



NHRC - SLS NAGPUR National Moot Court Competition 2024

FEBURARY 9 - 11, 2024

RULEBOOK



Knowledge Partner



Media Partner

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NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, constituent of the Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Pune, has announced the National Moot Court Competition, 2024, to be held in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, India, from 9th February to 11th February, 2024 to enable law students from all across India to participate and showcase their mastery over law and legal principles in a moot court competition;

THEREFORE, the Moot Court Association of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, hereby makes the following rules, namely: -

CHAPTER 1: DEFINITIONS

1. **Short Title and Commencement:** These rules may be called 'NMCC Rules, 2024'. They shall come into force from the date of publication on the official website of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, www.slsnagpur.edu.in. The rules are reviewed annually and are subject to change. Reliance should be placed only on 'NMCC Rules, 2024' and not on any previously applicable rules.
2. **'Appellant'** shall include Appellant, Plaintiff, Petitioner, Complainant, Prosecution, Informant, etc.
3. **'Bench'** refers to the members duly invited by the institute to adjudge any of the rounds collectively.
4. **'Clarifications'** means an explanation published by the institute on the moot problem at any point of time of the competition or a query posed by any competing team within the given deadline.
5. **'Compendium'** means a compilation or collection of legal or other authorities that a participating team seeks to rely upon during the round of oral pleadings.
6. **'Competition'** means the 'NHRC-SLS NAGPUR, National Moot Court Competition, 2024'.
7. **'Governing Council'** means the student-faculty-staff body appointed for the administration and smooth conduct of the competition, including all other members conferred with powers on ad-hoc basis by the 'Ex-officio Chairperson' or 'Faculty In-charge' of the Moot Court Association of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur.
8. **'Institution'** means and includes 'Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur', a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Pune.
9. **'Memorial Round'** refers to the assessment of memorials, submitted by teams, on the predefined criterion, hereinafter mentioned in these rules.

10. **'Moot Problem'** means a set of facts published by the institution for competition.

11. **'Oral Round'** refers to the oral pleadings made by the teams before the bench during any of the rounds of assessment, including time given for rebuttal.

12. **'Researchers' Test'** refers to the test in the form of MCQs taken to determine the Best Researcher in the competition.

13. **'Team Code'** means a unique code assigned by the institution to the applied and registered team.

14. **'Team'** means and includes only bona fide representatives of any University, may that be State or Central or any other department recognized/authorized by the Bar Council of India to impart law degrees, and who have applied and registered for the competition by complying with the procedure prescribed in these present rules.

In these rules, unless otherwise stated, a reference to a rule is a reference to that rule in 'NMCC Rules, 2024'.

Interpretation:

The Governing Council reserves the right to interpret the rules as it deems fit in order to ensure fairness and equality in the competition. Any such interpretation shall be conclusive and the decision of the Governing Council for the application of the rules shall be final and binding.

The Governing Council may also amend, modify, change or repeal any rule from 'NMCC Rules, 2024'; the same shall be communicated to the teams in due time. In case of any conflict, the decision of the Governing Council shall be final and binding.

CHAPTER 2: ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

1. Eligibility:

- a. Students duly enrolled and pursuing full time 5 years or 3 years undergraduate law course may apply to participate in this 'competition'.
- b. Students enrolled and pursuing post-graduate diploma or short-term certificate courses in law are not eligible to apply.
- c. Students from any University/Department/Institute not recognised by the Bar Council of India, to impart law degrees are not eligible to apply.

2. Team Composition:

- a. A team may consist of either two (2) or three (3) members.
- b. A team of two members shall include two speakers only and one of them shall act as a researcher for the purposes of Researcher's Test.
- c. A team of three members shall include two speakers and one researcher.
- d. All members of a team should belong to the same institution.
- e. Any team, intending to change the team composition of the team shall intimate the Governing Council by sending an e-mail at mca@slnagpur.edu.in
- f. Any person, other than the registered team members, is not eligible to avail facilities reserved for the student participants.

3. Registration:

a. Provisional Registration: Universities interested in reserving a slot for their team can provisionally register their university with the Organizer through the given online form. Provisional Registration can be done till January 4, 2023:

<https://forms.gle/FCsJYoXZJLxbCYJu7>

b. Final Registration: After the Memorial Evaluation Rounds, all the qualifying teams are required to complete the final registration for the NHRC-SLS Nagpur National Moot Court Competition - 2024 on or before 25th January 2024 via the online registration form:

<https://forms.gle/vNDJX4y6Bfd53xWi8>

c. Teams qualifying the Memorial Rounds have to pay a registration fee of INR 5000/- for final registration via online bank transfer, the details of which shall be intimated to the registering universities post provisional registration. The online bank transfer receipt must be attached to the Registration form.

CHAPTER 3: MEMORIAL AND MEMORIAL ROUNDS

1.General

- Each team shall research the domain of the moot problem and, subject to Rules 1-5, Chapter III prepare a memorial from both sides, namely, Petitioner/Appellant and respondent.
- The memorial scores will contribute to deciding the selection of the teams for the Oral Rounds.

2.Format of Memorial

- All requirements have to be strictly followed. Non adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.
- The Written Submissions 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 written submission, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- The memorials shall contain all of, and only, the following heads, namely-
 - a. **Cover Page** (It shall include the team code on the upper right-hand corner, the name of the case, parties for whom written submissions are made, the forum approached for dispute resolution and the year. The cover page of the memorial on behalf of the petitioner/appellant shall be in Blue, and the respondent shall be in Red.)

(b) **Table of Contents**

(c) **List of Abbreviations**

(d) **Index of Authorities** (The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Written submission. The Index must indicate the page numbers)

(e) **Statement of Jurisdiction**

(f) **Statement of Facts** (The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of 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. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page)

(g) **Issues Raised**

(h) **Summary of Arguments** (The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments, and should not merely be a reproduction of the various headings and subheadings of arguments. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page)

(i) **Arguments Advanced** (The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 25 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page)

(j) **Prayer**

Non-compliance with respect to sections (a) to (h) and (j) will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each missing section. Non-compliance with respect to section (i) will result in the Written Submission not being considered for evaluation at all.

- **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 written submission is prepared. The teams must use “A” for Appellant / P for “Petitioner” / D for “Defendant” / R for “Respondent.” For example, in case the Team Code is 27, the team must write “TC-27A” in case of written submission for Appellant and “TC-27R” in case of written submission for Respondent.
- **Margin:** The Written submission must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark on each side of Written Submissions.
- **Font, size and line spacing:** The text font should be Times New Roman, size 12 and must have 1.5 line spacing. Noncompliance will result in a penalty of 0.5 marks per incorrect font, size and line spacing format with a maximum of 2 marks per page of the Written Submissions.
- **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman, size 10 and singly spaced. The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20th Edition) should be followed in the written submission throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.
- **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman, size 10, 1 spacing. Noncompliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Written Submissions.
- **Page Limit:** There is no maximum page limit on the Written Submissions but the pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be of a maximum of 25 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.
- **Printing of Memorial Rounds:** Since the University encourages eco-friendly practices, it is mandated to print out your memorials on both sides of the paper. Participants are requested not to carry a hardcopy compendium with them. The team has to submit the softcopy in pdf format only to the organizers by February 5, 2024 on memorials@slnagpur.edu.in with subject : Compendium TC 27 NHRC SLS Nagpur NMCC 2024.

3. Submission of Memorial:

- Each provisionally registered team shall submit one soft copy of the memorials in PDF Format at memorials@slnagpur.edu.in by **11:59 PM January 15, 2024**. The memorial of both the sides should be submitted together through one mail only.
- The name of the files shall be TC 27A/TC 27R (**Subject of the mail: TC 27 Memorial Submission - NHRC SLS Nagpur NMCC 2024**)
- A Penalty Of 1 Mark Per Hour Per Side, Up To 24 Hours Past Deadline, Shall Be Deducted In Case Of Delay In Submission Of Soft Copy Of Written Submissions.
- A team submitting the soft copies 48 hours after the deadline shall stand disqualified from the Competition, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Organizers.
- Teams that are subsequently selected for the oral rounds shall bring with them 8 hard copies of each side of memorials for the Oral rounds all of which shall be submitted to the Organizing Committee at the time of On-Campus Registration.
- The hard copies of written submissions must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted to the Organizers. Any difference in the same will result in disqualification from the Competition.
- Participating teams may also bring any number of extra copies of the memorials to be used during the competition for their own reference if they wish to do so.
- The institute shall not be liable to provide the teams with any type of assistance regarding the copies of memorials to be submitted.

4. Assessment of Memorials:

The memorials shall be assessed out of 100 marks, by a team of experts on the predetermined criterion, as specified here under:

Clarity of Facts. (10 Marks)

Use of Law. (25 Marks)

Use of Authority/Precedents. (20 Marks)

Arguments and Clarity of Thought. (25 Marks)

Presentation. (10 Marks)

Originality. (10 Marks)

5. Memorial Round:

- A total of 20 teams out of the registered teams shall be selected for the Oral Rounds purely based on the marks obtained by the team in the Memorial Round.
- Result of the Memorial Round shall be final and non-reviewable on any grounds.
- The Governing Council shall communicate the result of the Memorial Round to each team.
- The result so published shall include a list of 20 selected teams and a waiting list of 5 additional teams.
- The teams in the waiting list shall be allowed to participate only in the occasion of withdrawal of a selected team from the competition. Such information shall be brought to the notice of the wait- listed team by the Governing Council in due time.

The administrating authority of the competition reserves the rights to disseminate and produce the memorials as and when deemed necessary for the purpose of the competition. Submission of the memorials will constitute the team's consent to do the same. The governing council will not take any responsibility for the mistakes found in the final submission of the memorial.

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCHERS' TEST

1. The Researchers' Test shall be conducted on 9th February 2024.
2. Researchers from every team qualifying for the Oral Rounds shall participate in the **Researchers' Test**.
3. In the case of a Two-member team, one of the Speakers shall act as the researcher for this exercise.
4. Participants are requested to write only the Team Code on the question paper.
5. The Researchers' Test shall be objective with the questions based on the applicable law, precedents and facts pertaining to the Moot Proposition.
6. The duration of the test shall be that of **30 minutes** consisting of **30 Multiple Choice Questions**.
7. **2 marks** will be awarded for every correct answer.
8. There will be a deduction of **1 mark** for every wrong answer.
9. **No marks** will be awarded or deducted for an unanswered question.
10. No additional material such as the bare text of Acts, Written Submissions, etc. apart from stationery may be brought by the participant to the test and no such material shall be provided by the Organizers.
11. The Winner of the Test shall be determined by the highest score and will be awarded the Prize of **The Best Researcher**.
12. The schedule for the same will be shared with the participating teams well in advance.

CHAPTER 5: ORAL PLEADINGS

- **General Procedure:**

1. The language to be used during the Oral Pleadings Rounds shall only be English.

2. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

- Preliminary Rounds I
- Preliminary Rounds II
- Quarter-Finals
- Semi-Finals
- Finals

3. During each of the above-mentioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:

- Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 1;
- Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 2;
- Respondent Speaker 1;
- Respondent Speaker 2;
- Rebuttal: Appellant - Any one of the two Speakers;
- Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers

4. Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

5. 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 Judges' discretion.

6. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Written Submissions.

7. Internet use is strictly prohibited during the Oral Rounds, subject to the judges' discretion. The teams can use mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets without using the internet to show already downloaded material, such as case laws and compendium.

8. Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.

9. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

- **Preliminary Rounds :**

1. A total of Twenty (20) Teams shall participate in the preliminary rounds.

2. The rounds shall be conducted physically in various courtrooms in two phases, Preliminary Round I and Preliminary Round II.

3. Each Team shall argue once from each side allotted to them through Draw of Lots which shall be notified to the teams shortly after the Inauguration Ceremony. The Memorials of opposing teams will be made available to both the teams and judges before the rounds accordingly.

4. In both the rounds, each team will be given 20 minutes to present their oral pleadings and an additional 5 minutes shall be given for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal each.

5. The speakers shall have the liberty to divide the time between them as they see fit. However, each Speaker shall have to speak for a Minimum of Five (5) minutes.

6. At the beginning of the preliminary rounds, the teams shall specify the time distribution for their rebuttals of each team to the Court Room Master. The rebuttal round shall be initiated once the Court Room Master informs the team about the commencement of the time limit.

7. The commencement of sur-rebuttal round shall be informed to the teams by the Court Room Master and the procedure will be same as that of the rebuttal round. (As specified under rule 6).

8. The final score awarded to participating teams shall be a combination of both the score awarded in Oral Rounds and the Scores awarded during Memorial Evaluation. (70% Oral Rounds+30% Memorial Rounds).

9. Top 8 Teams shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds on the basis of abovementioned scores.

10. A team which has won both the Preliminary Rounds shall be given a preference for qualification over a team which has higher final score.

11. In case of a tie between two teams, Memorial Rounds scores shall be considered.

- **Quarter-Final Rounds :**

1. Top 8 teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds. The Quarter-Final Rounds shall be Knock-Out Rounds.
2. Winning teams from each court room shall qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds. Only Oral Rounds Scores shall be considered for evaluation.
3. In case of a Tie in the scores calculated, the team with the higher score in the Memorials (Written Submission) shall proceed to the Semi-Final Rounds.
4. Each team will get a minimum of 30 minutes to argue from the allotted side, including 5 minutes' time that shall be reserved for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal each.
5. The speakers shall have the liberty to divide the time between them as they see. However, each speaker shall have to speak for a Minimum of Five (5) minutes.
6. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Sur-rebuttal.

- **Semi-Final Rounds :**

1. The top four teams from the Quarter Final Round shall qualify for the Semi-Final round.
2. A Draw of Lots shall be conducted to determine the pleading side for the Semi-Final Rounds.
3. Each team will get a minimum of 40 minutes to argue, with an additional 5 minutes for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal each.
4. The speakers shall have the liberty to divide the time between them as they see fit. However, each Speaker shall have to speak for a Minimum of Fifteen (15) minutes.
5. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant for (5) minutes and the opportunity of the Sur-rebuttals shall be granted to the Respondent only at the discretion of the Judge.
6. A time-extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge.

- **Final Round :**

1. The top two teams from the Semi Final Round shall qualify for the Final round.
2. A Draw of Lots shall be conducted to determine the pleading side for the Final Rounds.
3. Each team will get a minimum of 45 minutes to argue, with an additional 5 minutes for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal each.
4. The speakers shall have the liberty to divide the time between them as they see fit. However, each Speaker shall have to speak for a Minimum of Eighteen (18) minutes.
5. Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant for (5) minutes and the opportunity for Sur-rebuttals shall be given to the Respondents only at the discretion of the Judge.
6. A time-extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge.

- **Assessment Criterion for Oral Pleadings :**

- a. Knowledge of Facts. (20 Marks)
- b. Application of Laws to Facts and Interpretation. (20 Marks)
- c. Argumentative Skills. (20 Marks)
- d. Clarity of Thought and Expression. (20 Marks)
- e. Court Mannerisms. (10 Marks).
- f. Response to Questions. (10 Marks).

- **Rules for Qualification :**

1. The preliminary round shall be decided on the basis of allocation of a total of 100 marks; which includes 30 percent of the marks of memorial round and 70 percent of the marks of oral pleadings. Top 8 teams shall qualify from the preliminary rounds to the Quarter Final Rounds on the basis of the same.
2. The Quarter Final Rounds shall also be Knock-Out Rounds. Average marks obtained out of 100 in the oral pleadings will be the only decisive factor for determining which team will qualify for the Semi-Final Round. In case of a tie in the oral pleading marks, the memorial marks will determine the qualifying team. Even then if the tie persists, the team with the highest individual score will qualify for the Semi-Final Round. Four Teams shall proceed to the Semi-Final Rounds.

3. The Semi-Final Round shall also be Knock-Out Rounds. In the Semi-Final Round average marks obtained in the oral pleadings out of 100 will be the only decisive factor in determining which team has qualified for the Final Round. In case of a tie in the oral pleading marks, the marks obtained in the memorial round will determine the qualifying team. Even then if a tie persists, the team with the highest individual score will be qualified for the Final Rounds.

4. In the Final Round average marks obtained in the oral pleadings out of 100 will be the only decisive factor in determining the team that has won the competition. In case of a tie in the oral pleading marks, the marks obtained in the memorial round will determine the winner. Even then if a tie persists, the team with the highest individual score will be declared as the winner of the competition.

- **Prizes and Awards :**

The following awards shall be awarded in the Competition:

1. **Best Team:** The Team winning the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and prize of INR 40,000/- (Indian Rupees Forty Thousand Only).

2. **Runners-Up:** The runners-up team in the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a prize of INR 30,000/- (Indian Rupees Thirty Thousand Only).

3. **Best Speaker (Male & Female):** The Male and Female speaker having the highest score in the preliminary rounds shall be given a trophy and a prize of INR 10,000/- each (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only) and one year access to EBC Learning worth Rs. 14,500 each.

4. **Best Memorial (Applicant & Respondent):** The team having the highest written submission score from Applicant and Respondent side shall be given a trophy and a prize of INR 10,000/- each (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

5. **Best Researcher:** The participant having the highest researcher's score shall be given a trophy and a prize of INR 10,000/- (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only) and one year access to EBC Learning worth Rs. 14,500.

6. Certificate of participation shall be given to all the participating teams.

CHAPTER 6: FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

- **Accommodation :**

1. The host institute will offer accommodation for the team starting from 9th February, 2024 (Friday) from 12:00 PM until 12th February, 2024 (Monday) till 12:00 PM.

Note: Teams staying before or after the period will have to pay INR 2800 per day.

2. Accommodation will exclusively be provided to the teams during this specific timeframe.

- **Food and Refreshments :**

1. The host institute will offer 3 meals viz. breakfast, lunch and dinner from 9th February 2024.

2. The breakfast for 12th February, 2024 will also be included.

- **Venue :**

The competition is going to be held in offline mode at Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur - Symbiosis International University Nagpur Campus

- **Address :**

Symbiosis International University, Mouza, Wathoda Layout, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440008

Note: Teams can easily book cabs from railway station or airport to the university, the organisers will not be providing any transport facility from the station or airport to the university.

CHAPTER 7: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizers, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.
2. The Organizers reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.
3. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Organizers and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Irrespective, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.
4. Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.
5. Feedback for the participants if any shall be shared by the judges at their own discretion and teams are not allowed to contact the judges in reference of the same.
6. Any attempt to approach the framer of the moot problem or judges of the competition, prior to the competition shall be met with strict consequences.

- **CORRESPONDENCE /CONTACT DATA :**

Any and all clarifications and queries regarding the Moot Proposition and Rules & Regulations shall be sought only via e-mail to mca@slnagpur.edu.in
Any other queries (other than the Moot Problem) may be directed to the following persons:

Yash Garg (Student Convener) : 9193626255

Vedika Ranga (Student Convener) : 9892901234

Shouvik Dutta (Student Co-Convener) : 9711925935

Kumar Yuvraj (Student Co-Convener) : 8002459042

IMPORTANT DATES

