

4TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2024

RULES

DEFINITIONS

1. **Organizing Committee:** The Moot Court Society of St. Joseph's College of Law, Bangalore, members thereof, or any person/persons appointed for the administration of this moot court competition.
2. **Petitioner:** Petitioner means the side that argues on behalf of Petitioner at any given point in the competition.
3. **Respondent:** Respondent means the side that argues on behalf of Respondent at any given point in the competition.
4. **INR:** Indian Rupee.
5. **Memorandum:** Memorandum means the written arguments submitted by each team.
6. **Penalty:** Penalty refers to deductions imposed on the memorandum scores of a participating team for non-compliance with the rules mentioned herewith.
7. **Rebuttals:** Rebuttals refers to the arguments presented by Petitioner in response to Respondent's submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the speakers.
8. **Sur-rebuttals:** Sur-rebuttals refer to the defense presented by the Respondents to the rebuttals.
9. **Scouting:** Scouting refers to the practice whereby any person observes the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with. Such scouting by the participants shall be invigilated seriously by the organizers and shall attract penalties.
10. **Clarifications:** Clarifications refer to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by the Organizing Committee and published on the official website.
11. **Compendium:** A brief compilation of principle heads, general principles, case laws and any other academic resource relevant to the memorandum to be physically submitted by the respective teams in absolute confidentiality.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility

Participation is open to all law students (3 years LL. B or 5 years LL. B integrated course) or any equivalent law program from any law college/department/university recognized by the Bar Council of India.

Team composition

Team Registration: Only one team per institution may register for the competition.

Team Dynamics: Teams shall comprise a maximum of three members, wherein two members shall perform the role of a speaker, and one member shall perform the role of a researcher.

Disclosure of Identity:

Teams shall not disclose the identity of their institution; such disclosure shall invite penalties, including disqualification. The decision for the same shall be at the discretion of the Organizing Committee. The Teams will be given Team codes after completion of the registration process.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

The registration fees for the event:

- without accommodation - ₹ 5000
- with accommodation - ₹ 8000

Please note that the option of accommodation is not available for institutions in Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural.

The registration shall be initiated in the following manner:

1.The link below will direct the participants to the Google folder for details such as Rules, a Registration form with a travel plan, and a Google form to register.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QpL6TX7VEGEnZwKU9wkEeVolS6-4OR2S?usp=sharing>

2.The participants must upload the filled Registration Form, Bona fide letter, and Payment Receipt in the Google Form.

[NOTE: - Please find the required forms in the link attached above]

3. The participant's Email Id recorded in the Google Form will be the point of contact for the competition.

4. The institutions can also provisionally register by emailing to [mca@sjcl.edu.in] with the subject "Name of the Institution_Provisional_NMCCSJCL". (Please note that emails without this subject shall not be considered as provisional registration.)

5. The Institutions provisionally registering must register through the Google Form with the team details and payment within 3 working days. Further queries can be addressed to mca@sjcl.edu.in with the subject "QUERY_REG/ACCOM/OTHER"

PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION

Inclusive of Accommodation - <https://rzp.io/l/VnnwU0FS>

Exclusive of Accommodation- <https://rzp.io/l/la89ZaX>

AWARDS

S.No	Category	Prize Money
1	Winners	₹ 50,000/-
2	1st Runner Up	₹ 30,000/-
3	2nd Runners-up	₹ 20,000/-
4	Best Memorandum	₹ 15,000/-
5	Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj Best Speaker Award	₹ 15,000/-
6	Best Researcher	₹ 15,000/-

Every winning category will get a Trophy and Certificate along with the Prize money. Every Participating Team will get a "Certificate of Participation"

MEMORANDUM GUIDELINES

Contents of Memorandum

The Memorandum is required to contain the following sections:

1. Cover Page
2. Table of Contents
3. Table of Abbreviations
4. Index of Authorities
5. Statement of Jurisdiction
6. Statement of Facts (Maximum of 2 pages)
7. Issues Raised
8. Summary of Arguments
9. Arguments Advanced
10. Prayer

- The section on Summary of Arguments Advanced, Prayer shall not exceed 30 pages. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 1 point for every additional page.
- The memorandum shall not exceed 40 pages, including the cover page.
- Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 2 points for every additional page.
- The citation format should follow the 21st edition of the Bluebook. Speaking footnotes and endnotes are not allowed. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 1 point for each error.
- The Cover page of the memorandum must contain the team registration code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by a ‘P’ for the Petitioner’s Memorandum and ‘R’ for Respondent’s Memorandum. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of 1 point.

Format of Memorandum

1. All soft copies of the Memorandum submitted must be in Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx) and PDF Format.
2. Each Memorandum should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the name of the side whose arguments are presented in that Memorandum, i.e., ‘Petitioner’ or ‘Respondent’. For instance, the Petitioner memorandum of team code ‘25’ should be named **“Memorandum for Petitioner - TC 25”**.
3. All pages of the Memorandum must be of A4 size, with a 1-inch margin on each side. The font style and size of the text of all parts of the Memorandum, excluding the Cover Page, shall be Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5-line spacing. The Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, font size 10, single line spacing. The memorandums must be spiral-bound.
4. All the memorials need to be printed on one side in A4 size sheets.
5. Participating teams must comply with the clause of anonymity as is mandated. The memorandum must at no stage reveal the name of the participants, the institution, or any personal details of the teams.
6. During offline registration, Each team should submit 5 Hard copies of the Memorandum for both Respondent and Petitioner on July 12th, 2024.

Penalties for non-compliance with memorandum format

- i. A penalty of 1 point per hour shall be imposed for any submission made past the deadline specified.
- ii. Non-compliance with rules (1) and (2) shall result in a penalty of 5 points.
- iii. Non-compliance with rule (3) shall result in a penalty of 1 point per error.
- iv. Non-Compliance with rule (4) shall lead to immediate disqualification.

CRITERIA OF MEMORANDUM EVALUATION

S.No	Parameter	Marks
1.	Logical Progression of Ideas	10
2.	Originality in Analysis and Arguments	10
3	Understanding Essential Legal Issues Presented	10
4	Clear, Concise and Unambiguous Writing Styles	10
5.	Forceful and Persuasive Presentation	10
6	Integration of Facts into Legal Arguments	10
7	Understanding and Analysis of Authority	10
8	Proper Use of Citations and Citation Format	10
9	Effective Use of Authority to Support Arguments	10
10.	Neatness, Legibility and Formatting	10
	Total	100

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ORAL ROUNDS

- The decision of the judges shall be final and binding.
- The Teams shall be evaluated in the oral rounds based on the criteria mentioned below.

SL. No.	Parameter	Marks
1	Knowledge of Law and Facts	10
2	Appreciation and Application of Facts	10
3	Interpretation and Application of Facts	10
4	Use of Authorities	10
5	Response to Questions	10
6	Organisation of Arguments	10
7	Clarity of Thought and Expression	10
8	Argumentative Skills and Creativity	10
9	Reference to Written Submissions in the course of Oral Pleadings	10

10	Court Mannerism	10
	TOTAL	100

RESEARCHER'S TEST

1. Team members who have registered as Researcher, shall have a Researcher's test.
2. There shall be 50 objective-type questions. The test will be for a duration of 30 minutes.
3. Researchers are individually assessed, based on their performance in the Researcher's test. The Award for Best Researcher shall be decided by this rank list.
4. In case of a tie for the Best Researcher Award the Researchers' scores will be calculated as follows:

[Memorial Score of the Team + Marks Obtained in Researcher's Test = Final Score]

5. Researchers shall attend the oral rounds with the speakers.
6. The Researcher's test scores will be used as a tie breaker for other awards.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Soft copy of the Petitioner and Respondent Memorandum shall be uploaded via Google form in both .pdf and .doc/.docx format - <https://forms.gle/4bj9coq5kg7BZHt78>

Participants can communicate their clarification(s) via the Google Form - <https://forms.gle/wpesYhgbsWzic4Ca8>

Dress Code:

- The Participants must be dressed in formal courtroom attire for all event days.
- The participants must always wear the Identity card provided during registration.
- Girls- White Collar Shirts, Black Trousers, Black Blazers, Black Shoes.
- Boys- White Collar Shirts, Black Trousers, Black Blazers, Black Shoes.

ORAL ROUNDS

General procedure:

Number of Rounds: The oral rounds shall be conducted in offline mode at the venue and shall comprise five rounds in total:

1. Preliminary Rounds (Round 1 and Round 2).
2. Octa-Round.
3. Quarter-Final Round.
4. Semi-Final Round.
5. Final Round.

- The team representing Petitioner shall submit their arguments first, followed by the team representing Respondent. Upon completion of the arguments, Petitioner shall have the option of submitting rebuttals, followed by Respondent.
- Sur-rebuttals shall be permitted for the same duration as the rebuttals. No submissions will be allowed after sur-rebuttals for either of the teams.
- The student counsels shall not state their names and/or any personal details during the oral rounds. They are also not allowed to reveal their Institution's name and must use the Team Code.

Procedures for Oral Submission

- Time Division
- The division of time between the two speakers is up to the team's discretion; however, each speaker must speak for a minimum of 7 minutes.

Communication to the Organizing Committee:

Before the Oral Round, teams must inform the organizers about the time division between (i) the first speaker, (ii) the second speaker, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Petitioner) or sur – rebuttal (for Respondent).

Compendium

- It is not mandatory to submit a compendium, but if a team chooses to do so, it is mandatory to do so in a hard copy, and the guidelines for the same are as follows:
- The Compendium can be presented at the discretion of the Judge. If permitted, it must happen 10 minutes before the beginning of the rounds.
- The compendium for the book/case or any other resource shall be cited on the first page of the resource and the relevant pages only. For instance, for citing a paragraph(s) from a case X v. Y, the first page of the case, followed by relevant pages, shall be cited for this part of the compendium.
- The responsibility of making a coherent, accessible compendium folder lies with the teams. Teams are also expected to make an index for their compilation.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

Details of the Round: There shall be two preliminary rounds: Rounds 1 and 2

Each team shall argue in both rounds from both sides. Teams will argue once as a Petitioner and once as Respondent.

Determination of Fixtures: The Draw of Lots system shall determine the match-ups.

Adjudging Bench: No team shall face the same bench more than once in the preliminary rounds.

Oral Arguments:

- The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorandums.
- Each team shall be allotted 15 minutes to present their case; this shall include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals, and surrebuttals
- The researcher is also required to attend the oral rounds.

Evaluation of Rounds: The aggregate score for both the rounds, shall be tabulated, and the teams securing the top 16 ranks shall qualify for the Octa-Rounds.

OCTA- ROUND

1. Details of the Round: Teams with the top 16 ranks from the Preliminary Rounds, shall qualify for the Octa-Round.

2. Determination of Fixtures: The Draw of Lots system shall determine the match-ups.

3. Adjudging Bench: No team shall face the same bench more than once in the rounds.

4. Oral Arguments:

- The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorandums.
- Each team shall be allotted 20 minutes to present their case; this shall include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals, and surrebuttals
- The researcher is also required to attend the oral rounds.

5. Evaluation of Rounds: The cumulative score shall be tabulated, and the teams that secure the highest scores in each court hall shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

1. Details of the Round: The teams who have secured the highest scores “in each court hall of the Octa Rounds”, based upon Knockout shall qualify for the quarter final Rounds.

2. Determination of Fixtures: The Draw of Lots system shall determine the match-ups.

3. Oral Arguments:

- The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorandums.
- Each team shall be allotted 25 minutes to present their case; this shall include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals and surrebuttals.
- The researcher is also required to attend the oral rounds.

4.Evaluation of Rounds: The cumulative score shall be tabulated, and the teams that secure the highest scores in each court hall shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds.

SEMI - FINAL ROUND

1. Details of the Round: The teams with the highest scores, “in each court hall of the quarter final rounds”, based upon Knockout shall qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds. In case of a tie, the scores of the memorandum will be used to evaluate the teams.

2. Determination of Fixtures: The Draw of Lots system shall determine the match-ups.

3. Oral Arguments:

- The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorandums.
- Each team shall be allotted 30 minutes to present their case; this shall include time
- Allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals, and surrebuttals.
- The researcher is also required to attend the oral rounds.

4. Evaluation of Rounds: The cumulative score shall be tabulated, and the teams that secure the highest scores in each court hall shall qualify for the Final Rounds.

5. The second runner up will be ascertained by considering the team that secured the highest scores out of the teams that could not qualify for the final round.

FINAL ROUND

1. Details of the Round: Two teams with the highest scores, in each court hall of the semi-final round, based upon Knockout, marks shall qualify for the finals. In case of a tie, the scores of the memorandum will be used to evaluate the teams.

2.Determination of Fixtures: The Draw of Lots system shall determine the match-ups.

3. Oral Arguments:

- Each team shall be allotted 40 minutes to present their case, including time allotted for advanced arguments, rebuttals and surrebuttals.
- The oral arguments should not extend beyond the issues in the memorandums.
- The researcher is also required to attend the oral rounds.

4. Evaluation of Rounds: The team securing the highest marks in the Final Round shall be declared the competition's winner. In case of a tie, the memorandum scores shall be used to declare the Winner.

5. The Second Runner-up will be ascertained by considering the team that secured the highest scores out of the teams that could not qualify for the final round.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Participants at all times are expected to keep their devices on full charge with adequate network range for instant updates outside the court halls.
- Participants must strictly adhere to the Dress Code rules mentioned under General Procedure.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, change, or repeal any of the Competition Rules. The Organising Committee shall communicate any changes made in the Competition Rules to the teams.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to decide on any matter not mentioned in the Competition Rules. Any such decision taken by the OC shall be final and binding.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to interpret any of the Rules of the Competition. Such interpretation shall be final and binding.
- If any team member is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team has been duly notified or informed.
- All participating teams will be provided with a Certificate of participation.