



தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் அம்பேத்கர் சட்டப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்  
**The Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University**



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

**14TH EDITION OF THE PRO BONO ENVIRO NATIONAL MOOT  
COURT COMPETITION, 2021- (21ST JANUARY, 2021 TO 24TH  
JANUARY, 2021)**

**ORGANISED BY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW, TNDALU,  
CHENNAI.**




# 14TH PRO BONO ENVIRO NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

## OFFICIAL INVITATION

It gives us immense pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition, 2021. It is the flagship event of our Institution and our only aim is to get better with each year.

The Moot Court Proposition is based on Environmental Law and is intended to create awareness among the legal fraternity, concerning crucial environmental issues. Year after year the competition has witnessed an overwhelming response from various Universities and Colleges throughout India and this year, we promise an exciting weekend of debate, discussion and display of legal acumen.

The previous edition was a grand success due to the active participation from various law schools in India. The 14<sup>th</sup> Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition is scheduled from 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The Moot Court Association of the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University considers it our absolute honour to host you and your prestigious institution to participate in this edition of our flagship moot court competition. We look forward to meeting you virtually, this year!



*Warm Regards,  
Moot Court Association  
School of Excellence in Law  
Chennai.*

# 14TH PRO BONO ENVIRO NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. AIM AND PURPOSE:

The 14<sup>th</sup> Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition 2021 has been conceived with the aim to:

- a. Create awareness on the protection and conservation of our environment.
- b. Inculcate interest in Environmental Law and understand the various ecological issues that currently plague our society.

### 2. DATE & PLATFORM OF THE COMPETITION:

- a. The competition will be conducted **ONLINE** through video conferencing application.

ROUNDS	PLATFORM
INAUGURAL CEREMONY	CISCO WEBX™
PRELIMINARY ROUNDS	GOOGLE MEET™
QUARTER FINALS AND SEMI FINAL ROUNDS	GOOGLE MEET™
FINAL ROUNDS AND VALEDICTORY CEREMONY	CISCO WEBX™

### 3. DEFINITIONS:

Unless mentioned otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

- a. “Online” means controlled by or connected to a computer with the help of the Internet.
- b. “Organizers” or “OC” will refer to the Moot Court Association of the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- c. “Host Institution” refers to the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- d. “Participating Team” means the team, which has registered itself for the Competition.
- e. “Participants” refers to the speakers and the researchers of the Participating Team.
- f. “Video Conference” means a live, visual connection between two or more people residing in separate locations for the purpose of communication.

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*All the rules are only inclusive and not exhaustive for the Competition. Rules should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation there from would attract disqualification or other penalties mentioned subsequently.*

All decisions of the Organizers in case of any disputes/ doubts etc. will be final. Imposition of penalties including disqualification rests solely with the Organizers in case of failure to comply with the Rule(s) and Deadline(s).

### 4. TEAM ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION:

- a. Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students enrolled in the three-year or five-year LL.B. or B.L. degree course in any institution recognized by the Bar Council of India.
- b. Only **ONE TEAM** is permitted to participate from each registered institution.
- c. Each team shall comprise of a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team consisting of two members, each of the members shall be designated as 'Speaker.' In a team consisting of three members, two of the members shall be designated as 'Speaker' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.

### 5. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

The Registration Formalities shall be done in two steps:

- a. Provisional Registration of the participating institutions shall be sent to [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com) on or before **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**.
- b. Upon receipt of an e-mail confirming provisional registration from the Organizing Committee, participants shall complete the following Registration Formalities:
  - Teams are required to complete the registration on or before **5<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**.
  - The Registration Fee is **Rs. 1000/- per team**. Government Law colleges of Tamil Nadu affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University shall be exempted from the payment of this fee.
  - The Registration fee payable for the Competition must be paid latest by **5<sup>th</sup> December, 2020** through **NEFT** to the below mentioned account:
    - I. Name of the account: **Director, School of Excellence in Law**
    - II. Account number - **193601000009752**
    - III. Name of the bank - **Indian Overseas Bank**

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IV. Branch – **Perungudi, Chennai**

V. IFSC code - **IOBA0001936**

- The payment reference number and date of payment have to be mentioned in the registration form. Scanned copy of the payment receipt must also be attached to the google registration form and only then will the registration be deemed to be complete.
- The Registration shall be done by filling up the form available by clicking on the link mentioned: <https://forms.gle/nhKh3yBapGGpMyC88>
- Scanned copies of Identity cards must be attached in the registration form. In case, there is an issue with the production of scanned copies of the identity card, a *bonafide* certificate, issued by the University may be attached. In case of the absence of both, kindly contact the O.C.
- Once the form is submitted, an acknowledgement mail will be sent **within 24-48 hours to the teams.**
- Registration fee, once paid is neither refundable nor transferable.
- Teams that have completed Registration in accordance with the above shall be assigned a Team Code. All correspondence to the Organizing Committee shall specify only the Team Code.
- No alteration in the Team Composition shall be permitted after registration except at the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.

### 6. **DRESS CODE:**

- a. Participants shall be appropriately attired for the rounds of the competition. Robes and neck bands are not permitted.
- b. The Dress Code for the Inauguration, Researcher's Test, Oral Rounds, Valedictory & Prize Distribution shall strictly be:
  - i. **For Gentlemen** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants and a black blazer with black tie); and
  - ii. **For Ladies** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals (white kurta with black pants and either a black waistcoat or black blazer).



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### 7. CLARIFICATIONS:

- a. Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by sending an e-mail to [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com) on or before 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. A set of Final Clarifications will tentatively be released on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

### 8. MEMORANDUM/WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS:

- a. Participants are required to submit Memorandum or Written Submissions on behalf of both the Petitioner(s) and the Respondent(s).
- b. Teams shall e-mail Soft Copies of the Memorandums in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats for both the sides (i.e. four attachments in total) in a **single mail** on or before 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 by 23:59 hours to [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com). For example, if the assigned team code is 52, the team shall name the Petitioner and Respondent Memorandums as “52P” and “52R” respectively. The Soft Copy should be compatible with at least Microsoft Word 2007. Late submission shall attract penalties in accordance with Rule 10.
- c. Only the Team Code shall be specified on the Memorandum. Any reference to the participating institution/college/university shall result in immediate disqualification.
- d. No amendment to the memorandum shall be permitted after submission of the soft copies.
- e. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to use the memorandum submitted by the participating teams, as it deems appropriate.

### 9. CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM:

- a. Each Memorandum shall not exceed 30 pages, inclusive of cover page, and shall contain the following sections:
  - i. Cover Page (shall include Year of the Competition, Cause Title, Forum/Court, designation as Petitioner or Respondent Memo, Team Code on the top right corner - e.g. 52P or 52R).
  - ii. Table of Contents.
  - iii. Index of Authorities.
  - iv. Statement of Jurisdiction (strictly restrict to 1 page).
  - v. Summary/Statement of Facts (strictly restrict to 1 page; argumentative Statement of Facts shall be penalized).
  - vi. Issues Raised/Questions Presented.
  - vii. Summary of Arguments/Pleadings.
  - viii. Arguments Advanced/Written Pleadings.

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- ix. Prayer.
- b. The following content specifications shall be strictly adhered to:
  - i. Language: English.
  - ii. Body Font & Size: Times New Roman, 12;
  - iii. Line Spacing: 1.5 [The spacing need not be followed for the Cover Page, any Tabular Column, Header or Footer].
  - iv. Footnotes Font & Size: Times New Roman, 10;
  - v. Line Spacing: 1.0;
  - vi. Paragraph Spacing: None; No additional space between footnotes. Substantive Footnoting is strictly prohibited.
  - vii. Alignment (Body & Footnotes): Justified Margin: 1 inch on all 4 sides.
  - viii. Citation Method: The Bluebook, A Uniform System of Citation, Harvard Law Review, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- c. The following printing specifications shall be strictly adhered to:
  - i. The Cover Page shall be: Blue for Petitioner Memorandum Red for Respondent Memorandum.
  - ii. The Memorandums shall not contain any Annexure/Appendices, Photographs, Sketches, Exhibits, Affidavits, etc.

### **10. EVALUATION OF THE MEMORANDUM:**

- a. The Memorandum will be evaluated by a separate panel of judges who will not Judge the Oral Rounds.
- b. The memorandum shall be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

CRITERIA	MARKS
Knowledge of law & depth of research	20
Use of authority/precedents	20
Incorporation of facts into the arguments	10
Interpretation of applicable law	10
Clarity of thought and organization of arguments	15
Style of Presentation	10
Originality	10
Relief sought	5

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c. Penalties shall be attracted in the following manner:

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
<b>Late Submission - Soft Copy</b>	2 point per day per Memo
<b>Any violation under Rule 8 (a.)</b>	1 point for each violation under the Rule
<b>Any violation under Rule 8(b.)</b>	1 point for each violation under the Rule
<b>Any violation under Rule 8 (c.)</b>	2 point for each violation under the Rule
<b>Violation of Anonymity</b>	Disqualification

### 11. ORAL ROUNDS:

#### 11.1 GENERAL PROCEDURE:

- a. The language to be used during the Rounds is English.
- b. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
  - i. Preliminary Rounds; and
  - ii. Advanced Rounds consisting of:
    - Quarter-finals.
    - Semi-finals.
    - Finals.
- c. The performance of the speakers shall be adjudged based on the following parameters:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
<b>Knowledge of Facts</b>	10
<b>Interpretation of Facts</b>	10
<b>Knowledge of Law</b>	20
<b>Application and Interpretation of Law</b>	20
<b>Ability to answer questions</b>	20
<b>Courtroom conduct</b>	10
<b>Style, Poise and Demeanor</b>	10
<b>Total</b>	100

- d. The Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-finals and Semi-finals shall take place through an online video-conferencing platform known as “Google Meet.”™



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- e. The Final round consisting of the top 2 qualifying teams shall be conducted through an online video-conferencing platform known as “Cisco webx.”™
- f. All teams will be notified of their qualification to the advanced rounds through the email ID provided at the time of registration.
- g. During each of the above-mentioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
  - Petitioner Speaker 1
  - Petitioner Speaker 2
  - Respondent Speaker 1
  - Respondent Speaker 2
  - Rebuttal: Petitioner - Any one of the Two Speakers
  - Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the Two Speakers. (Sur-rebuttal may be permitted only at the discretion of the Judges.)
- h. The Best Speaker Award shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the Speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds.
- i. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds.
- j. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Memorandum.
- k. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final.
- l. To ensure uniformity in the marking system, all Judges will be provided with a scoring guideline.
- m. Memorial scores shall NOT be taken into account for scoring in preliminary rounds.

### **11.2 SPLITTING OF TIME BETWEEN SPEAKERS:**

- a. Teams shall notify the Bench Clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- b. If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals as the case may be. However, this rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded, at the discretion of the Judges.

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- c. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with the Judges.

### **11.3 COMPENDIUM:**

- a. All relevant case laws and statutory material to be passed on to the Judges during the Oral Rounds may be submitted **via e-mail** in the form of a Compendium on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 prior to the commencement of the competition to [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com).
- b. Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Judges. If any mark, name, seal, symbol or logo of the institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognizable. Violation of anonymity shall result in immediate disqualification.

### **11.4 DRAW OF LOTS AND EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUM:**

- a. The decision regarding the fixtures for the oral rounds will be taken by the Organizing committee. The decision of the Organizing Committee regarding the fixtures will be final. The same will be intimated to the teams via the respective Email IDs provided by the teams before the commencement of the rounds.
- b. No teams will face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.
- c. The exchange of memorials for the preliminary rounds will be done via the respective Email IDs provided by the teams. Memorandums of the opponents for each respective round will be mailed to the teams.
- d. Exchange of memorials for advanced rounds, beginning with the quarter finals, will take place shortly before the commencement of the round via the respective Email IDs provided.

### **11.5 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

- a. The preliminary rounds of the competition shall be hosted online on a video conferencing application called “**Google Meet.™**”
- b. WhatsApp Groups will be created to facilitate communication with the ‘Ushers’ as Admins. The contact numbers given by the teams at the time of registration will be used for the creation of WhatsApp Groups. The Ushers will send instructions and guide the teams throughout the competition through this Whatsapp Group.
- c. The preliminary rounds will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021.
- d. The team fixtures shall be determined through **DRAW OF LOTS**.

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- e. Teams will face each other only **ONCE** during the preliminary round.
- f. The teams can choose their convenient venue where they can access strong, uninterrupted internet connection.
- g. **ONLY** the team members (2 speakers and 1 researcher) are allowed to be present inside the venue.
- h. The timings and date of the preliminary rounds will be intimated to the teams on **21<sup>st</sup> January 2021** through an E-Mail. This date and timings shall be final and will be based on the convenience of the judges and at the Organizer's discretion.
- i. Participants are to join the rounds **SHARPLY** as intimated by respective ushers.
- j. A further 10 minutes will be provided to teams in case of any technical qualms, which must be duly reported to the usher.
- k. Following this, if a team is not present, no additional time will be granted by the O.C. The other team present at the round, will be heard *ex-parte*. The decision of the O.C is final and binding in this matter.
- l. The teams are to provide their ID card at the time of registration and also have it with them during the rounds. In case the team members have any issues regarding the availability of their ID cards, the same is to be intimated to the Organizing Committee via mail before the round starts.
- m. Any issues with the connection or any technical glitches shall be reported to the organizing committee before the rounds start.
- n. During the entire duration of the rounds, the participants are requested to ensure that they are within the camera's view and maintain adequate distance from the desktop / laptop/ mobile used for this purpose.
- o. The team (both speakers and researcher) must keep their cameras switched on throughout the course of the rounds and will remain muted, unless it is their turn to speak.
- p. Each team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent.
- q. The time limit for the oral round shall be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the time for both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal. Judges may at their discretion, extend the time allotted for the oral arguments up to a maximum of 5 minutes.

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- r. Only one speaker shall be allowed to present the rebuttal / sur-rebuttal and the sur-rebuttals shall be limited only to rebuttals made by the opponent team. No team shall be permitted to reserve more than two (2) minutes for rebuttals / sur-rebuttals.
- s. The top eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds, shall advance to the Quarterfinals.
- t. The top eight teams shall qualify on the basis of the aggregate scores. In the event of a tie, the memorandum score of the team shall be considered.

### **11.6 DISQUALIFICATION:**

OC reserves the right to disqualify the participation of any team on the grounds of:

- a. Availing assistance of any person, who is not a member of the team during the oral rounds;
- b. If the participant's video/audio is paused or if any participant leaves the virtual court room in the middle of the rounds without a legitimate reason;
- c. If the Organizing Committee have any reason to believe that a team has resorted to any unfair means during the oral rounds;
- d. For any other just reason the OC deems fit.

### **11.7 RESEARCHER'S TEST:**

- a. The Researcher's Test shall be in the format of an interview that will be conducted via the "Google Meet"™ application on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Only the person designated as a "RESEARCHER" can attend the interview. In case of a 2 Member Team, either one of the Speakers can take up the Researcher's Interview.

## **12. ADVANCED ROUNDS (Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals):**

### **12.1 GENERAL RULES:**

- a. Every team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds.
- b. The qualification of teams to subsequent rounds shall be on a knock-out basis for each of the Advanced Rounds.
- c. The Memorandum Score shall not be considered for any of the Advanced Rounds.

### **12.2 QUARTER-FINALS:**

- a. The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the same as in the Preliminary Rounds.
- b. Four (4) teams from the Quarterfinals shall advance to the Semi-finals, which will be selected on a knock- out basis.



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### **12.3 SEMI-FINALS:**

- a. Each side shall get a maximum time of 45 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 25 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 5 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 2 minutes.
- b. Two (2) teams from the Semi-finals shall advance to the Finals, which shall be selected on a knock-out basis.

### **12.4 FINALS:**

- a. The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the same as in the Semi-finals.
- b. The winner of the Final Round shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.

### **12.5 SCOUTING:**

- a. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- b. Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organizing Committee.
- e. Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.

### **13. AWARDS:**

- a. The following Awards shall be given away during the Valedictory & Prize Distribution:
  - Winner of the Competition.
  - Runner-up of the Competition.
  - Best Memorandum.
  - Best Speaker.
  - Best Researcher.
- b. All participants of the Competition will be given Participation E-Certificates.
- c. The certificates will be emailed to the participants after the completion of the competition.

### **14. MISCELLANEOUS:**

#### **14.1 GENERAL ETIQUETTE:**

- a. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizing Committee, the Judges of the Competition or to any of the other participants.



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- b. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

### **14.2 INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- a. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Host Institution and the Organizing Committee.
- b. Any decision made by the Host Institution or the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

### **16. CORRESPONDENCE/CONTACT DETAILS:**

#### **16.1. REGISTRATION FORMALITIES & MEMORANDUM SUBMISSIONS:**

- a. Participants can mail their queries to [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com)
- b. Participants may keep themselves updated by following:

**FACEBOOK** : <https://www.facebook.com/Moot-Court-Association-School-of-Excellence-inLaw-201136933274208/timeline/>

**WEBSITE** : [mcasoel.wordpress.com](http://mcasoel.wordpress.com).

**INSTAGRAM** : @mootcourtassociation.soel

**E-MAIL ID** : [soelprobono14@gmail.com](mailto:soelprobono14@gmail.com), [mca.soel@gmail.com](mailto:mca.soel@gmail.com)

### **17. POINT OF CONTACT:**

Participants are requested to direct their queries to:

Serial Number	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT NUMBER
(i)	<b>Ms. Aparna Raju</b> Vice President, Moot Court Association, School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai.	+91 98403 73892
(ii)	<b>Ms. Nirupama V Shankar</b> Joint Secretary, Moot Court Association, School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai.	+91 98845 47036

**IMPORTANT DATES<sup>1</sup>**

EVENT	DATE
Release of the Moot Proposition	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Last date for provisional registration	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Last date for duly filling the Google form for registration and payment of registration fees	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Last Date for mailing Clarifications	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Release of Final Clarifications	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Soft Copy Submission of Memorandums	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Researcher's Interview	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021
Submission of Compendium via email	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Allotment of time slots for Preliminary Rounds	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Inaugural Ceremony	21 <sup>st</sup> January, 2021
Preliminary Rounds	22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2021
Advanced Rounds for Qualified Teams and Valedictory	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

<sup>1</sup> It is hereby notified that the dates mentioned in the Rule Book are tentative in nature and are subject to change, at the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee and the Host Institution. The changes if any, will be duly intimated to the teams via E-Mail.