

3RD VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2016

Rules

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. “Administrators” means the Advocates’ Legion or any other person(s) appointed to administer the competition by the Advocates’ Legion.
- 1.2. “*Advocates’ Legion*” means, Vivekananda Law School Moot Court Society (VLSMCS) of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS, Delhi)
- 1.3. “Competition” means, the 3rd Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies International Law Moot Court Competition, 2016 (hereinafter 3rd VIPS IMC 2016).
- 1.4. “Competition Problem” means the official problem of the competition includes all clarifications or corrections notified by Advocates’ Legion.
- 1.5. “Judge” means, any person appointed to evaluate a participant’s oral pleadings.
- 1.6. “Written submission” means, the written pleadings of each participating team, written and submitted in accordance with the rules of 3rd VIPS IMC 2016.
- 1.7. “Problem Clarifications” means, the clarifications of the competition problem as published by the Administrators on the official website.
- 1.8. “Competition Rules” means, all the rules contained herein and any other supplementary rules officially notified by the administrators.
- 1.9. “Participants” means, student representatives from eligible colleges recognized by the Administrators which compete in the competition, pursuant to Rule 3 and 4.

2. INTERPRETATION

The decision of the Administrators regarding the application and interpretation of Competition Rules shall be conclusive and final for the purposes of solving any discrepancies or disputed before, during or after the Competition.

3. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. The Competition is open to all bona fide regular students enrolled in any undergraduate law course or its equivalent in any University or Institute within or outside India recognized by the Bar Council or State Government or Central Government as the case may be.

- 3.2. Each team shall compulsorily comprise three members i.e. two speakers and one researcher. The composition of the team shall not be changed once a team has registered under any circumstances whatsoever
- 3.3. The members of the team must be designated as either ‘Speaker’ or ‘Researcher’ and such designation shall be conveyed to the Administrators at the time of registration. No researcher under any circumstances shall be allowed to present any arguments during the Oral Rounds.
- 3.4. Changes in the aforementioned designations shall not be made without a request by the responsible Faculty in Charge or Head of the Institution or Department of the Team seeking such change, as the case may be.
- 3.5. The discretion to allow or disallow such change shall solely rest with the administrators depending upon the reasonability of the cause shown, stage of the Competition and compliance with the aforementioned rules.
- 3.6. No additional member or team coach besides the three members as referred to in Rule 3.2 shall be recognized as a participant and be allowed to attend the Oral Rounds.

4. REGISTRATION

- 4.1. Interested teams are required register provisionally by sending the following information latest by 30rd June, 2016 through e-mail with the subject “**Provisional Registration- 3rd VIPS IMC 2016**” at internationalmoot@vips.edu:
 - i. Name of the Institution or University
 - ii. Correspondence of Institution or University
 - iii. Details of Participants:
 - Speaker 1*: Full Name, Contact, E-mail
 - Speaker 2*: Full Name, Contact, E-mail
 - Researcher*: Full Name, Contact, E-mail
- 4.2. **Registration Fee**: Rs 5000/- for each participating team consisting of 3 members, to be submitted through Demand Draft or Cheque.
- 4.3. The teams upon acknowledgement of provisional registration are required to send a scanned copy of the Registration Form (PDF Format only) duly signed and sealed by the Head of the Institution or Department along with the scanned copy of Demand Draft or Cheque drawn in favour of “Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies Law School” latest by 13th August, 2016 on internationalmoot@vips.edu

- 4.4. The teams are required to send the hard copies of the registration form along payment by way of Demand Draft/Cheque via post or by hand to the Administrators latest by 20th August, 2016 on the following correspondence:

The Dean,
3rd VIPS IMC 2016
Advocates' Legion
Vivekananda Law School
Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies,
AU Block, Pitampura, New Delhi, India – 110034.
Phone: +91 (11) 27343401, 27343402, 27343403
Phone: Dr. Deepti Kohli (Faculty Convenor): +91- 9899710439

- 4.5. The receipt of hard copies of Registration Form along with the payment to the aforementioned address **only** shall confirm the participation of a team in the competition. An acknowledgment of the receipt of required documents as per Rule 4.3 shall be mailed to the respective Team Members and concerned Faculty along with Team Code Number.
- 4.6. Communication with any one of the Team Members shall be deemed to be communication to the entire team for the purposes of this Competition. The administrators shall not be responsible for any error or discrepancies in the details provided under Rule 4.1 and the Registration Form, in which case the details given in the latter shall prevail.

5. ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

- 5.1. Accommodation shall be provided to maximum three members per team for three days and two nights i.e. from 4th November, 2016. It shall be extended to additional members in case of special request and no expenses shall be paid by the administrator for any such additional member.
- 5.2. Teams shall be responsible for all damages (if any) caused by the team during their stay.
- 5.3. Transportation shall be provided only to accommodation.
- 5.4. The teams from Delhi shall NOT be provided with accommodation or travel assistance.

6. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE COMPETITION PROBLEM

- 6.1. Teams may request for clarifications in the Competition Problem via e-mail with the subject “**Clarifications- 3rd VIPS IMC 2016**” to internationalmoot@vips.edu, latest by 15th September, 2016 after which no clarifications shall be entertained. The clarifications shall be published on the official website soon thereafter.
- 6.2. No clarifications relating to the Competition Problem shall be entertained after the aforementioned date.

7. WRITTEN SUBMISSION

- 7.1. Each team is required to prepare a Written Submission for both the Petitioner/Appellant (as the case may be) and Respondent. The Written submission shall consist of the following mandatory contents:

1. Cover Page (Blue for Petitioner/Appellant, Red for Respondent)
 - i. Name of the Court
 - ii. Petition/Appeal Number
 - iii. Name of both the Parties
 - iv. Cause Title
 - v. Written Submission for Petitioner/Appellant or Respondent
 - vi. Team Code in **bold** on **top right corner**
2. Table of Contents
3. Index of Authorities
4. Statement of Facts
5. Statement of Issues
6. Legal Pleadings
7. Prayer

- 7.2. The Written Submission should not exceed the maximum limit of **25 Pages** (excluding Cover Page and Index of Authorities) and should conform to the following specifications-

Font type: Times New Roman

Font size: 12

Line spacing: 1.5

Body of text: Justified

Margin: at least 1 inch from all sides

7.3. Teams shall follow a uniform style of citation (preferably the Bluebook Method of Citation- 19th edition) throughout their Written Submissions. Footnotes must conform to the following specifications-

Font type: Times New Roman

Font size: 10

Line spacing: 1

Body of text: Justified

7.4. **Submission Guidelines:**

7.4.1. All teams shall send the soft copy of the Written Submission for each side in PDF format via electronic mail with the file name “TC No. __ Petitioner/Respondent”, on or before 15th October, 2016 to internationalmoot@vips.edu

7.4.2. Each day of delay shall be penalised with a reduction of 3 marks, with the first reduction being made at 16th October, 2016 at 00:00 A.M. IST.

7.4.3. Teams shall send **6 hard copies** of the Written Submissions for each side (6 for the Petitioner and 6 for Respondent) latest by 20th October, 2016 to the following address:

The Dean,
3rd VIPS IMC 2016
Advocates’ Legion
Vivekananda Law School
Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies,
AU Block, Pitampura, New Delhi, India – 110034.
Phone: +91 (11) 27343401, 27343402, 27343403
Dr. Deepti Kohli (Faculty Convenor): +91- 9899710439

7.4.4. The teams are required to carry hard copies of their Written Submission for personal use, which are excluded from the copies already submitted.

7.4.5. The hard copies submitted must be on A-4 size sheets, printed and neatly spiral bound without any plastic dividers.

7.5. **Evaluation Criteria:**

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted (100)
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1.	Legal Reasoning and Argumentation	30
2.	Articulation of Facts	25
3.	Use of Authorities	25
4.	Presentation	15
5.	Compliance with Rules and Specifications	5

8. ORAL ROUNDS

- 8.1. The Competition shall consist of the following Rounds:
- I. The Preliminary Rounds;
 - II. The Quarter Finals;
 - III. The Semi Finals; and
 - IV. The Final
- 8.2. Before the beginning of the oral rounds of any team, the Speakers of the team shall inform the court marshal regarding the order of speaking as well as allocation of time between themselves and the time reserved for rebuttal. Once informed, the timings shall not be changed.
- 8.3. If any speaker speaks for more than the time reserved for him/her, the extra time used by such speaker shall be deducted from the time allotted to the second speaker of that team. If the second speaker exceeds the time allotted to him/her, such time exceeded shall be deducted from the time reserved for rebuttals.
- 8.4. In case any opponent team fails to appear in an oral round, the round shall be conducted *ex-parte* and the scoring shall be done as if the defaulter team had been presenting and arguing.
- 8.5. **Preliminary Rounds:**
- 8.5.1. Each team shall argue once from each side on the same day according to the Draw of Lots which shall be notified to the teams shortly after the Opening Ceremony along with Exchange of Memorials.

- 8.5.2. There shall be two slots for the Preliminary Rounds. Each team shall argue once in each slot from different sides as per the draw of lots.
 - 8.5.3. Each team shall strictly get a total time of **15 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 5 minutes per speaker and maximum 3 minutes for the Rebuttals if permitted.
 - 8.5.4. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal.
 - 8.5.5. No time-extension or sur-rebuttals shall be allowed in any case.
- 8.6. **Quarter Finals:**
- 8.6.1. 8 teams with two-wins shall proceed to the Quarter-Finals.
 - 8.6.2. In case more than 8 teams qualify by way of two-wins, the top 8 teams with highest cumulative scores in both the slots of Preliminary Round combined (out of all the teams with two wins), shall proceed to this round.
 - 8.6.3. In case less than 8 teams qualify by way of two-wins, the remaining teams shall be chosen on the basis of their cumulative scores in both the slots of the Preliminary Round combined.
 - 8.6.4. In case of a tie in scores calculated as per Rules 8.3.2 or 8.3.3, the team with higher score in the Written Submission shall proceed to this round.
 - 8.6.5. Each team shall strictly get a total time of **25 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 10 minutes per speaker including maximum 5 minutes for the Rebuttals if permitted.
 - 8.6.6. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal.
 - 8.6.7. A time-extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.
- 8.7. **Semi-Finals:**
- 8.7.1. The winning team of each round shall proceed to the Semi-Finals. In case of a tie, the team with a higher score in Written Submission shall qualify.
 - 8.7.2. Each team shall get a total time of **40 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 15 minutes per speaker including maximum 5 minutes for the Rebuttals, if permitted.
 - 8.7.3. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal.

8.7.4. A time-extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.

8.8. Finals:

8.8.1. The winning team of each round shall proceed to the Finals. In case of a tie, the team with a higher score in Written Submission shall qualify.

8.8.2. Each team shall get a total time of **45 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 20 minutes per speaker including maximum 5 minutes for the Rebuttals, if permitted.

8.8.3. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal

8.8.4. A time-extension for a maximum of 5 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.

8.9. Evaluation Criteria:

S. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted (100)
1.	Legal Reasoning and Argumentation	25
2.	Advocacy Skills and Responsiveness	25
3.	Interpretation and Articulation of Facts	20
4.	Use of Authorities	20
5.	Time Management and Court Demeanour	10

9. AWARDS

1. Best Team - 30,000
2. Runner up- 15,000
3. Best Speaker - 10,000
4. Best Memorial - 10,000

10. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1. The dress code for the competition as well as during other related ceremonies shall be professional business attire and strictly black and white.
- 10.2. Any compiled Research Material (Compendium) or other supplementary documents may be submitted to the court marshal prior to the oral rounds which will be submitted to the judges at their discretion.
- 10.3. During the oral rounds, teams shall not be allowed to use any electronic devices such as laptops, LCD projectors, video camera etc. and any use thereof shall lead to an immediate disqualification or any other penal action as the administrators may deem fit.
- 10.4. Teams must not reveal their University or country of origin or names of the Participants anywhere in the Written Submission or in the course of the Oral arguments. Each team must be identified only by the unique team code once it has been allotted as per Rule 4.4 and all communications with the administrators or Judges thereafter shall be done through the Team Code only. Violation of anonymity or scouting at any point shall lead to immediate disqualification
- 10.5. The Administrators reserve the right to amend, modify, change or repeal any of the Competition Rules at any point of time. The Administrators shall communicate any changes made in the Competition Rules to the teams.
- 10.6. The Administrator(s) reserve the right to take decisions on any matter not mentioned in the Competition Rules. Any such decision taken by the Administrators shall be final and binding.
- 10.7. No audio or videotaping of oral pleadings is permitted without the permission of the Administrators.
- 10.8. If a team believes that violation of any of the Competition Rules has taken place at any stage of the competition, the teams within half an hour after the completion of the round wherein a violation has allegedly occurred shall register a complaint with the President of the Advocates' Legion and under no circumstances the teams are allowed to approach the Judges for any complaints.
- 10.9. The Administrators reserve all rights to audio and videotaping, or any other form of audio or visual reproduction, of any oral round or part thereof.