



TNNLU Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

PRESENTS

7th National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC) 2026

RULEBOOK



+91 96771 76777
nmac@tnnlu.ac.in
www.nmactnnlu.ac.in
@nmac_tnnlu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Definitions	4
2. Eligibility	6
3. Team Composition	7
4. Provisional Registration	7
5. Registration Fee	7
6. Final Registration	8
7. Language	9
8. Competition Structure	9
9. Competition Timeline	11
10. Travel and Accommodation	12
11. Communications	13
12. General Rules of the Competition	13
13. Code of Conduct	14
13.1. General	14
13.2. Digital Guidelines	15
13.3. Grievance Redressal	16
14. Clarifications	16
15. Dress Code	16
16. Written Submissions for Arbitration Rounds	17
16.1. Submission of the Memorandum	17

16.2. Structure of the Memorandum	17
16.3. Format of Written Submissions	19
16.4. Printing Guideline	19
17. Format of Arbitral Award	19
18. Compendium	21
19. Evaluation Criteria	22
19.1 Mediation Stage	22
19.2. Arbitration Stage	23
19.3. Arbitral Award Stage	25
19.4. Memorandum(s)	25
20. Penalties	26
21. Contact Us	28

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 “Advanced Rounds” means the Qualifier, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds held as part of the TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026 on March 28th-29th, 2026.

1.2 “Applicant Institution/Team” refers to an Institution/Team that have completed the Provisional Registration Process.

1.3 “Arbitral Award” refers to the written decision of the participant acting as an Arbitrator in the Arbitration Stage of the Preliminary Rounds or Qualifier Round as a part of the Arbitral Award Writing Stage of said Round.

1.4 “Clarifications” refers to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by the ADRC.

1.5 “Compendium” refers to the collection of judgements and resources used to support the oral and written submissions of the party in the arbitration round(s).

1.6 “Competition” refers to the TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026.

1.7 “Competition Problem” refers to a problem framed by the Problem Committee to be used in the Rounds.

1.8 “Competition Room” refers to the room that shall be used for conducting the Competition Rounds, whether online or offline.

1.9 “Confidential Information” refers to the key points of information provided to the Negotiating Team regarding the party they represent.

1.10 “Expert Assessor/s” refers to persons(s) nominated and/or selected by the Organizing Committee, who evaluates and scores the performance of the Negotiating Team and the Mediator/Arbitrator(s) during the session in accordance with the Competition Rules. All assessors shall provide to the Organizing Committee a Statement of Trust declaring their neutrality, impartiality and independence to assess the teams of the Competition and disclosing any conflict of interests with the participants, or the university, if it may cause a hindrance to the assessment of the Round.

- 1.11 “General Information” refers to factual information related to a Round, which shall be accessible to all participants.
- 1.12 “Host Institution” refers to Tamil National Law University (TNNLU), Tiruchirappalli.
- 1.13 “Independent Team” refers to a team which participates independently, without representing their University/Institution.
- 1.14 “Institution/s” refers to all Colleges and Universities across the world.
- 1.15 “Mediator-Arbitrator” refers to a participant who acts as a Mediator in the Mediation Stage and an Arbitrator in the Arbitration Stage and Arbitral Award Writing Stage.
- 1.16 “Negotiating Team” refers to a team comprising of two participants who act as Counsel and Client in the Mediation Stage and Co-Counsels in the Arbitration Stage.
- 1.17 “Website” refers to the official website of the competition, i.e. www.nmactnnlu.in.
- 1.18 “Organizing Committee” refers to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) of TNNLU.
- 1.19 “Penalty” refers to the deductions imposed on participants in breach of any rules as provided by Organizing Committee.
- 1.20 “Plagiarism” refers to the direct or substantial duplication of the work from the memorandum(s) of any other team through offline or online source(s).
- 1.21 “Preliminary Rounds” means the two Rounds which take place online to score and rank the participants and determine which participants progress in the Competition, held as part of the TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026 on February 7th-8th, 2026.
- 1.22 “Proof of Enrolment” shall include Student Identity Card, Bonafide Certifications, and similar documents.
- 1.23 “Qualifier Round” refers to the Round where four of the sixteen top-performing teams from the Online Preliminary Rounds will be shortlisted to advance to the Semi-Finals.

1.24 “Registration Fee” refers to the one time amount payable by all teams participating in the Competition.

1.25 “Rounds” refers to both the Preliminary Rounds and Advanced Rounds.

1.26 “Scouting” refers to the act of a person observing the sessions/oral rounds of a team other than the team he/she is a part of.

1.27 “Selected Team(s)” refers to Applicant Teams selected to participate in the Competition Rounds of the TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026 who have completed the Final Registration and paid the Registration Fees.

1.28 “Session Supervisor” refers to member/s of TNNLU designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.

1.29 “Soft Copies” of a document includes the document in both PDF (.pdf) and Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.

1.30 “Stage” refers to each segment of a Round, i.e. Mediation, Arbitration, and Arbitral Award Writing.

1.31 “Team” refers to the three-member team comprised of the Negotiating Pair and the Mediator-Arbitrator.

1.32 “Written Submissions” means the written arguments submitted by each team for the purpose of the Arbitration Rounds.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. All the law students currently pursuing three-year LL.B., five-year LL.B., or similar/equivalent undergraduate legal studies from any recognized institution across the world are eligible to participate in the Competition.

2.2. Independent Teams, including Cross-University Teams, are permitted to participate in the Competition.

2.3. Individuals who are certified mediators or have professionally mediated settlements are not eligible to participate.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1. Each Team shall consist of three members – two members shall act as the Negotiating Team and one member shall act as the Mediator-Arbitrator. The composition of the team shall not be changed save as permitted in writing by the Organizing Committee in exceptional cases.

3.2. The role of the members of a Team as mentioned during the final registration shall be final save as permitted in writing by the Organizing Committee.

4. PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

4.1. Provisional Registration enables Institution or Team to apply to the Organizing Committee to reserve one of the thirty-two participation slots prior to Final Registration.

4.2. Provisional Registration by interested Institutions or Teams must be done by filling the Google Form on or before 11:59 PM IST on December 26th, 2025. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uPC_zClNHUn_4hEwpi5YYmpPhs5-QiTfd8ybyBILhM/edit)

4.3. The Organizing Committee shall assign participation slots in the Competition to Applicant Institutions/Teams who have successfully completed the Provisional Registration process by the aforementioned deadline on the basis of the information submitted by them through the Provisional Registration Form. The decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final in this regard.

4.4. The names of the Selected Institutions/Teams will be communicated to the Applicant Institutions/Teams via email by December 28th, 2025.

5. REGISTRATION FEE

5.1. All Selected Teams shall pay a non-refundable registration fee for the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition. Teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds must pay an additional non-refundable registration fee for the Advanced Rounds.

5.2. The particulars of the registration fees payable by a Team are as follows:

5.2.1. Preliminary Rounds: INR ₹6,000/-

5.2.2. Advanced Rounds: INR ₹15,000/-

5.3. Where the Negotiating Pair qualifies but the Mediator-Arbitrator does not or vice versa, the registration fee for the Advanced Rounds shall be pro-rated based on the number of Participants on each Team who qualify.

6. FINAL REGISTRATION

6.1. The Selected Teams are required to register for the Competition. Proof of Payment of Registration Fees must be submitted through the Final Registration Form.

6.2. Any and all Bank Charges/Transfer Charges must be paid by the participating Team. The bank details for the transfer of registration fees shall be communicated along with the list of selected teams.

6.3. Proof of Enrolment in an educational institution for each team member is required for Registration. The proof(s) are to be submitted via the Final Registration Form.

6.4. Independent Teams and Cross-Institution Teams must also submit a No-Objection Certificate obtained from their institution via the Final Registration Form.

6.5. The deadline for payment of Registration Fee and completion of the Final Registration process is January 10th, 2026.

6.6. The confirmation of Registration will be notified to the teams by the Organizing Committee after the completion and verification of all the

registration formalities. A Team Code will be assigned post confirmation of registration.

6.7. In the event of a Selected Team forfeiting its participation slot, the Organizing

Committee may, entirely within its discretionary power, replace the said Selected Team and offer participation to any other Applicant Team which has successfully completed its application.

7. LANGUAGE

7.1. The official language of the Competition shall be English.

7.2. The use of unparliamentary or discriminatory language is prohibited.

7.3. Official communication in any other language during a Round will reflect negatively on the participants.

8. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

8.1. The Competition shall take place in the hybrid mode. There shall be two Preliminary Rounds which shall take place online on February 7th-8th, 2026. The Advanced Rounds shall take place offline on March 28th-29th, 2026. Each Negotiating Team shall be allotted a Team Code and each Mediator-Arbitrator shall be allotted a Mediator-Arbitrator Code to be used throughout the duration of the Competition.

8.2. The structure of the Competition is as follows:

8.2.1. Preliminary Round I (online) – Mediation, Arbitration, and Arbitral Award Writing Stages

8.2.2. Preliminary Round III (online) – Mediation, Arbitration, and Arbitral Award Writing Stages

8.2.3. Qualifier Round (offline) – Mediation, Arbitration, and Arbitral Award Writing Stages

8.2.4. Semi-Final Round (offline) – Mediation and Arbitration Stages

8.2.5. Final Round (offline) – Mediation and Arbitration Stages

8.3. Qualification

8.3.1. Sixteen (16) Negotiating Teams will advance from the Preliminary Rounds to the Qualifier Round on the basis of an average of the Oral Round scores in both Preliminary Rounds and Preliminary Round Memorandum Submission scores.

8.3.2 Sixteen (16) Mediator-Arbitrators will advance from the Preliminary Rounds to the Qualifier Round on the basis of the Oral Round scores in both Preliminary Rounds and Arbitral Award scores.

8.3.3. Four (4) Negotiating Teams will advance from the Qualifier Round to the Semi-Final Round on the basis of an average of the Oral Round scores in the Qualifier Round and Advanced Round Memorandum Submission scores.

8.3.4. Four (4) Mediator-Arbitrators will advance from the Qualifier Round to the Semi-Final Round on the basis of the Oral Round scores in the Qualifier Round and Arbitral Award scores.

8.3.5. Two (2) Negotiating Teams and Two (2) Mediator-Arbitrators will advance from the Semi-Final Round to the Final Round on a knockout basis.

8.4. Time Allotted per Round

8.4.1. Mediation Stage – 40 Minutes + 10 Minutes Post-Discussion & Evaluation

8.4.2. Arbitration Stage – 35 Minutes for Each Side + 2 Minutes for Each Side for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals + 10 Minutes for Post-Round Questioning

8.4.3. Arbitral Award Stage – 45 Minutes

8.4.4. The maximum time allotted for an entire Round shall be 150 Minutes.

8.5. The Mediation Stage comprises of:

8.5.1. Opening Statement of Mediators

8.5.2. Opening Statements of Negotiating Teams

8.5.3. Joint Conference Session

8.5.4. Caucus Session: A caucus session will be conducted by the Mediators with one Negotiating Team at a time in the absence of the other team. The parties in the caucus session can freely share their interests, position, strategies, and goals with the Mediators. It is not mandatory to conduct a caucus session during the rounds. A caucus may be called by either party or the mediators. No party may call for more than one caucus session during the Mediation Stage of a Round.

8.5.5. Closing Statements

8.6. The Arbitration Stage comprises of:

8.6.1. Oral Arguments of the Claimant's Side

8.6.2. Oral Arguments of the Respondent's Side

8.6.3. Rebuttals by the Claimant's Side

8.6.4. Sur-Rebuttals by the Respondent's Side

8.7. Confidential Information: Confidential Information for a Round shall be released 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the Round.

9. COMPETITION TIMELINE

Commencement of Provisional Registration	6 th December 2025
Deadline for Provisional Registration	24 th December 2025
Confirmation of Slots & Commencement of Final Registration	26 th December 2025
Release of Problem	28 th December 2025
Deadline for Seeking Clarification	1 st January 2026
Deadline for Final Registration	10 th January 2026
Release of Clarifications	11 th January 2026

Deadline for submitting soft copy of Arbitration Memorandum(s) for Preliminary Rounds	25 th January 2026
Preliminary Rounds of TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026	7 th & 8 th February 2026
Advanced Rounds of TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026	28 th & 29 th March 2026
Valedictory Ceremony	29 th March 2026

10. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

10.1. These Rules are only applicable to participants who have qualified for the Advanced Rounds.

10.2. Accommodation for all participants shall be provided by the Organizing Committee. The registration fees are inclusive of accommodation fees for all participants.

10.3. Accommodation shall be provided for all participants from IST 12:00 on March 28th, 2026 to IST 12:00 on March 30th, 2026.

10.4. If any Team wishes to arrive earlier or postpone their stay beyond the given schedule, they shall bear additional accommodation costs. Participants are requested to make travel arrangements accordingly.

10.5. The Organizing Committee shall facilitate teams by providing Points of Contact for aiding in making travel arrangements during arrival and departure from the airport, bus stop, or railway station.

10.6. The Travel Form circulated to the participants of the Advanced Rounds seeking details regarding travel must be duly and promptly filled by the Teams whenever such form is sent by the Organizing Committee.

10.7. The Organizing Committee shall provide all participants breakfast, lunch, and dinner on the dates of the Competition, i.e. from March 28th, 2026 to March 29th, 2026.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.1. All communications to the Organizing Committee shall be via email, addressed to nmac@tnnlu.ac.in or through the individual WhatsApp groups created with every team upon confirmation of Registration.

11.2. Any information communicated by the Organizing Committee to one member of a team shall be considered as communicated to the whole team.

12. GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

12.1. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification after an immediate inquiry. Participants shall not attend any of the sessions of other teams or individuals during the competition or receive information from any person who has attended any previous rounds.

12.2. In cases of plagiarism, excessive use of AI, or any such activities, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify the Team(s) after an immediate inquiry.

12.3. Participants shall not reveal their identity or institutional affiliation to the panel of Expert Assessor(s) at any point prior to the completion of scoring of a Round.

12.4. If any Team fails to be present in the Competition Room at any Stage of a Round for more than 10 minutes from the commencement of that Stage of the Round, they shall be not allowed to appear for that Round.

12.5. The Organizing Committee shall serve as the final authority for the implementation and interpretation of these Rules and of any Supplementary Rules or clarifications.

12.6. If there is any situation which is not contemplated in the rules, the Organizing

Committee's decision on the same shall be final and binding.

12.7. All forms of sexual harassment are prohibited and shall be dealt with strictly as per TNNLU NMAC's Code of Conduct.

12.8. Participants are instructed to maintain mutual respect and decorum while contacting other participants or any members of the organizing committee. Participants must refrain from using derogatory, disrespectful, or sexist language and remarks.

12.9. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, and immoral conduct.

12.10. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of these Rules without any prior notification, if so required and as they may deem appropriate.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

13.1. GENERAL

13.1.1. All Participants are expected to maintain decorum during the Competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.

13.1.2. The Host Institution and Organizing Committee strictly follow a Zero-Tolerance Policy towards sexual harassment and ragging. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify participants for engaging in such conduct without prejudice to any other action which can be initiated under appropriate law.

13.1.3. The Organizing committee reserves the right to disqualify any team or impose any other penalty for any kind of misconduct on the part of any participant during the competition.

13.1.4. Misconduct includes, but is not restricted to:

a. Disclosure of identity to other participants during the course of the Round or to any Expert Assessor/s.

b. Scouting and sharing Confidential Information or particulars of the problems.

c. Any attempt to obtain Confidential Information.

d. Contacting the Drafters of the problems or any other individuals who are expressly barred from consultation.

e. Any other conduct which may give a team an unfair advantage over the other teams.

13.1.5. The Organizing Committee shall set up an Equity Committee to ensure the orderly conduct of all participants of the Competition.

13.1.6. Any issue or matter concerning the Competition shall be decided by the Organizing Committee. In case of any doubt or dispute, the decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final.

13.2. DIGITAL GUIDELINES

13.2.1. This part of the Rules shall be applicable to the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition conducted on the WebEx video-conferencing platform.

13.2.2. The Mode of Communication for the Preliminary Rounds between the Host Institution and members of Selected Teams shall be Official Email and the Official WhatsApp Group, unless specified otherwise.

13.2.3. For the Preliminary Rounds, every Team is required to have the necessary electronic equipment and stable internet connection. Any issues with respect to device failure, connectivity, etc. shall be the sole responsibility of the Team.

13.2.4. Every participant shall, as far as possible, participate in the online Round while being seated in a room with a professional/solid colour background.

13.2.5. The camera of the electronic device being used by the team must clearly show the participant and the surroundings of the room they are seated in.

13.2.6. In the event of any of the participant(s) in a Round facing technical issues such that they exit the Competition Room or are unable to engage properly, a time of 5-7 minutes shall be provided for said participants to reconnect to the Round. The affected participant must immediately contact the Organizing Committee in case of any such issue and provide updates regarding the problem at their respective end.

13.2.7. The use of any electronic device other than the device used to access the Competition's video-conferencing platform is not permitted during the Round.

Photographing and screen-recording the Rounds by the Teams is also prohibited.

13.2.8. Members of the same team need not log in to the Round from the same device or from the same place.

13.3. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

13.3.1. All grievances regarding disqualification, penalty, or other violation of these Rules shall be addressed to the Organizing Committee.

13.3.2. Every effort shall be made by the Organizing Committee to resolve the Grievance at the earliest.

13.3.3. Each aggrieved party shall have adequate opportunity to be heard.

13.3.4. All grievances shall be filed within reasonable limitation period which at the very latest coincides with the last day of the Competition, i.e. no later than the valedictory ceremony of the Competition held on March 29th, 2026.

13.3.5. Any grievance may be addressed to the Appeals Committee, whose decision shall be final.

14. CLARIFICATIONS

14.1. Requests for clarifications shall be sent to nmac@tnnlu.ac.in on or before 11:59 PM IST on 1st January 2026.

14.2. The subject line of emails seeking clarifications shall be “Clarifications – NMAC 2026”.

14.3. Clarifications shall be released by the Organizing Committee by 11th January 2026.

15. DRESS CODE

15.1. Members of the Participating Teams shall be dressed in formal attire of any colour for the duration of the Competition.

15.2. Both Western and Indian Formal Attire is permitted.

15.3. All teams are to follow the dress code for both the Online Preliminary Rounds as well as the Offline Advanced Rounds, as well as the Inauguration Ceremony and Valedictory Ceremony.

16. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FOR ARBITRATION ROUNDS

16.1. SUBMISSION OF THE MEMORANDUM

16.1.1. Each participating team must prepare Memorandum Submissions (maximum 25 pages) for the Preliminary Rounds on behalf of both the Claimant and the Respondent for the Arbitration Stage.

16.1.2. All Teams must send a soft copy of both Memorandums in both the PDF (.pdf) and Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format titled “Claimant (Team Code)” and “Respondent (Team Code)” on or before 11:59 PM IST on January 25th, 2026.

16.1.3. The Teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds will be given a period of 2 weeks from the date of announcement of selected teams to modify their Memorandum Submissions for the Advanced Rounds.

16.1.4. The exact date and time for submission of the Memorandum Submissions for the Advanced Rounds shall be communicated to the Teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds via email.

16.1.5. All Teams must submit 5 hard copies of each of their Advanced Round Memorandum Submissions and submit the same during the onsite Registration on March 28th, 2026.

16.2. STRUCTURE OF THE MEMORANDUM

16.2.1. Each Memorandum must contain all of, and only, the following components in the following order:

- a. Cover page;
- b. Table of Contents;
- c. Table of Abbreviations;
- d. Index of Authorities;
- e. Statement of Jurisdiction;
- f. Statement of Facts;
- g. Issues Raised;
- h. Summary of Arguments;
- i. Arguments Advanced/Pleadings;
- j. Prayer.

16.2.2. Cover Page: Teams must strictly adhere to providing only the following information in the order specified as under:

- a. Team Code in the top right corner of the page. For instance, the team with Team Code 01 would put “TC-01” in the top right corner of the cover page.
- b. Name and the year of the Competition [i.e., “TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition (NMAC), 2026”].
- c. The name and place of the forum of Arbitration.
- d. The relevant legal provision under which the forum has been approached.
- e. The cause title.
- f. The title of the document [i.e., “Memorandum for Claimant(s)” or Memorandum for Respondent(s)”]
- g. The Cover Page shall have a blue background for the Claimant(s) Memorandum and a red background for the Respondent(s) Memorandum.

16.2.3. Table of Contents: The Table of Contents shall mention all the sections mentioned from in above Rule 15.2.2.

- a. Headings of arguments, sub-arguments, etc. need not be mentioned.
- b. The Table of Contents must display the page number of the Memorandum corresponding to each of the items mentioned.

16.2.4. Table of Abbreviations: The Table of Abbreviations must be in alphabetical order.

16.2.5. Index of Authorities: The Index of Authorities must contain a list of all legal authorities and other sources (together “authorities”) cited in the Memorandum. The Index of Authorities must classify the authorities into categories, i.e. Books, Statutes, Articles, Indian Cases, Foreign Cases, etc.

16.2.6. Statement of Facts: This section shall not exceed 1 page.

16.2.7. Statement of Issues: This section shall not exceed 1 page.

16.2.8. Summary of Arguments: This section shall not exceed 2 pages.

16.2.9. Arguments Advanced: This section shall not exceed 15 pages.

16.2.10. Prayer: This section shall not exceed 1 page.

16.3. FORMAT OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

16.3.1. Written submissions must be made on A₄ size paper for both the soft copy and hard copy.

16.3.2. Font, Size, Line Spacing, and Alignment: Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 line spacing, justified.

16.3.3. Citation Style and Format: The citation style to be used is Bluebook (21st Edition). Citations must be in the form of footnotes, not endnotes. Each footnote must be in Times New Roman, size 10, 1.0 line spacing, and justified. There must be no additional space between two footnotes.

16.3.4. Character spacing shall not be condensed in any manner.

16.4. PRINTING GUIDELINES

16.4.1. The first page of the Memorandum must be printed in colour.

16.4.2. All Memorandums must be spiral bound. Memorandums shall not be stapled.

16.4.3. The hard copy of a Memorandum shall be identical to the soft copy. Any changes found in the hard copy, regardless of the magnitude, will result in instant disqualification of the Team.

17. FORMAT OF ARBITRAL AWARD

17.1. The Mediator-Arbitrator is required to draft a final Arbitral Award after the oral submissions of both parties have been made in the Arbitration Stage of each Preliminary Round and the Qualifier Round.

17.2. For drafting the Arbitral Award:

17.2.1. In the Preliminary Rounds, participants must use their own electronic devices. Participants shall be solely responsible for any technical issues that may arise in the Preliminary Rounds. In the Qualifier Round, participants will be provided with a Desktop/PC system by the Host Institution.

17.2.2. Participants will remain on a WebEx video conference with their camera and microphone on and their screen being shared for the entire duration of the drafting process.

17.2.3. The use of secondary materials, accessing tabs other than the drafting window, or utilizing additional devices is strictly prohibited.

17.2.4. Any violation of these Rules will result in severe penalties.

17.3. Margin, Font, Size, Line Spacing, and Alignment: 1-inch margin on all sides, Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 line spacing, justified.

17.4. Citation Style and Format: The citation style to be used is Bluebook (21st Edition). Citations must be in the form of footnotes, not endnotes. Each footnote must be in Times New Roman, size 10, 1.0 line spacing, and justified. There must be no additional space between two footnotes.

17.5. The Arbitral Award shall not exceed 6 pages. It should broadly contain the following:

- a. Heading
- b. Date, Identification of the Parties, and method of Appointment of Arbitrator
- c. Nature of Award
- d. Brief of Nature of the Dispute
- e. Brief of Procedure Adopted
- f. Issues of Fact and Law
- g. Summary of Both Parties' Contentions
- h. Relevant Facts and Applicable Laws
- i. Reasoning and Conclusion
- j. Interest and Liability, if with Cost
- k. Finality and Enforceability

18. COMPENDIUM

18.1. Submission of a Compendium of the text of authorities referred to by the Team is not mandatory.

18.2. If Teams elect to use a Compendium for the Preliminary Rounds, one soft copy must be submitted to the Organizing Committee along with the Memorandum Submission on January 25th, 2026.

18.3. If Teams elect to use a Compendium for the Advanced Rounds, one physical copy must be submitted to the Organizing Committee during the onsite Registration on March 28th, 2026.

18.4. The Compendium must indicate the Team Code and side represented [Claimant(s) or Respondent(s)] on the cover page.

18.5. Teams must ensure that judgements downloaded from SCC Online, Manupatra, or any other database do not disclose the identity of a member of the Team or their affiliated institution. Teams will not be permitted to use the Compendium in case of any non-adherence to anonymity requirements.

18.6. An index for the Compendium at the beginning of the file/folder is mandatory.

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

18.8. In case of judgements exceeding 20 pages, only the first page and relevant pages of the judgment are required to be attached.

18.9. The Organizing Committee bears no responsibility for any issues caused to Expert Assessor/s in finding a relevant document or page.

18.10. The Compendium will only be circulated to the Expert Assessors/s of the Arbitration Stage of the Preliminary Rounds and Qualifier Round. The Compendium shall not be circulated to the Mediator-Arbitrator in the Arbitration Stage or the Arbitral Award Writing Stage.

18.11. The usage of a Compendium is not evaluated in the marking scheme for the Arbitration Stage of a Round.

19. EVALUATION CRITERIA

19.1. MEDIATION STAGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MEDIATORS

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Opening Statement	10
Establishing Working Atmosphere	10
Mediation Process	10
Effective Communication and Mediation Skills	10
Profiling Parties' Interests	10
Comprehending the Parties' Apprehensions	10
Eliciting Information	10
Facilitating Option Generation	10
Sensitivity to Ethical and Cross-Cultural Issues	10
Closing Statements	10
TOTAL	100

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR NEGOTIATING TEAM (Client-Counsel Pair)

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Opening Statement and Closing Statement	10
Relationship Building and Problem Solving	10
Advocating Interests	15
Mutually Generating Creative Options	10
Collaborating with the Other Party	10
Teamwork and Coordination	10
Use of Mediator	10
Effective Negotiation Skills	10
Negotiation Strategy	15
TOTAL	100

19.2. ARBITRATION STAGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ARBITRATORS

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Efficiency in Organizing and Controlling the Process of Arbitration	10
Knowledge and Application of Relevant Laws, Rules, and Policies	15
Consideration and Analysis of Exhibits Presented to the Arbitrator	10

Code of Conduct in Ensuring Neutrality and Fairness	10
General Impression Mannerisms	10
Maintenance of Confidentiality	10
Handling of Erroneous Arguments	10
Relevancy of Questions Asked	15
Body Language, Eloquence, and Confidence	10
TOTAL	100

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR NEGOTIATING TEAM (COUNSELS)

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Opening Statements	10
Knowledge of Facts	10
Evidence Used	10
Proper Articulation of Issues	10
Knowledge of Law	10
Interpretation and Application of the Law	10
Advocacy Skills	10
General Impression and Mannerisms	10
Persuading the Arbitrator	10
Closing Statement and Relief Sought	10
TOTAL	100

19.3. ARBITRAL AWARD STAGE

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ARBITRAL AWARD

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Proper Identification and Inclusion of Parties	10
Identification of Issues and Relief Sought	15
Knowledge of Relevant Laws, Rules, and Policies	15
Reasoning Relied Upon	15
Consistency and Clarity of Thought	15
Finality and Enforceability of the Arbitral Award	10
Originality and Style of Presentation	10
Grammar and Language	10
TOTAL	100

19.4. MEMORANDUM(S)

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION

SCORING CRITERIA	MAXIMUM MARKS
Proper Inclusion of Parties, Identification of Issues and Nature of Relief Sought	10
Knowledge and Application of Facts and Law	15
Quality of Analysis and Organization	10
Persuasiveness of Argument	10

Use of Authorities and Exhibits/Other Relevant Evidence	15
Proper Citation and Correct Format	10
Originality in Presentation	10
General Impression and Clarity of Thought	10
Grammar and Style of Presentation	10
TOTAL	100

20. PENALTIES

20.1. Any violation of these Rules will be penalized by the Organizing Committee, either by way of deduction of points or by disqualifying the Team from the Competition.

20.2. Use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification of the Team.

20.3. Non-compliance with the instructions of a Session Supervisor by the member/s of any Selected Team shall result in a penalty which will be decided by the Judges assessing the respective Rounds.

20.4. Any Penalty for violation of any of the rules may be imposed on Teams by the Organizing Committee. The concerned Team will be given a fair chance to show cause why a penalty should not be imposed on it.

20.5. Penalties for Memorandums shall be on the following objective criteria as follows.

20.5.1. The penalties imposed on a Memorandum submission shall not exceed 15 points per memorandum.

20.5.2. The decision of the Organizing Committee on imposition of penalties shall be final.

20.6. The Nature of Infraction for Memorandum submissions and the correspondingly applicable penalties are as follows:

NATURE OF INFRACTION	PENALTY
Exceeds the maximum length for Statement of Facts	0.5 points per page
Exceeds the maximum length for Statement of Issues	0.5 points per page
Exceeds the maximum length of Summary of Arguments	0.5 points per page
Exceeds the maximum length for Arguments Advanced	0.5 points per page
Exceeds the maximum length for Prayer	0.5 points per page
Failure to use A4 page	2 points
Failure to use Correct Font	2 points
Failure to use Correct Font size	2 points
Failure to use Correct Line Spacing in main text	2 points
Failure to use Correct Page margin	2 points
Breach of Anonymity	5 points
Failure to Correctly Label the Document of the Party (e.g. Claimant or Respondent, Team Code, Cover Page Colour)	1 point
Failure to meet Footnote Formatting Requirements	0.5 points per infraction
Includes Pleadings in the Footnotes	0.5 points per infraction
Electronic copy of Written Submissions submitted in wrong format (Ex. Nonadherence to prescribed file naming Format, File Type, etc.)	2 per infraction
One (1) day delay in Submission	3 points
Two (2) days delay in Submission	5 points

Three (3) days delay in Submission	7 points
More than three (3) days delay in Submission	SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

21. CONTACT US

For any queries, feel free to email us at nmac@tnnlu.ac.in or contact the following members of the Organizing Committee:

FACULTY-IN-CHARGE (ADRC)

Ms. Mrinmoyee Mukherjee

Assistant Professor of Law

m.mukerjee@tnnlu.ac.in

Ms. Malini Eluumalai

Assistant Professor of Law

malini@tnnlu.ac.in

STUDENT COORDINATORS

Ms. Leah Sarah Eapen

Convenor, ADRC, TNNLU

+91 96771 76777

Ms. Varsha Maharaja

Co-Convenor, ADRC, TNNLU

+91 91508 45671