



SLS
NAGPUR

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL



Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



**SYMBIOSIS CENTER OF ADVOCACY
SKILLS AND LITIGATION**

IS ORGANISING ITS



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NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

2024

"Nyayaneeti"

**In collaboration with Dewani
Associates, Nagpur**



RULE BOOK



The registrations and entry to the competition is on first-cum-first-serve basis.

OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE:

1. The trial advocacy competition is aimed at fostering and providing opportunities for the enhancement of skills and litigation, evidence presentation and examination within the trial court.
2. The purpose of this competition is:
 - a) To give the participants an exposure of various kinds of simulations to enhance their research, drafting, argumentative and witness examination skills.
 - b) To provide a platform to students and preparing them to participate in national level trial advocacy competitions.
 - c) To be able to interact and form a cordial association with colleges/institutions at a Pan-India level following which Pan-Asia and worldwide would be the aim.

PROPOSITION:

1. The proposition of the competition shall be released at least a month prior to the date of the competition as decided by Symbiosis Center for advocacy skills and litigation.
2. The confidentiality of the drafter of the mock proposition shall be maintained by the faculty in charge and organization committee of Symbiosis centre for advocacy skills and litigation

Qualifications and eligibility

A. Preliminary Rounds (Prelims I & II)

The competition will begin with two preliminary rounds. In these rounds, each team will argue from both the prosecution and defense sides, as determined by a draw. The teams they face in each round will also be decided by drawing lots. Importantly, no team will face the same opponent in both rounds. The teams' scores for each preliminary round will be the combined total of the marks for their oral arguments and their memorial submissions. The top eight teams from these rounds will advance to the Quarter Finals.

B. Quarter-Finals (QF)

The Quarter Finals are knockout rounds where one team from each court will proceed to the next stage. Teams will argue from one side, chosen by a draw. Scores for this round will be based on the cumulative marks of the oral submissions from both speakers. The four teams with the highest scores will move on to the Semi-Finals.

C. Semi-Finals (SF)

The Semi-Finals are also knockout rounds with one team from each court advancing. Teams will argue from one side, determined by a draw. The scores, based on the oral submissions of both speakers, will determine which two teams proceed to the Final Round.

D. Final Round

In the Final Round, each team will argue from a side chosen by a draw. The winner will be the team with the highest combined score from the oral submissions of both speakers.

SUB-EVENTS & OTHER ASPECTS :

A. Researcher's Test

Each team's researcher will participate in a multiple-choice test. The researcher with the highest score will receive the "Best Researcher" award at the competition's end. Teams that do not send a researcher for the test will not be eligible for this award. The test consists of 25 questions, with a marking scheme of +4 for each correct answer and -1.25 for each incorrect answer.

The test would take place on 30th August, 2024 3pm onwards

EX-PARTE ROUNDS :

This is a special provision for situations where there is an odd number of memorial submissions by the final submission date, resulting in an odd number of participating teams. In such cases, all but one team will be paired against another team for the preliminary rounds. The unpaired team will compete in an Ex-Parte Round, where they will face the judges as their opponents. The rules and regulations for this round are the same as those for the other rounds, with the exception that the judges will directly serve as the opposing team. The team participating in the Ex-Parte Round will be evaluated fairly and equitably, comparable to the assessment of other teams.

B. Witness Provisions

The Organizing Committee will provide two witnesses for each team 30 minutes before their respective trial rounds, including the preliminary and final rounds.

Witnesses for each team will be assigned through a draw of lots.

C. Witness Briefing Session & Evaluation

Witness Briefing Time: The 30-minute period for witness briefing before trial rounds remains consistent throughout all rounds of the competition. II. Evaluation: Speakers will be judged independently of the witnesses assigned to their teams. The effectiveness of witness deposition relies solely on the briefing given by team members during the pre-trial session.

D. Witness Training

All witness participants will receive proper training before the competition begins. Note that the Organizing Committee is not responsible for the performance of any witnesses during the competition.

E. Qualification of Witnesses

Quarter-Finals: The top 12 witnesses with the highest scores from the preliminary rounds will advance to the quarterfinals. Semi-Finals: The top 8 witnesses with the highest scores from the quarterfinals will move on to the semi-finals. Final Round: The top 4 witnesses with the highest scores from the semi-finals will progress to the final round. The witness with the highest score in the final round will be declared the “Best Witness” and will receive a cash prize.

NOTE- Memorials for both sides must be submitted both online and offline by the specified deadline. **(Deadline for Online Submission is 26th August 2024 by 11:59 pm).** Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, and teams that fail to submit on time will be disqualified. Memorials must be submitted in PDF format online. Additionally, four sets of hard copies must be submitted offline. Any discrepancies between the submitted documents will result in disqualification.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Here are the detailed judging criteria for all levels of the competition:

1. Familiarity with the Facts
2. Logical and Clear Reasoning
3. Persuasiveness and Respect towards the Court
4. Proper, Articulate, and Systematic Analysis of Issues Derived from the Facts
5. Understanding of Evidence and Procedural Laws
6. Competence in Conducting Direct and Cross-Examinations within the Given Time
7. Skill in Extracting Favorable Information from Witnesses
8. Ability to Manage Uncooperative, Argumentative, or Hostile Witnesses
9. Creativity (Skill in Making Analogies from Related Legal Areas)
10. Knowledge of Relevant Penal Law Provisions

TEAM COMPOSITION:

1. Each team shall consist of three members and this number shall not be subject to any change under any circumstances.
2. There shall be two speakers and one researcher designated for each team.
3. Each team will be assigned a team code and disclosure of names OR college/institution is not allowed in any part of the written pleadings.
4. No change in the name of the participants shall be entertained after registration except at the sole discretion of SCASL.
5. Witnesses will be provided by Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur's SCASL as the proposition suggests.

DRESS CODE:

The official dress code for the competition that shall be strictly adhered to by the participants is as follows:

1. LADIES - black trousers and formal white shirt or black salwar and white kurti, black blazer and formal black shoes.
2. MEN- black trousers and formal white shirt and black tie, black blazer, and formal black shoes
3. On registration the team is deemed to have been aware of the official dress code. The SCASL reserves the right to bar any participant on account of non-adherence to the same.

MAINTENANCE OF ANONYMITY :

Anonymity Participants (Speakers) should introduce themselves to the judges by stating their team code, but they must not mention their college name at any point.

Neutral Identification

All team members must avoid disclosing their law school, college, or university at any time and in any way. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing identifiable items (such as college clothing, ties, patches, or pins) or carrying materials with identifying logos or seals.

ID CARD VERIFICATION :

Participants are required to bring their College/University/Institution ID Card for identification and verification during the competition.

CODE OF CONDUCT :

- Scouting Teams are not permitted to observe the rounds of other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- Language Participants must use English exclusively throughout the competition.
- Prohibition on the Use of Mobile Phones & Electronic Gadgets Using mobile phones or any electronic devices (e.g., smartwatches) during the competition rounds in the trial rooms is strictly prohibited.
- Prevention of Unethical Conduct Any form of unethical or unprofessional behavior is strictly forbidden.

JUDGES

- 1.The SCASL shall nominate an impartial judge / judges to evaluate the written submissions for the competition in accordance with the Annexure.
- 2.The Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation shall strive hard to nominate impartial judges from the industry, courts, or academia, who is qualified and competent to adjudge teams on the criteria for judging.
- 3.The final list of judges shall be finalized by the Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation in concurrence with Director sir and shall not be disclosed to anyone under any circumstances.
- 4.Confidentiality regarding the final list of judges invited to adjudge the rounds shall be maintained by the SCASL.

Draw of Lots

1. A chart will be prepared by the Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation that will include the time slots and court room number, hereinafter referred to as 'Draw of Lots

Chart'

2. The Draw of Lots Of Chart is divided into slots that fix the side a team pleads and time of the session, which is determined by 'Draw of Lots'.

3. The SCASL shall conduct the Draw of Lots one day prior to the commencement of the competition (**30th August 2024, 3-4pm**) , for which the procedure is as follows:

- Chits with team code of all teams shall be drawn at random by the Faculty In-Charge/ Convenor or any other person as decided by the Faculty In- Charge; and
- Every first team code drawn will be the Prosecution and the second team code drawn will be the Respondent/ Defendant; and
- In order of the team codes being drawn, each slot corresponding to time sessions will be filled in order; and
- The decision pertaining to which team pleads which side and during which session is solely dependent on Draw of Lots and the outcome of the same is final and binding.

4. No request to change the side or time session shall be entertained. However, the Faculty In-Charge reserves the right to entertain such request and allow the same, under extreme circumstances and urgencies.

Written Pleadings and Submission

1. The team is required to submit written pleadings, hereinafter referred to as 'Memorials', adhering to the following conditions.
2. The team is required to submit 4 hard copies of the Memorials each from both sides, namely, Prosecution and Defense, and in the prescribed format.
3. The Memorials shall be addressed to the respective court of competent jurisdiction.
4. The color of the cover page shall be as follows:

Prosecution- BLUE

Defence- RED

5. The following conditions regarding the formatting of the Memorials are to be strictly adhered to:

Formatting of Cover Page:

- The Team Code shall be mentioned on top of the page at the extreme right-hand side; and
- Font Style- Times New Roman.
- Font Size- 12 point.

Formatting of Body Content:

- Margin- 1 inch all sides (Normal Margin)
- Font Style- Times New Roman; and
- Font Size- 12 point.
- Line Spacing- 1.5 point
- Alignment- Justified

Formatting of Footnotes:

- Citation- 20th Edition Bluebook Method
- Font Style- Times New Roman.
- Font Size- 10 point; and
- Line Spacing- 1 point.
- Alignment- Justified

6. The page limit is 20 pages. A team that exceeds the specified page limit shall be liable to a penalty of deduction.

7. The format to be followed while preparing the memorials would be as prescribed under

Annexure, hereinafter referred to as 'Format of Memorial'.

8. No name, sign or indication shall be made by the teams anywhere in the Memorials. In case such a sign is observed, at any stage, would lead to disqualification of the team from Oral Pleadings and/ or from participating in National Level Trial Advocacy Competition.

9. Each team shall take reasonable measures in maintaining confidentiality in relation to research and Memorials. If any content is found to be copied, wholly or in part, both teams would be disqualified undisputedly and would be banned from participating in National Level Trial Advocacy Competition.

10. No material shall be used, while drafting memorials, without citing sources. If any such material is found to be used, it would result in serious disciplinary action and/or may further result in permanently debarring the team from participating subsequent editions of the competition.

11. The team shall submit the Memorials on the date as specified by the Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation. No excuses for extension of time or delayed submission, such as rush or queue at the stationary shop, non-availability of colored paper, insufficient print or paper, or any other excuse, shall be entertained even on disclosure of credible evidence.

12. If a team does not submit the Memorials as per the requirements, then such a team would be debarred from participating in any National Level Trial Advocacy Competition, in the following academic year.

13. The Memorials submitted will be evaluated by a Judge, according to the prescribed criteria.

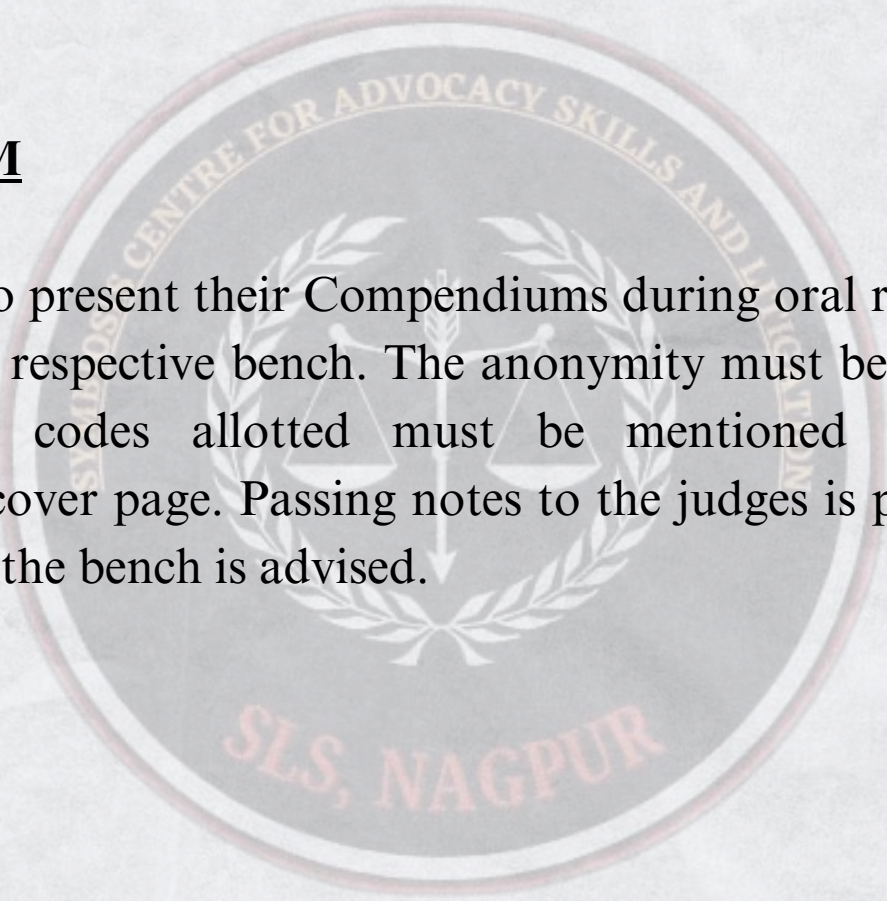
14. **The last date to mail softcopy of Written Submissions is 26th August 2024 by 11:59 p.m. at memorials.ntac@slnagpur.edu.in**

PLAGIARISM

If any other form of plagiarism is found with respect to the Memorials or Oral Pleadings, punishment for the same shall include and not limited to instant disqualification of the team, barring the team from participating in subsequent editions of the competition, at the discretion of the Faculty In-Charge.

COMPENDIUM

Teams are free to present their Compendiums during oral rounds as per the discretion of the respective bench. The anonymity must be maintained and only the team codes allotted must be mentioned at top of the Compendium's cover page. Passing notes to the judges is prohibited unless the discretion of the bench is advised.



Oral Pleadings

1. The team shall plead their side as determined by Draw of Lots on the day of the competition as decided and declared by the SCASL, hereinafter referred to as 'Oral Pleadings'.
2. The team must be present for the Oral Pleadings at least 20 minutes before the scheduled time as determined by the Draw of Lots and in the prescribed Dress Code.
3. Failure of a team to comply with any clause shall result in strict action taken against the team which shall not be limited to debarring the team from participating in the national level trial advocacy competition in the following academic year.
4. A team shall plead only once before the Bench, against the other team by adhering to the following standards:
 - The team is required to follow etiquette and court mannerisms and conduct themselves professionally during the session, to maintain the decorum of the courtroom.
 - The courtroom will consist of judges, one courtroom master, and one timekeeper.
 - The Courtroom Master shall handle all the transactions in a courtroom relating to the Memorials, compendium, or any other reference material to be given to the judges. The courtroom master shall also maintain the decorum of the courtroom.
 - The Timekeeper shall keep a check on the allotted time of each speaker. The total time for Oral Pleadings is Thirty (30) minutes per team. The division of the allotted time between the speakers will be at the discretion of the team.

TIME DISTRIBUTION

Below is the detailed and mandatory time allocation (in minutes) for each level of the competition, presented in a tabular format:

SEGMENT	Prelims & quarter finals rounds	Semi-finals & final
Proseution speaker 1- opening statement	5 min	6min
Defense speaker 1- opening statement	5 min	6 min
Proseution speaker 1- chief examination of both witnesses	8 min	12 min
Defense speaker 2- cross examination of both witnesses	8 min	17 min
Defense speaker 1- chief examination of both witnesses	8 min	12 min
Proseution speaker 2- cross examination of both witnesses	8 min	17 min
Defense speaker 2- closing statement	6 min	10 min
Proseution speaker 2- closing statement	6 min	10 min
TOTAL TIME	54 min (~1 hr)	90 min(1.5 hr)

Notes:

PS 1: Prosecution Speaker 1

DS 1: Defense Speaker 1

PS 2: Prosecution Speaker 2

DS 2: Defense Speaker 2 Clarification:

The allocated times include any questioning by the judges. Extensions to the overall session are capped at a maximum of 5 minutes at the judges' discretion.

DECLARATION OF RESULTS AND RANKING

1. The Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation shall declare the result of the competition, within an hour from the conclusion of Final Rounds on 10th.

August, 2024. The result shall be the aggregate of the Memorial Marks and Oral Pleadings, as marked by the judges.

2. Further to the declaration of the results, the Symbiosis Centre of Advocacy Skills and Litigation shall release the ranking of all teams, hereinafter referred to as 'The competition Merit List of NYAYANEETI - 2024'.

3. The competition Merit List shall be published in a two-fold manner; as follows: • It shall display the rank of the team in their respective Court Room, hereinafter.

referred to as 'Court Room Ranking'. This would determine the position of the team in the court room with respect to all the teams that had given their Oral Pleadings in that respective Court Room.

• The Court Room Ranking will be calculated as an aggregate of the Oral Pleadings Marks of both the speakers.

Part A: Memorial Evaluation

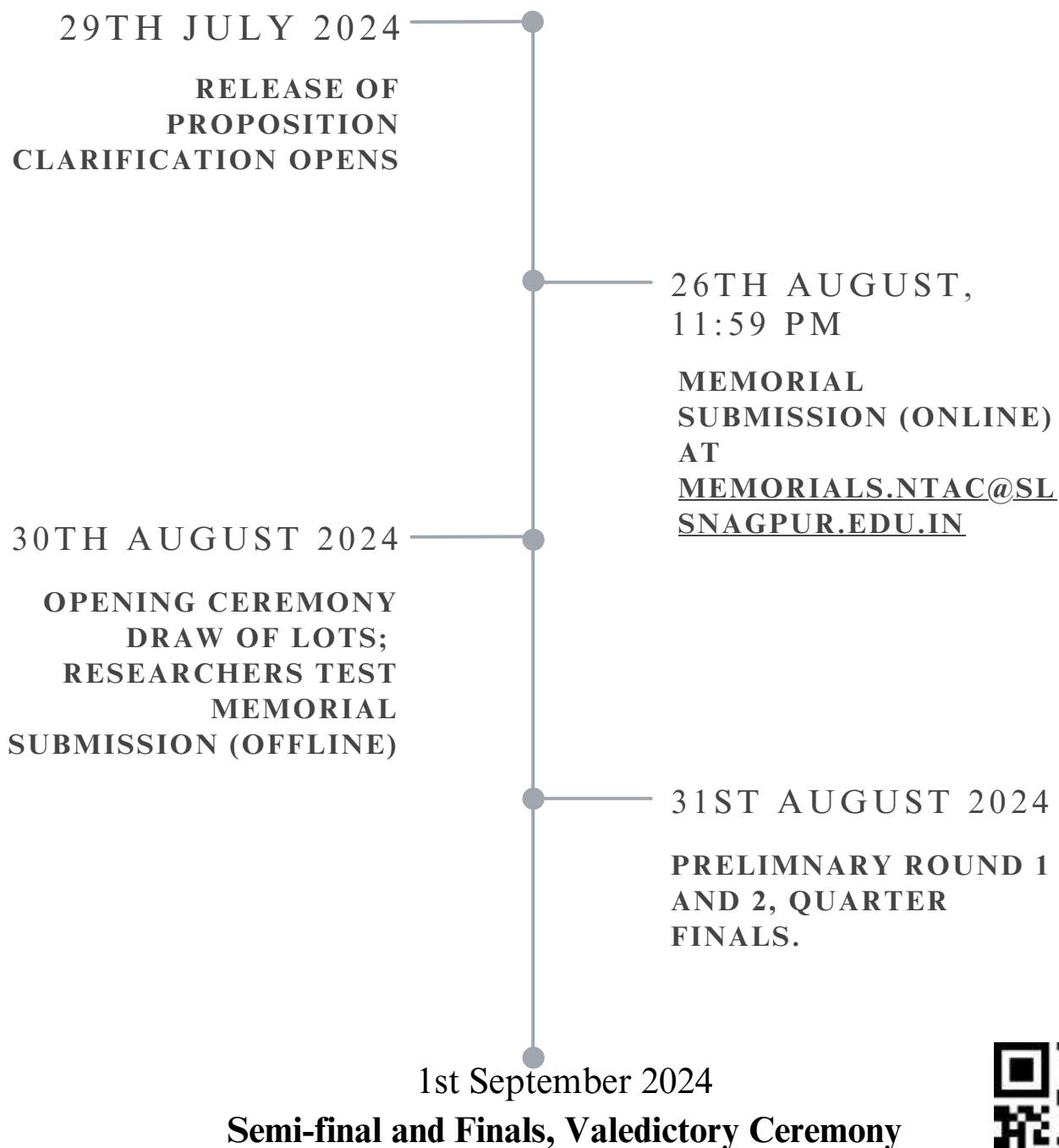
SR. NO	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Summary of Facts	5
2.	Issues Raised	10
3.	Language & Presentation Style	10
4.	Application of Law to Facts	25
5.	Use of Authority	20
6.	Citation- 20th Bluebook Method	10
7.	Originality in Presentation	10
8.	General Impression & Clarity of Thought	10

Part B: Oral Pleadings Evaluation

Sr. No	Marking Criteria	Marks Allotted
1.	Knowledge of Facts	20
2.	Knowledge of Law	20
3.	Framing of Issues	10
4.	Advocacy Skills (Arguments/ Expressions/ Articulation)	20
5.	Examination	20
6.	Courtroom Etiquettes	10
7.	Response to Questions Posed	10
	TOTAL	100

TIMELINE

HAVE A LOOK BELOW FOR ANY KEY DATES
AND INFORMATION REGARDING NYAYANEETI



Register here

