



3rd NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024




RULE BOOK



1. ELIGIBILITY

All law colleges / Institutions/ Universities across the country recognized by the Bar Council of India are eligible to take part in the competition.

Students pursuing 3 years / 5 years undergraduate L.L.B degree course are eligible to participate in this competition. Only one team can participate from each institution.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

The team composition, for the competition, shall comprise of either two members (being designated as Speakers) OR three members (two of them shall be designated as Speakers and one Researcher).

The Researcher may be permitted to argue as Speaker in case of illness or any unforeseen event, but the permission of the Moot Court Faculty Conveners in such case shall be mandatory.

3. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by sending an E-Mail to: mcc.sol@gehu.ac.in or before February 2nd , 2024.

The subject of the clarification E-Mail must be “Clarification(s) – 3rd SOL, GEHU, Dehradun’s, NMCC, 2024”.

[Note: Clarifications sent after the deadline shall not be entertained.]

A team may seek a maximum of five clarifications only. The clarifications shall be released by the organisers on February 5th, 2024. Clarifications will be sent to the respective teams on their E-Mail ID's.

[Note: The request for clarification shall only be made on the factual matrix of the Moot Proposition and no request whatsoever shall be entertained towards seeking clarification on the legal facets of the Moot Proposition. The clarification so issued shall be deemed to be final and absolute unless otherwise decided and communicated by the administrators to the participating teams.]

4. MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

4.1 RULES FOR MEMORIAL

- a) The memorials submitted for the competition shall firmly comply with these Rules of the competition (henceforth, Rules). Each participating team must prepare two (2) written submissions, one for each petitioner/appellant and respondent side.
- b) Each team must submit the soft copy of the memorial for both sides by 14th February 2024 i.e. Wednesday before 11:59 p.m. IST.
- c) The memorials shall be sent via Email to MCC.SOL@gehu.ac.in in PDF Format only.
- d) The Soft Copy of Memorials Once submitted cannot be revised or resubmitted.
- e) The hard copies must be identical to the soft copy. Violation of this rule would entail immediate disqualification from the Competition.

- f) The memorial must not contain any Annexure / Photographs / Exhibits or any other representation of like nature.**
- g) The memorial must not contain any identification apart from the team code allotted. If any discrepancy or any attempt to disclose identity by any team is detected by the organizers the team will be disqualified with immediate effect.**
- h) The memorials must be named in the following format: “Team code”- Petitioner/Respondent, for example, T 102 Petitioner.**
- i) Plagiarism of any kind is strictly prohibited and if found, will lead to immediate disqualification.**
- j) The teams that shall qualify for the Quarter finals, Octa Finals, Semi Finals and Final rounds will only be required to submit the hard copy of the memorials.**

4.2. FORMAT OF MEMORIALS.

4.2.1. The Memorials shall consist of only the following sections:

- a) Cover Page- Petitioner (Blue); Respondent (Red)**
- b) Table of Contents**
- c) List of Abbreviations**
- d) Index of Authorities**
- e) Statement of Jurisdiction**
- f) Statement of Facts (not exceeding 3 pages)**
- g) Statement of Issues**
- h) Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 3 pages)**
- i) Arguments Advanced**
- j) Prayer**

[NOTE: The memorial as a whole should not exceed 25 pages for one side.]

[NOTE: Teams shall cite authorities in the Memorial using footnotes following the 21st Bluebook edition/OSCOLA style of citation.]

4.2.2. Each Memorial shall have only the following on its cover page:

- a) The team code on the upper-right-hand corner of the cover page.**
- b) The name and place of the forum.**
- c) The relevant legal provision under which it is filed.**
- d) Name of parties and their status.**
- e) On whose behalf the Memorial is filed.**

4.2.3. The Memorials shall be printed on A4 size paper, with the following mandatory.

formatting specifications:

- a) Font Type: Times Now Roman**
- b) Font Size: 12 (for headings size 14)**
- c) Line spacing: 1.5.**
- d) Margins: 1 inch on each side.**

4.2.4. For footnotes, the formatting specifications are:

- a) Font Type: Times Now Roman**
- b) Font Size: 10.**
- c) Line Spacing: single line spacing.**

4.3. PARAMETERS:

- a) Late submission: 2 marks per memorial every 12 hours after the deadline. Disqualification beyond 48 hours.**
- b) Wrong File Name: 1 mark per Memorial.**
- c) Exceeding Page Limits :3 Marks per exceeding page.**
- d) Failure to include the required information on the cover page: 2 Marks per violation.**
- e) Failure to use the correct colour coding :2 Marks per Memorial**
- f) Use of incorrect font style, font size, margin or line spacing: 1 mark per violation, maximum of 10 marks per side.**

5. DRAW OF LOTS

- a) In all the rounds there shall be the draw of lots. Before the Preliminary, Octa final, Quarterfinal, Semi-final and Final rounds, a draw of lots shall be done to determine the side on which the Team shall be arguing i.e. Petitioner/Appellant or Respondent/Defendant.
- b) The draw of lots will also decide which team you will be competing against (There will be no predecided fixtures).

6. DRESS CODE

The participants shall adhere to following dress code when present in any court room during the Competition.

A.Girls: White salwar and kurta or white shirt and black trousers along with black coat and black shoes.

B.Boys: White shirt, black trousers and black tie along with black coat and black shoes.

[Note: The participating teams shall also adhere to the above mentioned dress code while attending the inaugural and valedictory ceremonies of the Competition.]

7. ORAL SUBMISSIONS

7.1. General Procedure:

- a) The oral rounds shall be conducted online on a live video conferencing platform (GOOGLE MEET/ MS Teams/Zoom).
- b) The language to be used is only ENGLISH.
- c) Rounds: The competition is to be organized in hybrid mode and is divided into :
 - i) Preliminary Round and Octa final rounds will be held in Virtual mode.
 - ii) Quarter-Final, Semi-final Rounds and Final Round will be conducted in person.

d) In each oral round, a team will be represented by two speakers who will present arguments. The researcher will not participate in the argument but should be present along with the speakers during rounds.

e) Teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the Rounds, either their own individual identities or the identity of the Institution that they Represent, even if asked by the Judges. Thus, all participants must join the session using their team code and speaker code.

f) If at any instance a submission is made with any material in violation of rules and if any picture, sketches, photos, cartoons, caricatures, audio film, video film, projector or any identification mark which reveals the identity of their college/university- slide or a computer -generated image is used or submitted or presented to the court, the teams shall be subject to disqualification or negative marking appropriate by the Judges.

g) During oral submissions, the participants cannot submit to the court any material containing pictorial representation whatsoever. Further, no audio/visual representation apart from speaking live will be permitted.

h) Delay in appearance for a round exceeding five (5) minutes will render disqualification of the team for that round. In such case, their opponent shall make their oral submissions ex parte.

7.2. SPLITTING OF TIME BETWEEN SPEAKERS

a) Each team shall have two speakers who shall further divide the oral submissions between themselves.

b) The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the court officer 10 minutes prior to the commencement of each round of Oral Submissions. Once so informed these timings shall not be changed.

- c) Further, each team must notify the Court Officer the amount of time that the team wants to reserve for their rejoinder / sur - rejoinder. A maximum of five (5) minutes may be reserved for the rebuttal/ sur-rebuttal.**
- d) Five (5) minutes and Two (2) minutes before the completion of the allocated time for each speaker, they will be notified by the court officers.**
- e) If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 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.**
- f) While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.**
- g) The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest exclusively with the Judges.**

7.3. EXCHANGE OF WRITTEN SUBMISSION

- a) The exchange of Written Submissions shall take place prior to the Oral Pleading Rounds.**
- b) Teams are prohibited from making any marks on the opponent's Written Submissions thus exchanged.**
- c) Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Written Submission, electronically or otherwise.**
- d) The opponent's Written Submissions shall be returned to the Court officer after the completion of each Round.**

7.4 PRELIMINARY ROUND

- a) Each team shall argue on behalf of one side (Applicant/Petitioner or the Defendant/Respondent) in accordance with the draw of lots.**

b) Time limit for the oral submissions in the preliminary round is 25 minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/surrebuttal. No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

7.5 OCTA-FINAL ROUND

Time limit for the oral submissions in the Octa-Final round will be twenty-five (25) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

7.6 QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

Time limit for the oral submissions in the Quarter-Final round will be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/surrebuttal. No speaker may reserve more than eighteen (18) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

7.7 SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Time limit for the oral submissions in the Semi-Final round will be (60) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

No speaker may reserve more than thirty-five (35) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

7.8 FINAL ROUND

Time limit for the oral submissions in the Final round will be (60) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

No speaker may reserve more than thirty-five (35) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

8. SCORING IN THE ORAL ROUNDS

8.1. PRELIMINARY ROUND

a) For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of evaluation of the speaker scores.

b) Each preliminary round matchup will be judged by two Judges, each of whom shall mark every speaker out of 100 Marks. The team with the higher total marks on Judges score sheet will be the winner.

c) Each preliminary round will be decided on the basis of cumulative marks of both speaker and mean of the scores.

8.2. OCTA-FINAL ROUND

The sixteen (16) teams that proceed to the Octa-final Rounds shall be on Knock-out basis and each team will argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

8.3 QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter-final Rounds on Knockout basis and each team will argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

8.4. SEMI-FINAL ROUND

The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi-final Round on Knock-out basis and each team will argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

8.5. FINAL ROUND

- a) The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round shall each argue only once for the side allotted by a draw of lots.
- b) The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the Winning Team.
- c) The other team shall be declared as the Runner-Up Team.

9. TECHNICAL RULES FOR ONLINE PLATFORM

- a) The Competition will be conducted by using an online live video conferencing platform (ZOOM/MS TEAMS/GOOGLE MEET) as per the Indian Standard Time (IST). The details of the platform shall be shared with the teams via mail.
- b) To ensure the smooth functioning of the competition, An Invitation link to the meeting shall be sent to participants on their respective email IDs submitted by them in the Registration Form and through WhatsApp prior to the round.
- c) Participants shall be admitted into the online platform by the courtroom Coordinators before their round.
- d) The Participants are expected to be seated in a quiet space free from any echo and isolated from any form of disturbances. The use of cell phones is prohibited at all times.
- e) The Participants must make sure that the background is plain and sober which does not disturb the judges. Preference will be given to a white background.

- f) The participants should only use their team code as their username while joining the meeting room.**
- g) During the rounds, the participants must have their cameras on all the time. It must be ensured that the visibility of a participant in the virtual round is up to their torso, including their shoulders and hands.**
- h) At the time when one participant is speaking, other participants are expected to keep their microphones on mute. In case a participant is found disturbing the other participant anyway, he/she may be disqualified.**
- i) No additional documentation or screen sharing will be allowed and any information which has to be provided to the court should be submitted to organizers beforehand along with the Compendium and the Memorial.**
- j) In case the internet connection of Speaker 1 is lost or if that Speaker faces any other difficulty in connecting, a time limit of five (5) minutes shall be given to that speaker to reconnect. After five (5) minutes are over, Speaker 2 will take over to put forth his arguments. If Speaker 1 fails to reconnect, the team shall be marked on the basis of arguments put forth by Speaker 2 and Speaker 1 only if he has put forth any arguments before disconnection.**
- k) The Organizers shall not be responsible for any loss due to slow or nonfunctional Internet Connection during the Competition.**
- l) In any case whatsoever, the decision of the Organizers and Judges shall be final and binding.**

10. RESEARCHERS TEST

- a) The Researcher's Test shall be conducted online on 16 February, 2024 via Google Form.**

- b) Participants are requested to write only the Team Code on the Google form.**
- c) The Researcher's Test shall be application-based, where questions relating to the moot proposition will be asked .**
- d) The duration of the Researcher's Test shall be 50 minutes.**
- e) The Researcher's test shall consist of 5 application-based questions carrying 20 marks each.**

11. SCOUTING

Teams shall not be allowed to observe the orals of another team, unless they have been officially knocked-out of the competition. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- a) The Organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, or immoral conduct.**
- b) Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Organizers and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Irrespective, participants are requested to make their arrangements for the same.**
- c) The administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.**
- d) In case of any doubt in the understanding or interpretations, of any matter concerning the Competition, the decision of the organizing committee and judges shall be final and binding.**

e) The Proposition is neither intended to nor does it attempt to resemble any incident or any person, living or dead. Any such resemblance is purely coincidental. The Proposition is a fictitious factual account prepared for the purposes of the present competition only and it does not attempt to influence or predict the outcome of any matter whatsoever.

f) Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating teams. In case any unplanned or unexpected contingencies arise, the Organising Committee will address them and the Organising Committee's judgement in this regard shall be final. Acceptance of the Organising Committee's decisions is a precondition for participation in the Competition.

g) The organizing committee reserves the right to amend, alter, vary or change, in any manner whatsoever the rules governing the competition which would be communicated to the teams within a reasonable period of time.

h) Teams must raise a conflict of interest and inform the Organising Committee if they find themselves associated with any judge viz. as an intern, etc. at any point of the competition.

13. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Every Memorial and Speaker will be marked on a scale of 100.

13.1. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION

The Memorial shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- i. Understanding of Laws – 20 marks**
- ii. Use of Authorities and Cases -20 marks**
- iii. Understanding and articulation of Facts - 20 marks**
- iv. Overall Coherence of Arguments (Logical Reasoning) - 20 marks**
- v. Overall Presentation of Memorials - 20 marks**

13.2. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ORAL PLEADING SESSIONS

- i) Understanding of Laws – 20 marks**
- ii) Use of Authorities and Cases -20 marks**
- iii) Understanding and articulation of Facts - 20 marks**
- iv) Overall Coherence of Arguments (Logical Reasoning) - 20 marks**
- v) Demeanour and Presentation - 20 marks.**

