

Inaugural Edition of the NHRC-USLLS National Moot Court Competition

Rules and Regulations

The following Rules shall be called the NHRC Moot Court Competition, 2023. Wherein:

- Organisers mean the University School of Law & Legal Studies, GGS Indraprastha University.
- Competition means the NHRC – USLLS Moot Court Competition, 2023.
- Participating Team/ Institution means the team that has registered itself for the competition as per the rules.
- Venue means the University School of Law & Legal Studies, GGS Indraprastha University, Sec-16 – C, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110078.

The Rules mentioned herewith are not exhaustive. The Rules shall be strictly adhered to, and any deviation from the same shall result in immediate disqualification, unless exempted by the Organisers. All decisions made by the Organisers in case of any disputes, doubts or other problems of such nature, shall be final and binding on the participating teams. The Organisers further reserve the right to alter, amend or add Rules herein at any point of time and the same shall be informed to the teams. Imposition of penalties is exclusively the right of the Organisers; in case the Rules are not adhered to by the Participating teams.

I. GENERAL:

1. Date and Venue: The Competition shall be held from **27th October, 2023 to 29th October, 2023** at the University School of Law & Legal Studies, GGS Indraprastha University, New Delhi.
2. Dress Code: The dress code for the competition shall be courtroom formals and the participants are required to adhere to the same while presenting before any court room during the Competition.
 - a. Girls: White shirt and black trousers along with black coat and black shoes.
 - b. Boys: White shirt, black trousers and black tie along with black coat and black shoes.

II. THEME:

The moot proposition for the NHRC – USLLS National Moot Court Competition, 2023 is based on Human Rights issues pertaining to Refugees, Asylum-seekers and illegal cross border migrants.

III. LANGUAGE:

The official language for the Competition shall be English only.

IV. ELIGIBILITY:

The Competition shall be open for bona fide students who are currently pursuing an integrated 5-year B.A. LL.B. Programme or 3 year LL. B Programme in India. Such institution must be recognised by the Bar Council of India. Only one (1) team per institution is allowed to participate.

V. TEAM COMPOSITION:

1. Each team shall consist of a minimum of two members or maximum of three members.

There shall be no circumstance whatsoever that a team consisting of more than 3 members be allowed to participate. No observer/additional member can be part of a team in any capacity.

- a. In case of a three-member team, there shall be two speakers and 1 researcher;
- b. In case of a two-member team, there shall be two speakers only, none of which shall be eligible for the researcher's test;
- c. The marks of researcher's test shall not be taken into consideration for the eligibility of any team to qualify for quarter finals.

2. The teams shall identify such speakers and researcher during registration.

3. Teams shall not disclose their identity whatsoever i.e., the name of their institution, city, etc., or any other information which has the effect of disclosing their identity and affiliation with a particular university or institution, except in the registration form. Such disclosure shall result in disqualification subject to the discretion of the Organisers.

4. Each team shall be allotted a Team Code (TC) and each participant shall be given an individual code. Teams shall not disclose their identity or that of their institution or city

etc. Any such disclosure shall invite strict penalty including disqualification. The decision for the same shall be at the discretion of the Organisers.

5. Scouting is strictly prohibited and shall lead to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the Organisers.

VI. REGISTRATION:

1. All participating institutions have to confirm their provisional registration by filing up a google form latest by **10th October, 2023** latest by **11:59 Hrs.**
2. And the final registration has to be completed through a google form till **15th October, 2023** including the travel details of the team.
3. Formal registration of the teams shall be done on **27th October, 2023** at the venue at **14:00 Hrs.**
4. Any change in the team composition should be intimated to the Organisers before the Formal Registration.
5. No forms received after the deadline shall be considered for registration.
6. Each team shall be assigned a team code (TC) upon registration.
7. All correspondence to the organising committee shall specify only the team code.

VII. ORAL PLEADINGS:

1. General Procedures –
 - a. There shall be a total of five (5) rounds i.e., Preliminary Rounds I & II, a Quarter Finals Round, a Semi Finals Rounds and a Final Round.
 - b. Each Oral Round of the Competition shall consist of Sixty (60) minutes of oral pleadings. Petitioner and Respondent shall be allotted Thirty (30) minutes each other than the Final rounds which will be for forty-five (45) minutes.
 - c. Two (2) members, and no more than two (2) members, from each Team shall make oral presentations during the round.
 - d. Prior to the beginning of the Oral Round, each Team shall indicate to the Court Clerk (CC) how it wishes to allocate its thirty (30) minutes among (a) its First Speaker, (b) its Second Speaker, and (c) rebuttals (for Petitioner), No single Speaker shall plead more than twenty-five (25) minutes, including rebuttals.
 - e. Extension of Time at the Judges' Discretion i.e., the Judges may extend total time for oral argument beyond the thirty (30) minute allocation, up to an

additional five (5) minutes per Team. Speakers asked to further expand upon arguments may, in this instance, appear for more than the twenty-five (25) minute individual limit.

- f. Order of Submission – The order of the oral submissions in each Round at all levels of the Competition shall be:

Petitioner 1 → Petitioner 2 → Respondent 1 → Respondent 2 →→ Rebuttal (Petitioner)

- g. Petitioners may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttals.
- h. Ex Parte Procedure – In extreme circumstances, such as when a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Oral Round, the CC, after waiting fifteen (15) minutes, may allow the Oral Round to proceed ex parte. In an ex parte proceeding, the attending Team represents its oral pleading, which is scored by the judges to the extent possible as if the absent Team had been present and arguing. In such a case, the Team that fails to appear for the scheduled Round forfeits all points of the Oral Round.
- i. Competition Communications – Oral communications during the Oral Round shall be strictly limited to the following. Any Team, which engages in communications not listed in this Rule, shall be penalised.

- Oral Courtroom Communication between Counsel and Judges – Each Speaker designated to present oral pleadings may communicate with the judges, and the judges may communicate with that Speaker, during the Speaker's allotted time. In addition, in extraordinary circumstances, the judges may communicate directly with either Team's counsel table (for example, to clarify the spelling of a speaker's name or to request that a Team remain quiet during its opponent's oral presentation).
- Oral Courtroom Communication and Activity at Counsel Table – Every courtesy shall be given to Speakers during oral argument. Communication at the counsel table shall be in writing to prevent disruption, and Teams shall avoid all unnecessary noise, outbursts, or other inappropriate behaviour, which distracts from the argument in progress. Any

Penalties imposed under this Rule shall be deducted from the Oral Scores of both Speakers of the offending Team.

- Written Courtroom Communication – Written communication during the Oral Round shall be limited to:
 - a. Written communication among a Team's members seated at the counsel table, and;
 - b. Team member at counsel table handing a document to a speaker when that Speaker has been questioned about such document during the course of his or her argument or;
 - c. A written note to assist the Speaker in answering an issue raised by the judges.
 - d. No other written communication may take place among the Speakers, Team members seated at counsel table, spectators or Team members not present at the counsel table. There is no prohibition on the teams handing over supporting documentation to the judges, but the same should be done through the clerk.
- Anonymity of Teams in Courtrooms – Teams shall be identified by Team Codes and the side of the dispute they represent only. However, Team members may provide their individual names to judges for purposes of conducting courtroom discussions. Participants shall not disclose the identity of their Team through direct or indirect means, including statements to judges, name tags or other signifiers, the placement of folders, files, library books or other materials bearing the name or logo of the school on the counsel table, and wearing of p or clothing revealing the identity of their school.

2. Draw of Lots –

- a. The draw of lots shall take place after the inauguration on **27th October, 2023**.
- b. To ensure unbiased selection, teams shall be subjected to drawing of lots for the Preliminary Rounds.
- c. Half of the total number of participating teams shall be called upon to draw of lots to select their opposition.
- d. In no circumstance shall any change be entertained after such selection.

3. Preliminary & Quarter Final Rounds –

- a. The Preliminary & Quarter Final Rounds are scheduled to take place on **28th October, 2023**.
- b. Teams shall be subjected to two (2) preliminary rounds.

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- c. The teams shall be arguing on each side during the Preliminary Rounds.
- d. The total of each round shall determine selection to the Semi-final Rounds.
- e. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.

4. Semi Final Round –

- a. The Semi-final rounds are scheduled to take place on **28th October, 2023**.
- b. The top-four scoring teams shall compete according to the draw of lots.
- c. The Semi-final rounds shall be in the nature of knock-outs, i.e., the team with the lesser score shall be evicted.
- d. The two teams that emerge victorious shall succeed to the Final rounds.

5. Final Round –

- a. The Final rounds are scheduled to take place on **29th October, 2023**.
- b. The teams shall argue on the side decided by the draw of lots.
- c. The team obtaining a higher score shall be adjudged victorious.

The Oral rounds shall be judged as per the following criteria:

S.NO	CRITERIA	MARKS
1.	Knowledge of Facts and Law	20
2.	Application of law to facts	20
3.	Ingenuity and ability to answer questions	15
4.	Presentation Skills	15
5.	Time Management and Organisation	10
6.	Court Etiquettes	10
7.	Logical coherency in Arguments	10
	Grand Total	100

VIII. RESEARCHER'S TEST:

1. The Researcher's Test shall be conducted on **27th October, 2023**.
2. Only the registered researcher during the formal registration shall take the researcher's test.
3. There shall be no such test for the teams comprising of only two (2) members.

4. The test shall contain questions related to the moot proposition and the law applicable.

IX. MEMORIALS:

1. All requirements must be strictly followed. Non-adherence to the same shall result in disqualification subject to the discretion of the Organisers.
2. Each team shall prepare memorials for both the sides of the dispute. E.g.: the Petitioner and the Respondent.
3. The soft copies of the memorial from each side shall reach the Organisers through usllsmcs@ipu.ac.in in **.pdf** and **.doc** or **.docx** format latest **23rd October, 2023** by **(23:59 Hrs)**. Attachments shall be titled as **[TEAM CODE_P]** for Petitioner's side and **[TEAM CODE_R]** for the Respondent's side. E.g.: **07_P** and **07_R**.
4. Hard copy of the memorial from each side should be submitted to the Organizers on **27th October 2023** at the time of registration [**4 copies of each side i.e., the Petitioner and the Respondent both**].
5. Format of Memorials –
 - a. Cover Page: The cover page of the memorial must state the following:
 - i. Team Code on upper Right-hand side corner
 - ii. The Case Title
 - iii. Colour of the cover page must be:
 - Blue in case of Petitioner
 - Red in case of Respondent
 - iv. The Party for which the Memorial has been prepared
 - b. The Table of Content
 - c. The Index of Authorities
 - d. The Statement of Jurisdiction
 - e. The Statement of Facts
 - f. The Statement of Issues
 - g. The Summary of Arguments
 - h. The Arguments Advanced
 - i. The Prayer
6. Memorial General Format –
 - a. Spacing: 1.5 Line Spacing Margins.

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- b. Margins: One-inch margin on all sides of each page.
 - c. Font: The font for the body of the memorial shall be Times New Roman, Size 12.
 - d. The Font for the footnotes: The font of the footnotes shall be Times New Roman, Size 10.
7. Memorials must be either sewn bound or coil bound. Use of Plastic sheets is strictly prohibited and will invite deductions of one (1) mark per copy of the memo.
 8. Page numbering should be at the bottom right of each page.
 9. The memorials must not contain any annexure/photographs/sketches/exhibits/affidavits etc.
 10. Teams shall cite authorities in their Memorials by way of Blue Book (20th Edition) Style of Citation.
 11. The maximum number of pages in each Memorial shall not exceed thirty-five (35) pages including maximum twenty (20) pages for Written Submissions/Arguments Advanced.
 12. Marking Scheme of the Memorials –
 - a. Every Memorial will be marked on a total of 100 marks and the team memorial marks will be the average of the total of both sides.
 - b. All memos shall be evaluated on the following basis –

S.NO	MARKING SCHEME	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Knowledge of Facts and Law	20
2.	Extent & Use of Research	20
3.	Structured and Articulate Analysis	15
4.	Originality in Presentation	15
5.	Grammar, Style and Coherency	10
6.	Correct Format and Use of Citation	10
7.	Original Thought	10
	Grand Total	100

X. SCOUTING:

1. Teams shall not be allowed to observe the Oral Rounds of any other team whatsoever.

2. Scouting is strictly prohibited as per the Rules of the Competition.
3. Scouting by any of the teams shall result in instant disqualification.
4. Any team can file a written complaint to the Organisers regarding the same. The Organiser's decision regarding scouting shall be final. Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if any person affiliated with a team is found:
 - a. Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc., the oral submissions in a round, except where the round is one in which the team to which he/she is affiliated is participating in; or
 - b. Reading a memorial of a team except where:
 - i. It is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or
 - ii. The memoranda have been obtained on account of an exchange of memorial prior to a round of the team to which he/she is affiliated.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:

1. The results of the preliminary rounds shall be announced shortly after the rounds.
2. The winners of the semi-final rounds shall be announced shortly after the conclusion of the rounds.
3. The winners of the final round shall be announced during the valedictory ceremony.

XII. AWARDS:

1. The team that attains the highest score in the final rounds shall be declared as winners.
2. The team with the second-highest score in the final rounds shall be recognised as the runners-up.
3. The recipient of the '**Best Researcher**' award shall be determined based on the researcher's performance in a formal examination. The researcher achieving the highest score in this examination will be conferred with the title of '**Best Researcher**'. In the event of a tie in scores among multiple researchers, the distinguishing factor shall be the accuracy of responses to questions designated with an asterisk (*). The researcher who provides more correct answers to the (*) questions will be declared the winner and shall receive the prestigious '**Best Researcher**' award.
4. The team, which secures the highest marks based upon the cumulative marks of the memoranda submitted, shall receive the award for the '**Best Memorial**'.

5. The Male speaker securing the highest marks based upon the cumulative marks of the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition will be adjudged as the **‘Best Student Advocate Male’**.
6. The Female speaker securing the highest marks based upon the cumulative marks of the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition will be adjudged as the **‘Best Student Advocate Female’**.

XIII. COPYRIGHT:

1. The copyright with regard to the memorials submitted for the participation in the Competition is assigned by participants and shall vest completely and fully on the Organisers. The participants shall certify the originality of the memorials and the materials used and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of further use and exhibition of these materials.
2. The Organisers shall have the right to publicly display, distribute in any manner whatsoever and they shall not be responsible for any liability thereof.

XIV. DISCLAIMER:

The proposition is fictitious and any resemblance to any person, living or dead, or incident, past or present, is coincidental and not intended by the authors of the proposition.

XV. CLARIFICATIONS:

1. The moot proposition shall remain the way it is and no change shall be made whatsoever.
2. The Organizers further reserve their right to alter, amend or add to the moot proposition and the same shall be intimated to the Registered Teams well in advance.
3. Clarifications regarding matters other than the moot proposition may be sought from the Organizers.
4. The teams who are seeking any sort of clarifications regarding the proposition can take it till **15th October, 2023** through the official mail for communication only which is usllsmcs@ipu.ac.in

XVI. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

Accommodation and Food will be provided from **27.10.2023** to **29.10.2023 (12:00 Hrs)**.
Accommodation shall be provided to all the teams from institutions outside Delhi-NCR region i.e., no accommodation shall be made available to teams from institutions within Delhi NCR.

XVII. CONTACT DETAILS:

In case any queries or clarifications regarding the competition, the teams may contact:

Student Convener

Shubhit Shokeen

(+91-9615900011)

Student Co Convener

Chirag Kakkar

(+91-9650570871)

Student Co-Convener

Shreya Mishra

(+91-9958472949)

Student Secretary

Punit Kapasia

(+91-9899964927)

For any further assistance , the teams may contact:

Email: usllsmcs@ipu.ac.in

Telephone : _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 2023

[The dates & timings are subject to change]

S. NO.	DATE	TIME	EVENT
1.	30.09.2023	-	Release of Moot Proposition
2.	10.10.2023	-	Last date for Institutional Registration of Teams via Google Form
3.	15.10.2023	-	Last date for Final Registrations via Google Form
4.	15.10.2023	-	Last Date for Seeking Clarifications
5.	23.10.2023	-	Last date for Memorial Submission (Soft Copy)
6.	27.10.2023	-	Last date for Memorial Submission (Hard Copy) at the time of Registration.
7.	27.10.2023	14:30 – 15:30 Hrs	Time for Registration of Teams at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		15:30 – 16:30 Hrs	Draw of Lots and Exchange of Memos for Preliminary Rounds I and II
		16:30 – 17:15 Hrs	Researcher's Test at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		17:30 – 19:30 Hrs	Inaugural Function at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
8.	28.10.2023	09:30 – 10:45 Hrs	Preliminary Rounds-I at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		11:30 – 12:45 Hrs	Preliminary Rounds-II at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		14:30 – 15:45 Hrs	Quarter Final Rounds at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		16:30 – 17:30 Hrs	Semi Final Rounds at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
9.	29.10.2023	10:30 – 12:30 Hrs	Final Rounds at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.
		After 12:30 Hrs	Prize Distribution followed by High Tea at the University School of Law and Legal Studies.