



3RD NUSRL NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2018

MAY 17, 2018 TO MAY 20, 2018

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



RULES & REGULATIONS

HOSTED BY:

THE MOOT COURT COMMITTEE,

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN LAW, RANCHI

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These are the rules for the 3rd NUSRL National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2018. The Rules of the Competition are subject to change. Reliance on any past Rules or practice will not in itself be an acceptable excuse for the failure to comply with the rules of the current Competition.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1. Administration

- 1.1. The 3rd NUSRL National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2018 (Hereinafter referred to as Competition) is being organized by the Moot Court Committee (Hereinafter referred to as MCC) of the National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi (Hereinafter referred to as University).
- 1.2. The Competition is to be held from March 17, 2018 to March 20, 2018 at the University.
- 1.3. Dr Rabindra Pathak, Faculty Convener, Moot Court Committee, shall act as the 'Competition Administrator' of the competition and shall be the sole arbiter in case of any disputes arising as to the interpretation of these rules.

2. Language of the Competition

- 2.1. The competition shall be strictly conducted in English only and it will be the medium of communication for all purposes of the competition.

3. Structure of the Competition

- 3.1. The competition comprises of Preliminary Rounds and Advanced rounds which would include the Quarter Finals, the Semi – Finals and the Final Rounds.
- 3.2. Each Team would not face the same team in the preliminary rounds nor would the same bench judge the same team more than once in the preliminary rounds.

PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Students pursuing 3 Year LLB Degree Course Or 5 Year Integrated LLB Degree Course are eligible to participate in the competition.
- 1.2. Every participating institution is allowed to send only one team.

2. Team Composition

- 2.1. Each team can comprise of a maximum of 3 members and a minimum of 2 members of which two members have to compulsorily be speakers.
- 2.2. The substitution of any member is not allowed except with the prior approval of the MCC.

2.3. A team cannot have members from more than one institution.

REGISTRATION

1. Registration procedure

- 1.1. The teams must first provisionally register by sending an email to the MCC at ntac@nusrlranchi.ac.in with the subject **“Provisional Registration for 3rd NUSRL NTAC, 2018.”**
- 1.2. Provisional registration must be done till April 28th, 2018.
- 1.3. Upon confirmation of the provisional Registration, the teams will be provided with a link to the registration form which has to be filled in along with which they are required to confirm their registration by sending a Scanned Copy of the Demand Draft latest by May 1st, 2018.
- 1.4. The hard copy of the Demand Draft must reach the University by May 5th, 2018, upon the acceptance of which the registration would be complete.
- 1.5. All Documents for the purpose of the competition shall be sent at:

**“Dr Rabindra Pathak,
Faculty Convener, Moot Court Committee
National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi
AT: Village Nagri, Post- Bukru, Kanke- Pithoria Road, Kanke.
Ranchi, Jharkhand – 834006 “**

2. Registration Fee

- 2.1. The participating teams are required to submit registration fee of Rs. 3500/- by way of Demand Draft in the favor of **“Registrar, NUSRL Ranchi”** Payable at Ranchi.

MOOT PROBLEM

1. Authorship of the moot problem

- 1.1. The problem has been drafted by a duly qualified individual selected by the MCC. The identity of the author(s) of the Competition Case shall not be disclosed before the commencement of the Advanced Rounds of the Competition. Teams are not to contact any individual with a view to ascertaining the author(s) of the Case and seeking assistance.

2. Clarifications

- 2.1. Each team may make a formal request to the MCC for clarifications regarding the facts stated in the moot problem. Clarification requests should comprise of clearly stated questions in relation to facts of the case. Teams are urged to not ask 'leading' questions on substantive arguments. It is at the discretion of the problem author(s) and/or MCC that clarification requests will be answered.
- 2.2. There will be one round of clarification. In each round only one formal request for clarifications with a maximum of 3 questions may be made by a participating team via email to ntac@nusrlranchi.ac.in. The subject should only read "Clarifications".
- 2.3. The deadline for requesting clarifications will be part of the Timeline on the Competition's invite and website. No requests for clarification received after the deadline will be accepted.
- 2.4. Responses to clarifications will be made available simultaneously on the official website and all participating teams will be notified by mail, as per the Timeline. Such responses will be treated as an official addendum to the moot problem, to be read together with the problem.

MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

1. Basic Guidelines

- 1.1. The Memorials shall be written in English.
- 1.2. The teams must prepare a memorial on behalf of both the sides i.e. Prosecution & Defence.
- 1.3. Any changes in the Soft Copy and the Hard Copy of the Memorial may entail deductions and may even lead to disqualifications.
- 1.4. Non Compliance to any Rule may lead to deductions and may extend to Disqualifications.

2. Submission guidelines & Penalties for Late submission

- 2.1. The arguments advanced should not exceed 25 pages, non-compliance of which will attract a penalty of 5 marks being reduced from the memorial scores.
- 2.2. The Soft Copy of the Memorial must be submitted to the MCC at ntac@nusrlranchi.ac.in latest by 11:59 PM on May 15th, 2018, following which penalties shall be imposed.
- 2.3. In case of any disputes related to time of the memorial soft copy submission, the mail generated time will be taken into consideration.

- 2.4. It is the responsibility of the teams to ensure that there are no technical problems with the attached files. Amongst other reasons, delays on account of technology, infrastructure, equipment and conflicting schedules will not be condoned.
- 2.5. The subject of the mail should be **“Memorial Submission, NTAC, 2018”**
- 2.6. The memorial shall be submitted both in Word (2007) (.doc/.docx) as well as PDF Format.
- 2.7. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file named with the allocated team number followed by the first letter of the side represented. For example, the Defense Memorial for Team 13 shall be named “13D”.
- 2.8. Memorials for both sides must be submitted in the same email. The subject line should only contain Team Code. For example, the subject line for team 13 will read as follows: ‘Team 13’. No other identifying information should be included in this mail.
- 2.9. For every hour of delay in memorial submission from the prescribed time of submission, one mark shall be deducted.
- 2.10. Any memorial submitted 10 hours after the time prescribed above will not be accepted and the team will not be allowed to participate except at the discretion of the administrators.
- 2.11. The decision of the Competition Administrator shall be final in this regard.
- 2.12. The above deduction would apply even if the delay were not of a complete hour. Hence, for example, a Memorial submitted at 12:01 am would still be subject to a 1 mark deduction.
- 2.13. 4 Hard Copies of the Memorial from each side must be submitted to the Organisers upon arrival in Ranchi on May 17th, 2018.

3. Memorial Format

- 3.1. The memorial shall necessarily comprise of the following sections:
 - ✓ Cover Page
 - ✓ Table of contents
 - ✓ Index of authorities (along with the page numbers where the authority has been cited)
 - ✓ Statement of jurisdiction
 - ✓ Statement of facts
 - ✓ Statement of charges
 - ✓ Summary of arguments
 - ✓ Arguments advanced

- ✓ Prayer

3.2. For the purpose of Cover Page, Following requirements are to be fulfilled.

- ✓ The team code on the upper right hand corner of the cover page.
- ✓ The name and Place of the Court.
- ✓ Name of Parties and their Status
- ✓ Memorial Filed on Behalf Of the Prosecution/Defense

3.3. Color Scheme of the Cover Page of the Memorial shall be as follows:

- ✓ **Blue : Prosecution**
- ✓ **Red : Defense**

4. Cover Page

1. The Cover Page of the Memorial must have only the following information, which should be in the following order (this information should be center aligned on the page, except where stated otherwise):

- ✓ In the top right-hand corner of the page, the team-number allocated by the MCC followed by “P” if a Prosecution Memorial or “D” if a Defense Memorial (e.g. Team-Number 12 would put “12P” in the top right-hand corner of the Prosecution Memorial cover page).
- ✓ The name and the year of the Competition.
- ✓ Name of the Court and relevant provision.
- ✓ The title of the document (i.e., “Memorial for Defense” or “Memorial for Prosecution”).

5. Formatting Requirements

- 5.1. The memorial shall be typed on an A4 Sheet with black ink only.
- 5.2. The Font shall be Times New Roman with Font Size as 12.
- 5.3. The line spacing shall be 1.5, with Margin of 1 Inch on Each Side.
- 5.4. Headings and sub-headings throughout the Memorials may be in a different font size, underlined.

6. Footnotes Requirements

- 6.1. All citations shall be mentioned in the Footnotes.
- 6.2. The Font shall be Times New Roman with Font Size 10.
- 6.3. The Line Spacing shall be Single.
- 6.4. Each source or authority relied upon in drafting arguments must be cited in footnotes. Citations must conform to Bluebook 20th edition. The Organisers shall also release a word document in consonance with Bluebook 20th edition citation style which the teams

are expected to adhere to. In any event, all citations in the memorial must clearly identify the source, and credit authors, wherever applicable. Inconsistency in footnoting style will be penalized.

6.5. The Footnotes shall not be explanatory in nature.

6.6. End notes are not permitted.

7. Memorial Marking

7.1. Memorial marks shall carry a weightage of 20% in the preliminary rounds.

7.2. There will be no weightage of memorial marks in Quarter Final rounds/Semi Final rounds/Final rounds.

7.3. The memorial shall be marked on a Scale of 1 – 100 according to the following criteria.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Knowledge of Law & Facts | 20 Marks |
| Proper & Articulate Analysis | 15 Marks |
| Depth & Use of Research | 15 Marks |
| Organization & Presentation | 15 Marks |
| Grammar & Language | 10 Marks |
| Novelty of Arguments | 15 Marks |
| Clarity of Thought & Originality | 10 Marks |

7.4. Non-compliance with rules concerning formatting and submission of Memorials will result in a deduction from the allocated points. Irrespective of the actual penalties incurred, no more than thirty (30) points can be deducted for each Memorial for noncompliance with procedural requirements. This rule does not apply to penalties for late submission.

| Violation | Penalty |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Missing or additional section | 5 |

| | |
|--|--|
| Incorrect order of sections | 5 |
| Incorrect font size | 3.5 (one time) |
| Incorrect spacing | 3.5 (one time) |
| Breach of memorial anonymity rule | 10 |
| Missing or unnecessary information on cover page | 5 |
| Substantive legal argument outside the Arguments | 5 (one time) |
| Exceeding the word limit of the Arguments section | 1-100 words: 3 100-400 words: 7.5 400+ words: 15 |
| Substantive text in footnotes | 5 (one time) |
| Use of endnotes | 5 |
| Re-submission of memorial not contained in single file | 5 |

CASE COMPENDIUM/AUTHORITIES BOOKLET

1. Any case law or any other relevant material which the team may wish to rely on at the time of final arguments may be submitted to the judges in the form of a compendium.
2. Such a compendium should bear a cover page containing only the team code and representation.
3. Such a compendium should not bear the name of the institution and failure to do the same shall result in immediate disqualification.
4. Such a compendium should be printed on A4 size sheets in black ink only.

RESEARCHERS' TEST

1. There shall be a pen paper based test, the highest scorer of which shall be awarded with the "Best Researchers Award".

2. This researchers' test is open only for the designated researchers of the participating teams.
3. Questions for such researchers' test will be framed based upon the factual circumstances of the moot problem and the principles applicable thereto.
4. The maximum score would be 100 marks.

ORAL PLEADINGS

1. Basic Guidelines

- 1.1. There shall be a preliminary Round followed by Advanced Rounds which would comprise of the Quarter- Final, the Semi – Final Round and the Final Round.
- 1.2. Each team would appear once as Prosecution and Defense in the Preliminary Round.
- 1.3. The order of speakers is to be intimated by the teams before the commencement of the rounds and cannot be altered at any subsequent stage.

2. Time Limit / Schedule of the Preliminary Round.

- 2.1. The total time period of the Preliminary Round shall be 02 hours.
- 2.2. This time shall include the time for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, which will be completely based on the discretion of the judges in that particular courtroom.
- 2.3. The time division shall be done as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Opening Statement On Behalf Of The Prosecution. | 3 Minutes |
| Opening Statement On Behalf Of The Defence. | 3 Minutes |
| Examination In Chief By Prosecution | 20 Minutes |
| Cross Examination By Defence | 25 Minutes |
| Examination In Chief By Defence | 20 Minutes |
| Cross Examination By Prosecution | 25 Minutes |
| Closing Statement By Prosecution | 5 Minutes |
| Closing Statement By Defence | 5 Minutes |

- 2.4. Passing of notes to the speaker (through the court master) during the oral rounds is allowed.
- 2.5. The researcher must compulsorily be present with the team during the oral rounds.

3. Time Division / Schedule for Advanced Rounds

- 3.1. The maximum time for the advanced rounds is 02 hours & 30 minutes.
- 3.2. This time shall include the time for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, which will be completely based on the discretion of the judges in that particular courtroom.
- 3.3. The time division shall be done as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Opening Statement On Behalf Of The Prosecution. | 5 Minutes |
| Opening Statement On Behalf Of The Defence. | 5 Minutes |
| Examination In Chief By Prosecution | 25 Minutes |
| Cross Examination By Defence | 30 Minutes |
| Examination In Chief By Defence | 25 Minutes |
| Cross Examination By Prosecution | 30 Minutes |
| Closing Statement By Prosecution | 7 Minutes |
| Closing Statement By Defence | 7 Minutes |

- 3.4. Passing of notes to the speaker (through the court master) during the oral rounds is allowed.
- 3.5. The researcher must compulsorily be present with the team during the oral rounds.

4. Marking for Oral Rounds

The Speakers shall be broadly marked upon the following parameters.

- Knowledge of facts.
- Logic & clarity in reasoning.
- Court craft including persuasiveness & deference to the court.
- Understanding of the relevant laws including procedure & evidence.
- Ability to successfully conduct examination in chief & cross examination in time.
- Ability to elicit favorable facts from witnesses.
- Ability to deal with unreceptive, argumentative or hostile witnesses.
- Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy) & innovate.

ROUNDS

1. Every round, apart from the Preliminary Round, shall be a Knock Out Round.
2. Top 8 teams from Preliminary rounds shall qualify to the Quarter – Final Rounds.
3. Quarter-Final Rounds, Semi-Final Rounds and Final Rounds shall be knockout rounds.
4. In deciding the teams for the advanced rounds , the following procedure will be followed:
 - 4.1. Teams with the highest number of wins.
 - 4.2. In case 2 teams or more have the same number of wins, they shall be ranked by comparing the aggregate Round Points in the Preliminary Rounds.
 - 4.3. If ties still exist, then the Competition Raw Scores of the tied teams will be compared to determine the ranking inter se.
 - 4.4. If a tie is not resolved by the above procedure, the tie shall be broken in the following order:

By comparing the sum of the Average Oral Pleadings Score and the Average Memorial Score. The Average Oral Pleadings Score is the total points awarded to a team during the Oral Pleadings, reduced to a fraction of hundred (100). The Average Memorial Score is the total points awarded to a team's Memorials, reduced to a fraction of fifty (50).

- By comparing only the Average Oral Pleadings Score as calculated above.
- By comparing only the total Oral Pleadings points.
- By comparing the Average Memorial Score.
- By comparing only the total Memorial points.

SCOUTING

1. Teams are not allowed to observe the orals of any other team, unless they have been officially knocked-out of the competition.
2. The researcher shall sit with their respective teams during the course of the oral rounds.
3. Any incident of Scouting may result in Immediate Disqualification of the team from the Competition.

ANONYMITY

1. All team members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institution at any time and in any manner, during the course of their participation in the competition.

2. However, during the course of their Oral Rounds, the speakers may state their name along with their team code, however, any reference to Caste, Creed, Religion or Place must be restricted.
3. Teams must take special care while referring written material, as the same should not indicate any reference to their institution.
4. Non Compliance with this rule may result in immediate disqualification of the team.

COMPETITION SCORING & PRIZING

1. **Winner of the Competition** – The winning Team shall be awarded with a Trophy along with a Cash Prize.
2. **Second Best Team of the Competition** – The Second Best Team shall be awarded with a Trophy along with a Cash Prize.
3. **Best Speaker Award**- The Best Speaker Award shall be given to the Speaker having Highest Speaker Scores in the Preliminary Rounds and shall be awarded with a Trophy along with a Cash Prize.
4. **Best Researcher Award** – The Best Researcher with the highest researchers' test marks shall be awarded with a Trophy along with a Cash Prize.
5. **Best Memorial Award** – The team with the Highest Memorial Marks shall be awarded with a Trophy along with a Cash Prize.

BOARDING, LODGING & TRANSPORTATION

1. No pickup/drop facility will be provided to the teams from the station/airport to the campus. However, in exceptional cases, the teams may drop in a request with the organizers prior to their arrival or departure for the same.
2. Accommodation would be provided to the teams from 10:00 AM, May 17th, 2018 to 10:00 AM, May 21st, 2018.
3. Accommodation required for any other day (other than as mentioned above) may be given at a charge of Rs 500/- per day per individual. (This shall include the food provided by the mess facility in campus).
4. Separate Accommodation shall be provided to Boys and Girls however suitable arrangements shall be done so that preparation for the rounds is not hampered.
5. Teams willing to stay beyond the dates will have to pay extra money in lieu of the Accommodation Facility.

6. Smoking, Drinking and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is strictly prohibited within the university campus. Any person found in violation of the Rule shall be immediately expelled from the Competition and may also be handed over to the relevant law Enforcement agency for prosecution.
7. Teams can opt for accommodation outside the campus as per their own convenience. However, in such a case scenario, the teams are responsible to reach the campus for the inaugural ceremony/memorial exchange/rounds/valedictory ceremony in time. The MCC shall not be responsible for any delay.

INSPECTION OF SCORE SHEETS

1. Each team will be provided with the scanned copies of the Memorial and Oral Pleadings score sheets within 10 days of the completion of the Competition through email.
2. Irrespective of the stage of the competition, no team will be given access to score sheets concerning matches in which the said team was not involved.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. 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.
2. The dress code to be adhered to for the duration of the Competition is:
 - Ladies : Black & White Courtroom dress (Indian/Western) including black gown and necktie
 - Gentlemen: Black & White Courtroom dress (Western) including black gown and necktie
3. Any kind of misbehavior with the Judges/Organizers shall lead to serving of a show cause notice to the respective team through their respective college/University.
4. The moot problem 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 problem 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.
5. 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 Competition Administrator.

6. The organisers reserve 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.
7. Hard Copy Submissions shall be done only through Registered Speed Post of India Post only and No Other Courier Service is permissible for sending Hard Copies.
8. The copyright of all the Memorials submitted for the purpose of the competition shall rest with the Organizers.

CONTACT PERSONS

- Sharvani Navangul: +91-8969895131
- Niharika Salar: +91-7763809990