless, however, the parties demand that the case should be heard by this Chamber, it must be heard by a full Court.

Similar provision is made for the hearing of cases relating to transit and communication, particularly those referred to in the clauses relating to ports, waterways and railways in the Treaties