



13TH RGNUL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2025

Hybrid Rounds

Virtual: April 05 - April 06, 2025

On Campus: April 19 - April 20, 2025

RULEBOOK

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

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I – DEFINITIONS

1. Definitions: Unless otherwise provided, the words used in the rules shall be construed as hereinafter provided–

1.1. **“Administrator”** means the administration of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab and shall also include the members of the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;

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

1.3. **“Bench Memorandum”** means the memorandum of law, issues and authorities concerning

the competition problem prepared by the Authors/Administration;

1.4. **“Bench”** refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the oral rounds, individually or collectively;

1.5. **“Committee”** means the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;

1.6. **“Clarifications”** refer to the explanations to the Proposition issued by the Administration and published on the official website of the moot pursuant to Rule 17;

1.7. **“Competition”** means the 13th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2025;

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

1.9. **“Oral Round”** means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of the bench, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party;

1.10. **“Participating Team”** means the team which is eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure;

1.11. **“Participating Institution”** shall be the parent institution of the participating teams;

1.12. “**Proposition**” means the hypothetical Moot Proposition of the Competition released by the Administration. Clarifications as defined under Rule 17 shall form a part of the problem;

1.13. “**Penalty**” refers to the deductions imposed on the memorial scores of a participating institution, as provided for under Rule 20;

1.14. “**Petitioner**” means the side that argues on behalf of the Petitioner at any given point in the Competition;

1.15. “**Plagiarism**” means the direct or substantial duplication of somebody else’s work, represented as one’s own, without properly acknowledging the same by giving a citation or adding quotation marks;

1.16. “**Preliminary Rounds**” means the oral rounds which take place before the advanced round, as defined under Rule 35 and for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.

1.17. “**Rebuttals**” refer to the arguments presented by the Petitioner in response to the Respondent’s submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists;

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

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

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

1.21. “**Sur-rebuttal**” refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals as defined in Clause 1.17;

1.22. “**Team Code**” refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration according to Rule 10.

II – INTERPRETATION

2. 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.

III – MODE OF THE COMPETITION

3. The Preliminary Rounds of the Competition shall be held **virtually** from 5th April 2025 to 6th April 2025 through Cisco Webex Software. The Administrators reserve the right to switch the mode of the Competition. The participants will be notified in advance of the mode of the Competition in case of any modifications.

4. The Advanced Rounds of the Competition shall be held **on campus** from 19th April 2025 to 20th April 2025.

IV – ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

5. Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing the three years or five years LL.B. degree course in any institution in India. Students pursuing their LL.M. and Diploma courses are not eligible for participation.

6. A recognized institution shall be entitled to send only one team to the competition.

7. Each participating team should have three members. In a team, two members shall be designated as ‘Oralists’ or ‘Speakers’ and the third member shall be designated as ‘Researcher’.

8. 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.

9. Any changes with respect to the contact details of the participants shall be notified to the Administrators with immediate effect.

10. Each team which has successfully completed the Registration requirements under the Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Once the Code is allotted, every team must use this team code for any further communication(s) with the Administrators during the entire course of the Competition.

V – REGISTRATION

11. The registration for the moot shall open on 22nd of February, 2025. A total of 32 slots are available for the moot, meaning thereby that the registration for the moot shall take place on a first-come-first-serve basis.

12. All the participating institutions have to confirm participation by filling the registration form via the [registration link](#), on or before 4th March, 2025, 11:59 PM IST.

13. In furtherance to this, the participating Universities are required to send a detailed mail consisting the details of the participating members along with an Authorization Letter/Mail.

14. The participating teams are required to pay INR 3,500/- as registration fees at the time of registration. This fee is only for the registration for the Preliminary Rounds. The registration fee for the Advanced Rounds shall be INR 2000/- which shall be paid after qualifying to the Advanced Rounds. This fee is inclusive of accommodation for 3 days (18th night, 19th and 20th April).

15. The Link for the payment of Registration Fees: https://lsacademia.in/lisa_rgnul/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp

16. The last date to depositing the registration fees is 4th March, 2025. Non-payment of Registration Fees shall result in cancellation of Registration of the Participating Team. In such a scenario, the newly available slot shall be given to the next team in line.

VI – CLARIFICATIONS

17. The last date for submitting clarifications to the Moot Proposition is 6th March, 2025. All such requests must be submitted through the [Google form](#) only.

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

VII – MEMORIALS

19. Each team must prepare one Petitioner Memorial and one Respondent Memorial. The language of all the Memorials must be English. The Memorials shall contribute to deciding the outcome of a match in the preliminary rounds in a manner described in Rule 35.

20. Submission of Soft Copies of Memorials:

20.1. All team 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 30th March 2025. The submission shall be made via this [Google form](#) only.

20.2. Any submission made after the said deadline, unless extended, shall be considered as late submission and penalized. A penalty of 1 mark per hour per side, up to 24 hours past the deadline, shall be deducted in case of delay in the submission of soft copy of written submissions. A further penalty of 1 mark per day per side shall be levied in case of delay in submission of hard copy of written submission.

20.3. 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 P for Petitioner and R for Respondent. For instance, the Petitioner memorial of team code 9 should be named “TC 9P”.

20.4. A penalty of 1 mark shall be levied in case the written submission is submitted in any other format.

21. Submission for Hard Copies of Memorials:

21.1. Only teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds are requested to submit hard copies of their Memorials on the day of Draw of Lots for the Advanced Rounds. Teams will have to provide the Administrators with four copies. The hard copies of written submissions must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted to the Administrators. Any difference in the same will result in penalties.

22. General Conditions for Memorials:

- 22.1. The Memorials shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc. which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the Memorials, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- 22.2. Petitioner's Memorials are required to have a Blue cover page and Respondent's Memorials are required to have a Red cover page.
- 22.3. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page of the Memorial.

23. Guidelines for Format of Memorials:

- 23.1. The Memorials must contain the following components in the order listed below:
- 23.1.1. *Cover Page*: The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the Memorial, year of Competition, name of the forum and team Code on top right corner
- 23.1.2. *Table of Contents*
- 23.1.3. *List of Abbreviations*
- 23.1.4. *Index of Authorities*: The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Memorial. The Index must indicate the page number(s) and/or the paragraph number(s) of the Memorial in which the authority is cited
- 23.1.5. *Statement of Jurisdiction*
- 23.1.6. *Statement of Facts*: The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. 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. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page
- 23.1.7. *Issues Raised*

23.1.8. *Summary of Arguments*: The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments, and should not merely be a reproduction of the various headings and sub-headings of arguments. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page

23.1.9. *Pleadings/Arguments Advanced*: All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the written submission. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page

23.1.10. *Prayer*

Non-compliance with respect to clauses (1) to (8) and (10) will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each missing section. Non-compliance with respect to section (9) will result in the Memorial not being considered for evaluation at all.

23.2. **Team Code**: The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page. The code must be succeeded by the side for which the Memorial is prepared. The teams must use “P” for Petitioner / “R” for Respondent. For example; in case the Team Code is 36 the team must write “TC 36P” in case of Memorial for Petitioner and “TC 36R” in case of Memorial for Respondent.

23.3. **Margin**: The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark each side of Memorials.

23.4. **Font, size and line spacing**: The text font should be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 12 and must be in 1.5 line spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 0.5 mark per incorrect format of font, size and line spacing with a maximum of 2 marks per page of the Memorial.

23.5. **Footnotes**: The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10 and singly spaced. There should be double line spacing between two footnotes. Footnotes must conform to the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th Edition in the Memorials throughout. Non-compliance will

result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.

23.6. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, 1 spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Memorial.

23.7. **Page Limit:** There is no maximum page limit on the Memorial and the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be of a maximum of 20 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.

24. **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, the Administrators may impose any sanction that they may deem fit, including disqualification from the Moot.

25. Memorial Evaluation Criteria

SL. NO.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1	Evidence of Original Thought	20
2	Knowledge of Law and Facts	20
3	Proper and Articulate Analysis	20
4	Clarity and Organization	10
5	Extent and Use of Research	10
6	Correct Format and Citation	10
7	Grammar and Style	10
	TOTAL	100

VIII – ORAL ROUNDS

26. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

26.1. Preliminary Rounds; and

26.2. Advanced Rounds:

i. Octa-Finals

ii. Quarter-Finals

iii. Semi-Finals

iv. Finals

27. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:

27.1. Petitioner Speaker 1;

27.2. Petitioner Speaker 2;

27.3. Respondent Speaker 1;

27.4. Respondent Speaker 2;

27.5. Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

28. Speaker Score: The score shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds. Individual Aggregate Score shall be determined as the sum of the following:

28.1. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round I;

28.2. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round II; and

28.3. Half of Memorial Score

- 29.** The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Bench during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may however, be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at the discretion of the Judges. Such notes shall be passed through the court clerks present in the court room.
- 30.** Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- 31.** The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.
- 32.** Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) prior to the commencement of the Rounds. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- 33.** The Judges, at their discretion, may extend the time limits stated. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to allow Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals shall vest with Judges.
- 34. Oral Round Scoring Criteria**

SL. NO.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1	Knowledge of Law	10
2	Logic and Reasoning	10
3	Organization and Clarity	10
4	Persuasiveness	10
5	Deference to Court	10
6	Proper and Articulate Analysis of Issues	10
7	Understanding of Relevant Legal Principles	10
8	Knowledge and Use of Legal Authorities and General Principles of National Law	10

9	Ingenuity, Analogous Reasoning and Ability to Answer Questions	10
10	Reference to Written Submissions/ Compendium and Adherence to Time	10
	TOTAL	100

IX – STRUCTURE OF ORAL ROUNDS

35. Preliminary Rounds:

35.1. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

35.2. The match-up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of draw of lots. Draw of lots shall take place on 5th April, 2025.

35.3. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

35.4. Scoring

35.4.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the criteria of evaluation of the memorials scores and the speaker scores from which the top 16 teams will proceed to the Octa-Final Rounds.

36. Octa-Final Rounds:

36.1. The sixteen teams that proceed to the Octa-Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Octa-Final Rounds shall be based on the system of power matchup as follows: Rank 1 v. Rank 8, Rank 2 v. Rank 7 etc.

36.2. Eight teams shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds on a knockout basis, i.e., the winner of each Octa-Final Round shall qualify to the Quarter Final Rounds.

36.3. *Scoring:*

36.3.1. The top eight teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

36.3.2. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties shall be ranked higher.

37. *Quarter Final Rounds*

37.1. The eight teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be based on the system of power matchup as follows:

Rank 1 v. Rank 8 (Quarter Final Round I)

Rank 2 v. Rank 7 (Quarter Final Round II)

Rank 3 v. Rank 6 (Quarter Final Round III)

Rank 4 v. Rank 5 (Quarter Final Round IV)

37.2. Four teams shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Quarter Final Round shall qualify to the Semi Final Rounds.

37.3. *Scoring:*

37.3.1. The top four teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

37.3.2. Rule 34.3.2 shall apply mutatis mutandis to determine the winner of the Quarter-Final Round.

38. *Semi Final Rounds*

38.1. The four teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:

Winner of Quarter Final Round I v. Winner of Quarter Final Round IV

Winner of Quarter Final Round II v. Winner of Quarter Final Round III

38.2. Two teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi Final Rounds shall qualify to the Final Round. The bench-strength for this round shall be an odd number but not one.

38.3. For the Semi Final 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.

38.4. *Scoring:*

38.4.1. The top two teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

38.4.2. Rule 34.3.2 shall apply mutatis mutandis to determine the winner of the Quarter-Final Round.

39. *Final Round*

39.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one.

39.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the 'Winning Team'. The other team shall be declared as the 'Runners-Up Team'.

39.3. For the Semi Final 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.

39.4. *Scoring*

39.4.1. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on the basis of the score of oral rounds only.

39.4.2. Rule 34.3.2 shall apply mutatis mutandis to determine the winner of the Final Round.

X – MISCELLANEOUS

40. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team members shall result in disqualification.

41. If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

42. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.

43. The Administrator reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

44. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Administrators and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Notwithstanding, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.

45. The Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.

46. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Administrators. Any decision made by the Administrators shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

47. The address for correspondence for all the formalities shall be:

Dr. Jaswinder Kaur,
Coordinator, Moot Court Committee
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab,
Sidhuwal Campus, Bhadson Road, Patiala – 147001.

48. Any and all queries regarding the Moot Proposition and Rules & Regulations shall be sought only via e-mail to mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in.

49. Any other queries (other than the Moot Problem) may be directed at the following persons:

Dr. Jaswinder Kaur (Faculty Co-ordinator)	+91 9855077842
Ms. Manvi Kumar (Student Convenor)	+91 6399333328
Ms. Madhumita Jayashankar (Student Convenor)	+91 9148944199

ANNEXURE I: AWARDS

- I. Best Team:** The Team winning the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 20,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty Thousand Only).
- II. Runners Up:** The runners up team in the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 15,000/- (Indian Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only).
- III. Best Speaker:** The speaker having the highest score in the preliminary rounds shall be given a cash prize of INR 8,000/- (Indian Rupees Eight Thousand Only).
- IV. Best Written Submission:** The team having the highest average written submission score from both sides shall be given a cash prize of INR 8,000/- (Indian Rupees Eight Thousand Only)
- V.** Certificates of merit shall be given to all the teams qualifying for the Quarter-finals and beyond.
- VI.** Certificate of participation shall be given to all the participating teams.

The awards, certificates of merit and certificates of participation shall be given during the valedictory ceremony to be conducted on 20th April, 2025. No certificate will be given to the team before or after the valedictory function.

ANNEXURE II: IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Registration

4th March, 2025

Last Date for Seeking Clarifications

6th March, 2025

Release of Clarifications

10th March, 2025

Deadline for Memorial Submission

30th March, 2025

Draw of Lots and Exchange of Memorials

5th April, 2025

Preliminary Rounds (Virtual)

6th April, 2025

Advanced Rounds (On Campus)

19-20 April, 2025
