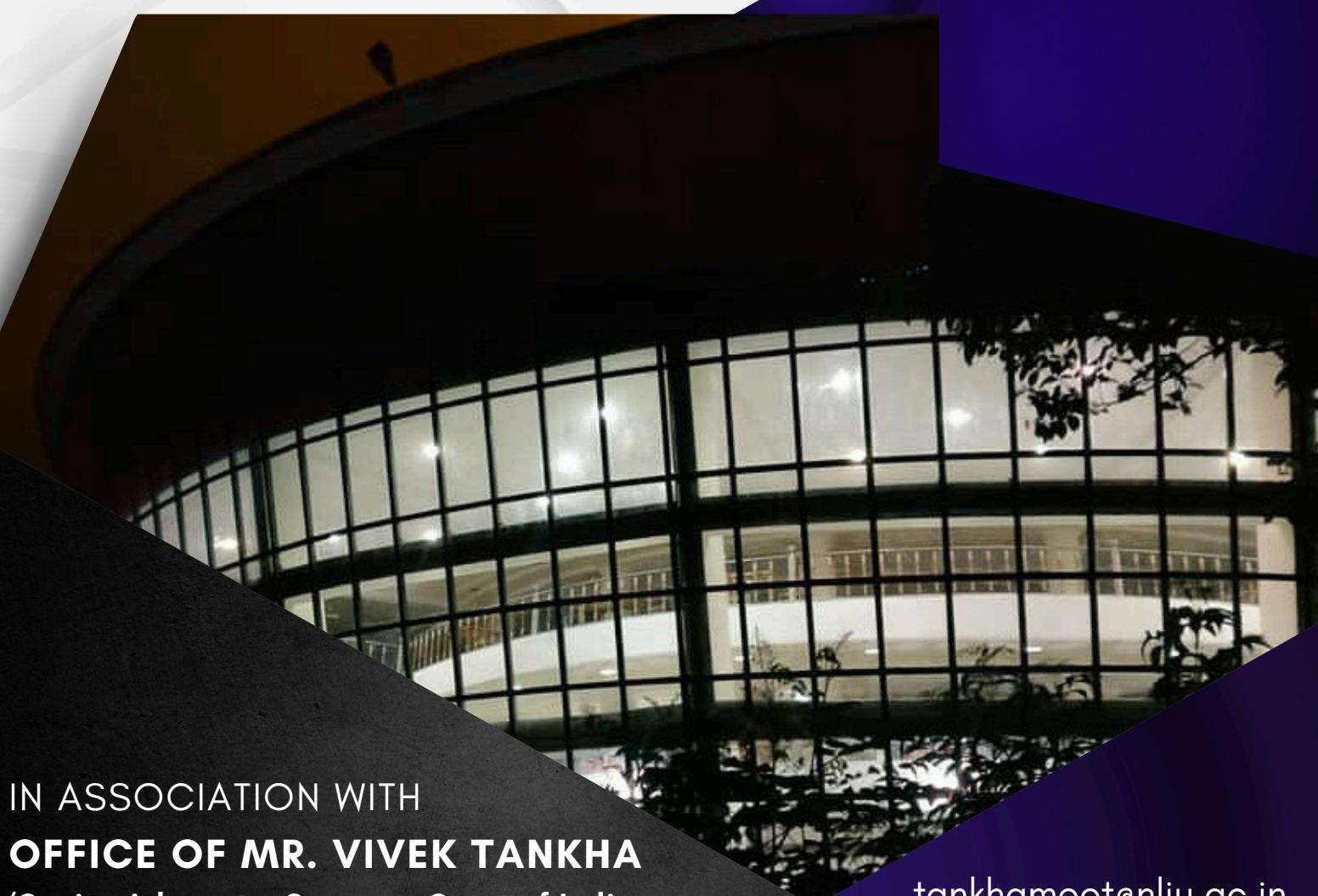


# 11TH NLIU-JUSTICE R.K. TANKHA MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION MOOT, 2026

## RULEBOOK



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**OFFICE OF MR. VIVEK TANKHA**

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27 March - 29 March, 2026



Singapore International Arbitration Centre



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These are the rules for the 11<sup>th</sup> NLIU-Justice R.K. Tankha Memorial International Arbitration Moot, 2026.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The rules of the Competition are reviewed annually and are subject to change, and no reliance on these rules shall be placed for subsequent editions of the Competition.



## 1. DEFINITIONS

**1.1** “**Administrator(s)**” means the Moot Court Association of the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, members thereof, or any person/persons appointed for the administration and conduct of the Competition, by the said Moot Court Association.

**1.2** “**Advanced Round**” means the Final Round, Semi-Final Rounds and Quarter-Final Rounds of the Competition.

**1.3** “**Advancing Teams**” means the teams advancing to the Oral Rounds of the Competition.

**1.4** “**Bench Memorandum**” means the memorandum of law, issues and authorities concerning the competition problem prepared by the Authors/Administrator.

**1.5** “**Case**” means the official hypothetical Case-Record of the Competition released by the administrators. Clarifications as defined under Rule 7 shall form a part of the problem.

**1.6** “**Claimant**” means the side that argues on behalf of the Claimant at any given point in the competition.

**1.7** “**Clarifications**” refer to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by the administrator and published on the official website of the moot pursuant to Rule 7.3.

**1.8** “**Competition**” means the 11<sup>th</sup> NLIU-Justice R.K. Tankha Memorial International Arbitration Moot, 2026.

**1.9** “**IST**” means Indian Standard Time.

**1.10** “**Memorial**” means the written arguments submitted by each team, submitted according to these Rules.

**1.11** “**Memorial Qualification Round**” means the rounds before the oral rounds of the competition. The teams qualifying the memorial rounds will be invited to oral rounds.

**1.12** “**Official Website**” means the website of the competition, [www.mca.nliu.ac.in](http://www.mca.nliu.ac.in).

**1.13** “**Oral Round**” means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of arbitrators, acting as adjudicators, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.

**1.14** “**Participant**” refers to any member of any team representing any institution participating in the competition.

**1.15** “**Penalty**” refers to the deductions imposed on the memorial scores of a participating institution, as provided for under Rule 10.2.

**1.16** “**Plagiarism**”



The Administrators define plagiarism as including the following:

- i. Direct duplication of the work of somebody else's work represented *inter alia* in books, articles, and internet sources without acknowledgement.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Direct or substantial duplication of another moot memorial, irrespective of whether that memorial is a competing memorial or not, and irrespective of whether there is acknowledgement or not.
- iv. 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.

**1.17 “Preliminary Rounds”** means the Oral Rounds which take place before the Advanced Round, as defined under Rule 13.3 and for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.

**1.18 “Rebuttals”** refer to the arguments presented by the Claimant in response to the Respondent's submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists.

**1.19 “Respondent”** means the side that argues on behalf of the Respondent at any given point in the competition.

**1.20 “Scouting”** means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with.

**1.21 “Oralist”** refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.

**1.22 “Sur-rebuttal”** refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals as defined in Clause 1.18.

**1.23 “Team Code”** refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration according to Rule 6.

**1.24 “Tribunal”** means a collective reference to the arbitrators present at the oral round, where an “arbitrator” is an adjudicator of an oral round.



## 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 conclusive and the decision of the Administrators regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1** The Competition is open to all students, enrolled bona-fide on a regular basis in an Undergraduate law course (and Post Graduate course LL.M. programs, in case of international teams) or its equivalent conducted by any recognized institution.
- 3.2** A recognized institution shall be entitled to send a maximum of **three** teams to the Competition.
- 3.3** In a system where a university has constituent colleges, each college can register individually by sending three teams each or the university as a whole can also be represented by the team comprising students from different constituent colleges, subject to Rule 3.2 above.
- 3.4** Any additional member or team coach accompanying a team will not be entitled to a certificate from the Administrators.

## 4 TEAM COMPOSITION

- 4.1** Each team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) members. A team may register up to four (4) members as Oralists; however, only two (2) Oralists shall be permitted to present oral arguments in any given round. Teams may rotate Oralists between rounds, provided that no more than two (2) members address the Bench in a single round. Members who are not arguing in a particular round shall not communicate with, prompt, or otherwise assist the speaking Oralist during the course of oral rounds. Only participants registered as Oralists in the registration form shall be permitted to address the Bench. For eligibility for the Best Oralist Award, a participant must have presented oral submissions at least once for the Claimant and at least once for the Respondent during the Preliminary Rounds.



**4.2** Once registered, a team will not be permitted to vary the composition of the team in any manner. 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.

**4.3** Any changes with respect to the contact details of the participants shall be notified to the Administrators with immediate effect. This obligation to inform shall continue throughout the course of the Competition.

**4.4** Certificates for participating team members will be prepared from the team lists submitted. The certificates for participation will show the names of the team members exactly as they have been submitted. It is, therefore, incumbent on teams to ensure that names are spelled and presented correctly.

## **5 ASSISTANCE TO TEAMS FROM NON-MEMBERS AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES**

**5.1** Every team must research and write its Memorials 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, shall be taken from any team member or coach/faculty advisor of another team.

**5.2** The Bench Memorandum shall always be confidential. Any team found having access to / making use of the Bench Memorandum shall be disqualified immediately.

## **6 REGISTRATION**

**6.1** Each institution must, first, provisionally register itself, through its designated moot court society, for the competition by filling out the following Google form before 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2026: Link to the [form](#).

**6.2** All the institutions completing their provisional registration will receive the confirmation of provisional registration via email which will contain the details to complete final registration. Subsequently, each team shall register for the Competition by filling out the online registration form as intimated in the e-mail confirming their provisional registration. The online form for final registration will be sent to the official e-mail ID of the institution's



moot court society and to the email of the contact person once the said institution's, provisional registration has been confirmed.

**6.3** While filling the final registration form, the teams will be required to choose a primary contact person. All communications concerning the Competition will be sent by e-mail to the nominated contact person. It shall be the concerned person's responsibility to convey all relevant information and distribute all relevant material to the other team members.

**6.4** All teams will have to register for the memorial rounds and oral rounds separately. The Indian teams shall be subject to memorial qualification and the foreign teams shall not be subject to such shortlisting, however, the foreign team has to mandatorily register for the memorial rounds. The registration fee for the memorial qualification round, if any, shall be informed via the email containing final registration details for the memorial qualification rounds. Subject to the qualification of the teams to the advanced rounds, an additional fee of INR 3,000 per person of the team shall be charged to such teams. This fee is inclusive of 2 days (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Night) of accommodation, and travel to and from the accommodation provided by the Administrators.

**6.5** A team's registration for the Competition shall constitute deemed consent from the participants to the Administrator to use photos of the oral rounds in social media/promotional posts and/or materials, and for any other reasonable purpose for outreach.

## 7 CLARIFICATIONS TO THE PROBLEM

**7.2** The last date for submitting clarifications to the Case Record is 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026. All such requests must be submitted through the Google form only: Link to the [form](#).

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

**7.4** All clarifications shall be issued as a Procedural Order and shall be notified through an email sent to the respective contact person of the team.

## 8. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

**8.1** Teams shall not reveal the name of their institution, or country of origin, or names of the participants, anywhere either in the Memorials or during the course of the Oral Rounds.



Teams must also not make use of, or display in, any manner whatsoever, any logo, pins, badges etc. in the Memorials or during the course of the oral arguments. Provided that, Oralists may refer to themselves and other oralists in the Oral Rounds by their respective names.

- 8.2 A team must be identified only by the team code that will be allotted to it after final registration, as per Rule 6.
- 8.3 Violation of Rule 10.3 at any point shall lead to severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Administrators.
- 8.4 The Administrator's decision regarding the sharing of scoresheets of the Memorial Qualification Round and/or the Oral Rounds shall be final and binding, and no team shall be entitled to seek or claim access to the same.

## 9. MEMORIALS

### 9.1 General

- i. Each team must prepare one Claimant Memorial and one Respondent Memorial. The language of all the Memorials must be English. The Memorial scores shall determine the qualification of the top 40 teams to the Advanced Rounds and shall also contribute to deciding the outcome of a match in the preliminary rounds in a manner described in Rule 13.3.
- ii. The foreign participating teams will not be subject to the memorial qualification and will be eligible to participate directly in the oral rounds of the competition.
- iii. The Administrators reserve the right to publish and disseminate Memorials submitted to and for the Competition. The Memorials shall be attributed to the relevant institution and participants during such publication and dissemination.
- iv. Submission of Memorials in this Competition shall constitute consent to such publication and dissemination.

### 9.2 Submission of soft copies:

- i. All teams shall send a soft copy of Memorials for each side in both MS Word and PDF formats, latest by 11:59 PM IST on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 (*extended*). The submission shall be made via a Google form that shall be circulated beforehand.
- ii. Any submission made after the said deadline, unless extended, shall be considered as late



submission and penalized according to Rule 10.16 of the Competition. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an ‘R’ for Respondent and a ‘C’ for Claimant. For instance, the Claimant memorial of team code 2 should be named “2C”.

### ***9.3 Submission of Hard copies of the memorials***

- i. All teams eligible for the oral rounds are required to carry six hard copies of the same for the rounds. These copies shall be submitted at the time of team registration on the first day of the competition, i.e. 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

### ***9.4 Format of memorials***

- i. Each Memorial must contain all of, and only, the following components in the following order:

- Cover Page;
- Table of Contents;
- Table of Abbreviations;
- Index of Authorities;
- Statement of Facts;
- Issues Raised;
- Summary of Arguments;
- Arguments Advanced/Pleadings;
- Prayer.

- ii. *Font and Spacing*: The following font and spacing rules shall be binding on all teams:

- Text font for the Arguments Advanced/Pleadings and Prayer, including that of all headings and subheadings, must be Times New Roman, size 12 with 1.5-line spacing and the text must be justified.
- The text font for all footnotes must be Times New Roman, size 10 with 1.0-line spacing and the text must be justified.
- There must be no additional space between two footnotes. Character spacing should not be condensed in any manner.
- Each page in the Memorials must have a margin of one inch or 2.54 cm on all sides.



- iii. The *Cover Page* of each Memorial must contain only the following information:
  - The team registration code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by a “C” for the Claimant Memorial, or an “R” for the Respondent Memorial. For example, Team 555 would put the code “555C” in the upper right-hand corner of its Claimant Memorial;
  - The name of the forum before which the proceedings are being conducted;
  - The year and name of the Competition;
  - The name of the Case;
  - The title of the Memorial (either “Memorial for Claimant” or “Memorial for Respondent”).
- iv. *Table of Abbreviations*: All abbreviations used in the memorial must be included in the Table of Abbreviations. This will include commonly used abbreviations, acronyms and marks such as “%”, “&”, UK, SIAC, etc. The Table of Abbreviations must be in alphabetical order.
- v. *Statement of Facts*: The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute and must be no longer than two (2) pages. 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.
- vi. *Issues raised*: In this section, teams should present the legal questions to the Arbitral Tribunal on being called upon to decide in the context of the case. They must be presented as neutral questions, i.e., teams should not state their position on the questions raised in this section. While each legal question might have further sub-questions, teams must state only the main legal questions in this section.
- vii. *Summary of Arguments*: The Summary of Arguments must provide a substantive summary of the “Arguments Advanced” section and it must not reproduce its headings. The section including the section title, any section headings, section subheadings, conclusion, associated footnotes, signature block, or other language a participant might elect to include, must be no longer than two (2) pages.
- viii. *Arguments Advanced & Prayer*: Substantive, affirmative legal argument or legal interpretation of the facts of the Case may be presented only in the ‘Arguments Advanced’ section of the Memorial. The Arguments Advanced and Prayer shall not exceed thirty (30) pages.
- ix. *Footnotes and Citations*: 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. The 4th edition of the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) must be followed. It is hereby clarified that teams are not allowed to cite authorities in line. Endnotes are not permitted.

## 10. JUDGING OF MEMORIALS

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

- a. Correct primary and alternative submission 10
- b. Identification of legal principles 20
- c. Quality and extent of research: Use of relevant case law, academic writings etc. 20
- d. Appreciation and application of facts 10
- e. Logical structure and clarity of thought 10
- f. Ingenuity 20
- g. Overall Impression: Formatting, citations etc. 10

**10.2** Non-compliance with rules concerning formatting and submission of Memorials provided in these Rules will result in a deduction from the allocated marks. Irrespective of the actual total penalties incurred, no more than 15 marks can be deducted for each Memorial for non-compliance with procedural requirements. Penalties for late submission of Memorials shall be applicable separately as per Rule 10.16.

RULE	VIOLATION	PENALTY
<b>Rule 10.3</b>	Breach of memorial anonymity	Disqualification from the Competition.
<b>Rule 10.4</b>	Missing or additional section	2 marks for every violation
<b>Rule 10.5</b>	Incorrect order of sections	2 marks (one-time deduction)
<b>Rule 10.6</b>	Incorrect font size or font style in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
<b>Rule 10.7</b>	Incorrect line spacing in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
<b>Rule 10.8</b>	Incorrect page size and/or page margin in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation



<b>Rule 10.9</b>	Uniformity in footnotes	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
<b>Rule 10.10</b>	Missing or unnecessary information on cover page	1 mark per piece of information
<b>Rule 10.11</b>	Substantive legal arguments outside the arguments advanced section	2 marks for every page on which there is a violation
<b>Rule 10.12</b>	Exceeding the page limit of the arguments advanced section	3 marks for every page that is in excess of the prescribed page limit
<b>Rule 10.13</b>	Extra information in footnotes	1 mark for each violation (1 mark will be deducted for every footnote that has extra information)
<b>Rule 10.14</b>	Use of endnotes	2 marks

**10.15** The ‘main body of the memorial’ as mentioned in Rules 10.6-10.8 shall include the header, footer, and footnotes, in addition to the main text of the memorial.

**10.16 *Penalties for Late Submission:***

For every hour of delay in submission of soft copies of the Memorials from the prescribed time of submission, one mark shall be deducted, per side. Any Memorial 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.

**Note:** The above deduction would apply even if the delay was not of a complete hour. Hence, for example, a Memorial submitted at 12:01 am would still be subject to a one-mark deduction.

**10.17 *Plagiarism***

In case instances of Plagiarism are found to be prevalent in a certain memorial, the participating institution alleged to have committed plagiarism will be served a show cause notice by the Administrators. If found guilty of Plagiarism in reference to Rule 1.16, the



administrators may impose any sanction that they may deem fit, including disqualification from the Moot.

## 11. ORAL ROUNDS

**11.1** The oral pleadings shall be in English only. There will be no deviation from this language requirement.

**11.2** Teams are not restricted to the arguments in their Memorials. Claimants and Respondents in their first Preliminary Round are expected to rely on the arguments given in their written memoranda or be prepared to justify why that position has been abandoned. In subsequent hearings, arbitrators may be less demanding on this aspect as it is expected that teams will improve their arguments during the Moot.

**11.3** In the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall have thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments, including time for answering questions from the adjudicators and rebuttals and sur rebuttals. In the Advanced Rounds, the total time permitted to each team for presenting arguments may be extended to forty-five (45) minutes at the discretion of the Administrators. The time allocation of a team shall be decided in accordance with Rule 11.6.

**11.4** 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, in accordance with Rule 11.7. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.

**11.5 Order of Presentation:**

The order of oralists in a particular round shall be as follows:

Respondent Procedural Oralist will take the floor first, followed by the Claimant's Procedural Oralist (including rebuttals and surrebuttals by both parties respectively), after which the Claimant's Merits Oralist shall present its arguments followed by the Respondent's Merits Oralist (including rebuttals and surrebuttals by both parties respectively).

The above-mentioned format will be followed unless the arbitral tribunal decides otherwise.

**11.6 Time Allocation:**

- i. Before the start of the Oral Round, the team must inform the timekeeper of the manner in which the team wishes to divide its total time between its (i) first oralist, (ii) second oralist,



and (iii) the rebuttal (for Claimant) or sur-rebuttal (for Respondent).

- ii. For the Preliminary Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated thirty (30) as it deems fit, provided that:
  - No oralist is allocated less than ten (10) minutes for the presentation of the main arguments.
  - No more than four (4) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur- rebuttal.
  - For instance, an acceptable allocation may be 14 minutes for each oralist's main arguments and 2 minutes for rebuttal/ sur rebuttal.
- iii. For the Advanced Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated forty-five (45) minutes as it deems fit, provided that:
  - No oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty-five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments.
  - No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- iv. The arbitral tribunal, at their discretion, may extend the time limits stated as long as neither team is allowed more than forty-five (45) minutes to present its arguments, including the time necessary to answer the questions of the tribunal. While exercising its discretion, it will be the responsibility of the arbitral tribunal to ensure that both teams are treated fairly.

#### **11.7 Rebuttal and Sur-Rebuttal:**

- i. The rebuttal/sur-rebuttal may be presented by only one Oralist of a team for all the issues or by both Oralists individually for the issues that they are presenting in the order mentioned in Rule 11.5.
- ii. The Respondent team may use the time set aside for sur-rebuttal only if the Claimant team exercises its right to rebuttal.
- iii. If a team fails to reserve time for a rebuttal or sur-rebuttal at the start of an Oral Round, then it may not request that such time be added during the course of the round.
- iv. The Claimant'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 Claimant's rebuttal.

#### **11.8 Communication during Oral Rounds:**

During the Oral Round, oral communication is limited to the arbitral tribunal and the Oralist presenting the arguments.

#### **11.9 Presentation During Oral Rounds**



During the Oral Rounds (including the final rounds), the oralists/ shall be seated facing either the tribunal or the opposing team and each oralist shall make the oral presentation while seated and there shall be no dias or podium for the oralists.

## 12. JUDGING OF THE ORAL ROUNDS

**12.1** Each Preliminary Round shall be judged by a minimum of two (2) arbitrators. The number of arbitrators in each Advanced Round shall be at the discretion of the Administrators.

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

**12.3** The oral pleading shall be judged on the following criteria:

a. Identification of legal principles	15
b. Use of Authorities	15
c. Appreciation and application of facts	15
d. Clarity, logic and structure of presentation	20
e. Response to questions	15
f. Ability to communicate with the judges	10
g. Overall presentation, poise and demeanour	10

## 13. COMPETITION FORMAT AND PROCEDURE

**13.1** The Competition shall consist of a Memo Qualifier Round and Oral 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 Round.

**13.2** Memorial Qualifier Round

- There shall be a Memorial Qualifier Round for the Indian teams subsequent to the submission of the memorials. The memorials shall be evaluated in accordance with Rule 10 of the Competition.
- Top 40 teams (including both the Indian and Foreign Teams) in accordance with the Memorial scores shall be selected to participate in the Oral Rounds of the Competition. Any increase in the number of Advancing Teams shall be subject to the discretion of the



Administration. Foreign Teams shall not be subject to memorial qualification, they shall directly qualify for the oral rounds.

- iii. The results of the Memorial Qualifier Round for the Indian Teams shall be declared on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 or later.

### **13.3 Preliminary Rounds:**

- i. The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. There will be two Preliminary Rounds and each team shall argue once as the Claimant and once as the Respondent. The team which argues as the Claimant in the first Preliminary Round shall argue as the Respondent in the second Preliminary Round, and vice-versa.
- ii. The pairing of teams for the Preliminary Rounds shall be done by a draw of lots by the Administrators. No two teams shall argue against each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.
- iii. Each Team will be given the opposing team's Memorials on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 after the completion of the Inaugural Ceremony. No team shall be provided any information regarding the identity of the opposing teams or any other team participating in the Competition.
- iv. Each round shall be decided through the allocation of a total of 9 round points, with 6 points being awarded on the basis of the Oral Scores of the Teams and 3 points being awarded on the basis of the Memorial Scores of the Teams.
- v. If the difference between the Memorial scores of the two Teams (determined in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of the Competition) is more than 5% of the higher score, then the team with the higher Written Submission Scores will be awarded 3 points and the other team will not be awarded any point. If the difference is less than 5% of such higher score, then 2 points will be awarded to the Team with the higher score and 1 point will be awarded to the other Team. In case of a tie, the Teams will be awarded 1.5 points each. See example below.
- vi. A panel of 2 arbitrators will judge each round in the Preliminary Rounds. For each arbitrator, if the cumulative oral score (determined in accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of the Competition) of one team exceeds the cumulative oral score of the other team by 5% of the higher cumulative oral score, then the team with the higher cumulative oral score will be awarded 3 points. If such difference is less than 5%, then the team with the higher score will be awarded 2 points and the other team will be awarded 1 point. In



case of a tie, the teams will be awarded 1.5 points each for that arbitrator . Hence, a total of 3 points per arbitrator will be allocated for the Oral Pleading Sessions.

*Example: In a round between Team A and Team B, arbitrator 1 gives a cumulative oral score of 160 marks to Team A and 155 marks to Team B. The difference is 5 marks. Since this difference is less than 5% of 160 (which is 8), for arbitrator 1, Team A will be awarded 2 points and Team B will be awarded 1 point. In the same round, arbitrator 2 gives a cumulative oral score of 160 marks to Team A and 150 marks to Team B. Here, the difference of 10 marks is more than 5% of 160 (which is 8) and hence, Team A will be awarded 3 points and Team B will not be awarded any points. If the Memorials score of Team A is 75 and the Memorials score of Team B is 80, the difference is of 5 marks which is more than 5% of 80 (which is 4) and hence, Team B will be awarded 3 points and Team A will not be awarded any points.*

*The total round points for that round are therefore:*

- *Team A: 2 (arbitrator 1) + 3 (arbitrator 2) + 0 (Memorials) = 5 points.*
- *Team B: 1 (arbitrator 1) + 0 (arbitrator 2) + 3 (Memorials) = 4 points.*

- vii. The team with the higher cumulative round points determined, in accordance with Rules 13.3(v) and 13.3(vi) of the Rules of the Competition, will be adjudged as the winner of that particular round. Hence, in the example above, Team A will be adjudged the winner.
- viii. In case any opponent team fails to appear in an Oral Round, that round shall be conducted *ex-parte* and the scoring shall be done as if the defaulter Team had been present and arguing.
- ix. The top 8 teams shall qualify to the Quarter finals rounds. The teams will be ranked as per the following scheme:
  - First, on the basis of the total round points earned after the two Preliminary Rounds. If there is a tie in the total round points, the rank will be determined on the basis of the number of wins in the Preliminary Rounds.
  - If a tie persists, the rank will be determined on the basis of the total round points in the oral arguments earned in the Preliminary Rounds.
  - If a tie persists, the rank will be determined on the basis of the cumulative oral scores of the teams in the Preliminary Rounds.
  - If a tie persists after the above, it will be resolved on the basis of the Memorial scores of the teams.



#### **13.4 Quarterfinals/Semi-Finals:**

- i. The Quarterfinals will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 and will be knockout rounds. The pairing of teams for the Quarterfinals shall be done by power matchups, i.e. Rank 1 v. Rank 8, Rank 2 v. Rank 7 etc.
- ii. All sides for the Advanced Rounds will be determined by a coin-toss. The team that was ranked higher in the Preliminary Rounds shall call the toss.
- iii. For each panelist on the Panel, 1 (one) point will be awarded to the team which is given the higher cumulative oral score by that particular panelist. On this basis, the total points awarded to each team by the Panel shall be calculated. The team having the higher number of points shall be declared as the winner of the round.
- iv. A tie will be resolved by considering the cumulative oral score awarded by the Panel to each Team. In case a tie persists, it will be resolved by considering the Memorials scores of the teams.
- v. The Semi-Finals will be conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 and will be knockout rounds. The pairing of teams for the Semi-Finals shall be done by a draw of lots.
- vi. The pairing of Teams for the Semi-Finals shall be decided as follows:
  - Winner of Quarter-Final 1 v. Winner of Quarter-Final 4
  - Winner of Quarter-Final 2 v. Winner of Quarter-Final 3
- vii. Rules 13.4(ii), 13.4(iii) and 13.4(iv) of the Rules of the Competition shall apply mutatis mutandis to determine the winner of the Semi-Finals.
- viii. The Teams in Quarterfinals and Semi-Finals will be provided with a soft copy of the opposing team's Memorials prior to the Oral Round. The administrators reserve all the rights pertaining to that memorial.

#### **13.5 Final Round:**

- i. The Final Round of the Competition will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The sides for which the teams will argue will be determined through a draw of lots.
- ii. For each arbitrator on the panel, 1 (one) point will be awarded to the team which is given the higher cumulative oral score by that particular arbitrator. On this basis, the total points awarded to each team by the panel shall be calculated.
- iii. A team will be credited with a win if the cumulative oral score of the team in the final round is higher than the cumulative oral score of the opposing team in that round.
- iv. In case a tie persists, it can be resolved by considering the Memorials scores of the teams.



However, the administrators reserve the right to declare joint winners, if in the case of even numbered panel, the judges of the final round are unable to reach a consensus with regards to deciding the winner. The Teams will be provided with a soft/hard copy of the opposing Team's Memorials prior to the Oral Round. The Administrators reserve all the rights pertaining to that memorial.

## 14. PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 14.1** The winner of the Final Round will be declared the “Champions”, while the other finalist will be declared the “Runners-Up.”
- 14.2** The teams with the highest total Memorial score (out of 100) for each side will be awarded the “Best Memorial - Claimant” and “Best Memorial - Respondent” awards, respectively.
- 14.3** The Oralist with the highest average score at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds will be judged as the “Best Oralist for the Preliminary Rounds.”
- 14.4** The Oralist with the highest score in the Final Round will be judged as the “Best Oralist for the Final Rounds.”
- 14.5** The average score will be calculated by dividing the total marks of each oralist by the number of times the oralist has presented oral arguments. To be eligible for the “Best Oralist Award”, an oralist must have argued at least once for the Claimant and once for the Respondent in the Preliminary Rounds. The same standard shall be applied for any additional oralist awards, if instituted.

## 15. CONDUCTING OF ROUNDS

- 15.1** All rounds for the competition shall be conducted physically on the campus of National Law Institute University, Bhopal from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. It would be mandatory for all the participating teams to attend the oral rounds in physical format only.
- 15.2** The Participants are strictly not allowed to use any electronic devices during the rounds. Any team, if found to violate this rule shall be subjected to penalty as decided by the Administrators, which may include disqualification as well.
- 15.3** Further details regarding the competition shall be communicated to the teams completing the final registration process within the deadline.



No audio or videotaping of the oral proceedings is permitted without the permission of the organizers.

## 16. CONTACT DETAILS

Any clarification may be sought by emailing at [tankhamoot@nliu.ac.in](mailto:tankhamoot@nliu.ac.in) or [mca@nliu.ac.in](mailto:mca@nliu.ac.in), or contacting any of the below-mentioned Core members:

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