

RULES

- Maximum number of 3 teams from each college can participate
- Members from different college can also form a team
- A team shall be ordinarily composed of three (3) members,
- Two speakers and One researcher

• LANGUAGE:

The official working language for National Moot Court Competition shall be English.

• PARTICIPATION, ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION:

- Participation is restricted to bona-fide law students enrolled in the 3 year or 5 year LL.B. course.
- A Team shall be ordinarily composed of three (3) members, with two Speakers and one Researcher. A two-member team comprising of only two (2) speakers with no Researcher will also be permitted. A minimum of two members will thus be required for each team.
- Participation will be restricted to only 3 teams from each participating college.
- All research, writing and editing must be solely the product of Team members.
- No change in the names of the participants shall be permitted after the receipt of the registration forms.
- The researcher shall be allowed to argue with prior permission of the court and National Administrator in case of illness of the designated speakers.

• DRAW OF LOTS:

The draw of lots for the preliminary rounds will take place on **17TH MARCH 2021 at 12:00 p.m.**

• MEMORIALS:

- The language of the memorials shall be English.
- Each team must prepare memorials for both parties to the dispute (Applicants and Respondent).
- The Memorial shall not contain any annexure/Photographs/sketches/exhibits etc.
- The **soft copy** of the Memorials for the Applicant and the Respondent should be mailed

to argueaction@gmail.com with SOFTCOPY – MEMORIAL as subject & Team code as your File Name.

- Exchange of memorial will only be for Octa/ Quarter/ Semi-final/ Final round.

• **FORMAT OF MEMORIALS:**

All the teams shall submit the Memorials fulfilling the following specifications:

- The font style of the body of the Memorial must be Times New Roman, font size – 12, and the size of the footnotes / endnotes, if any, must be of Font size – 10.
- Each page of the Memorial must have margin of at least an inch on all sides.
- The memorial should not exceed more than 30 pages including the cover page.

- The Memorial shall consist of following parts:

i) Cover Page – (Color Blue for Petitioner and Red for Respondent)

ii) Table of contents.

iii) List of Abbreviations.

iv) Index of Authorities.

v) Statement of Jurisdiction.

vi) Statement of Facts.

vii) Statement of Issues.

viii) Summary of Arguments

ix) Arguments Advanced

x) Prayers

- There will be negative marking for delayed submission, which shall be deducted at once from the total memorial score obtained by a team.
- Relevant articles/materials/case law may be provided as a supplementary volume to the Memorial, which must also be submitted with the Memorial.
- The supplementary volume, if any, must not contain any reference to the name of the participants or College or University or Law School.

- Copies of articles/materials/case-laws which are not appended to the memorials or referred to in the memorials may not be relied upon at the time of oral arguments.
- Teams will NOT be marked on the supplementary volume, if any, while judging their Memorials.

• **PENALTIES**

Any memorial violating any of the specifications mentioned above will be penalized according to the following scheme:

S. No.	Criterion	Penalty (each side)
1.	Late submission of Memorials	(-) 1 mark each, for every hour after the deadline
2.	Exceeding the prescribed page limit	(-) 1 mark per extra page
3.	Not following the prescribed format	(-) 0.5 mark per specification per page
4.	Submitting memorials in multiple emails	(-) 1 mark
5.	Speaking footnote or endnote	(-) 0.5 mark per footnote

• **EVALUATION OF MEMORIALS:**

Every Memorial will be marked on a total of 100 marks and the team memorial marks will be the average of the total of both sides. The following shall be the marking scheme:

S. No	Criterion	Marks
1.	Application of Facts	25 marks
2.	Reasoning	25 marks
3.	Use of Authorities and Precedent	20 marks
4.	Understanding Law and Procedure	20 marks
5.	Presentation	10 marks

- **FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION**

The Moot competition shall consist of:

- 1) Preliminary Round
- 2) Octa-Final Round (will be held if registered teams are 24 and above),
- 3) Quarter Final Round (will be held if registered teams are 16 & above)
- 4) Semi-Final Round
- 5) Final Round

Each Team will have a Maximum of:

- **15 minutes**, in Preliminary round for oral arguments, of which no single speaker shall be permitted to address the court for more than 7 minutes.
- **20 minutes**, in Octa - final round, of which no single speaker shall be permitted to address the court for more than 10 minutes.
- **25 minutes**, in Quarter-final round, of which no single speaker shall be permitted to address the court for more than 12 minutes.
- **30 minutes**, in Semi-Final Round, of which no single speaker shall be permitted to address the court for more than 15 minutes.
- **40 minutes**, in Final Round, of which no single speaker shall be permitted to address the court for more than 20 minutes.

The above timing includes the timing for rebuttal & Sur – rebuttal.

ORAL ROUNDS

1) Preliminary Rounds:

- There shall be 1 Preliminary Round on **18th March, 2021** i.e. Thursday via Pre Recorded Video Formats.
- In the preliminary round all the teams must argue their case from the side allotted to them by draw of lots on **17th March, 2021**.
- Participants need to send their pre-recorded videos on **18th March, 2021** on or before **11:00 a.m.** to **argueaction@gmail.com** and the organizing committee will forward the same to judges.
- Each Team shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes for oral submission in the preliminary rounds.
- For the purposes of qualification from the Preliminary Rounds to the Octa Finals, the top 16 teams shall be decided on the basis of the aggregate of oral scores (after factorization). In case two or more teams having the same aggregate score, their memorial scores shall be taken into consideration.
- The Best Advocate will be decided on the basis of the scores of the Preliminary round.

2) Octa / Quarter / Semi Finals:

- The teams will be power protected. The highest-ranking team will argue against the lowest-ranking team. The highest ranking teams will pick lots for choosing the side of argument.
- The time covers oral arguments and rebuttal. The Octa, quarter and semifinal rounds are knockout rounds.
- Top 8 teams will advance from Octa final to Quarter-final rounds
- Top 4 teams will advance from Quarter final to Semi-final rounds

3) Final Rounds:

- The two teams qualifying from the semi-final rounds shall compete in the final round.

• RESEARCHER TEST

- The Researcher's Test shall be conducted on **19th March, 2021 at 9:00a.m.** via online medium.
- The Researcher's Test shall be in the format of both Multiple & Subjective questions

with the questions based on the applicable law, precedents, and facts pertaining to the Moot Proposition.

- Participation in the Researcher’s Test is mandatory for all the Teams and failure to participate may result in disqualification, subject to the discretion of the OC.
- The duration of the Researcher’s Test will be 30 minutes.
- The participant shall ensure complete integrity and shall not resort to unfair means while attempting the test. Any such attempt shall result in disqualification.

• DELAY IN APPEARANCE/PRESENTATION:

If a team scheduled to participate in the oral submissions of a Round does not appear for 10 minutes after the scheduled commencement of such Round, the other team shall have to make oral submissions ex-parte. (Unless the delay is due to extreme unavoidable circumstances)

• EVALUATION OF THE ORAL SUBMISSIONS:

- Speaker marks, for the purpose of other Rounds of the Competition, shall be utilized as determined elsewhere in these Rules.
- The evaluation would be done on the following criteria:

S. No.	Criterion	Marks
1.	Response to Questions and Articulation	25 marks
2.	Reasoning in the Application of Principles	25 marks
3.	Use of Authorities and Precedents	20 marks
4.	Application of Facts	20 marks
5.	Advocacy Skills, Court Craft and Demeanour	10 marks

The evaluation of the total marks for each speaker shall be the average marks awarded by each judge.

• JUDGES’ FEEDBACK:

Judges are encouraged to provide direct feedback to Teams regarding their performance at the completion of the Oral Round. They shall not engage in any commentary which may reveal the content of the Bench Memorial or announce the winner of the round.

• **REPORTING OF RESULTS:**

After the conclusion of each Competition, each Team participating in such Competition shall receive the following on the team's request:

- A copy of memorial score sheets with attendant comments, if any;
- A copy of oral round assessment – judge's score sheets with attendant comments, if any, from Preliminary Rounds of the Competition;
- Results will be announced after the completion of the preliminary/ Octa/ quarter/ semi- final rounds. The Final result and the winners of the various categories will be announced only during the valediction/ prize distribution ceremony.

• **MODE OF ONLINE ROUNDS**

The rounds will be conducted via Google Meet. All teams are requested to download Google Meet on their laptops/phones beforehand.

- Participants have to ensure high speed 4G internet connection with good audio and video facilities. It is advisable to the participants to use laptops or PC for the oral rounds.
- The background of the participants should be preferably plain. The background / surroundings of the participants should not be or project either through signage, color, logo, emblem, infrastructure or any other form of display which would reveal the identity of the participants and / or the institution they represent.
- Utmost care to be taken as regards to external sound or noise while the proceedings are on. During the oral round proceedings ensure that the same is conducted from a noise free room.
- At the time when the other participant is speaking, you are expected to keep your mic mute. In case a participant is found disturbing the other pleader anyway, he/she may be disqualified

• **CLARIFICATIONS OF THE COMPETITION PROBLEM OR RULES:**

Teams may submit written requests for clarifications of the Moot Problem or these Rules. Requests for such clarifications must be received by the organizers till **25th February 2021**. Teams may submit requests for clarifications by email only. All clarifications to legitimate requests will be summarized and answered to the participating colleges/universities.

If, however, the college/university has failed to provide the organizer with the details of a contact person,

the organizer would not be responsible for clarifications sought and corrections required.

• **SCOUTING:**

- Scouting by the speakers, researcher or any other person affiliated with a team will lead to the immediate disqualification of such team.
- Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if any person affiliated with a team is found: Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. the oral submissions in a Round, except where the Round is one in which the team to which he/she is affiliated is participating in; or
- Reading a Memorial of a team except where: It is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or the Memorials have been obtained on account of an exchange of memorials prior to a Round of the team to which he/she is affiliated.

• **ANONYMITY:**

Participants/ Participating Teams **shall not** disclose their names and the identity of their respective institution/ college/university at any time before the award ceremony. Each team shall be issued individual codes, at the time of registration and the same shall be the sole source of identity of the respective teams throughout the competition.

Note: All Participants shall refrain from wearing or using any identifying items, such as badges, blazers, pins or any other identifying material(s) such as a books/bags with a college/university/library logo or seal.

• **COPYRIGHT:**

The copyright over the memorials submitted for participation in the competition is assigned by participants and shall vest completely and fully on the Organizers. The Participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of the Organizers and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in the collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

• **MISCELLANEOUS:**

All the participants are expected to maintain the decorum in the court during the competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.

- The organizers will resolve any contingencies that may arise and will be the final arbiters regarding any

doubts/ grievances. The decision taken by the organizers shall be final and binding.

- Acceptance of above-mentioned rules and regulations is a pre-requisite to participation in the competition. The rules shall be strictly adhered to. The organizers reserve the right to disqualify teams for deviating from rules. The Organizers will resolve any contingencies that may arise and will be the final arbiters regarding any doubts/grievances. These Rules are not exhaustive.
- Any reference to identity of a team's institution or individual team members, either during oral arguments or in the Memorial may lead to disqualification of the team.
- The organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical/ unprofessional and immoral conduct.
- The organizers decision regarding the interpretation of rules or any other matter relating to competition shall be final.
- Organizers save the right to modify, alter, vary or repeal any of the above rules. If need so arises.

- **DISCLAIMER:**

The Moot Court Competition is based on a purely fictitious compromise/problem, whereby the characters & the incidents or the course of events in the compromise are completely imaginary and the same has no relation to any person living or dead or any past/present real-life incident. The Moot Court Competition is made solely for the purpose of training law students of India in developing an analytical bent of mind and serving the Bar and the Bench to the best of their abilities.

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