

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai

RULES & REGULATIONS

**Justice M.L. Pendse National
Environmental Law Moot Court Competition 2023**



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I. Administration

1. The Justice M.L. Pendse National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition 2023 (hereinafter the “Competition”) consists of the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, Semi-Final Round, the Final Round, and the Researcher’s Test organized by Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai.
2. The Competition is to be held from 24th February to 26th February 2023 in offline mode.
3. The Organising Committee (hereinafter the “O.C.”) shall be responsible for all administrative matters concerning the Competition and supply and distribute all necessary information to the participating teams.
4. The official email I.D. for all correspondence is mlpendse@mnlumumbai.edu.in

II. Interpretation and Amendments

The O.C. will be able to interpret and amend the provisions contained in the rules. The interpretation placed on these rules by the O.C. will be conclusive, and the decisions of the O.C. in the application of these rules shall be final.

III. Eligibility for Participation

1. All students enrolled bona fide in an Undergraduate of Law, i.e., three years/ five years from any College or University shall be eligible for participation in the Competition.
2. Each College/University/Institution shall be allowed to register only one team in the Competition.



IV. Team Composition

1. A team can have a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 members. In the case of 2 members team, both of them shall be the speakers and any one of the two may appear for the researcher's test. In the case of a 3 members team, two team members shall be speakers and one will be a researcher.
2. Any change in the team's composition will not be entertained once the memorials have been submitted, except in medical emergencies.

V. Registration

1. The teams must duly complete registration by filling out the google form <https://forms.gle/VHWjdjLeB7zJHnxy9> on or before 15th December 2022.
2. While filling out the form, the teams have to provide a Point of Contact (P.O.C.). All official communication will be made with the said P.O.C., who, in turn, will be responsible for conveying all relevant information to the team.
3. Any changes in the contact details of any team members shall be notified to the O.C. immediately. This obligation shall continue throughout the period of the Competition.
4. The O.C. from the Registration Forms will prepare all Certificates for every participating team member. Thus, it is incumbent upon the participants to ensure that their names are spelt correctly.
5. The final registration post memorial selection shall be completed on or before 5th February 2023 by filling out the google form which will be circulated later to the teams.



VI. Registration Fee

1. The Initial Registration Fee for the teams will be INR 2,000 for the memo qualifier round, and post-team selection it would be INR 9,000. The registration fee will be non-refundable and paid by all teams, irrespective of their participation in the Oral Rounds.
2. The fee post-team selection includes food, accommodation, and travel provided by the organizers.

VII. Payment of Registration Fee

The payment shall be made only via <https://paytm.me/WyV-IDo>.

VIII. Clarifications

1. Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by sending an email to mlpendse@mnlumumbai.edu.in on or before 16th December 2022 with the subject “Clarifications | M. L. Pendse Moot Court Competition 2023”. Clarifications sent after the deadline will not be entertained.
2. The request for clarifications should be explicit and related to the case’s facts and not to substantive arguments. Any team can submit a maximum of 10 questions.
3. The clarifications, if any, will be circulated amongst the registered teams shortly thereafter.
4. As and when issued, the clarifications become part of the Moot Proposition.
5. The O.C. reserves the right to reply or reject the clarifications.



IX. Anonymity of Teams

1. All teams that have duly registered will be allotted a team code after the expiry of the last date of registration.
2. No team shall reveal their identity to any of the judges except by means of their team code during the course of the Competition.
3. The memorials or any materials (compendium, etc.) to be submitted shall not contain any sign, logo, name, etc., revealing the identity of the college/institution/university/team members.
4. Any violation of anonymity of the team will lead to the deduction of marks or disqualification as deemed fit by the Organising Committee.

X. Official Language

The official language of the Competition shall be English. Therefore, all Rounds, including the memorials, shall be in English

XI. Written Submissions

1. Each team must prepare Memorials (written submissions) for both sides, i.e., the Applicant and the Respondent. The memorials shall contain the following:
 - Cover page
 - Table of Contents
 - Index of Authorities
 - Statement of Jurisdiction
 - Statement of Facts (not exceeding two pages)
 - Statement of Issues



- Summary of Arguments (not exceeding two pages)
 - Arguments Advanced
 - Prayer (not exceeding one page)
2. No memorial shall exceed the maximum limit of 40 pages, including the Arguments advanced, which shall not exceed 20 pages.
3. The formatting requirements for the memorial shall be as follows: Typed on Standard A4 Size Paper.
- Font Type (including footnotes): Times New Roman
 - Font Size: 12
 - Spacing: 1.5,
 - Alignment: Justified
 - Font Size for footnotes: 10
 - Spacing for footnotes: 1.0
 - Margin: 1-inch margin on each side of the A4 Size page
 - The citations shall comply with the Bluebook method of citation – 20th Edition
 - The footnotes shall include only relevant citations, and any other information supporting the arguments shall not be included.
 - The color scheme of the cover page for the Respondent’s memorial shall be R.E.D., and the Applicant’s memorial shall be BLUE.
4. Plagiarism shall not exceed 20%, excluding citations. Furthermore, plagiarism of any kind will not be accepted, be it: similar, identical, and copied memorials (internal plagiarism) or external plagiarism from online sources, and any such practice will lead to disqualification.
5. The Memorials shall not contain any annexure, photographs, graphs, diagrams, or any other representation of the like nature.
6. The soft copy of each memorial (in both PDF and word format) shall be sent through email on or before 15th January 2023 to mlpendse@mnlumumbai.edu.in.



Submissions made thereafter will only be accepted with the applicable penalty of 3 marks per day for each side of the memorial. No memorial will be accepted after 18th January 2023.

7. If any soft copy is sent that cannot be opened by reason of some virus or other reason, the submission will not be valid. Furthermore, it will attract a penalty for non-submission until a soft copy of the same, which is compatible, is sent to the official email address.
8. The name of the file for the memorial shall be allocated team number followed by the first letter of the side represented, an 'R' for the Respondent, and an 'A' for the Applicant. For instance, the Respondent Memorial for Team 01 shall be named as follows: 'T01R' for the Respondents Memorial and T01A for the Applicants Memorial.

XII. Rights Over Memorial

1. The O.C. reserves the sole right to publish and disseminate memorials submitted to and for the Competition. The memorial shall be attributed to the relevant institution and participants during such publication and dissemination. Submission of the memorial in this Moot shall constitute consent to such publication and dissemination.
2. The O.C. also reserves the right to use the memorial submitted for any other purpose they deem fit while ensuring proper attribution.



XIII. Memorial Evaluation

The memorials shall be evaluated on the following criteria application and appreciation of facts:

- Structuring and presentation of issues
- Application of legal principles, authorities, and precedents ingenuity and logical reasoning
- Lucidity and writing skills
- Proper footnoting and formatting

XIV. Penalties for Violations

S. No	Violations	Min. Penalty	Max. Penalty
1	Unauthorized disclosure of Team identity by any means	10 marks	Disqualification
2	Exceeding the Page Limit	0.5 per page	20 marks
3	Violation of formatting rules	0.5 per violation	20 marks
4	Delay in the submission of memorial	3 marks per day	18 marks
5	Scouting	10 marks	Disqualification
6	Using electronic devices during oral rounds	5 marks	10 marks



XV. Qualification for Oral Rounds

1. A total of twenty-four (24) teams will qualify for the oral rounds. If the number of the teams submitting the memorials is more than twenty-four, the twenty-four teams with the highest memorial score will qualify. The number of teams may be modified at a later date.
2. The results of the Memorial Qualifier Rounds will be released on 22nd January 2023.

XVI. Researcher's Test

1. The members registering as researchers from the qualified teams shall be present for a researcher's test on the Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai's campus itself.
2. All relevant information pertaining to the Researcher's Test will be communicated to the selected teams via email along with the result for the qualification for oral rounds.

XVII. Oral Rounds

General Rules

The Competition will be held over a period of 4 days, comprising 4 rounds: Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Final Rounds, Semi-Final rounds, and the Final Round.

1. In the oral rounds, each team shall have thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments, along with questions from the Bench and the rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.
2. For rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, only one speaker shall be allowed to present. The time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal cannot be divided between the speakers. The Respondent team may use the time set aside for sur-rebuttal only if the claimant team exercises their right to rebuttal.



3. The right of the teams to present rebuttals and sur-rebuttals is at the sole discretion of the Bench.
4. The teams can allocate time between themselves as it deems fit, provided that (i) no speaker is allocated less than ten (10) minutes for the presentation of main arguments and (ii) no more than three (3) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/ sur rebuttals
5. Before the beginning of the Oral Rounds, the team must inform their respective timekeeper regarding the time allocation between themselves and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur rebuttal in accordance with the rules presented above. Once informed, these timings will not be changed.
6. The researcher shall sit with the speakers during the orals, and at no time shall the researcher be allowed to speak or address the Bench. The team members will be allowed to pass chits among themselves only.
7. The speakers can provide copies of the compendium only if the same is permitted by the panel of judges in their respective courtrooms.
8. Use of any electronic device during the proceedings shall not be allowed. Violation of the same shall attract a penalty of 5 marks.

Preliminary Rounds

1. Each team shall appear in two Preliminary Rounds. They shall have to argue as the Applicant and Respondent once each.
2. The draw of lots shall determine which two teams will face each other. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.
3. For qualification from the Preliminary Rounds to the Quarter Finals, the top eight teams shall be decided on the basis of the aggregate of oral scores and memorial scores.
4. If two or more teams have the same aggregate score, their oral scores shall be considered.



Quarter Final Rounds

1. The Quarter Finals shall be knockout rounds, and the determination of opponents for the eight qualifying teams shall be based on their ranking in the preliminary rounds.
2. The draw of lots shall determine which two teams will face each other.
3. A coin toss will determine the side each side will argue against in the Quarter-Final Rounds. The team ranked higher in the preliminary rounds shall call the coin toss.
4. The team with a higher score than its opponents in the Quarter Final will qualify for the Semi-Final Round. In case of a tie, the team with the higher memorial score will stand qualified for the semi-final round.
5. Each team shall get a total of 30 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time.
6. The division of time per speaker is left to the team's discretion, subject to point 4 of the general rules.

Semi Final Rounds

1. The semi-finals shall be knockout rounds. The draw of lots shall determine which two teams will face each other.
2. A coin toss shall determine the side each team in the Semi-Final rounds shall represent. The team with a higher aggregate score in the Quarter-Final rounds will be given the discretion to call the toss.
3. The winner of the respective Semi-Finals will qualify for the Final Rounds. In case of a tie, the team with the higher memorial score will stand qualified for the final round.
4. Each team shall have thirty (30) minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time.
5. The division of time per speaker is left to the team's discretion, subject to rule 4 of the general rules.



Final Rounds

- The team with the higher aggregate score than their opponent shall be declared the winner of the Semi-Final and will advance to the Finals.
- Each team will have thirty (30) minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time. Non-adherence to time may result in the deduction of marks.
- The team can decide the division of time as per their discretion. No speaker should argue for less than 10 minutes.

XVIII. Scouting

1. Teams shall not be allowed to observe the orals of another team. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
2. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.

XIX. Evaluation of oral submissions

The oral rounds shall be judged on the following criteria:

- Marshalling of facts
- Application of legal principles logical structuring and reasoning ingenuity and originality
- Articulation of issues
- Presentation skills and communication ability, response to questions posed
- Use of authorities and precedents
- Court etiquettes
- The evaluation of the total marks for each speaker shall be the average marks awarded by each judge.



XX. Prizes and Awards

1. The winner of the Final Round will be declared the “Winning Team”, while the losing finalists will be the “Runners-Up”. The “Winning Team” will be awarded a cash prize of INR 1,00,000/- and the “Runners-up” will be awarded a cash prize of INR 60,000/-.
2. The oralist with the highest cumulative score in the preliminary rounds will be declared the “Best Speaker” of the Competition. The “Best Speaker” will be awarded a cash prize of INR 30,000/-.
3. The participant with the highest score on the researcher’s test will be declared the “Best Researcher” of the Competition. If two or more teams have the same aggregate score, their memorial scores shall be considered. In addition, the “Best Researcher” will be awarded a cash prize of INR 30,000/-.
4. The memorial with the best score from the applicant and the respondent side will be declared the “Best Memorial – Applicant” and “Best Memorial – Respondent”. If two or more teams have the same aggregate score, their oral scores shall be considered. The “Best Memorial” teams will be awarded a cash prize of INR 20,000/- each.

XXI. Contact Us

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Co-Convenor (Nardeep Chawla): +91 6265012280

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Annexure 1

Date	Event
05th November 2022	Release of Brochure and Flyer
05th November 2022	Release of Proposition and Rule
15th December 2022	Last date of Registration
16th December 2022	Last date for raising doubts and clarifications
28th December 2022	Release of Clarification
15th January 2023	Memo Submission
22nd January 2023	Result of Memo Selection
05th February 2023	Last date of final registration
24th February 2023	Inauguration of the Moot court Competition and Researcher test
25th February 2023	Preliminary Rounds and Quarter Finals
26th February 2023	Semi Finals, Finals and Valedictory Ceremony