

# 1<sup>st</sup> MNLU, NAGPUR NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2022

July 29 - 31, 2022

## COMPETITION RULES



Contact US :



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. SHORT TITLE:**

This Rulebook shall be referred to as the Competition Rules for the 1<sup>st</sup> MNLU, Nagpur National Moot Court Competition, 2022.

### **1.2. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> MNLU, Nagpur National Moot Court Competition, 2022 (hereinafter “Competition”) shall be organised by The Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur from July 29 -31, 2022 virtually.

The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules, and all teams and participants shall be presumed to have read and understood these Rules.

### **1.3. DEFINITIONS:**

- 1.3.1. “**Administrator**” refers to Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur.
- 1.3.2. “**Advanced Rounds**” means the Quarter-Final Rounds, Semi-Final Rounds and Final Round of the Competition.
- 1.3.3. “**Bench**” means the Judges of the Oral Rounds of the Competition.
- 1.3.4. “**Compendium**” refers to all the relevant case laws, statutory material and other documentary evidence based on which the participants may present and substantiate their arguments.
- 1.3.5. “**Competition**” means the 1<sup>st</sup> MNLU, Nagpur National Moot Court Competition, 2022.
- 1.3.6. “**Memorial**” means the written submissions submitted by each team, pursuant to these Rules.
- 1.3.7. “**Moot Proposition**” means the official Moot Problem of the Competition, prepared by the Administrator, supplemented, corrected, or clarified thereof.
- 1.3.8. “**Oral Round**” means a team’s pleadings, comprising two speakers, submitted orally in front of the bench, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.
- 1.3.9. “**Organiser**” means the Moot Court Committee, as constituted by Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur.
- 1.3.10. “**Participant**” refers to any team member participating in the competition.
- 1.3.11. “**Participating Institution**” shall be the parent institution of the participating teams.
- 1.3.12. “**Penalty**” refers to the deductions imposed on the memorandum scores and/or oral submissions of participating teams, as provided in these rules.
- 1.3.13. “**Preliminary Rounds**” means the oral rounds which shall take place before the advanced round, as defined under Rule 3.2, and for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.
- 1.3.14. “**Rebuttals**” means the challenges presented by the Petitioner in response to the Respondent’s submissions.
- 1.3.15. “**Researchers’ Test**” shall mean the test explained in the Rules for the Competition.
- 1.3.16. “**Rules**” means the 1<sup>st</sup> MNLU, Nagpur National Moot Court Competition Rules, 2022.
- 1.3.17. “**Speaker**” refers to a participant who presents their oral pleadings in any given round.
- 1.3.18. “**Sur-rebuttal**” means responses to rebuttals submitted by Respondent during oral pleadings.
- 1.3.19. “**Team**” means the team which is eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure.
- 1.3.20. “**Team Code**” refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the Organiser after the completion of their Final Registration.

#### **1.4. INTERPRETATION:**

The Organisers will have exclusive authority to interpret the Rules in the interest of fairness and equality. The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the Organisers shall be conclusive and the decision of the Organisers regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.

#### **1.5. KEY DATES:**

The following key dates shall be adhered to:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.	Last date for Provisional Registration.	June 10, 2022
2.	Last date for Final Registration.	June 25, 2022
3.	Last date for seeking Clarifications.	June 29, 2022
4.	Declaration of Clarifications.	July 2, 2022
5.	Last date for submission of Memorials.	July 17, 2022
6.	Researchers' Test.	July 29, 2022
7.	Oral Rounds.	July 30-31, 2022

## **2. GENERAL RULES**

### **2.1. DATE AND VENUE OF THE COMPETITION**

The Competition is being conducted by Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur and shall be held between July 29-31, 2022 virtually via the online platform “Cisco Webex”.

### **2.2. ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.2.1. Participating members of the teams must be undergraduate students pursuing a three-year or five-year integrated law degree from any institution recognised by the BCI.
- 2.2.2. Only one (1) team can register from a particular College or Institution for participating in the Competition. If two registrations are received from the same College or Institution, the Team which writes an email first with the Head/Dean of the Institution/Moot Court Committee, authorizing them to participate on behalf of the College or Institution shall be entitled to participate and will be registered.
- 2.2.3. Students from different Colleges/Institutions are not allowed to form an Inter-College team.

### **2.3. TEAM COMPOSITION**

- 2.3.1. A team shall consist of three (3) members, i.e., two speakers and one researcher. The roles of the participants shall be the same throughout the competition. Teams of any other composition shall not be allowed to participate in the event.
- 2.3.2. The registered team composition shall compulsorily remain the same throughout the competition. However, in cases of unforeseeable circumstances, changes in team composition may be allowed at the discretion of the Organisers, if justifiable reasons for the same are provided before the submission of memorials.

#### **2.4. LANGUAGE OF THE COMPETITION**

The official medium of exchange for written and oral pleadings in the competition shall be English.

#### **2.5. PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

- 2.5.1. Institutions interested to reserve a slot for their team can provisionally register themselves for the Competition by way of filling out the Google Form given below:  
<https://forms.gle/Ws1DXyE8jRh3YkYA>
- 2.5.2. Provisional registrations shall be done on or before June 10, 2022 ((11:59 PM IST).

#### **2.6. FINAL REGISTRATION**

- 2.6.1. All teams willing to participate in the Competition are required to register for the same via the online registration form as provided herein below on or before June 25, 2022 (11:59 PM IST). The teams are strongly encouraged to complete the final registration process at the earliest to secure their place in the Competition.  
<https://forms.gle/bUH2h64G7XhDVrK37>
- 2.6.2. Registering teams are required to pay a registration fee of INR 3,000/- via online bank transfer. The payment of the registration fee shall be made through the online payment gateway link which is provided below:  
<https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>
- 2.6.3. The receipt of the online bank transfer should be uploaded in the Registration form itself.
- 2.6.4. Successfully registered teams will be provided with a Team Code via email.
- 2.6.5. After the allotment of the Team Code, the Team Code must be mentioned in all future correspondence(s) with the Organisers. Teams are requested to not display or add the names or logos of their Colleges, Universities, or Institutions anywhere in any communication(s) addressed to the Organisers or in memorials/material submitted for the Competition. Non-adherence to the stipulated rules will attract severe penalties or disqualification.
- 2.6.6. The Competition shall see the participation of a maximum of 36 teams from different law schools all across the country.

#### **2.7. SCOUTING**

- 2.7.1. All research, writing and editing must solely be the product of Team members. The advice from the coach/faculty must be limited to general advice on the area of law concerned, the structure of arguments and general commentary on the team's arguments. No advice whatsoever may be taken from any member of another team or any Coach/Faculty Advisor of another team.

### **3. COMPETITION FORMAT**

#### **3.1. GENERAL**

The Competition shall broadly consist of Preliminary Rounds and Advanced Rounds. Each team shall argue in Preliminary Rounds, from both sides, following which qualifying teams shall proceed to Advanced Rounds, namely the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final.

#### **3.2. THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

- 3.2.1. Each Team participating in the Competition shall participate in Preliminary Rounds consisting of two (2) Oral Rounds, from both sides.
- 3.2.2. Each Team shall face an opposing team only once in the Preliminary Rounds, the order of which shall be decided by draw of lots.

### **3.3. QUALIFICATION FOR ADVANCED ROUNDS**

- 3.3.1. The winner of the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of the combined score of the two Preliminary Rounds including the aggregate Memorial scores and the speaker scores. The top eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarter-Finals Rounds.
- 3.3.2. The aggregate score of a Team shall be computed as the total score in oral pleadings of Speaker 1, oral pleadings of Speaker 2, and the team's aggregate Memorial score. The criteria for evaluation of the speaker scores are, as mentioned in Rule 6.2.1, and the criteria for evaluation of the Memorial scores are, as mentioned in Rule 5.5.1.
- 3.3.3. The team with the higher aggregate scores after the two Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked higher.
- 3.3.4. In the event of a tie, the aggregate score of the Team in their Oral Rounds shall be considered and the Team with a higher score will be allotted the higher rank. If the tie still persists, the Team with the highest individual speaker score out of the speakers of tied Teams will be allotted the higher rank. Finally, if the tie still persists, the score of the higher gross memorial score (score of the memorial without deducting penalties), shall be ranked higher. In case the tie still subsists, then a toss of the coin shall decide the higher rank.

### **3.4. ADVANCED ROUNDS**

The Advanced Rounds shall, unless otherwise specified, consist of three knock-out rounds – the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final.

### **3.5. QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS**

- 3.5.1. The eight (8) highest ranked teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall proceed to the Quarter-Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above. The fixtures for the Quarter-Final Rounds will be based on draw of lots.
- 3.5.2. Each team shall argue only ONCE for the side allotted by draw of lots.
- 3.5.3. Four (4) teams shall qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds on a knock-out basis.

### **3.6. SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS**

- 3.6.1. The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi-Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only once for the side allotted by draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be based on draw of lots.
- 3.6.2. Two (2) teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock-out basis.

### **3.7. FINAL ROUND**

- 3.7.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by draw of lots.
- 3.7.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared the 'Winning Team'. The other team shall be declared the 'Runner-Up Team'.

## **4. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE PROBLEM**

- 4.1. All requests for clarification to the problem must be submitted to the organisers via the Google Form which shall be provided by the organisers.
- 4.2. The teams may seek clarifications latest by June 29, 2022 (11:59 P.M IST), post which no clarification shall be entertained.
- 4.3. The Organisers reserve the right to provide clarifications only in relation to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments of the case.
- 4.4. The clarifications, as and when issued, shall become a part of the Moot Proposition.

## 5. MEMORIALS

### 5.1. GENERAL

All written submissions must conform to the requirements prescribed herein. Failure to comply with these requirements shall result in penalties prescribed as per Rule 5.5.2.

### 5.2. STRUCTURE OF MEMORIALS

All memorials should necessarily have the following components in the specified sequence:

#### 5.2.1. Cover Page

The cover page shall have only the following information -

- i. The team registration code on the upper-right side, followed by 'P' for Petitioners and 'R' for Respondent.
- ii. Name of the Court/Tribunal before which proceedings are to be conducted, along with the nature of the jurisdiction of the Court/Tribunal.
- iii. Number/Citation of the case along with the year.
- iv. Title of the memorial i.e., "Memorial for Petitioner" or "Memorial for Respondent".
- v. The color of the cover page in memorials shall be 'Blue' for Petitioner, and 'Red' for Respondent.

#### 5.2.2. Table of Contents

All the contents in the written submissions shall be included in the Table of Contents.

#### 5.2.3. List of Abbreviations

Each and every abbreviation, which is usually used shall be mentioned in the table of abbreviations. Abbreviations such as '¶' for Paragraph(s); '§' for section(s) are permitted. Abbreviations for legislations (including but not limited to) e.g., 'A&C Act' for Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996; and 'ICA' for Indian Contract Act, 1872 are also permitted.

#### 5.2.4. Index of Authorities

The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited, in different sub-headings (e.g., Books; Indian Supreme Court cases; Foreign Cases; Online materials). The page(s)/paragraph(s) on which such authorities are cited in the memorial must be mandatorily included.

#### 5.2.5. Statement of Jurisdiction

The Statement of Jurisdiction should be compulsorily written. The particular provision/clause is not required to be captioned/reproduced along with the statement of jurisdiction. It must not exceed 1 page.

#### 5.2.6. Statement of Facts

The statement of facts can be written in paragraphs. A list of dates & events and the use of diagrams, charts, and other tools are not prohibited. Only undisputed facts must be mentioned in this section. The statement of facts must not exceed 2 pages.

#### 5.2.7. Issues Raised

All the issues raised must be listed in this section and must not exceed 1 page.

#### 5.2.8. Summary of Arguments

The summary of arguments for each issue must be written in one paragraph each. This section should not exceed 2 pages. Summary of Arguments going beyond 2 pages shall not be evaluated.

#### 5.2.9. Arguments Advanced

All substantive, contentious submissions and legal interpretations shall only be explained in this section. This section should not exceed 20 pages. Arguments advanced going beyond the first 20 pages shall result in marks being deducted in consonance with Rule 5.5.2.

#### 5.2.10. Prayer

The prayer should not exceed 1 page.



### **5.3. FONT, SPACING AND FOOTNOTES**

- 5.3.1. All main text in the memorial must be in Times New Roman font, black colour, size 12 (13 for headings), '1.5' line spacing ('1' for quotes/citations), justified. Use of the 'small caps' font style is permitted.
- 5.3.2. Highlighting or filling colours (if any) is only permitted in shades of Grey.
- 5.3.3. Footnotes must be in Times New Roman font, size 10, black colour, '1' line spacing, justified. All footnotes must conform to 'Bluebook 20<sup>th</sup> ed.' Style of formatting. There must be no additional space between two footnotes. Running/Explanatory footnotes are strictly prohibited.
- 5.3.4. Margins must be set at 1" from all sides. Character condensing is not permitted. A black-coloured border is compulsory.
- 5.3.5. Headers and Footers must be in Black, Times New Roman font, size 10.

### **5.4. PLAGIARISM**

- 5.4.1. The maximum plagiarism limit permitted for the entire memorial shall not exceed 15%. Notwithstanding the plagiarism % for the entire memorial, any substantial similarity in the content of memorials (in part or wholly) from any source or authority shall also be considered plagiarism.

### **5.5. MEMORIAL EVALUATION**

- 5.5.1. Memorials shall be of a total of 100 marks each. The total memorial score of each team shall be an aggregate of Petitioner and Respondent memorial scores i.e., out of 200. The evaluation of the memorials shall be as per the following parameters.

<b>No.</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>MARKS</b>
1.	Knowledge of Facts & Law.	20
2.	Depth, extent, and use of research.	20
3.	Articulate Analysis.	20
4.	Clarity & Organisation of Arguments.	20
5.	Grammar, Style of legal writing, and Formatting.	20
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

5.5.2. The following table lays down the number of marks that shall be deducted for the specific violations.

<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Breach of anonymity in memorial.	Disqualification.
Non-adherence to the prescribed format.	1 mark for each violation.
Non-adherence to the prescribed sequence of headings.	1 mark for each incorrect sequence of section.
Incorrect font size, line spacing, or font style.	1 mark for every page on which a violation exists.
Incorrect page margin & border.	1 mark for every page on which a violation exists.
Wrong colour on the cover page.	1 mark.
Missing/incorrect information on Cover Page.	1 mark per incorrect information on Cover Page.
No. of pages exceeding in 'Statement of Facts', 'Summary of Arguments', 'Arguments Advanced' or 'Prayer'.	2 marks for one extra page.
Running/Explanatory footnotes & incorrect footnoting style.	0.5 marks for every footnote on which a violation exists.
Wrong section of law cited.	0.5 marks for every such violation.
Delay in the submission of Memorial.	2 marks deducted for every 3-hour delay.
Non-compliance with the prescribed plagiarism percentage.	2 marks deducted for every 5% plagiarism exceeded beyond the limit prescribed.

5.5.3. The Google Form for memorial submission shall be closed at 11:59 P.M. on July 17, 2022. Post the closure of the Google Form teams are to mail their memorials to '[mcc@nlunagpur.ac.in](mailto:mcc@nlunagpur.ac.in)' along with reasons for their delay. However, no memorials shall be accepted on any account of any reason after the 18-hour window (6:00 P.M. on July 18, 2022) accorded for the memorial submission post the official deadline.

## **5.6. SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS**

5.6.1. Teams shall submit soft copies of memorials in PDF format through the Google Form which shall be emailed to the participants. The document nomenclature for the file must be 'T18A' & 'T18R'.

## **5.7. COPYRIGHT OVER MEMORIALS**

5.7.1. The Administrator shall own all copyrights over the memorials submitted by the teams.

## **6. ORAL PLEADINGS**

### **6.1. GENERAL RULES**

- 6.1.1. Each team should have 2 speakers to make oral pleadings. The speakers making oral pleadings will remain the same throughout the competition. Speakers cannot be changed in different rounds of the competition. Teams changing speakers and their orders shall be disqualified from the Competition.
- 6.1.2. All team members are required to join the meeting through their computers and are mandatorily required to keep their video 'switched on' throughout the course of oral pleadings. Teams shall not be permitted to use any other electronic device, besides the device through which they are presenting their oral pleadings to the judges, while their rounds are in session.
- 6.1.3. The teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the rounds, the identity of the institution that they represent, or the members present in the team. A violation of this rule shall result in a penalty for the team under breach of anonymity.
- 6.1.4. All the rounds shall go as per the following procedure-  
S 1 Petitioner > S 2 Petitioner > S 1 Respondent > S 2 Respondent > Rebuttal > Sur-rebuttal.
- 6.1.5. The dress code for the Competition is Western formals (Courtroom formals).

### **6.2. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 6.2.1. The evaluation criteria for the Oral Pleadings of all the rounds in the Competition shall be as follows:

<b>NO.</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>MARKS</b>
1.	Knowledge of facts.	20
2.	Knowledge of law.	20
3.	Application of law to the facts.	25
4.	Articulation of arguments and Response to questions.	25
5.	Courtroom Etiquettes, Style, Poise & Time Management.	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### **6.3. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

- 6.3.1. The Oral Rounds shall start with 2 preliminary rounds for each team which shall be the basis of qualification into subsequent rounds. Each team shall be given a total of 30 minutes to make their oral pleadings. The time-division for oral pleadings between the speakers shall be decided by the team. However, one speaker should make oral pleadings for a minimum of 12 minutes and a maximum of 18 minutes. Every team must reserve two minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal within their oral pleadings.
- 6.3.2. The teams are required to communicate their respective time divisions to the respective court master before they begin their oral pleadings.

- 6.3.3. The sum of the aggregate score of the speakers and the aggregate score of the memorials shall be calculated as the total score of teams after the conclusion of preliminary rounds. The top eight (8) teams shall qualify for Quarter-Final Rounds.

#### **6.4. QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS**

- 6.4.1. The Quarter-Final Rounds shall be elimination rounds. Each team shall be given a total of 30 minutes to make their oral pleadings. The time-division for oral pleadings between the speakers shall be decided by the team. However, one speaker should make oral pleadings for a minimum of 12 minutes and a maximum of 18 minutes. Every team must reserve a minimum of two minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal within their oral pleadings.
- 6.4.2. For evaluating the performance of teams for qualification in Semi-Final rounds, only the aggregate score of the two speakers will be considered. The aggregate memorial marks and marks obtained in preliminary rounds shall not be considered at this stage.

#### **6.5. SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS.**

- 6.5.1. The Semi-Final rounds shall be elimination rounds. Each team shall be given a total of 40 minutes to make their oral pleadings. The time-division for oral pleadings between the speakers shall be decided by the team. However, one speaker should make oral pleadings for a minimum of 16 minutes and a maximum of 24 minutes. Every team must reserve a minimum of two minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal within their oral pleadings.
- 6.5.2. For evaluating the performance of teams for qualification in the Final rounds, only the aggregate score of the two speakers will be considered.

#### **6.6. FINAL ROUND**

- 6.6.1. Each team shall be given a total of 45 minutes to make their oral pleadings. The time-division for oral submissions between the speakers shall be decided by the team. However, one speaker should make oral pleadings for a minimum of 18 minutes and a maximum of 27 minutes. Every team must reserve a minimum of three minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal within their oral pleadings.
- 6.6.2. For evaluating the performance of teams for deciding the winner of the competition, the aggregate scores of speakers in the Final rounds shall be calculated.

#### **6.7. BROADCAST OF THE FINAL ROUND**

The Final Round shall be exclusively open to attendance for the qualified team members. As per the discretion of the Administrator, the Final Round may also be broadcasted live on the Organiser's YouTube channel.

### **7. TECHNICAL GUIDELINES**

#### **7.1. GENERAL**

- 7.1.1. It is not possible for the Organisers to reasonably foresee every possible inconvenience and chart out its reliefs. However, this section has attempted to compile certain issues and possible solutions to them. Remedies for unforeseeable technical issues are at the discretion of the judges and the Organisers.

#### **7.2. ORAL ROUNDS GUIDELINES**

- 7.2.1. All pleadings for the Competition shall be conducted through the Cisco WebEx application. All Participants are required to download the application for the same on their desktops prior to the Competition.

- 7.2.2. Teams shall be sent the details of their scheduled courtrooms, well in advance before the competition. Teams must join the courtroom 15 minutes prior to the time indicated for their rounds in the detailed itinerary.
- 7.2.3. Participants must ensure that their name on the Cisco WebEx application contains their Team Code and their status in the Team concerned. For instance, Members of Team Code 100 will be 'TC 100 S1' (for Speaker 1) 'TC 100 S2' (Speaker 2), and 'TC 100 R' (for Researcher). Participants will not be allowed to enter the courtroom unless their names are changed into the prescribed format.
- 7.2.4. Teams will be required to wait in the Waiting Room for the meeting until the Judges concerned are ready to begin the rounds. The Court Masters will be admitting the participants only when the judges are prepared for the same. The Court Masters also have the discretion to remove a participant from the waiting room if they have not used the name as prescribed in Rule 7.2.3.
- 7.2.5. Upon joining, the Teams will first be asked the division of time that they wish to follow in their Oral Pleadings by the Court Master. The team must inform the timekeeper of how the team wishes to divide its total time between its (i) first speaker, (ii) second speaker, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Petitioner) or sur-rebuttal (for Respondent). Teams must strictly comply with the prescribed time limits and the order of speaking initially indicated to the Court Master.
- 7.2.6. The timekeeper will keep track of time during each round and indicate the remaining time via the Chat Box to the Bench and Teams at '10 minutes', '5 minutes', '2 minutes' and when the time allotted has elapsed. Teams are requested to pay heed to the time provided. Please note that only the Bench has the authority to award additional time if it is considered that questions have taken considerable time off the pleadings, or if substantial submission(s) of the speaker are pending to be heard.
- 7.2.7. Teams can only share their screens with the permission of the Bench or when it is otherwise demanded to do so by the Bench. In any other case, sharing the screen is not permitted.

### **7.3. INTERNET CONNECTIVITY POLICY**

- 7.3.1. Participants must ensure strong internet connectivity with good audio and video quality during oral rounds on their desktops. The Organisers shall not be responsible for any loss due to slow or non-functional internet connection during the Competition.
- 7.3.2. All team members are requested to make appropriate arrangements to ensure that internet connectivity during the Oral Rounds is not hampered. Alternative hotspot arrangements and alternate devices are recommended.
- 7.3.3. If participants face any internet connectivity issue, they must immediately convey the issue to the Organisers.
- 7.3.4. If due to any issue with internet connectivity any team member faces disruptions that cause incomprehensibility or intermittent disconnection, the timer will be paused and a sufficiently reasonable time to reconnect shall be provided to the teams.
- 7.3.5. No delay in joining of any team member in the assigned court room for more than 10 minutes from the scheduled time shall be accepted. A delay beyond the prescribed time shall result in 2 (two) marks being deducted from the aggregate score of the team in the oral rounds.
- 7.3.6. In extreme circumstances, such as when a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Oral Round, the Court Master, after waiting for fifteen (15) minutes, will allow the Oral Round to proceed *ex parte*. In an *ex parte* proceeding, the attending Team presents its oral pleading, which is scored by the Bench to the extent possible as if the absent Team had been present and arguing.

- 7.3.7. In case the Researcher is unable to join in the first ten minutes of the Oral Round but both the speakers are present, they may proceed with their oral submissions. The possibility of the Researcher joining later in the meeting will be subject to the Court Master's discretion.
- 7.3.8. In the event that one of the speakers is unable to join within the stipulated time, the other speaker shall be allowed to give Oral Pleadings for the absent speaker.
- 7.3.9. In the event that a speaker is facing poor connectivity in the middle of their Oral Pleadings, the requirement to compulsorily keep their video on, as enunciated in Rule 6.1.2, shall be waived at the discretion of the judges.
- 7.3.10. In the event that a speaker's poor connectivity continues to persist during their Oral Pleadings, then they may employ the use of Cisco's "dial-in" option, at the discretion of the judges.
- 7.3.11. In the event that a speaker's poor connectivity continues to be relentless during Oral Pleadings, as a last resort, the other speaker may step in for the speaker facing connectivity issues.
- 7.3.12. In the unfortunate event that the speaker who is stepping in for the speaker with the connectivity issues experiences connectivity issues, themselves, marks shall be awarded to the Team for the portions of the oral pleadings that have been given thus far.

#### **7.4. JUDGES' INTERNET CONNECTIVITY GUIDELINES**

- 7.4.1. In the event that some of the judges encounter technical difficulties during the Oral Rounds, the time shall immediately be paused by the timekeeper and the round may be suspended for a maximum of ten minutes. This period of suspension may be increased depending upon the internet connectivity stability of the remaining judges.
- 7.4.2. In the unfortunate event that the judge is unable to re-join the meeting after the ten-minute period of suspension, the average score of the remaining judges present during the round shall be considered for evaluation.

## **8. RESEARCHERS' TEST**

### **8.1. GENERAL RULES**

- 8.1.1 The Researchers' test will be organised on the July 29, 2022 via the online platform Cisco WebEx. The meeting link shall be provided by the Organiser in due course of time.
- 8.1.2 Only the researcher from the team is requested to be present in the meeting room.
- 8.1.3 The test would comprise 30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) divided into 3 Parts. Part A will consist of Fifteen (15) questions, Part B will consist of Ten (10) questions, and Part C will consist of Five (5) questions. The duration of the test shall be 30 minutes.
- 8.1.4 During the entire test, the researcher must enable their video and audio. The participants are strictly not allowed to use a virtual background during the test. The Researcher must take part in the test without the presence of a third party in the background.
- 8.1.5 Intentional disabling of camera or audio for even a short period of time will be considered a cheating attempt and will result in immediate disqualification. However, for internet connectivity issues, participants are required to follow Rule 7.3.3.
- 8.1.6 Any attempt to cheat shall be monitored by the Organisers who will be present in the meeting room. The Organisers reserve the authority to report any suspicious behaviour and disqualify the team from the Researchers' Test. Suspicious behaviour will include, but not be limited to, external assistance sought (suspected), someone other than the researcher appears in the vicinity, candidate persistently looking in other directions etc.

8.1.7 Speaking/Making gestures (including gestures indicating the use of another device) is strictly prohibited.

## 8.2 MARKING SCHEME

8.2.1 The test shall comprise forty (40) marks collectively from all the parts.

8.2.2 The ranks of the researchers shall be determined by the aggregate score of their Researchers' test.

8.2.3 The marking criteria for the evaluation of the Researchers' Test shall be as follows:

PART	MARKS PER QUESTION	NEGATIVE MARKING
A	1	-
B	1.5	-
C	2	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	-

## 8.3 TIE BREAKER

In the event of a tie, the researchers' ranks will be determined first by who has answered more questions correctly in all three parts combined. If a tie still persists, ranks will be determined by who has answered more questions correctly in Part B. If a tie still persists, ranks shall be determined by who has scored more in Part C, and finally by draw of lots.

## 9. COMPENDIUM

9.1.1. Teams are free to present their Compendiums during their Oral Rounds as per the discretion of the Bench. The Compendium may include any material which the teams may wish to submit before the judges' panel for their oral submissions.

9.1.2. Only highlighting and underlining on the Compendium is allowed.

9.1.3. Teams should maintain anonymity in the compendium. No reference to the names or e-mails of participants, name of institution, or any details, except for the team code allotted to the team should be made in the compendium.

## 10. AWARDS

The following awards shall be awarded in the Competition in accordance with these rules:

### 10.1. TEAM AWARDS:

10.1.1. **Winning Team:** The Winning Team shall be determined in accordance with Rule 6.6.2 and awarded a cash prize of INR 21,000/- along with a Trophy, and a Certificate of Merit.

10.1.2. **Runner-Up Team:** The Runner-Up Team shall be awarded a cash prize of INR 15,000/- along with a Trophy, and a Certificate of Merit.

10.1.3. **Best Memorial:** The Team, which secures the highest aggregate Memorial scores from both sides shall receive the award for the "Best Memorial" and be rewarded with a cash prize of INR 7,000/- along with a Trophy and a Certificate of Merit.

10.1.4. **E-Certificate of Merit** shall be given to all the Teams qualifying for the Quarter Finals and Semi-Final Round.

10.1.5. **E-Certificate of Participation** shall be given to all the participating Teams.

## 10.2. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

10.2.1. **Best Speaker:** The “Best Speaker” will be determined by the speaker with the highest average score at the end of the preliminary rounds and will be rewarded with INR 7,000/- along with a Trophy, and a Certificate of Merit.

10.2.2. **Best Researcher:** The “Best Researcher” will be determined by the researchers’ test score and will be rewarded with INR 7,000/- along with a Trophy, and a Certificate of Merit.

## 11. CONTACT INFORMATION

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