



**HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
SHIMLA**

Presents

**4TH HPNLU
NATIONAL MOOT
COURT COMPETITION,
2023**

**13TH - 14TH OCTOBER, 2023
(ONLINE ROUNDS)**

&

**28TH - 29TH OCTOBER, 2023
(OFFLINE ROUNDS)**

RULEBOOK

- KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS -

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RULES & REGULATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Short Title

These shall be called the rules for the 4th HPNLU, Shimla National Moot Court Competition, 2023.

2. General Information

- i. The Competition is being conducted by **Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla**, with **SCC Online** and **EBC** as our ‘Knowledge Partners’.
- ii. The Competition shall be held in **hybrid mode** from **13th -14th October, 2023** (Online Oral Rounds) & **28th - 29th October, 2023** (Offline Oral Rounds).
- iii. The Competition shall comprise three stages: **Round I**, i.e. Memorial Qualifier Round; **Round II**, i.e. Online Preliminary Oral Rounds, **Round III**, i.e. Offline Advanced Oral Rounds, along with the **Researcher’s Test**, which shall be held **online**.

Round I: Round I shall be the “**Memorial Qualifier Round.**” This round will be open to all teams who have registered for the Competition. Based on the result of round I, a total of 32 will advance to Round II.

Round II: Round II shall be the **Online Preliminary Oral Rounds**. The teams which will succeed in Round I will be eligible to participate in Round II, which shall comprise of Preliminary Round 1 and Preliminary Round 2. In this round each team shall have to argue twice, once as Petitioner and the other as Respondent. The top 8 team which will qualify the Preliminary Rounds will be eligible to participate in Round III.

Round III: Round III shall be the **Offline Advanced Oral Rounds**. The teams which will succeed in Round II will be eligible to participate in Round III, which shall comprise of Quarter-Final Round, Semi-Final Round, and the Final Round.

- iv. The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules mentioned hereunder. Participants are required to adhere to the rules and guidelines prescribed herein.

3. Definitions

- i. “**Administrator**” shall mean Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.
- ii. “**Bench**” means the members duly invited to adjudge the Oral rounds, individually or collectively.
- iii. “**Clarification**” means the procedural order (s) and/ or any explanation (s) published by the organizers with regards to a query posed by any participating team in the competition within the given deadline.
- iv. “**Compendium**” means a compilation of the legal authorities that a Team seeks to rely upon during the Oral Submissions. For details, refer to Part IV Rule 7(i).
- v. “**Competition**” means the 4th HPNLU National Moot Court Competition, 2023.
- vi. “**Draws of Lots**” the matchup between the teams in preliminary oral rounds.
- vii. “**Identity**” means any fact pertaining to the identity of the Team, its members, or the Institution/College/University represented by the Team and the state or region where such Institution/College/University is located and includes any identification marks/seal of the Team.
- viii. “**Memorial**” means the memorandum of written submissions submitted by any Team as per Part IV of the Rules of the Competition.
- ix. “**Moot Proposition**” means the Moot Problem of 4th HPNLU National Moot Court Competition, 2023 released by the Organizers on 28th August, 2023.
- x. “**NOC**” means No Objection Certificate issued by the University/College/Institute of the participants.
- xi. “**Oral Submissions**” means the oral pleadings before the Bench.
- xii. “**Organizers**” means the Moot Court Committee of the Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.
- xiii. “**Participating Institution**” shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams.
- xiv. “**Participating Team**” means the team which is eligible to participate in the competition after completion of the registration procedure.
- xv. “**Petitioner**” shall mean the one presenting the Petition to the Hon’ble Court.

- xvi. **“Power Match-ups”** The fixtures for the Oral Rounds of the Competition will be done on the basis of a power match-up. For Quarters Finals, power match-ups will be based on the ranks secured by the team on the basis of scores of the Preliminary Rounds. (Out of 16 Ranks, Rank 1 v. Rank 16, Rank 2 v. Rank 15...).
- xvii. **“Rebuttals”** mean the set of arguments that the Applicant/Appellant/Petitioner shall raise at the end of the main pleadings of all the orators.
- xviii. **“Respondent”** shall include Defendant, Defence, etc.
- xix. **“Rules”** means 4th HPNLU National Moot Court Competition, 2023 Competition rules.
- xx. **“Sur-rebuttal”** means the set of arguments that the Respondent shall raise in response to the set of arguments raised by the Applicant/Appellant/Petitioner during ‘rebuttals’.

II. GENERAL RULES

1. Date & Venue of the Competition

The 4th HPNLU Moot Court Competition, 2023 will be conducted in **hybrid mode**, where the **Online Oral Rounds** will be held from **13th - 14th October, 2023** via the online platform *Cisco WebEx*; and the **Offline Oral Rounds** will be held from **28th - 29th October, 2023** at the campus of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, 16 Miles, Shimla-Mandi National Highway Ghandal, District Shimla, HP-171014.

2. Team Eligibility

- i. All students who have been duly enrolled and are pursuing a full-time 3-year LL.B. programme or a 5-year integrated LL.B. programme (or international equivalent) from the Institution/University recognized by Bar Council of India or equally competent authority shall be eligible to participate in the competition.
- ii. Only **one team** can register from a particular College or Institution for participation.
- iii. Students pursuing Diploma Courses or Certificate Courses are NOT ELIGIBLE to participate in the competition.

3. Team Composition

- i. Each team shall comprise a maximum number of three members (two speakers and one researcher) or a minimum number of two members (two speakers). In the event a

- team consists of only 2 members, then **none** of the members shall be allowed to participate as a researcher in the Researcher's Test.
- ii. In the event any change is required in the name of a participant and/or in his/her designation as a speaker or a researcher, the same shall be communicated to the Organizers via e-mail latest by **8th October 2023**, 5:00 P.M. IST. However, such change shall not be automatically considered on sending an email. It may be permitted or rejected by the Organizers and such decision shall be duly communicated to the participating team.
 - iii. Once the competition commences on 13th October 2023, no interchangeability amongst/between the speakers and/or researcher shall be allowed at any point in the competition unless under exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Organizers.

4. Official Language

The official language of the competition shall be **English**, for written as well as oral submissions.

5. Rules Regarding Registration

i. Registration and Payment:-

- a. Interested teams are required to register for the Competition by filling the Registration Form for Round I. Registration shall not be accepted through any means other than the Registration Form.
- b. The link to the form is provided below:

<https://forms.gle/nvfU2gfr8xcpy6TT7>
- c. The teams are also required to mention the Email-ID of either the respective committee or the head/dean of the institution in the Registration Form. The deadline for Round I (Memorial Qualifier Round) registration form is **September 13th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST).
- d. Prior payment of **INR 1500/-** (One Thousand and Five Hundred only) (per team) as Registration Fee for **Round I** is required to fill the Final Registration Form.
- e. The confirmation of Registration for Round I will be notified to the teams by the Organizers after the completion and verification of all the registration formalities.
- f. Thereafter, the teams will be provided with a Team Code. In any stage of the competition, a team must be identified only by the allotted team code. All team

members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institution at any time in any manner during their participation in the competition. Non – compliance with this rule shall lead to severe penalty or disqualification, as determined by the Organizers.

i. Payment of Registration Fee:

- a. All the teams shall be required to make a payment of **INR 1500/-** (One Thousand and Five Hundred only) via ERP Online Payment Transfer before **September 13th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST) to register for **Round I**.
- b. Teams that qualify Round I (Memorial Qualifier Round) shall proceed to **Round II (Online Preliminary Oral Rounds)** and will be required to make a payment of **INR 2000/-** (Two Thousand only) via ERP Online Payment Transfer by **October 10th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST). The last date for completion of all the registration formalities is **before October 10th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST).
- c. Teams that qualify Round II (Online Preliminary Oral Rounds) shall proceed to **Round III (Offline Advanced Oral Rounds)** and will be required to make a payment of **INR 3000/-** (Three Thousand only) via ERP Online Payment Transfer by **October 20th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST). The last date for completion of all the registration formalities is before **October 20th, 2023** (11:59 P.M. IST).
- d. The link for the payment of Registration Fee for **Round I** through ERP Online Payment Transfer is provided below:

https://erphpnlu.in/anon_evForm.htm?ev=19

- e. The link for ERP Online Payment Transfer for subsequent rounds will be shared with the qualifying teams via e-mail.
- ii. In the Registration Form, the participating team shall indicate which member shall be an official point of contact for the organizers and such person shall be responsible for all official communication between the Organizers and the participating team.
- iii. The attachments shall contain the following:
 - a. Scanned copy of the NOC from Institution/College of the participating team;
 - b. Scanned copy or screenshot of Receipt generated on completion of the electronic transfer of registration fee showing successful transfer in the name of the beneficiary; and
 - c. Scanned copies of the Institution/College ID Cards of the participants.

- iv. In the event a team notifies the Organizers of its withdrawal or absence from participation in the competition, such team SHALL NOT be entitled to refund of the registration fee or any amount which has been paid in the registration process.
- v. Only one registration per college or institution shall be accepted.
- vi. Submissions of incomplete forms and/or registration via email will not amount to successful registration and shall not be considered. In any such event, the decisions of the Organizers regarding the mode of submission in such cases shall be final.

6. Allotment of Team Code

- i. After successful registration, each team shall be allotted a Team Code (hereinafter, 'TC'), which shall be communicated to them via email of the Official Contact Person.
- ii. Teams are required to use the TC in their memorials and oral submissions to identify themselves.
- iii. Use of any other personal identification detail like, name or logo of college or any other insignia, anywhere in the memorials or during the oral submissions shall be in breach of Part IV Rule 3 and shall be penalized accordingly.

7. Dress Code

- i. Participants shall be appropriately attired throughout the conduct of the Competition (Inaugural Ceremony, Oral Rounds, Valedictory Ceremony and Prize Distribution) in the manner provided below:
 - a. **For Men-** Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal trousers, black tie and a black blazer); and
 - b. **For Women-** Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal trousers/skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals (White kurta, black salwar and black dupatta along with the black blazer).
- ii. Robes and collar bands are not permitted.

III. CLARIFICATIONS

- i. The teams seeking clarifications regarding the moot problem shall send in their queries through the email to:

mcc@hpnlu.ac.in

on or before **14th September, 2023**, 11:59 P.M. IST The subject of the clarification email must be “**Clarification(s) – 4th HPNLU NMCC, 2023**”.

- ii. No requests for any clarification shall be entertained post this deadline unless Organizers deems fit to address any such query.
- iii. All clarifications will be released by **18th September, 2023** and shall be released via email for perusal of all teams.
- iv. The Clarification shall be restricted to Moot Proposition and Rules of the Competition.
- v. In case of any delay or change in the responses to the clarifications, the Organizers shall intimate about the same to the team member who is the official point of contact.
- vi. No queries regarding the moot problem shall be addressed by any organisers member or student volunteer personally.

IV. MEMORIAL AND MARKING EVALUATION

1. Strict adherence to the Rules

The Teams are expected to strictly adhere to the rules regarding the submission of Memorial(s). Non-adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.

2. Memorials to be submitted from both sides

Each team must prepare Memorials for both sides of the dispute i.e., the Petitioner and the Respondent as the case may be.

3. General Conditions for Memorial

The Memorial 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 Memorial, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.

4. Specific Guidelines for Memorial Submission

- i. The Memorial has to be submitted in both soft copy and hard copy.

- ii. For Round I (Memorial Qualifier Round) each Team shall submit the soft copy of the Memorial, in “pdf and doc” form on or before **21st September 2023** by 11:59 P.M. IST through the Google Form which will be sent to each team.
- iii. If any team fail to submit their Memorials for **Round I** (Memorial Qualifier Round) before **21st September 2023 11:59 P.M. IST**, such team shall stand ‘**disqualified**’ from the Competition.
- iv. Each Team has to send four (4) separate file attachments: two (2) as Memorial for the Petitioner [one each in PDF and Microsoft Word (.docx or .doc) format] and two (2) as Memorial for the Respondent [one each in PDF and Microsoft Word (.docx or .doc) format].
- v. The name of the Memorial should be according to the Team Code and the side (Petitioner and Respondent) for which the Memorial is prepared. The Team Code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page and must be succeeded by the side for which the Memorial is prepared.
- vi. Teams qualifying for **Round III** (Offline Oral Rounds) are required to submit **5 hard copies** of memorials from each side, i.e., 5 hard copies of the memorial from applicant/petitioner’s side and 5 hard copies of the memorial from respondent’s side, by **28th October 2023, 8:00 A.M. IST** at the venue of the Competition.
- vii. The team that fails to provide hard copies of their ‘Memorial’ before **9:30 A.M. IST** on **28th October, 2023** shall stand **disqualified** from the competition.
- viii. The contents of the hard copies of the Memorials shall not differ from the content of the soft copies submitted to the Organizers.

5. Guidelines for Formatting

- i. **Memorial Structure:** The Memorial must contain the following contents in the order as stated below:
 - a. **Cover Page** – The Cover Page must be BLUE for the Petitioner and RED for the Respondent. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page in their Memorial. The Cover Page of the Memorial must contain the following information:
 - 1) The ‘Team Code’ in the top right corner.
 - 2) The ‘Name’ and ‘Year’ of the Competition.
 - 3) The name of the Case (Case Title).

4) The 'Side' for which the Memorial has been prepared.

5) The name of the 'Forum' resolving the dispute.

b. List of Abbreviations;

c. Index of Authorities: The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the memorial.

d. Statement of Jurisdiction;

e. Statement of Facts: The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts to 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. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page.]

f. Issues Raised;

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

h. Pleadings/Arguments Advanced: All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the Memorial. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced must not exceed 20 pages. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks for each exceeded page.]

i. Prayer: The Prayer shall not exceed 1 page.

ii. **Team Code:** The Team Code must be ascribed to 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 and "R" for Respondent. For instance, in the case of Team Code being TC-100, the team must write "TC-100 P" in the case of Memorial for 'Petitioner' and "TC-100 R" in the case of Memorial for 'Respondent'.

iii. **Margin:** The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides.

iv. **Basic compliance for Memorial:** The Memorial (including the preliminary pages and excluding the cover page) shall adhere to the following mandatory specifications: Paper size: A4, Font type: Times New Roman, Font size: 12, Line spacing: 1.5, Body

of text: Justified. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks for each side of the Memorial.]

- v. **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font type: Times New Roman, Font size: 10, Line spacing: 1.0, Paragraph spacing: 0, no additional space between 2 footnotes and body of text and Justified with a Uniform Style of Citation (Bluebook, 21st Edition) to be strictly followed throughout the Memorial. [Note: Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page.]
- vi. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman, size 10 with single spacing.

6. Marking criteria for the Memorial(s) submitted by the Teams

Memorial from each side shall carry a total of 100 marks. The Memorials shall be marked on the parameters which are laid down as under:

| Sr. No. | MARKING CRITERIA | MARKS ALLOTTED |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Evidence of Original Thought | 20 |
| 2. | Knowledge of Law and Facts | 20 |
| 3. | Proper and Articulate Analysis | 20 |
| 4. | Structure, Language and Grammar | 15 |
| 5. | Extent and Use of Research | 15 |
| 6. | Correct Format and Citation | 10 |
| | TOTAL | 100 |

7. Compendium

- i. All relevant case laws and statutory material and other evidence-based on which the participants are going to present and substantiate their arguments may be submitted in the form of a 'Compendium'.
- ii. Submission of 'Compendium' is at the discretion of the teams, the same is not compulsory to be submitted by all the participating teams.
- iii. Teams qualifying for **Round II** (Online Oral Rounds), may submit the soft copy of their compendium in "pdf and doc" latest by 11.59 P.M. IST on **11th October, 2023** via email to mcc@hpnlu.ac.in.
- iv. Teams qualifying for **Round III** (Offline Oral Rounds), may submit 2 (Two) hard copies of the 'Compendium' along with the hard copies of the memorials on **28th October, 2023**, 8:30 A.M. IST.
- v. Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Bench. If any mark, name, seal, symbol or logo of their institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognizable.

8. Exchange of Memorials

- i. The Exchange of Memorial for the **Round II** shall take place on **13th & 14th October 2023** at least 30 (Thirty) minutes prior to the commencement of the Preliminary Round 1 and Preliminary Round 2.
- ii. The Exchange of Memorial for the **Round III** shall take place on **28th & 29th October 2023** at least 30 (Thirty) minutes prior to the commencement of the Advanced Rounds (Quarter Final, Semi Final, and Final Rounds).
- iii. Teams are prohibited from making any remarks on the opponent's Memorial, i.e. the exchanged memorial. Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Memorial, electronically or otherwise.

V. RESEARCHER'S TEST

- i. The Researcher's Test for the Competition shall be conducted on **14th October, 2023** in **online mode**.
- ii. The link, timings, durations, and other instructions shall be notified to the teams well in advance of the date of the test.

- iii All teams qualifying for **Round II** shall be eligible to participate in the Researcher's Test.
- iv Only the 'Researcher' is supposed to give the test. In case any team consists of only 2 members participating as speakers, then **none** of such speakers will be allowed to give the Researcher's Test.
- v The test will be conducted by way of an online form and use of a desktop or laptop is advised. It is a mandatory requirement to maintain a good and stable internet connection; it cannot be later used as an excuse by the participant for non-submission of the Researcher's Test.
- vi In case of any internet issues or other technical issues faced by the Researcher, you are required to inform the respected authorities with a screenshot of the issues via Email and WhatsApp with your team code mentioned immediately. Any delayed notice of such an incident will not be entertained.
- vii The Researcher's Test shall consist of 50 objective-type questions.
- viii It is mandatory for each participating team to give the Researcher's Test. If any team fails to appear for the researcher's test, they shall be awarded zero marks for the same.
- ix In case two or more students score the same aggregate marks in the Researcher's test, higher rank will be awarded to the student scoring higher marks in the written submission i.e. the memorials.

VI. ORAL SUBMISSIONS AND MARKING EVALUATION

1. General Rules

- i. The Orals Rounds will take place in the following manner:
 - a. **Round II**, i.e. the **Preliminary Rounds 1 & 2** shall take place in **online** mode on **13th & 14th October, 2023**.
 - b. **Round III**, i.e. the **Advanced Rounds**, consisting of **Quarter Final, Semi Final**, and **Final Rounds** shall take place in **offline** mode on **28th & 29th October, 2023**.
- ii. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Memorials.
- iii. The language to be used during the Oral Pleading Rounds shall only be English.

- iv. The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the Oral Rounds, subject to the discretion of the judges.
- v. Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- vi. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court 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.
- vii. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

2. Structure of Rounds

- i. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
 - a. Preliminary Round I and Preliminary Round II; and
 - b. Advanced Rounds:
 - Quarter-Finals;
 - Semi-Finals; and
 - Finals
- ii. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
 - a. Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 1;
 - b. Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 2 ;
 - c. Respondent Speaker 1;
 - d. Respondent Speaker 2;
 - e. Rebuttal: Appellant - Any one of the two Speakers; and
 - f. Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers.

[Note: Sur-sur rebuttal shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.]

3. Time Division between Speakers

- i. Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.

- ii. If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals, as the case may be. This rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded at the discretion of the Judges.
- iii. While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.
- iv. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with Judges.

4. Preliminary Rounds

- i. The top **32 Teams** scoring highest aggregate Memorial marks shall qualify to the Preliminary Oral Rounds.
- ii. Each team shall argue once from both sides, i.e., Petitioner and Respondent, order of which shall be decided by way of Power match-ups to be conducted by the Organizers in consultation with the Administrators.
- iii. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments, of which no speaker shall be permitted to address the Bench 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 the time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.
- iv. **Scoring in the Preliminary Rounds:**
 - a. The qualification or disqualification of the Teams for the Advanced Rounds shall be determined on the basis of the wins only in each Preliminary Round.
 - b. The win or loss of a Team shall be determined on the basis of aggregate score. The Team with a higher aggregate score shall win the round.
 - c. The aggregate score of a Team shall be computed as the total of - Oral Score of Speaker-1, Oral Score of Speaker-2 and half the score of the Memorial.
- i. Best Speaker 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:

- a. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round 1; and
 - b. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round.
- v. In the event of a tie, the following methods shall be used to determine the rank of the Team:
- a. The aggregate score of the Team in their Oral Round One shall be considered, the Team with a higher score will be allotted a higher rank;
 - b. If the tie subsists, the Team with the higher speaker score will be allotted the higher rank;
 - c. If the tie still subsists, the Team with the highest individual speaker score out of speakers of tied Teams will be allotted the higher rank;
 - d. If the tie still subsists, the Team with the higher Memorial score will be allotted a higher rank; and
 - e. If the tie still subsists, then the rank shall be determined by a toss of a coin.

5. Advanced Rounds

- i. Only top **8 Teams** shall qualify to the Advanced Rounds (Quarter Finals) which shall consist of teams who have won both the preliminary rounds. In case of shortage of such teams to even out the competition in the advanced rounds, the top teams as determined by their cumulative scores, for both the rounds shall be taken into consideration by the Organizers irrespective of the fact that whether such a team had won/lost any round whatsoever.
- ii. Every Team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds.
- iii. The side to be argued shall be determined on the basis of Power match ups after the declaration of results of Preliminary Rounds.
- iv. The qualification of Teams to subsequent rounds shall be on a knock-out basis for each of the Advanced Rounds. In the event of a tie, the Team with higher Memorial marks will be given a higher rank.

1) Quarter-Finals:

- a. The Quarter-final round shall be a knock out round consisting of 8 Teams in total. The Teams shall be required to plead only once, either from the side of the Petitioner or the Respondent, as the case may be.

- b. Each side in quarter finals shall get a maximum of 45 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 25 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 4 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 2 minutes. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 18 minutes exclusive of the time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.
- c. The winners of the Quarter-final round shall advance to the Semi-final round.

2) Semi-Finals:

- a. The top four Teams from the Quarter Final Round shall qualify for the Semi-final round. It shall be a knockout round. The Petitioner and the Respondent side shall be determined by the Organizers.
- b. Each side shall get a maximum time of 50 minutes to present their arguments, of which, no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 30 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 5 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 3 minutes. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 22 minutes exclusive of the time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.
- c. The winner of each courtroom fixture i.e., 2 Teams from the semi-final round shall proceed to the final round.

3) Final Round:

- a. The top two Teams from the Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the final round. It shall be a knockout round, where the Petitioner and the Respondent side shall be determined by the Organizers.
- b. The maximum time for arguments shall be the same as in the Semi-finals.
- c. The Winner of the Final Round shall be declared the winner of the Competition.

6. *Marking criteria for Oral Submissions/Arguments*

Oral Submissions/Arguments from each side shall carry a total of 100 marks. The following will be the marking criteria for the oral arguments/pleadings for the Speakers:

| S. NO. | MARKING CRITERIA | MARKS ALLOTTED |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Appreciation and application of facts | 10 |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 2. | Application of legal principles | 10 |
| 3. | Use of authorities and precedents | 10 |
| 4. | Presentation skills | 10 |
| 5. | Clarity of thoughts and structure of arguments | 10 |
| 6. | Poise and demeanour | 5 |
| 7. | Court Mannerism | 5 |
| 8. | Strategy & Time Management | 10 |
| 9. | Knowledge of laws | 10 |
| 10. | Response to Forum questions | 20 |
| | TOTAL | 100 |

VII. DELAY IN APPEARANCE/ PRESENTATION

- i. If a team scheduled to participate in the oral submissions of both Online and Offline Oral Rounds does not appear for 10 minutes after the scheduled time of commencement of the Oral Round, the other team shall have to make oral submissions ex-parte.

VIII. SCOUTING

- ii. Scouting is strictly prohibited, in both Online and Offline Oral Rounds.
- iii. Teams shall not be allowed to observe the orals of another team, unless they have been officially knocked-out of the competition.
- iv. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.

IX. ACCOMODATION, TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD

- i. Accommodation shall be provided by the Organizers to the designated category of Participants of each team qualifying for Round III, i.e., Offline Advanced Oral Rounds, for the days of the competition, i.e. from evening of **27th October, 2023** to the morning of **30th October, 2023**.
- ii. All teams will be required to submit the Travel Form by **22nd October, 2023**.
- iii. For accommodation prior or after the abovementioned dates, the teams will have to pay extra charges for the room. Any changes in this rule will be duly notified.
- iv. Accommodation shall be provided on a sharing basis and no independent accommodation will be made available. If any team requests for an extra room, they will have to pay the charges for the extra room.
- v. No transport shall be provided from the airport/ railway station/ ISBT to the accommodation on arrival and departure.
- vi. All facilities shall be provided only to the registered members of a team and no additional members, parents, observers, coaches, or faculty advisors shall be accommodated at any cost.
- vii. The Organizers shall take responsibility for commuting the participating teams from the place of accommodation to the venue of the competition.
- viii. The Organizers shall arrange Breakfast, Lunch, Evening Snacks, and Dinner **only** for 2 days of the competition, i.e., **28th to 29th October, 2023** for all Participants.

X. AWARDS

The following awards shall be awarded in the Competition:

i. TEAM AWARDS:

- a. **Winners:** The Team shall be awarded with cash Prize of **INR 25,000/-** (Twenty Five Thousand only), three (3) one-year complimentary subscription to EBC Learning worth **INR 43,500/-** (Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred only); along with Certificates of Excellence
- b. **Runners up:** The Team shall be awarded with cash Prize of **INR 15,000/-** (Fifteen Thousand only); along with Certificates of Excellence.

- c. **Best Memorial:** The Team having the highest aggregate Memorial scores from both sides shall be rewarded with the cash prize of **INR 8,000/-** (Eight Thousand only) along with a Certificates of Excellence.
- d. **Certificate of Merit** shall be given to all the Teams qualifying for the Quarter-finals Round.
- e. **One month** access to the SCC Online Web valued at **INR 1,099/-** (One Thousand and Ninety-Nine only) each; along with **E-Certificates of Participation** shall be given to all the Teams participating in the **Oral Rounds**.
- f. Teams participating in the memorial qualifier round will also be **E-Certificates of Participation in the Memorial Qualifier Round**.

ii. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

- a. **Best Researcher:** The Researcher scoring the highest score in the Researcher's Test shall be rewarded with the cash prize of **INR 8,000/-** (Eight Thousand only) along with a Certificate of Excellence.
- b. The **Best Speaker** from the Preliminary Round shall be rewarded with the cash prize of **INR 8,000/-** (Eight Thousand only) along with a Certificate of Excellence.

[**Note 1:** Names on all certificates shall be written in accordance with the names mentioned in the **Round I** Registration Form.]

[**Note 2:** Participants are requested to collect their Certificates and Awards from the venue of the Competition itself. Requests for courier of physical certificates shall only be entertained for the Certificates of Excellence.]

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Etiquette

- i. Teams are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, Organizers, the Judges and any of the other participants to the Competition.
- ii. The Organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.
- iii. The Rules shall be strictly adhered to. The Organizers in consultation of the Administrators, reserve the right to disqualify Team(s) for deviating from these Rules.

The Organizers in consultation with the Administrators will resolve any contingencies that may arise and will be the final arbiters regarding any doubts/grievances.

- iv. The decision taken by the Organizers shall be final.
- v. These Rules are not exhaustive.

2. Interpretation of Rules & Regulations

- i. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Organizers in consultation with the Administrators.
- ii. Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating Teams.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. All clarifications and queries regarding the Moot Proposition shall be sought only via e-mail to mcc@hpnlu.ac.in.
- ii. In case of clarifications regarding Rules & Regulations, contact the following persons:

| NAME | DESIGNATION | CONTACT DETAIL |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Ms. Kaushiki Jindal | Convenor | + 91 9306488231 |
| Mr. Abhyudaya Mishra | Co-Convenor | +91 8317010281 |
| Ms. Deepanshi Mittal | Member | +91 7007175028 |
| Mr. Koustubh Sharma | Member | +91 6291356091 |

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES

| SR. NO. | EVENT | DATES |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1. | Release of Rulebook, Brochure, Proposition | 28 th August 2023 |
| 2. | Commencement of Round I Registrations | 28 th August 2023 |
| 3. | Last date for Round I Registrations | 13 th September 2023 |
| 4. | Last date for submitting Clarifications | 14 th September 2023 |
| 5. | Release of Clarifications | 18 th September 2023 |
| 6. | Last date for Memorial Submission | 21 st September 2023 |
| 7. | Declaration of Round I Result | 8 th October 2023 |
| 8. | Commencement of Round II Registrations | 8 th October 2023 |
| 9. | Last date for Round II Registrations | 11 th October 2023 |
| 10. | Round III (Preliminary Oral Rounds) | 13 th & 14 th October 2023 |
| 11. | Researchers' Test (Online) | 13 th Octobers 2023 |
| 12. | Declaration of Round II Result | 16 th October 2023 |
| 13. | Commencement of Round III Registrations | 16 th October 2023 |
| 14. | Last date for Round III Registrations | 20 th October 2023 |
| 15. | Last date for submitting Travel Plans | 22 nd October 2023 |
| 16. | Round III (Advanced Oral Rounds) | 28 th October 2023 |