



1ST INTERNATIONAL CYBER LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2021

9TH – 12TH DECEMBER, 2021

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



1st International Cyber Law Moot Court Competition, 2021 Rules

These are the rules for the 1st International Cyber Moot Court Competition, 2021.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **“Administrator(s)”** means the Moot Court Committee of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, members thereof, or any persons appointed for the administration and conduct of the Competition, by the Moot Court Committee.
- 1.2 **“Advanced Round”** means the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and the Finals.
- 1.3 **“Competition”** means the 1st International Cyber Moot Court Competition, 2021.
- 1.4 **“IST”** means Indian Standard Time.
- 1.5 **“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted by each team in pursuance of these Rules.
- 1.6 **“Oral Round”** means the Preliminary Rounds and the Advanced Rounds.
- 1.7 **“Participant”** refers to any member of any institution participating in the competition.
- 1.8 **“Preliminary Rounds”** refers to the round conducted prior to the Advanced Round for the purposes of determining as to which teams shall move forward to the advanced rounds.
- 1.9 **“Primary Contact Person”** means any member designated by a team to serve as a one-point contact for the administrators.
- 1.10 **“Roles”** refers to the roles of a speaker or a researcher.
- 1.11 **“Scouting”** means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with.
- 1.12 **“Speaker”** refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.

1.13 “Team Code” refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration.

2. Interpretation

The administrators will have the exclusive authority to interpret the Rules in the interest of fairness and equality. The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the administrators shall be final and binding. Moreover, on any instance not covered by these Rules, the administrators shall have the sole discretion.

3. Key Dates

3.1 The following key dates shall be adhered to:

Last Date for Registration – 18th October, 2021

Last Date for seeking Clarifications – 10th October, 2021

Last Date for Submission of Memoranda – 20th November, 2021

Date of Oral Rounds – 10th-11th December, 2021

3.2 Unless specified otherwise, the dates mentioned shall refer to 11:59 PM IST on that date. For instance, the last date of registration shall be interpreted as 18th October, 2021, 11:59 PM IST.

3.3 The authority to change deadlines for any individual team is retained by the administrators. However, the memorandum submission deadline shall NOT be extended for any individual team and shall remain the same for all teams.

4. Eligibility

The Competition is open to all students, enrolled bonafide on a regular basis in an Undergraduate law course or its equivalent conducted by any recognized institution.

5. Team Composition

- 5.1** A team can have a minimum of two members and a maximum of three members. In each of the oral rounds two members of the team will be speakers.
- 5.2** A team of three members must designate any two members as the speakers.
- 5.3** Each team shall designate one member as the Primary Contact Person.
- 5.4** Once registered, a team will not be permitted to vary the composition of the team in any manner including the roles as originally assigned to the members. Changes, if any, may only be made with the express permission of the administrators (at their discretion), if due reason is shown for the same.

6. Outside Assistance

Every team must research and write its memorandum without the assistance of non-members. Teams may receive general advice from Faculty Advisors and/or Coaches. However, such advice must be limited to general advice on the area of law concerned, structure of arguments and general commentary on the team's arguments. No advice whatsoever may be taken from any member of another team or any Coach/Faculty Advisor of another team.

7. Registration

Each team shall register for the competition by filling an online registration form no later than the last date of registration mentioned in Rule 3 above. The registration form is available [here](#) and in case of any difficulties, the form can also be requested from the administrators by any eligible student.

8. Registration Fee

The registration fee for all teams is Rupees 3000. The registration fee is non-refundable and has to be paid by all teams.

9. Payment of Registration Fee

- 9.1** Teams are required to pay the registration fee as mentioned in Rule 8 above only when they receive a confirmation of part registration by the administrators after filling the registration form.
- 9.2** Teams who have received a confirmation of part registration can pay the registration fee through RTGS/NEFT/IMPS/Demand Draft. The details for the payment are as follows:
Name of the Beneficiary: **NUSRL, Ranchi**
Account No: **490710110003104**
IFSC: **BKID0005900**
Branch Name: **NUSRL- Campus, Ranchi**
Account Type: **Savings Bank**
- 9.3** Any transfer fees or any other incidental charges must be paid by the transferor. The wire transfer must also indicate the name of the institution for which the transfer has been made.
- 9.4** All teams must email a scanned copy of the payment receipt at *mootcyberlaw@gmail.com*. This is mandatorily required.
- 9.5** The final registration of the team shall only be confirmed upon verification of payment by the administrators. Once verified, the team shall be deemed to be registered.
- 9.6** Once a team is registered, a team code shall be assigned to it by the administrators. This team code will serve as their unique identifier both for Memorials and at the Oral Rounds. Any team that fails to send the details of the payment of fees shall not be allocated a team code.
- 9.7** The administrators reserve the absolute discretion to refuse or cancel the registration of any team.

10. Clarifications to the Problem

- 10.1** All requests for clarifications to the problem must be emailed to *mootcyberlaw@gmail.com*, latest by 10th October, 2021.

10.2 The request for clarifications should be clear and related to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments.

10.3 All clarifications issued shall be communicated to the teams via e-mail.

10.4 The clarifications as and when issued shall become a part of the Moot Problem.

11. Anonymity of Teams

11.1 Teams must not reveal the name of their institution, or country of origin, or names of the participants, anywhere in the memoranda or in the course of the oral arguments. Provided that speakers may refer to themselves and other speakers in an oral round by their respective names.

11.2 A team must be identified only by the team code that will be allotted to it after registration as per Rule 9.6.

12. Memoranda

12.1 General

- a) Each team shall prepare one memorandum from each side, i.e., the Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) and the Respondent(s).

12.2 Rights over Memoranda

- a) The administrators reserve the right to publish and disseminate memoranda submitted to and for the Moot. The memoranda shall be attributed to the relevant institution and participants during such publication and dissemination. Submission of memoranda in this Moot shall constitute consent to such publication and dissemination.
- b) The administrators also reserve the right to use the memoranda submitted for any other purpose they may deem fit while ensuring appropriate attribution.

12.3 Submission of Memoranda

- a) All teams shall send a soft copy of memoranda for each side in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats, via e-mail, on or before 10th November, 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST) to *mootcyberlaw@gmail.com* only.
- b) Any submission made after 10th November, 2021 (11:59 P.M. IST) will be considered late submission and penalized accordingly.
- c) Each memorandum 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 memorandum, i.e., an R for Respondent(s) and A for Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s). For instance, the Respondent memorandum of team code 2 should be named "2R".
- d) For every hour of delay in memorandum submission from the prescribed time of submission, one mark shall be deducted. Any memorandum submitted 12 hours after the time prescribed above will not be accepted and the team will not be allowed to participate except at the discretion of the administrators. The decision of the administrators shall be final in this regard.

12.4 Format of Memoranda

a) Memorandum Structure

Each memorandum must contain all of, and only, the following components:

- (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/Pleadings; and

(x) Prayer

b) Font and Spacing

- (i) The text font for the Arguments Advanced and Prayer, including that of all headings and sub-headings must be Times New Roman, size 12 with 1.5 line spacing.
- (ii) The text font for the footnotes must be Times New Roman, size 10 with 1.0 line spacing. There must be no additional space between two footnotes.
- (iii) Each page in the memoranda must have a margin of one inch on all sides.
- (iv) The page size should be A-4.

c) Cover Page

The Cover Page of each memorandum must contain only the following information:

- (i) The team registration code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by an "A" for the Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) memorandum, and an "R" for the Respondent(s) memorandum. For example, Team Code 2 would put the code "2A" in the upper right-hand corner of its Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) memorandum;
- (ii) The cover page of the petitioner memorandum shall be blue and respondent memorandum shall be red.
- (iii) The name of the forum before which the proceedings are being conducted;
- (iv) The year of the Competition;
- (v) The cause title of the case; and
- (vi) The title of the memorandum (either "Memorandum for Appellant/Petitioner" or "Memorandum for Respondent").

d) Table of Abbreviations

All abbreviations used in the memorandum must be included in the Table of Abbreviations.

e) Index of Authorities

The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the memorandum. The Index must indicate the page number(s) and/or the paragraph number(s) of the memorandum in which the authority is cited.

f) Statement of Facts

The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts.

g) Issues Raised

In this section, teams should present the legal questions the Court is being called upon to decide in the context of the case. While each legal question might have further sub-questions, teams must state only the main legal questions in this section.

h) Arguments Advanced and Prayer

Substantive, affirmative legal argument or legal interpretation of the facts of the Case may only be presented in the 'Arguments Advanced' section of the Memorial. The Arguments Advanced and Prayer shall not exceed 25 pages.

i) Citations and Footnotes

(i) It is not permitted to provide any information in the footnotes that is not related to the identification of an authority or source. Footnotes may not include additional legal arguments.

(ii) The citations shall be in 20th Bluebook Edition.

12.5 Judging of Memoranda

a) General

(i) Each memorandum shall be assessed individually and independently by two (2) judges.

- (ii) Every memorandum will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) marks by each judge. Therefore, in a match between Team 7 (Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)) v. Team 5 (Respondent(s)), Team 5's Respondent memorandum will be marked by two judges and can score up to a maximum of 200 marks. The same is applicable for team 7's Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) memorandum.
- (iii) A team's total memorandum score shall be the sum of marks awarded for the Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) memorandum and marks awarded for the Respondent memorandum.

b) Substantive Scoring

Each judge can award a maximum of one hundred (100) marks and the memoranda will be judged on the following criteria:

- (i) Recognition of issues: complete and correct recognition and weighing of issues.....10
- (ii) Correct primary and alternative submissions.....10
- (iii) Identification of legal principles20
- (iv) Quality and extent of research: Use of relevant case law, academic writings etc.....20
- (v) Appreciation and application of facts10
- (vi) Logical structure and clarity of thought.....10
- (vii) Ingenuity.....10
- (viii) Overall Impression-: Formatting, citations, etc.....10

13. Qualification for Oral Rounds

The administrators reserve the right to conduct a Memorial Qualifier round in case the number of participating teams exceeds criteria set by the administrators.

14. Procedure for Oral Rounds

14.1 General

- a) The Competition shall consist of preliminary rounds and advanced rounds. Each team shall argue in two (2) Preliminary Rounds: once as Claimant and once as Respondent. The Advanced Rounds shall, unless otherwise specified, consist of three knock-out rounds – the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final.
- b) During the oral round, only the two speakers and the researcher (if any) can be present during the video conference for that round. Any other person affiliated to the participant institution shall not be present during the oral rounds and shall not aid the speakers or communicate with them in any manner.
- c) Before the start of the oral round of any team, the team shall inform the timekeeper of the names of the two members who will be presenting oral arguments in that round. The team shall also inform the timekeeper regarding the allocation of time between themselves and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal keeping within the prescribed time limits. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- d) For the oral rounds, each team may distribute its allocated time as it deems fit, provided that no speaker is allocated less than 40% of the time allocated to that team for that round. No more than 20% of the time allocated to the team shall be reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. For instance, an acceptable allocation for a 30-minute time allocation may be 12 minutes for each speaker's main arguments and 6 minutes for rebuttal/ sur-rebuttal.

14.2 Rounds

- a) **Preliminary Rounds**

- (i) Each team shall have 30 minutes to argue in the Preliminary Rounds.
 - (ii) The top eight teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Advanced Rounds.
 - (iii) If the total number of participating teams exceeds 50, there shall be a Round of the top sixteen teams before the Advanced Rounds mentioned in the foregoing provision. The rules for such Octa-finals rounds shall be same as Quarter-finals.
- b) **Quarter Finals**
- (i) Each team shall have 45 minutes to argue in the Quarter Finals.
 - (ii) The pairing shall be as follows:
Quarter 1: Team No.1 v. Team No.5
Quarter 2: Team No.2 v. Team No.6
Quarter 3: Team No.3 v. Team No.7
Quarter 4: Team No.4 v. Team No.8
 - (iii) The winners of the Quarter Finals shall advance to the Semi Finals.
- c) **Semi Finals**
- (i) Each team shall have 45 minutes to argue in the Semi Finals.
 - (ii) The pairing shall be as follows:
Semi 1: Winner of Quarter 1 v. Winner of Quarter 3
Semi 2: Winner of Quarter 2 v. Winner of Quarter 4
 - (iii) The winners of the Semi Finals shall advance to the Finals.
- d) **Finals**
- Each team shall have 45 minutes to argue in the Finals.

14.3 Rebuttal/Sur-Rebuttal

- a) The rebuttal/sur-rebuttal may be presented by only one speaker of a team for all the issues.

- b) The Respondent team may use the time set aside for sur-rebuttal only if the Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) team exercises its right to rebuttal.
- c) If a team fails to reserve time for a rebuttal or sur-rebuttal at the start of an oral round it may not then request that such time be added during the course of the round.
- d) The Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)'s rebuttal must be limited to responding to the Respondent's oral pleadings; whereas the Respondent's sur-rebuttal is limited to responding to the Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)'s rebuttal.

14.4 Scouting

- a) Team members, or individuals directly affiliated with a team, may observe only those preliminary rounds in which their team is competing. Any form of scouting is strictly prohibited and shall entail disqualification of the team. The decision of the administrators shall be final in this regard.
- b) For teams which have moved on to the advanced rounds of the competition, team members, or individuals directly affiliated with a team, may observe only those advanced rounds in which their team is competing.
- c) Teams and individuals directly affiliated with teams, which have not qualified for the advanced rounds may observe any of the advanced rounds.
- d) Once a team in the advanced rounds has been knocked out of the Competition, team members and individuals directly affiliated with the team, may observe any of the remaining advanced rounds.

15. Judging of Oral Rounds

- 15.1** Each preliminary round shall be judged by two (2) judges and each advanced round shall be judged by three (3) judges. However, the

final may be judged by a larger bench. The administrators reserve the right to change the bench strengths.

15.2 Each oral pleading will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each of the judges.

15.3 The oral pleading shall be judged on the following criteria:

- (a) Recognition of issues: complete and correct recognition and weighing of issues.....10
- (b) Identification of legal principles15
- (c) Use of authorities15
- (d) Appreciation and application of facts.....15
- (e) Clarity, logic and structure of presentation.....10
- (f) Response to questions15
- (g) Ability to communicate with judges10
- (h) Overall presentation, poise and demeanor.....10

16. Dispute Resolution

In case of any dispute arising during the course of the moot, the decision of the organizing committee shall be final and binding on all the participants of the moot.