The Official Rules
of the
NALSAR UNHCR Public International Law Moot Court Competition
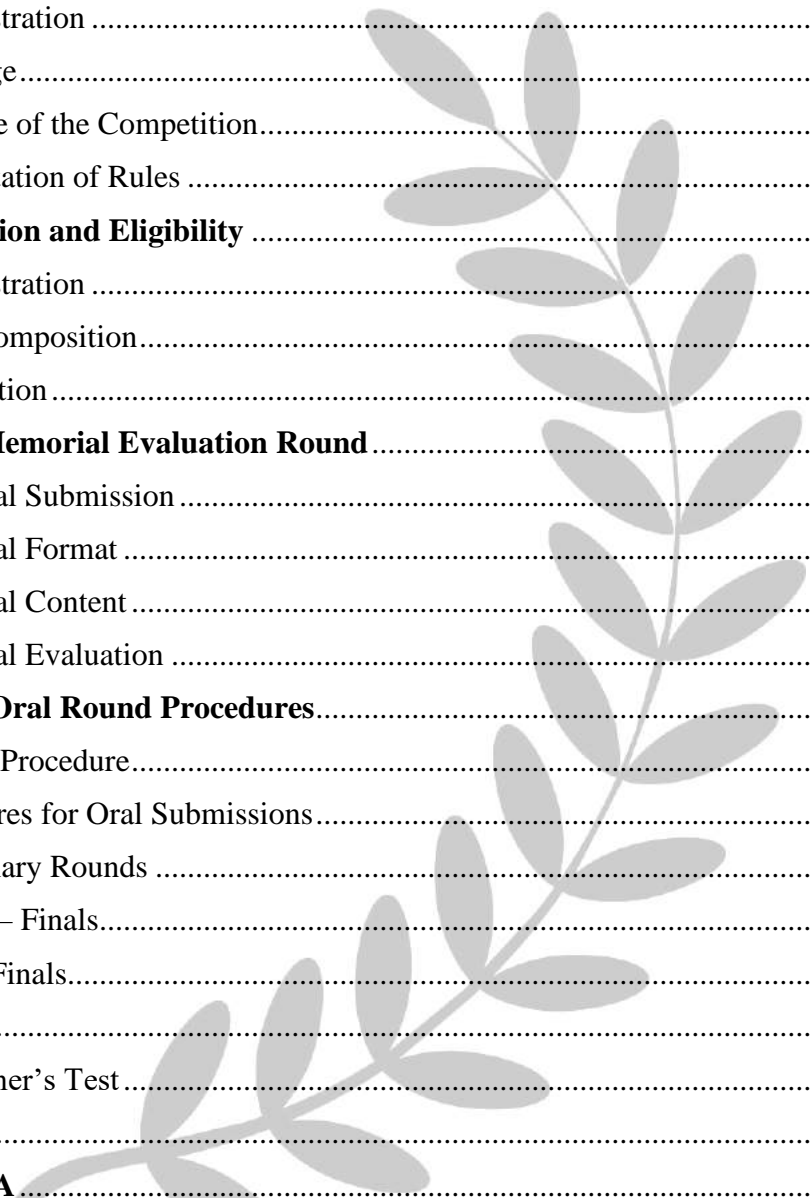
15 - 16 May, 2021

Contents

1. Organization of the Competition

1. **Administration**

   a. The NALSAR - UNHCR Public International Law Moot Court Competition shall be administered by NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India.

   b. The Competition is scheduled to be held on **15th – 16th May 2021** in an online format.

   c. Professor Balakista Reddy, Registrar, NALSAR University of Law shall be the 'National Coordinator' of the Competition.

2. **Language**

   English shall be the language of the Competition; all oral and written submissions are required to be made in English only.

3. **Structure of the Competition**

   a. The Competition shall comprise of two stages.

   b. Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round

      This shall be open to all teams which register for the Competition. The results of this round shall be based on evaluation of memorials and shall determine the 24 teams which will proceed to Stage II.

   c. Stage II: Oral Rounds

      The teams which qualify Stage I shall be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds which shall comprise of Preliminary Rounds and Advanced Rounds viz. Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals.

4. **Interpretation of Rules**

   The National Coordinator shall serve as the final arbiter of the implementation and interpretation of the Rules.

2. Participation and Eligibility

1. Administration

    a. The Competition is open to students currently enrolled in LL.B. Undergraduate Degree Courses or LLM Postgraduate Degree Courses.

    b. A team is not permitted to have members from more than one institution.

    c. No more than one team may represent an institution.

2. Team Composition

    a. Each team shall comprise of a minimum of two members wherein both the members will be required to perform the role of a speaker.

    b. Teams may comprise of a maximum of three members, wherein two members shall perform the role of a speaker and one member shall perform the role of a researcher.

    c. The substitution of any Team Member is not allowed after the registration deadline except in extenuating circumstances and only with permission of the Organizers.

    d. A researcher may be allowed to argue instead of a speaker only with the permission of the Court.

3. Registration

1. Procedure for Registration

    a. Interested teams are required to register for the Competition by filling the online provisional registration form. The provisional registration form can be accessed here - https://forms.gle/no8T359hVhLSgC6J7

    b. While filling the online Provisional Registration Form, the teams have to choose a primary contact person. All communications concerning the Competition will

be sent by an e-mail to the nominated contact person. It is that person's responsibility to convey and distribute all relevant information to the team.

c. The teams are also required to mention the email-id of either the respective committee or the head/dean of the institution in the Provisional Registration Form.

d. After submission of the Provisional Registration Form, a mail confirming the provisional registration will be sent to the respective committee or head/dean of the institution.

e. A Final Registration Form will then be sent to the e-mail id of the nominated contact person once the provisional registration has been confirmed. The team must attach the screenshot of the email confirming the provisional registration sent to the respective committee or head or dean of the institution while filling the Final Registration Form.

f. Prior payment of Registration Fees for Stage I is required in order to fill the Final Registration Form.

g. The teams are also required to notify the Organizers after submitting the final registration form by sending the names of the team members at pilmoot@nalsar.ac.in with the Subject, "Registration - NALSAR UNHCR PIL Moot 2021".

h. The last date for completion of all the registration formalities (Provisional + Final) is before **15th March 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST).**

i. The confirmation of Registration will be notified to the teams by the Organizers, after the completion and verification of all the Registration formalities.

j. The team will also be provided with a Team Code, in any stage of the competition, a team must be identified only by the allotted team code.

k. All team members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institution at any time in any manner during the course of their participation in the competition. Non – compliance to this rule shall lead to severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organizers.

2. Payment of Registration Fee

i. All the Indian teams shall be required to make a payment of INR 1000 via online transfer (NEFT) and all the overseas teams shall be required to make a payment of USD 20 via wire transfer before **15th March 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST)** in order to register for Stage I. Details of the same must also be attached to the Final registration form.

ii. Indian Teams that qualify Stage I, i.e. the Memorial Elimination Round shall be required to make a payment of INR 2000 via an online transfer (NEFT) before **4th May 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST)**. All overseas teams that qualify Stage I shall be required to make payment of USD 30 via wire transfer. Details of the same must be attached to the confirmation form sent to the teams qualifying Stage I before **4th May 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST)**.

iii. The wire transfer/NEFT must be made to:

Name of the Beneficiary: Registrar, NALSAR

Bank Name: Indian Bank

Branch Name: Shameerpet

Account No: 418454214

IFSC Code: IDIB000S166

3. Stage I: Memorial Evaluation Round

1. **Memorial Submission**

    a. Every team which has successfully registered for the competition is required to prepare two memorials:
        i. Memorial on behalf of the Applicant.
        ii. Memorial on behalf of the Respondent.

    b. All teams are required to send soft copies of their memorials for Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round before **15th April 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST)** to pilmoot@nalsar.ac.in with the Subject "Memorials (Team Code) – NALSAR UNHCR PIL Moot".

    c. A penalty of 1 point per hour shall imposed for any submission made post the deadline specified.

    d. Memorials submitted 12 hours beyond the deadline specified shall not be evaluated.

    e. The memorials which are submitted for the memorial elimination round shall be considered final.

    f. After the completion of the Competition, the Organizers reserve the right to use the memorials as they deem appropriate.

2. **Memorial Format**

    a. All soft copies of the Memorial submitted must be in Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx).

    b. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an 'R' for Respondent and 'A' for Applicant. For instance, the Applicant memorial of team code 10 should be named as '10A'.

    c. All pages of the Memorial must be of A4 size, with 1-inch margin on each side.

    d. The font style and size of the text of all parts of the Memorial, excluding the Cover Page shall be Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5-line spacing. The Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10, single (1) line spacing.

    e. Penalties

        i. Non-compliance with sub-rule (a) and (d) shall result in a penalty of 5 points.

        ii. Non-compliance with sub-rule (b) and (c) shall result in a penalty of 1 point per error.

3. Memorial Content

    a. The Memorials are required to contain the following sections:

        i. Cover Page

        ii. Table of Contents

        iii. Table of Abbreviations

        iv. Index of Authorities

        v. Statement of Jurisdiction

        vi. Statement of Facts

        vii. Issues Raised

        viii. Summary of Arguments

        ix. Arguments Advanced

        x. Prayer

    b. The section on Arguments Advanced shall not exceed 30 pages. Noncompliance shall result in a penalty of 1 point for every additional page.

    c. The memorial as a whole shall not exceed 45 pages including the cover page. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 3 points for every additional page.

    d. The citation format should follow the 20th edition of the Bluebook. Speaking footnotes and endnotes are not allowed. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 1 point for each error.

    e. The Cover page of the memorial must contain the team registration code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by an 'A' for the Applicant Memorial, or an

'R' for the Respondent Memorial. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 2 points.

4. Memorial Evaluation

Each Memorial shall be evaluated out of 200 points by an evaluator. The criteria for evaluation are as follows:

iii.	Knowledge of Law and Facts	50 Points
iv.	Proper and Articulate Analysis	50 Points
v.	Extent and Use of Research	40 Points
vi.	Clarity and Organization	40 Points
vii.	Grammar and Style	20 Points

5. Qualification of Memorials

a. After evaluation of the memorials submitted, the top 24 teams on the basis of their total scores in Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round shall qualify to Stage II: Oral Rounds.

b. The results of Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round shall be declared on **1st May 2021**.

c. The teams that qualify Stage I will be required to confirm their participation in Stage II by filling the confirmation form sent to them by an email before **4th May 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST)**. In the event where a team fails to confirm participation within the timeline specified, invitations to other teams will be issued on the basis of the scores of Stage I by **6th May 2021**.

d. Additionally, the wire transfer/NEFT details for Stage II shall be attached to the online confirmation form sent to the qualifying teams.

4. Stage II: Oral Round Procedures

1. **General Procedure**

    a. The oral rounds shall be conducted live online and comprise of preliminary rounds, quarter finals, semi-finals and final rounds.

    b. The live rounds will be held on the Cisco WebEx portal. Details with respect to use of the portal are attached in Annexure A.

    c. The team representing the Applicant shall submit their arguments first, followed by the team representing the Respondent. Upon completion of the arguments, the Applicant shall have the option of submitting rebuttals, followed by the Respondent. Sur-rebuttals shall/shall not be permitted, subject to the discretion of the judges.

    d. The student counsels may state their names during the oral rounds but are not allowed to reveal the institution's name, and must use the Team Code.

2. **Procedures for Oral Submissions**

    a. Each team will be allotted 30 minutes to present their case, this shall include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.

    b. The division of time between the two speakers is up to the discretion of the team, however, each speaker must speak for a minimum of 10 minutes.

    c. Before the start of the Oral Round, the team must inform the manner in which the team wishes to divide its total time between its (i) first speaker, (ii) second speaker, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Applicant) or sur – rebuttal (for Respondent).

    d. The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorials.

    e. The researchers are also required to attend the oral rounds.

    f. Dressing: The Participants may be dressed in a formal courtroom attire. If any participant cannot access formal dress code, they may be allowed to be dressed in adequate formal outfit which can be reasonably considered as appropriate to the occasion. No marks shall be reduced for not wearing a full formal courtroom attire.

g. It is not mandatory to submit a compendium, but if you do so it is mandatory to do so in a pdf format and the guidelines for it are:

    i. To avoid unnecessary bulk, it is required that in the compendium for the book/case or any other resource that you are citing, you shall have the first page of the resource and the relevant pages only. For example: if you are citing a paragraph(s) from a case say X v. Y, for this part of the compendium you should have the first page of the case, followed by relevant pages.

    ii. The responsibility of making a coherent, accessible compendium folder lies with the teams.

    iii. You are required to also make an index for your compilation (at the beginning of the file/folder).

    iv. The teams are required to name their files in the following format: C-'Team Code'-Side. For example, the Applicant compendium of team code 10 should be named as 'C10A'.

    v. The organizing committee bears no responsibility due to any issues caused to judges in finding a relevant document or page.

h. Maximum marks for the oral rounds shall be 100 marks per speaker per judge.

i. The oral rounds shall be evaluated out of 100 marks and the basis for evaluation shall be as follows:

i.	*Knowledge of Law*	*20 marks*
ii.	*Application of Law to Facts*	*20 marks*
iii.	*Ingenuity and Ability to Answer*	*20 marks*
iv.	*Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanor*	*20 marks*
v.	*Time management*	*10 marks*
vi.	*Organization*	*10 marks*

j. The decision of the judges with regard to the outcome of the rounds shall be final.

k. **Internet connectivity policy:**

   i. The teams are requested to make proper arrangements to ensure connectivity including a phone hotspot.

   ii. In the scenario of an interrupted connection including disruptions to the degree of incomprehensibility, disconnection etc., the timer will be paused for the team and sufficiently reasonable time will be provided to reconnect.

   iii. Contact details of the competition volunteers will be shared with you in case you face any technical difficulties.

   iv. In the event of impossibility to reconnect over the internet, the participant/team is allowed to switch to the call-in option provided by WebEx.

3. **Preliminary Rounds**

   a. All the teams that qualify Stage I: Memorial Evaluation Round shall be eligible to participate in the preliminary rounds.

   b. There shall be two preliminary rounds. Each team shall argue in both the rounds, once as Applicant and once as Respondent.

   c. In the Preliminary rounds, the memorial scores of the teams will be used to determine the match-ups; a power match-up system (Team 1 v Team 24, Team 2 v Team 23…) and a slide match-up system (Team 1 v Team 13, Team 2 v Team 14…) shall be used for the first and the second round respectively.

   d. Each round shall be decided through the allocation of a total of 9 round points, with all points being awarded on the basis of the Oral Scores of the teams.

   e. A bench of 3 judges will judge each round in the Preliminary Rounds.

   f. No team shall face the same bench more than once in the preliminary rounds.

g. A total of 3 points per judge will be allocated for the Preliminary Rounds. For each judge, if the cumulative Oral Score of one Team exceeds the cumulative Oral Score of the other Team by 10% of the higher cumulative Oral Score, then the Team with the higher cumulative Oral Score will be awarded 3 points and the other team with 0 points. If such difference is less than 10%, then the Team with the higher score will be awarded 2 points and the other Team will be awarded 1 point. In the case of a tie, the Teams will be awarded 1.5 points each for that judge.

Example: In a round between Team A and Team B, Judge 1 gives a cumulative Oral Score (Speaker 1 + Speaker 2) of 170 marks to Team A and 165 marks to Team B. The difference is 5 marks. Since this difference is less than 10% of 170 (which is 17) for Judge 1, Team A will be awarded 2 points and Team B will be awarded 1 point. In the same round, if Judge 2 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 155 marks to Team A and 175 marks to Team B. Here, the difference of 20 marks is more than 10% of 175 (which is 17.5) and hence, Team A will be awarded 0 points and Team B will be awarded 3 point. In the same round, Judge 3 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 155 marks to Team A and 155 marks to Team B. Here, both the teams will be awarded 1.5 points.

The total round points for that round will be: Team A: 2 (Judge 1) + 0 (Judge 2) + 1.5 (judge 3) = 3.5 Points and Team B: 1 (Judge 1) + 3 (Judge 2) + 1.5 (judge 3) = 5.5 points.

h. The marks given by all the judges (out of 600) will be cumulated to determine the Best Speaker.

4. Quarter – Finals

a. Top 8 teams with the most points (out of 18) shall qualify in the Quarter- finals. In case of any tie, the memorial marks shall be referred.

b. For the Quarter Final Rounds, the rankings of the Preliminary Rounds shall be used for the match - ups. (Team 1 v. Team 5; Team 2 v. Team 6; Team 3 v. Team 7; Team 4 v. Team 8)

5. Semi – Finals

   a. The winning Team in each of the four Quarter Final Rounds shall advance to the Semi Final Rounds.

   b. In Semi Final Rounds, the pairings shall be as follows, with reference to the match numbers: the winner of Match 1 versus the winner of Match 4; and the winner of Match 2 versus the winner of Match 3.

6. Finals

The Winning Team from each of the two Semi Final Rounds shall advance to the Final Round. The Winner of the Final Round shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.

7. Researcher's Test

   a. Researcher's test will be conducted on **14th May 2021** on Cisco WebEx platform.

   b. It is mandatory for the researcher to keep their camera and audio enabled through entirety of test. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate disqualification from the test.

   c. Researchers will be required to share their screen during the entirety of test. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification.

   d. Once the researcher joins the meet at the designated time, a member of the organizing committee will ask the researcher several objective type questions.

   e. The researcher will be given a time of 30 seconds to answer each question once the organizing committee member has finished the question.

   f. The researcher is not allowed to communicate with their team members or anyone else during the test.

   g. The researcher is not permitted to refer to any written material, or internet during the researcher's test.

5. Awards

1. Winning Team Award: The winning team will receive a trophy and cash prize of INR 50,000. The members of the winning team will also receive one year complimentary subscription to EBC Learning.

2. Runners-Up Team Award: The runners-up team will receive a trophy and cash prize of INR 25,000. The members of the Runners-Up team will also receive one year complimentary subscription to SCC Online Web Edition.

3. Best Speaker will receive a trophy and cash prize of INR 10,000.

4. Second-Best Speaker will receive cash prize of INR 7,500.

5. The team with the Best Memorial - Applicant will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000.

6. The team with the Best Memorial - Respondent will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000.

7. Best Researcher will receive a cash prize of INR 10,000.

8. Second-Best Researcher will receive a cash prize of INR 7,500.

9. All Teams qualifying Stage I will be offered an online certificate course by Enhelion, free of cost**.**

10. All participating teams will be provided with a certificate of participation.

ANNEXURE A

For the live rounds, you can either:

A. Join via your computer running Windows/MacOS/equivalent Linux Distro

B. Join via the WebEx Meetings Mobile App for Android / iOS

C. Dial-in using your phone/landline

Option A: Join via Computer

- You can join without installing any software by running it straight from your browser.
    - Watch this video to understand how this works.
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7l_W-iiGi_Q
- You can join by using the Desktop Application
    - Download the **Cisco Web-Ex Meetings** from the official website and install the application.
      https://www.webex.com/downloads.html

Option B: Join via the mobile application

- Download the Android Application from the Play Store at https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cisco.webex.meetings&hl=en
- Download the iOS/iPadOS application from the App Store at https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cisco-webex-meetings/id298844386

We recommend using one of the options and keeping a second one as a backup ready for any unforeseen circumstances, so we request you to keep the mobile app installed even if you choose to use your computer for the live rounds. You are also requested to keep all details regarding meeting information in a convenient location, which includes meeting id, password and nearest dial-in number.

Option C:

In case you do not have access to a stable internet connection, the platform provides the option of participating in sessions through a dial-in feature, wherein the session can be joined in by calling a phone number, without having to use the internet. This, it is hoped, will make live participation in rounds a more accessible prospect.

1. Just call the toll-free number of the city nearest to you as mentioned below.
2. After you have been welcomed to WebEx, you will be told to dial in your meeting id with a "#" after it (eg. 166 468 9486#).
3. You will then have to dial in your attendee id, in case you do not know the attendee id, you will be told to dial in one more "#".

If you intend to join through a phone-call when you do not have an internet connection, please call the numbers mentioned below.

Call-In Numbers (you can call in your nearest city number):

India Toll (Bengaluru) +91-80-6480-0114

India Toll (Chandigarh) +91-172-648-0026

India Toll (Chennai) +91-44-6480-0260

India Toll (Coimbatore) +91-422-648-0026

India Toll (Delhi) +91-11-6480-0114

India Toll (Hyderabad) +91-40-6480-0114

India Toll (Indore) +91-731-648-0026

India Toll (Jaipur) +91-141-648-0026

India Toll (Kochi) +91-484-648-0026

India Toll (Kolkata) +91-33-6480-0260

India Toll (Mangaluru) +91-824-648-0026

India Toll (Mumbai) +91-22-6480-0114

India Toll (Mysuru) +91-821-648-0026

India Toll (Nagpur) +91-712-648-0026

India Toll (Pune) +91-20-6480-0260

India Toll (Thiruvananthapuram) +91-471-648-002