



8<sup>TH</sup> RMLNLU – SCC ONLINE<sup>®</sup>

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW MOOT

COURT COMPETITION, 2020

February 28 - March 1, 2020

**RULES**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. DEFINITIONS .....	2
2. TEAM COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY .....	3
3. LANGUAGE.....	3
4. REGISTRATION.....	4
5. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE MOOT PROPOSITION .....	4
6. ANONYMITY .....	4
7. ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION.....	6
8. MEMORIAL .....	6
9. EVALUATION OF MEMORIAL.....	9
10. QUALIFICATION OF MEMORIALS AND SEEDING.....	9
11. EXCHANGE OF MEMORIALS .....	10
12. ORAL SUBMISSIONS .....	10
13. STRUCTURE OF THE ORAL ROUNDS.....	13
14. SCOUTING .....	18
15. AWARDS.....	18
16. MISCELLANEOUS .....	19

## 1. DEFINITIONS

- 11     **“Applicant”** refers to a person making an application for a legal remedy to a problem
- 12     **“Competition”** means the 8<sup>th</sup> RMLNLU – SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2020.
- 13     **“Court Bailiff”** refers to the student volunteer who shall be entrusted with duties such as maintenance of order in a courtroom during a round and letting speakers know the time duration for which they’ve spoken.
- 14     **“Institution”** means any recognized law school/college or university.
- 15     **“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted, on behalf of both the Applicants and Respondents, according to the official Competition Rules by each Team. Memorials are also referred to as written pleadings.
- 16     **“Organizing Committee”** includes the members of the RMLNLU Moot Court Committee.
- 17     **“Payment Receipt”** means a written acknowledgment that the payment of the registration fees has been made.
- 18     **“Petitioner”** means the party which is presenting a petition to the court alleging the commission of a wrong.
- 19     **“Preliminary Seeding Chart”** means the chart that has been prepared on the basis of memorial scores wherein the top 50% teams with higher marks are made to face the bottom 50% teams in the preliminary oral rounds.
- 110    **“Researcher”** means the team member whose role is confined to preparation of

the Memorial and is not allowed to speak in the oral rounds.

- 1.11** *“Respondent”* means the party against whom the petition/application is filed.
- 1.12** *“Rules”* means these official Competition Rules and any applicable supplements to these Rules published by the Organizing Committee.
- 1.13** *“Speaker”* refers to the members of the team who will be pleading before the judges in the oral rounds.
- 1.14** *“Valedictory Ceremony”* refers to the closing ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> RMLNLU – SCC Online<sup>®</sup> International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2020 wherein the distribution of prizes shall also take place.

## **2. TEAM COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1** Students pursuing the three or five year courses of the LL.B. degree or its equivalent in the academic year 2019 - 2020 from any recognized law school/college/university in India/abroad are eligible to participate.
- 2.2** Any recognized law school/college/university shall be entitled to send only 1 (one) team to the Competition.
- 2.3** The participating team shall comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team of two members, both the members shall be designated as Speakers. In a team of three members, two members shall be designated as Speakers and the third member of the team shall be designated as a Researcher.
- 2.4** No additional member or team coach is allowed to accompany the team.

## **3. LANGUAGE**

The official language of the competition shall be English.

#### 4. REGISTRATION

- 41 The Institutions should provisionally register themselves by sending an e-mail to [rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com](mailto:rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com), latest by **November 15, 2019 (23:59 hrs IST)**.
- 42 Institutions must complete their final registration by sending an e-mail to [rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com](mailto:rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com), latest by **December 10, 2019 (23:59 hrs IST)**. The e-mail should include a scanned copy of the duly filled registration form.
- 43 The information regarding the Registration Fee, Payment Detail and Travel Form shall be intimated to the participants upon clearing the Memorial Knockout.

#### 5. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE MOOT PROPOSITION

- 51 Participating teams may request for clarifications to the official moot problem by sending an email to [rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com](mailto:rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com) latest by **December 10, 2019 (23:59 hrs IST)**.
- 52 A full list of clarifications shall be released by **December 20, 2019**.

#### 6. ANONYMITY

- 61 The participating team shall be allotted a team code upon registration.
- 62 The student counsels shall not state their names or the names of the institution to which they belong during the oral rounds, and instead must use the code allotted.
- 63 The team shall not disclose their identity anywhere in their written Memorials and instead should use the code allotted.
- 64 Non-compliance with the Rules 6.2 and 6.3 shall result in immediate disqualification of the participant/team.
- 65 The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final.

## 7. ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

- 7.1** Accommodation shall be provided to all teams by the Organisers from the **morning of February 28, 2020 to the evening of March 1, 2020**. Teams who intend to arrive prior to or leave after the specified dates are required to inform the Organizing Committee in advance.
- 7.2** Food and Transportation to and from the venue shall be provided to all the teams for the aforementioned duration.
- 7.3** Teams should send their travel plan, as and when asked by the Organizing Committee, once the Payment Receipt has been submitted and the registration is completed.

## 8. MEMORIAL

- 8.1** Each team shall prepare an Applicant/Petitioner and a Respondent Memorial.
- 8.2** One (1) soft copy (only in MS Word .doc/.docx format) must be emailed to [rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com](mailto:rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com) latest by **January 15, 2020 (23:59 hours IST)** with the subject **“Memorials for Team Code ”**. The file names of the electronic copies of the Memorials must contain only the team code and the side being represented in the following format: e.g. (for Team Code 13) 13P/13A and 13R, “P/A” being for “Petitioner/Applicant” Memorial and “R” for “Respondent” Memorial and so forth.
- 8.3** The Memorial for each side should be submitted as one single file and not in multiple files. Any violation of this rule shall invite penalty in accordance with rule 8.6.
- 8.4** Six (6) hard copies for each side of the Memorial must be submitted to the organizers at the time of registration on **February 28, 2020**.
- 8.5** The hard copies must be identical to the soft copy. Violation of this rule would

## **8.6 Format of Memorials**

**8.6.1.** The Memorials shall necessarily consist of only and only the following sections:

- a) Cover Page
- b) Table of Contents
- c) List of Abbreviations
- d) Index of Authorities (with page number where the authority has been cited)
- e) Statement of Jurisdiction
- f) Statement of Facts (not exceeding 2 pages)
- g) Statement of Issues
- h) Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 2 pages)
- i) Arguments Advanced (not exceeding 20 pages)
- j) Prayer (not exceeding 1 page)

**8.6.2.** Each Memorial shall have the following and only the following on its cover page:

- a) The team code on the upper right hand corner of the cover page
- b) The name and place of the forum
- c) The relevant legal provision under which it is filed
- d) Name of parties and their status
- e) On whose behalf the memorial is filed

**8.6.3.** Teams shall cite authorities in the Memorial using footnotes following the **Harvard Bluebook 20th Edition**. Explanatory or illustrative footnotes are not allowed.

**8.6.4.** The Memorial shall be made and printed on A4 size paper, with the following mandatory formatting specifications:

- a) Font Type: Times New Roman
- b) Font Size: 12
- c) 1.5 line Spacing
- d) Margins: 1 inch on each side.

For footnotes, the formatting specifications are:

- a) Font type: Times New Roman
- b) Font Size: 10
- c) Single Line Spacing

**8.6.5.** The Memorials shall be spiral bound. The following colour scheme shall be followed for the Cover Page of the Memorial:

Petitioner/Applicant: Blue

Respondent: Red

### **87 Penalties**

Late Submission	1 mark per memorial every 12 hours after the deadline of submission. Disqualification beyond 48 hours.
Wrong File Name	1 mark per Memorial
Failure to submit Memorial as one File	1 mark per Memorial
Exceeding page limits (Refer to Rule 8.6.1)	1 mark per exceeding page
Failure to include the sections in the Memorial (Refer to Rule 8.6.1)	3 marks per section



Failure to include the required information on the cover page (Refer to Rule 8.6.1)	1 mark per violation
Failure to use the correct colour coding as per Rule 8.6.5.	2 marks per Memorial

## **9. EVALUATION OF MEMORIAL**

- 91** Every Memorial will be marked on scale of 100.
- 92** The Memorial shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- a) Knowledge of Law and Facts: 20 Marks
  - b) Proper and Articulate Analysis: 15 Marks
  - c) Depth and Use of Research: 15 Marks
  - d) Organisation, Presentation and Overall Formatting: 15 Marks
  - e) Novelty of arguments: 15 Marks
  - f) Grammar and Language: 10 Marks
  - g) Clarity of Thought and Originality: 10 Marks

## **10. QUALIFICATION OF MEMORIALS AND SEEDING**

- 101** There shall be a Memorial Elimination Round subsequent to the submission and evaluation of the Memorials.
- 102** The top 32 teams shall be selected based on their Memorial scores. Only these 32 teams shall be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds of the Competition.
- 103** The Result of the Memorial Elimination Round shall be notified to the teams latest by **February 5, 2020**.
- 104** The top 32 teams from the Memorial Elimination Round shall be seeded or ranked on the basis of their memorial scores and thus a Preliminary Seeding Chart shall be prepared.

## **11. EXCHANGE OF MEMORIALS**

- 11.1** There shall be an exchange of Memorials between the respective opposing teams, in accordance with the fixtures as determined by Seeding, prior to all the rounds of the Competition.
- 11.2** The teams are prohibited from making any marks on the exchanged Memorials.
- 11.3** The teams are prohibited from making any copies of the exchanged Memorials.
- 11.4** At the conclusion of their respective Rounds, the teams are required to return the exchanged Memorials to the Court Bailiffs of that Court Room.

## **12. ORAL SUBMISSIONS**

- 12.1** The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the Court Bailiff prior to the commencement of each Round. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- 12.2** Use of any electronic gadgets is not permitted during the course of oral proceedings.
- 12.3** Teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the Rounds, either their own individual identities or the identity of the institution that they represent, even if asked by the judges.
- 12.4** Teams can pass on compendium of the sources they cite in their Memorials if so permitted by the judges.
- 12.5** Team scores shall not be disclosed after every round. Teams must not make any attempt to gather any such information, until notified by the Organizing Committee.

**126** Delay in appearance for a round exceeding five (5) minutes will render disqualification of the team for that round. In such a case, their opponent shall make their oral submissions *ex parte*.

**127** Evaluation shall be done on the basis of the following criteria:

- a) Knowledge of Law & Use of Authorities: 20 Marks
- b) Application of Law to Facts: 20 Marks
- c) Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions: 20 Marks
- d) Time Management and Organisation: 20 Marks
- e) Style, Courtesy, Demeanour: 10 Marks
- f) Effective Rebuttals: 10 Marks

**128 Preliminary Rounds**

**12.8.1.** Each team will have the opportunity to argue from both the sides.

**12.8.2.** Time limit for the oral submissions shall be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

**12.8.3.** No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

**12.8.4.** The sur-rebuttal shall be limited to the rebuttals made by the opponent team.

**12.8.5.** Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut.

**129 Quarter Final Rounds**

**12.9.1.** Time limit for the oral submissions shall be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

**12.9.2.** The sur-rebuttal shall be limited to the rebuttals made by the team.

**12.9.3.** No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

**12.9.4.** Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut, as the case may be, subject to a maximum time limit of five (5) minutes.

#### **12.10 Semi Final Rounds**

**12.10.1.** Time limit for the oral submissions shall be forty-five (45) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

**12.10.2.** No speaker can speak for more than twenty-five (25) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

**12.10.3.** No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

#### **12.11 Final Round**

**12.11.1.** Time limit for the oral submissions shall be forty-five (45) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

**12.11.2.** No speaker can speak for more than twenty-five (25) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

**12.11.3.** No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

### **13. STRUCTURE OF THE ORAL ROUNDS**

**131** The Oral Rounds of the Competition shall be held over a period of two days i.e., **February 29** and **March 1, 2020**. The Inaugural Function and the Orientation Programme shall be held on **February 28, 2020**.

**132** The Competition shall consist of four sets of rounds: the Preliminary Rounds, the Quarter Final Rounds, the Semi Final Rounds and the Final Round.

#### **133 Preliminary Rounds**

**14.3.1** The Preliminary Rounds shall be held on **February 29, 2020**. In the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall have to argue twice, once as the Applicant and once as the Respondent.

**14.3.2** The teams shall be paired on the basis of the Preliminary Seeding Chart as per the provisions of Rule 10. Following shall be the pairing of teams in the two Preliminary Mooting rounds.

<b>ROUND 1</b>		
Petitioner/ Applicant		Respondent
Seed 1	v.	Seed 32
Seed 2	v.	Seed 31
Seed 3	v.	Seed 30
Seed 4	v.	Seed 29
Seed 5	v.	Seed 28
Seed 6	v.	Seed 27
Seed 7	v.	Seed 26
Seed 8	v.	Seed 25
Seed 9	v.	Seed 24
Seed 10	v.	Seed 23
Seed 11	v.	Seed 22
Seed 12	v.	Seed 21
Seed 13	v.	Seed 20
Seed 14	v.	Seed 19
Seed 15	v.	Seed 18
Seed 16	v.	Seed 17

<b>ROUND 2</b>		
Petitioner/ Applicant		Respondent
Seed 17	v.	Seed 1
Seed 18	v.	Seed 2
Seed 19	v.	Seed 3
Seed 20	v.	Seed 4
Seed 21	v.	Seed 5
Seed 22	v.	Seed 6
Seed 23	v.	Seed 7
Seed 24	v.	Seed 8
Seed 25	v.	Seed 9
Seed 26	v.	Seed 10
Seed 27	v.	Seed 11
Seed 28	v.	Seed 12
Seed 29	v.	Seed 13
Seed 30	v.	Seed 14
Seed 31	v.	Seed 15
Seed 32	v.	Seed 16

**14.3.3.** These two Rounds shall be jumbled and divided into three Preliminary Sessions.

*Explanation:* Dividing the Preliminary rounds into three Sessions does not mean that a team shall argue thrice. Rather, a team shall argue in any two of the three sessions, once as the Applicant and once as the Respondent.

**14.3.4** The Seeding chart shall not be disclosed until the Valedictory Ceremony in order to maintain the spirit of the Competition.

**14.3.5** No team shall be provided with any information regarding the identity of their opponent team or any other team.

**14.3.6** No two teams will argue against each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

## **14. SCORING CRITERIA OF THE ORAL ROUNDS**

### **14.1 Preliminary rounds**

**14.1.1.** In the preliminary rounds, each team shall have to argue twice, once as the Petitioner/Applicant and once as the Respondent.

**14.1.2.** The team shall be paired on the basis of the Preliminary Seeding Chart. The Preliminary Seeding Chart shall be prepared according to the rank secured by the team based on their **Total Memorial Score**. The Total Memorial Score shall be calculated out of 200.

**14.1.3.** For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the criteria of evaluation of the speaker scores, as mentioned in the **Rules 14.1.4-14.1.7**.

**14.1.4.** Each preliminary round shall be decided by awarding a maximum of six (6) points.

**14.1.5.** Each preliminary round matchup will be judged by two (2) orals judges, each of whom shall mark every speaker on a score of 0-100. The team with the higher total marks on a particular judge's score-sheet will be the winner on that judge's score-sheet.

**14.1.6.** If the winner on a particular judge's score-sheet is ahead of the other team by a margin of seven (7) per cent or more of the winning team's score, that team will be awarded 3 round points for that judge and the team which has lost on that judge's score-sheet will be given 0 round point for that judge. If the margin of victory on a particular judge's score-sheet is less than seven (7) per cent of the winning team's score, the winning team will be awarded 2 round points for that judge and the losing team will be awarded 1 round point for that judge. In case of a tie between the two teams, each team shall be awarded 1.5 round points for the concerned judge. Thus, every preliminary round will have 6 round points allotted to the orals.

**For Example-** In a round between Team A and Team B, Judge 1 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 170 marks to Team A and 165 marks to Team B. The difference is 5 marks. Since this difference is less than 7% of 170 (which is 11.9), for Judge 1, Team A will be awarded 2 points and Team B will be awarded 1 point. In the same round, Judge 2 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 160 marks to Team A and 175 marks to Team B. Here, the difference of 15 marks is more than 7% of 175 (which is 12.25) and hence, Team A will be awarded 0 points and Team B will be awarded 3 points.

Team A: 2.0 (Judge 1) + 0.0 (Judge 2) = 2.0 points

Team B: 1.0 (Judge 1) + 3.0 (Judge 2) = 4.0 points

**14.1.7.** If two or more teams have the same cumulative points, then the team with higher cumulative speaker scores shall be ranked higher. If two or more teams have the same cumulative points and same cumulative speaker scores, then the team with the higher memorial score shall be ranked higher.

## **142 The Quarter Final Rounds**

**14.2.1.** The highest ranked eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds, as determined by the **Rules 14.1.6-14.1.9.** stated above, shall qualify for the Quarter Final Rounds.

**14.2.2.** The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.



The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be 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)

**14.2.3.** The winners of the Quarter Final Rounds shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the Team that won the round according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Quarter-Final Rounds shall be an odd number but not one (1).

#### **143 The Semi Final Rounds**

**14.3.1.** The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the **Rule 14.2.3** stated 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:

- Rank 1 v. Rank 4 (Semi Final Round I)
- Rank 2 v. Rank 3 (Semi Final Round II)

**14.3.2.** The winners of the Semi-Final Rounds shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the participant that won the round according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be an odd number but not one (1).

#### **144 The Final Round**

**14.4.1.** The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the **Rule 14.3.2** stated above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

**14.4.2.** The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the team that won the round according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Final Round shall be an odd

number but not one (1).

**14.4.3.** 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’.

## **15. SCOUTING**

- 151** Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if the speakers, researcher or any other person affiliated with a team is found:
- 152** Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. The oral submissions in a Round, except where the Round is one in which the team to which he/she is affiliated is participating in; or
- 153** Reading a Memorial of a team except where: it is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or the Memorials have been obtained on account of an exchange of Memorials prior to a Round of the team to which he/she is affiliated.

## **16. AWARDS**

- 161** The speaker with the maximum score in the Preliminary Rounds (Total Preliminary Score) will be declared the “Best Oralist”.
- 162** The team with the maximum Memorial scores will be awarded “The Best Memorial”.
- 163** All participants shall be awarded Access Cards to SCC Online Web Edition.
- 164** The prize money to be awarded to the winners are as follows:
- a)** Winning Team: Rs. 25,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.

- b)** Runners Up: Rs. 15,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.
  
- c)** Best Memorials: Rs. 10,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.
  
- d)** Best Oralist: Rs. 10,000
  
- e)** 10 Practical Lawyer Subscriptions for the Winning team, Runner up Team, Best Memorial Team and the Best Oralist.

## **17. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 17.1** Implementation and interpretation of rules regarding Moot Court practice and procedures, the final decision lies with the Organizing Committee.
- 17.2** If any one of the members of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed.
- 17.3** The dress code to be adhered to for the duration of the Competition is:  
Ladies: Black Western or Indian formals.  
Gentlemen: Black Western formals.
- 17.4** The Proposition is neither intended to nor does it attempt to resemble any incident or any person, living or dead. Any such resemblance is purely coincidental. The Proposition is a fictitious factual account prepared for the purposes of the present Competition only and it does not attempt to influence or predict the outcome of any matter whatsoever.
- 17.5** The copyright in the Memorials submitted by the teams shall vest jointly with

RMLNLU and SCC Online. The acceptance of such vesting is a precondition to participation in the Competition. The Rules governing the conduct of the Competition should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation thereof can attract penalties or disqualification at the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.

- 176** The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend, alter, vary or change, in any manner whatsoever, the Rules governing the Competition, which would be communicated to the teams within a reasonable period of time.
- 177** The Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of RMLNLU shall be the final arbiter for these Rules and any such decision made by him on any issue/dispute arising in relation to the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 178** The Organizing Committee, as mentioned in these Rules, refers to the Moot Court Committee of the RMLNLU.