



DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SONEPAT  
AND  
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
PRESENT

3<sup>rd</sup> DBRANLU NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026  
in collaboration with

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)  
March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# RULEBOOK





# TABLE OF CONTENTS



|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Short Title.....                | 1  |
| 2. Aims and Objectives.....        | 1  |
| 3. Definitions.....                | 1  |
| 4. Team Composition.....           | 3  |
| 5. Eligibility.....                | 3  |
| 6. Accommodation.....              | 3  |
| 7. Language.....                   | 3  |
| 8. Registration.....               | 3  |
| 9. Registration Fees.....          | 4  |
| 10. Dress code.....                | 4  |
| 11. Team Identity.....             | 4  |
| 12. Competition Structure.....     | 5  |
| 13. Clarification.....             | 11 |
| 14. Rights over the Memorials..... | 11 |
| 15. Code of Conduct.....           | 11 |
| 16. Dispute Resolution.....        | 12 |
| 17. Results.....                   | 12 |
| 18. Annexure 1.....                | 13 |



# RULES AND REGULATIONS



## 1. SHORT TITLE

This rulebook shall be referred to as the official rules of the competition for “**3<sup>rd</sup> DBRANLU National Moot Court Competition, 2026** in collaboration with **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.”

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Competition encourages teams of students to argue a fictitious legal case by presenting their legal arguments in front of a bench comprising experts in the relevant field of law. The competition will help in the overall development of the participants, as it aims to inculcate discipline among the students and enhance their speaking and legal research skills. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat, offers students from across the country an opportunity to participate in ‘3<sup>rd</sup> DBRANLU National Moot Court Competition, 2026 in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)’ and develop an array of drafting, analytical, argumentation, and interpretation skills.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

**“Advanced Rounds”** means the Quarter-final rounds, Semi-final rounds, and Final round of the competition.

**“Competition”** means the 3<sup>rd</sup> DBRANLU National Moot Court Competition, 2026 in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

**“Court Master”** means the officer of the court. The officer shall be charged with ensuring that the Court runs efficiently. During the competition, this officer will serve as a conduit for communication between the Organising Committee and the Bench.

**“Moot Proposition”** means the official moot problem of the Competition, circulated, supplemented, corrected, or clarified thereof by the Organising Committee.

**“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted by the teams on behalf of both the parties according to the rules prescribed below.

**“Organising Committee”** means the Moot Court Society of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat.

**“Participating team”** means any team of any institution participating in the Competition, which has registered itself for the competition as per the rules and regulations.

“Penalty” means the deductions imposed on the scores of a participating team.

“Plagiarism” means the

- Direct duplication of somebody else's work represented, *inter alia* in books, articles, internet sources, without acknowledgement.
- Substantial duplication of somebody else's work represented *inter alia* in books, articles, and internet sources without acknowledgement. This would include work where sentences have been substantially copied, that is, where at least seven continuous words from the original work are present in the impugned memorial.
- Direct or substantial duplication of any other moot memorial, irrespective of whether that memorial is a competing memorial or not, and irrespective of whether there is an acknowledgement or not. Substantial duplication denotes situations wherein sentences have been substantially copied, that is, where at least seven continuous words from the original work are present in the impugned memorial and/or where a segment of the impugned memorial has been paraphrased from the other memorial with minor changes, keeping intact the import of the latter.

**“Rebuttals”** means the arguments presented by the Petitioner(s)/Plaintiff(s) in response to the Respondent(s)/Defendant(s) submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists.

**“Rules”** means the official rules of the Competition.

“**Scouting**” means witnessing, hearing, observing, etc., the oral submissions of a team other than the team with which such person is associated, and/or reading a memorial of a team to which he/she is not affiliated.

**“Sur-rebuttals”** means the defence presented by the Respondent(s)/Defendant(s) to the rebuttals.



“Speaker” means a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.

“Team Code” means the code allocated to each Participating Team for the purpose of this Competition by the Organising Committee.

#### 4. TEAM COMPOSITION

- Each team shall comprise a minimum of two members and a maximum of three members. The roles shall remain the same throughout the Competition, and no changes in the team composition will be allowed after the final registration.
- However, in cases of unforeseeable circumstances, the change in team composition may be allowed at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

#### 5. ELIGIBILITY

- Students enrolled in three year LL.B. programme or five year integrated LL.B. programme at any bona fide college/institute/university across the country are eligible to participate.
- Not more than two teams shall represent an institution.

#### 6. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will only be provided to the teams participating in the oral rounds for the days of the Competition.

#### 7. LANGUAGE

The official language of the Competition shall be English.

#### 8. REGISTRATION

- The registration form can be accessed - <https://forms.gle/2FLjX95uvQF4rzy8>
- The registration shall be deemed complete only after the successful submission of the registration fees along with a duly filled final registration form latest by **23:59:59 Hrs IST on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- The team shall nominate one team member to be the ‘contact person’. This person will be responsible for all the official communication between the Organising Committee and the team.
- Registration Fees once paid shall be non-refundable.

- On successful registration, participants will receive an acknowledgment email.
- A scanned copy of the registration form (**Annexure 1**), duly signed by the Head of Department of the college/institution/university, along with the fees receipt of the payment for the moot court competition, has to be attached during the online registration process. Registrations without the aforementioned requisites shall not be considered valid.

## 9. REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fees for Memorial Elimination Round will be **Rs. 1,500/-** (non-refundable).

The payment has to be made online (NEFT, RTGS, UPI, IMPS, etc.) in the account mentioned below:

- Bank Name: **HDFC Bank Ltd.**
- Account Holder Name: **Registrar DBRANLU**
- Account Number: **50100156483861**
- IFSC Code: **HDFC0003433**

The receipt/screenshot of the online transfer has to be uploaded along with the registration form itself.

The teams qualifying after the Memorial Elimination Round will have to make an additional payment of **Rs. 5,000/-** (non-refundable) for availing accommodation, and **Rs. 1,500/-** (non-refundable) without accommodation.

## 10. DRESS CODE

The participating teams shall strictly adhere to the following dress code during the Competition:

**Female:** White salwar and kurta or white shirt and black trousers along with a black blazer, tie, and black shoes.

**Male:** White shirt, black trousers, along with a black blazer, tie, and black shoes.

## 11. TEAM IDENTITY

Teams shall not disclose their identity or name of their college/institute/university whatsoever, except in the registration form. They shall communicate only through their team codes during the Competition. Any such disclosure shall result in penalties, including disqualification, subject to the discretion of the Organising Committee.

## 12. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 12.1 INTRODUCTORY

The Competition shall be bifurcated into the following two stages :

**STAGE 1: Memorial Elimination Round-** All the teams registered for the Competition are required to submit memorials as per the rules of the competition.

**STAGE 2: Oral Rounds-** After careful scrutiny of the memorials as per the prescribed marking scheme, 32 teams shall qualify for the oral rounds. The oral rounds including the Preliminary rounds, Quarter-Final Rounds, Semi-Final Rounds, and the Final Round shall be conducted in offline mode at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat as per the guidelines mentioned hereinafter.

### 12.2 WRITTEN SUBMISSION

The Guidelines for the Memorial Submission Rounds are as follows:

#### 12.2.1 MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

- Each team must prepare memorials for both the sides.
- All Written Submissions must be in English.
- One soft copy from each side of the memorial (both in pdf and .docx/.doc format) must be uploaded on the Google Form link (<https://forms.gle/ah1Ca7Rw97vB8CL06>), latest by **16:00:00 Hrs IST, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- The name of the file should be the allocated team code, followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that memorial. For example, if the allocated team code is TC-01, then TC-01[P] for Petitioner(s)/Plaintiff(s) and TC-01[R] for Respondent(s)/Defendant(s).
- Late submission will result in 01 mark penalty per hour per side. For every hour or part thereof of delay in the submission of the Memorial beyond the stipulated time, 01 mark shall be deducted for each side of the Memorial. Any Memorial submitted after the expiry of 24 hours from the prescribed time shall not be accepted, and the team shall not be permitted to participate, unless allowed otherwise at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- The decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be final and binding.

**Note:** The above deduction shall apply irrespective of whether the delay constitutes a complete hour. For instance, a Memorial submitted at 16:01:00 Hrs IST shall also attract a deduction of 01 mark.

- For the second stage, i.e., the Oral Rounds, the participants must submit 6 hard copies of the memorials (each side i.e. 12 copies in total) during the commencement of the Competition.
- The participants should not mention the name of the institution they represent on the hard copy of the memorials.
- Once the memorials have been submitted, no revisions, supplements, or additions will be allowed.

### **12.2.2 FORMAT OF THE MEMORIAL**

1. Cover page: It must be blue for the Petitioner(s)/Plaintiff(s) and red for the Respondent(s)/Defendant(s). The constituents of the first page are as follows:

- The name of the forum before which the proceedings are being conducted;
- The name and year of the Competition;
- The name of the Case;
- The title of the Memorial (either “Memorial for Petitioner(s)” or “Memorial for Respondent(s)”)

2. Table of Contents
3. List of Abbreviations
4. Index of Authorities
5. Statement of Jurisdiction
6. Statement of Facts
7. Issues Raised
8. Summary of Arguments
9. Arguments/Pleadings Advanced
10. Prayer

### **12.2.3 MEMORIAL FORMATTING GUIDELINES**

- All the memorials submitted must comply with the following content specifications. Non-conformities shall be penalized.
- Font & Size (Main Body): Times New Roman, 12 pts.
- Font & Size (Footnotes): Times New Roman, 10 pts.
- Spacing (Main Body): 1.5 Line Spacing
- Spacing (Footnotes): 01 Line Spacing
- Alignment: Justified
- Page Margins: 01 Inch on all sides

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- All the pages of the memorial should be numbered at the bottom.
- The entire memorial (including the cover page) should not exceed 40 pages and the Arguments Advanced should not exceed 25 pages.
- The use of endnotes is not permitted.
- The memorials must follow the 20th edition of the Bluebook citation method.

#### 12.2.4 PLAGIARISM

- Any team found guilty of plagiarism, exceeding 20 per cent, shall be subjected to the stipulated penalty. The penalty imposed may also extend to the expulsion of the team from the competition.
- If found that a team has plagiarised the memorial from another participating team, the latter may be asked to show cause for the same. If it is found unsatisfactory and, that the latter team allowed the former to copy its memorial willingly, the team shall be penalized as the Organising Committee deems fit.
- The decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding on all the parties involved.

#### 12.2.5 AI POLICY

##### 12.2.5.1 Allowed use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Using AI-enhanced research tools to find relevant sources (for example search engines);
- Using AI-enhanced proof-reading tools;
- Using AI-enhanced translation tools to translate and understand legal sources;
- Using AI-enhanced translation tools to aid an English translation of text within the submitted memorandum (it should be noted that whilst not prohibited, the use of English translation tools is strongly discouraged);
- Using AI to generate overviews or briefings on relevant factual and legal topics solely for the team's own research purpose. For the avoidance of doubt, no such overviews or briefings may be submitted as part of the written memorandum.

##### 12.2.5.2 Prohibited use of AI

- All other uses of AI are expressly prohibited as acts in violation of these Rules and will result in the written memorandum being automatically disqualified.
- Specific, non-exhaustive example of AI violations is:
  - (a) Including as part of the team's written memorandum, text that has been generated by an AI-tool other than as contemplated in paragraph 12.2.5.1 above. This includes situations where the AI-generated text has been altered, corrected and amended by the team members.

### 12.2.6. EVALUATION

- The memorials shall be marked on a scale of 100, 0 being the minimum a team can score and 100 being the maximum.
- Non-compliance with the prescribed Format of the Memorial (12.2.2) will lead to a penalty of **02 marks**.
- Incorrect Memorial formatting guidelines (12.2.3) of Font & Size (General and Footnotes), Spacing (General and Footnotes), Alignment, and Page Margin will lead to a penalty of **01 mark** for every page on which there is a violation.
- Exceeding the page limit prescribed in the Memorial formatting guidelines (12.2.3) will lead to penalty of **03 marks** each page that is in excess of the limit.
- Non-compliance with the page numbering style prescribed in the Memorial formatting guidelines (12.2.3) will lead to **02 marks** penalty.
- Non-compliance with the citation style will lead to a penalty of **01 mark** for every footnote that has a different citation style.
- The breakup of the marking scheme is as follows:

| S.NO. | MARKING CRITERIA                   | TOTAL MARKS ALLOTTED |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.    | Cognizance of law and facts        | 20 marks             |
| 2.    | Coherent and proper analysis       | 15 marks             |
| 3.    | Extent and quality of research     | 15 marks             |
| 4.    | Presentation and structuring       | 15 marks             |
| 5.    | Eloquence and grammar              | 10 marks             |
| 6.    | Novelty of arguments               | 15 marks             |
| 7.    | Ingenuity and lucidity of thoughts | 10 marks             |

### 12.3 DRAW OF LOTS

The fixtures of the teams for the Preliminary rounds shall be determined by the draw of lots, which shall be conducted on **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## 12.4 ORAL ROUNDS

- The oral rounds shall take place in offline mode within the premises of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat.
- In case the team comprises of three members, i.e., two speakers and one researcher, the researcher shall sit with the speakers during the oral rounds, but at no point shall he/she be allowed to address the bench unless specifically asked by the judges. Also, there shall be no oral communication between the team members and the speaker during the oral submissions.
- Each team shall inform the timekeeper about the allocation of time of their speakers and the time reserved for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals before the round starts.
- The teams shall reach the respective courtroom 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the respective oral rounds. In case any team fails to reach the courtroom within the stipulated time given in the schedule, the rounds shall be conducted ex-parte and marking would be done as if the opposing team had argued.
- The pleading time shall be as prescribed by the rules of individual rounds and can only be extended at the discretion of the bench.
- The marking scheme for the oral rounds shall be as follows:

|    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Appreciation of and familiarity with facts      | 20 marks         |
| 2. | Credibility and use of authorities              | 15 marks         |
| 3. | Knowledge and application of law                | 20 marks         |
| 4. | Eloquence, structure and logic of presentation  | 15 marks         |
| 5. | Ingenuity and responsiveness to questions       | 20 marks         |
| 6. | Poise, demeanour and other courtroom etiquettes | 10 marks         |
|    | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>100 marks</b> |

#### 12.4.1 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- There shall be two preliminary rounds. Each team shall present its oral pleadings once as a Petitioner(s)/Plaintiff(s) and once as a Respondent(s)/Defendant(s).
- The team arguing from the side of Respondent(s)/Defendant(s) in the first Preliminary Round shall argue from the Petitioner(s)/Plaintiff(s) side in the Second Preliminary Round and vice versa.
- Each team shall be allotted a total of twenty-five minutes per round to present their submissions, including time for answering questions from the Hon'ble Bench, rebuttals, and sur-rebuttals.
- The said twenty-five minutes shall include a maximum of 2 minutes for the rebuttals/sur-rebuttals. No speaker shall be allowed to speak for less than 10 minutes.
- In case of more than eight teams with two wins, the team with higher cumulative score will advance. In case there are less than 8 teams with two straight wins, teams with less than two wins may also advance to the next round on the basis of higher cumulative team scores in both the Preliminary Rounds.

#### 12.4.2 QUARTER FINAL ROUNDS

- The top 8 teams after both the Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Quarter Final Rounds.
- Each team shall be allotted a total of twenty-five minutes to present their submissions, including time for answering questions from the Hon'ble Bench, rebuttals, and sur-rebuttals.
- The said twenty-five minutes shall include a maximum of 2 minutes for the rebuttals/sur-rebuttals. No speaker shall be allowed to speak for less than 10 minutes.
- The Quarter-Final Rounds shall be a knock-out round.

#### 12.4.3 SEMI FINAL ROUNDS

- Each team shall be allotted a total of thirty minutes to present their submissions, including time for answering questions from the Hon'ble Bench, rebuttals, and sur-rebuttals.
- The said thirty minutes shall include a maximum of 3 minutes for the rebuttals/sur-rebuttals. No speaker shall be allowed to speak for less than 12 minutes.
- The Semi-finals round shall be a knockout round.

#### 12.4.4 FINAL ROUNDS

- Each team shall be allotted a total of thirty-five minutes to present their submissions, including time for answering questions from the Hon'ble Bench, rebuttals, and sur-rebuttals.
- The said thirty-five minutes shall include a maximum of 3 minutes for the rebuttals/sur-rebuttals. No speaker shall be allowed to speak for less than 15 minutes.
- The team having a higher score shall be declared the winner of the competition. In case a tie persists, the score of the memorial shall be considered to declare the winner.

#### 13. CLARIFICATIONS

- Clarifications can be sought on any part of the moot proposition by **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. All the clarifications must be uploaded on the Google Form attached herewith- (<https://forms.gle/VNSy7mjnYQ8GuXh46>).
- Any request for clarification made must be clear and related to the facts of the case, not any substantive arguments.
- The clarifications shall be released by **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- The list of clarifications after the release shall be declared to be a part of the proposition.
- It is at the discretion of the Organising Committee to decide whether a clarification sought is valid and to be clarified.

#### 14. RIGHTS OVER THE MEMORIALS

- The Organising Committee of the competition reserves the right to disseminate and produce the memorials as and when deemed necessary for the purpose of the competition. Submission of the memorials will constitute the team's consent to do the same.
- The committee also reserves the right to publish the memorials.

#### 15. CODE OF CONDUCT

- All the team members must refrain from disclosing their identity or the identity of their institution in any form during the course of the competition. Any such disclosure shall lead to immediate disqualification of the team.
- No team shall observe the oral rounds of another team. Any kind of scouting shall lead to immediate disqualification.
- The participants shall not record any audio or video during the oral proceeding.
- Indulgence of any participant in any kind of misconduct directed towards the judges or the Organising Committee shall lead to immediate disqualification.

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- The committee also reserves the right to publish the memorials.

## 15. CODE OF CONDUCT

- The teams are not allowed to contact the judges immediately after the conclusion of the rounds for feedback. Nevertheless, they may approach the judges for the same after the culmination of the competition, with minimum inconvenience caused to them.
- Use of mobile phones, laptops or any sort of electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the oral proceedings for any purposes.

## 16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- In case of any dispute arising out in the course of the competition, the discretion shall solely vest with the Organising Committee and their decision shall be final and binding.
- If anything is not covered by the rules, the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding on that subject.

## 17. RESULTS

- The results will be announced after the completion of each round for all the teams in the Preliminary/ Quarter / Semi Final rounds.
- The final result and the winners of the various categories will be announced only during the valedictory ceremony to be held on **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- The teams shall be first differentiated on their win-loss record after the Preliminary Rounds.
- If there is a tie, the team with the higher aggregate score shall be ranked higher.
- If the tie subsists, the team with the higher memorial score shall be ranked higher.

# ANNEXURE 1

**Note: PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS ONLY TO FILL IN DETAILS. SOFT COPY OF THE FORM HAS TO BE SUBMITTED.**

1. Name and Address of Participating College/ University:

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2. Email ID of the Institute's MCS: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name of Head of the Institution (Principal/Director): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name of Faculty Coordinator of the Institute's MCS: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Details of Payment of Registration

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Transaction ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

6. TEAM DETAILS:

Name of Speaker 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Speaker 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration:**

We hereby declare that the institution and its team members shall abide by all the rules of the competition set by the organisers. We also confirm that all the information provided by us in this registration form is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. In case of non-compliance or violation of any rule or regulation on our part, the organising body shall reserve the right to cancel our registration.

Signature and Seal of the Head of the Institution/  
Faculty Convenor of the Moot Court Society

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