



OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

4TH NALSAR PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT 2024

19TH -21ST
JANUARY 2024

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I. DEFINITIONS

1.1 “Advanced Round” means the Final Round, Semi-Final Rounds and Quarter-Final Rounds of the Competition.

1.2 “Applicant”/“Defendant” means the side that argues on behalf of the Applicant/Defendant at any given point in the competition.

1.3 “Bench Memorandum” means the memorandum of law, issues and authorities concerning the competition problem prepared by the Authors/Organizers.

1.4 “Clarifications” refer to procedural order(s) and/or any clarification(s) issued by the organisers pursuant to Rule 3 Sub-rule 4.

1.5 “Competition” means the 4th NALSAR-UNHCR Public International Law Moot Court Competition 2024.

1.6 “IST” means Indian Standard Time.

1.7 “Memorial” means the written arguments submitted by each team, submitted according to these Rules.

1.8 “Moot Proposition” means the official hypothetical case study of the Competition released by the organisers. Clarifications as defined under Rule 3 Sub-rule 4 shall form part of the problem.

1.9 “Oralist” refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.

1.10 “Oral Round” means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of judges, acting as adjudicators, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.

1.11 “Organizer(s)” means the Organising Committee of the 4th NALSAR PIL Moot Court Competition, and also includes the Moot Court Committee of National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University of Law, Hyderabad, members thereof, and any person/persons appointed for the administration and conduct of the Competition, by the said Moot Court Committee.

1.12 “Participant” refers to any member of any team representing any institution participating in the competition.

1.13 “Penalty” refers to the deductions imposed on the memorial scores of a participating team, as provided for under Rule 4 Sub-rule 4.

1.14 “Plagiarism”

The Organizers define plagiarism as including the following:

- i. Direct duplication of somebody else’s work represented inter alia in books, articles, and internet sources without acknowledgement.
- ii. Substantial duplication of somebody else’s work represented inter alia in books, articles, and internet sources without acknowledgement. This would include work where sentences have been substantially copied, that is, where at the least ten continuous words from the original work are present in the impugned memorial.
- iii. Direct or substantial duplication of another moot memorial, irrespective of whether that memorial is a competing memorial or not, and irrespective of whether there is acknowledgement or not.
- iv. Substantial duplication denotes situations wherein sentences have been substantially copied, that is, where at the least ten continuous words from the original work are present in the impugned memorial and/or where a segment of the impugned memorial has

been paraphrased from the other memorial with minor changes, keeping intact the import of the latter.

1.15 “Preliminary Rounds” means the oral rounds which take place before the advanced round, as defined under Rule 5, Sub-rule 3 and for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.

1.16 “Rebuttals” refer to the arguments presented by the Applicant in response to the Respondent’s submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists.

1.17 “Scouting” means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with.

1.18 “Sur-rebuttal” refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals as defined in Clause 1.16.

1.19 “Team Code” refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration according to Rule 3, Sub-rule 3.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1. Administration

- a. The NALSAR - UNHCR Public International Law Moot Court Competition shall be administered by the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India.
- b. The Competition is scheduled to be held from 19th- 21st January, 2024 in an offline format for all qualifying teams. However, only the international teams will be given an option of participating in the Oral Presentation Rounds in an online format, provided appropriate reasons are provided for non-appearance in person.

2. Language

English shall be the language of the Competition; all oral and written submissions are required to be made in English.

3. Structure of the Competition

- a. The Competition shall comprise two stages.
- b. Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round

This shall be open to all teams which register for the Competition. The results of this round shall be based on the evaluation of memorials and shall determine the 24 teams which will proceed to Stage II.

c. Stage II: Oral Rounds

The teams that clear Stage I of the Competition shall be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds, which shall comprise the Researcher's Test and the Oral Rounds.

4. Interpretation of the Rules

- a. The Organizers have the final authority to interpret and amend the provisions contained in the Rules.
- b. The Organizers reserve the right to make changes when necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the participating teams through the official PIL Moot email-ID (pilmoot@nalsar.ac.in).

III. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Administration

- a. The Competition is open to students currently enrolled in LL.B. Undergraduate Degree Courses or LL.M. Postgraduate Degree Courses across the world.
- b. A team is not permitted to have members from more than one institution.
- c. More than one team from one institution can register, provided all such teams register individually.

2. Team Composition

- a. Each team shall comprise a minimum of two members wherein both the members will be required to perform the role of a speaker, and one member will perform the role of a researcher in the researcher's test.
- b. Teams may comprise a maximum of three members, wherein two members shall perform the role of a speaker, and one member shall perform the role of a researcher.
- c. The substitution of any Team Member is not allowed after the registration deadline except in extenuating circumstances and only with permission of the Organizers.
- d. A researcher may be allowed to argue instead of a speaker only with the permission of the Court.

3. Registration

a. Procedure for Registration

- i. Interested teams must register for the Competition by filling out the online Registration Form. The Registration form can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/Axuin9GNhzv1JYPX7>.
- ii. While filling out the online Registration Form, the teams must choose a primary contact person. All communications concerning the Competition will be sent from the official email ID to the nominated contact person, whose responsibility shall be to convey and distribute all relevant information to the participating team. It must be noted that the Organizers are not responsible in case of non-conveyance and distribution of any relevant information by the nominated contact person to their own team.
- iii. After submission of the Registration Form, a mail confirming the provisional registration will be sent to the respective committee or head/dean of the institution.
- iv. Prior payment of Registration Fees is required in order to fill the Final Registration Form.
- v. The last date for completion of all the registration formalities is 15th November 2023 (11:59 P.M. IST).
- vi. The confirmation of Registration will be notified to the teams by the Organizers, after the completion and verification of all the Registration formalities.
- vii. The team will also be provided with a Team Code; at any stage of the competition, a team must be identified only by the allotted team code.

viii. All team members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institution at any time in any manner during the course of their participation in the competition. Non-compliance with this rule shall lead to severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the organizers.

b. Payment of Registration Fees

- i. All the Indian teams shall be required to make a payment of INR 6,500 via online transfer (NEFT), and all the overseas teams shall be required to make a payment of USD 125 via wire transfer before 25th November, 2023 (11:59 P.M. IST) in order to register for the competition. Details of the same must also be attached in the Registration form. The Overseas teams must inform the bank to transfer the required registration fees in INR to the Bank Account specified below.
- ii. The wire transfer/NEFT must be made to:

For National Teams

Name of the Beneficiary	Registrar, NALSAR
Bank Name	Indian Bank
Branch Name	Shameerpeth
Account No.	418454214
IFSC Code	IDIB000S166

For Overseas Teams

Name of the Beneficiary	Manav S/O Vikramjit Garg
Bank Name	HDFC
Branch Name	Giddarbaha
Account No.	50100376852262
IFSC Code	HDFC0001482

4. Clarifications

- a. The last date for submitting clarifications to the Moot Proposition is on or before 10th November 2023 (11:59 P.M. IST). All such requests must be submitted through the Google form only: <https://forms.gle/9iuNRufL3owbMGwR9>.
- a. The request for clarifications should be clear and related to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments.
- b. Clarifications shall be notified through email sent to the respective contact person of the team and shall be issued on 15th November, 2023.

IV. STAGE I: MEMORIAL EVALUATION

1. Memorial Submission

- a. Every team which has successfully registered for the Competition is required to prepare two memorials:
 - i. Memorial on behalf of the Applicants.
 - ii. Memorial on behalf of the Defendants.
- b. All teams must send soft copies of their memorials for Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round on or before 7th December, 2023, 11:59 P.M. IST to pilmoot@nalsar.ac.in with the subject - "Memorials (Team Code) – NALSAR UNHCR PIL Moot."
- c. Cover Page of the Applicant's side Memorial should be Blue and the Defendant's side Memorial should be Red.
- d. A penalty of 1 point per hour per Memorial shall be imposed for any submission made post the stated deadline.
- e. Memorials submitted 12 hours beyond the deadline specified shall not be evaluated.
- f. The memorials submitted for the memorial elimination round shall be considered final.
- g. After the completion of the Competition, the Organizers reserve the right to use the memorials as they deem appropriate.
- h. The teams qualifying for Stage II are required to mandatorily submit 5 hard copies of each Memorial to the Organizers at the time of their registration at the venue.

2. Memorial Format

- a. All soft copies of the submitted Memorials must be submitted in Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx) and PDF format (.pdf). Therefore, a total of 4 files shall be submitted.
- b. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the file's name being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the side whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an 'D' for Defendants and 'A' for Applicants. For instance, the Applicants memorial of team code 10 should be named '10A'.
- c. All pages of the Memorial must be of A4 size, with a 1-inch margin on each side.
- d. The font style and size of the text of all parts of the Memorial, excluding the Cover Page, shall be Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 line spacing. The Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10, single (1) line spacing.
- e. The memorials shall be checked for plagiarism. The permissible plagiarism limit is 25%.

3. Memorial Content

- a. The Memorials are required to contain the following sections:
 - i. Cover Page
 - ii. Table of Contents
 - iii. List of Abbreviations
 - iv. Index of Authorities (List of Sources)
 - v. Statement of Facts
 - vi. Issues

vii. Summary of Arguments

viii. Arguments Advanced

ix. Prayer/Submissions

x. Each Memorial must not exceed 50 pages. The Substantial Submissions must not must not exceed 30 pages, which includes Arguments Advanced and Prayer. Violations of this article are sanctioned by penalty points as per Sub-rule 4 of this Rule.

b. Footnotes should follow the format of either the '21st Edition of the Bluebook' or '4th edition of Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA)' throughout the Memorial. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of as per Sub-rule 4 of this Rule.

c. The Cover page of the Memorial must contain the team code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by an 'A' for the Applicants Memorial or a 'D' for the Defendants Memorial. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty as per Sub-rule 4 of this Rule.

d. No new issues can be added other than those mentioned in the Moot Proposition.

4. Penalties

VIOLATION	PENALTY
Breach of memorial anonymity	Disqualification from the Competition
Missing or additional section	2 points for every violation
Incorrect order of sections	2 points (one-time deduction)

Incorrect font size in the main body	1 point for every page on which there is a violation
Incorrect line spacing in the main body of the Memorial	1 point for every page on which there is a violation
Non-uniformity in footnotes	1 point for every page on which there is a violation
Incorrect page size and/or page margin in the main body of the Memorial	1 point for every page on which there is a violation
Missing Team Code or unnecessary information on the cover page	1 point per piece of information
Substantive legal arguments outside the arguments advanced section	2 points for every page on which there is a violation
Exceeding the page limit of the Written Submission section	2 points per extra page
Exceeding the page limit of the Memorial	2 points per extra page
Extra information in footnotes or non-compliance with the specified format	1 point for each violation
Use of endnotes	3 points

5. Memorial Evaluation

- a. Each Memorial shall be evaluated out of 200 points by an evaluator.

Knowledge of Law and Facts	50 points
Proper and Articulate Analysis	50 points
Extent and Use of Research	40 points
Clarity and Organization	40 points
Grammar and Style	20 points

6. Qualification of Memorials

- a. After evaluating the memorials submitted, the top 24 teams, based on their total scores in Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round, shall qualify for Stage II: Advance Rounds.
- b. The results of Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round shall be declared on 30th December, 2023.
- c. The teams that clear Stage I will be required to confirm their participation in Stage II by filling out the confirmation form sent to them by email before 2nd January, 2024 (11:59 P.M. IST). If a team fails to confirm participation within the specified timeline, invitations to other teams will be issued based on the scores of Stage I by 4th January, 2024.
- d. Additionally, the wire transfer/NEFT details for Stage II shall be attached to the online confirmation form sent to the qualifying teams.

V. STAGE II: ADVANCE ROUND

PROCEDURES

1. General Procedure

- a. The Oral Rounds shall be conducted offline, subject to exceptions already stated, and comprise the Researcher's Test, Preliminary Oral Rounds, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and Final Rounds.
- b. The team representing the Applicants shall submit their arguments first, followed by the team representing the Defendants. Upon completion of the arguments, the Applicants shall have the option of submitting rebuttals, followed by the Defendants. Sur-rebuttals shall/shall not be permitted, subject to the judges' discretion.
- c. The student counsels may state their names during the advance rounds but are not allowed to reveal the institution's name and must use the Team Code.
- d. The Participants joining offline are strictly not allowed to use any electronic devices during the rounds in the Courtroom. Similarly, online participants are not allowed to use devices apart from those that are being used to connect to the Competition. Any team, if found in violation of this rule shall be subjected to a penalty as decided by the Organizers, which may include disqualification as well.

2. Procedure for Oral Submissions

- a. Each team will be allotted 30 minutes to present their case in the Preliminary and Quarter Final Rounds; this will include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals, and sur-rebuttals. For the Semi-Finals and Finals, the team will be allotted 45 minutes to present their case.
- b. The division of time between the two speakers is up to the team's discretion. However, each Speaker must speak for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- c. Before the start of the Oral Round, the team must inform how it wishes to divide its total time between its (i) first speaker, (ii) second speaker, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Applicants) or sur-rebuttal (for Defendants).
- d. The oral submissions in the preliminary rounds should not extend beyond the issues in the memorials.
- e. The researchers are also required to attend the oral rounds.
- f. Dressing: The Participants must be dressed in formal courtroom attire. If any participant cannot access the formal dress code, they may be allowed to be dressed in an adequate formal outfit that can be reasonably considered appropriate to the occasion. No marks shall be reduced for not wearing a full formal courtroom attire.
- g. Maximum marks for the oral rounds shall be 100 marks per Speaker per judge.
- h. The oral rounds shall be evaluated out of 100 marks, and the basis for evaluation shall be as follows:

Knowledge of Law	20 points
Application of Law to Facts	20 points

Ingenuity and Ability to Answer	20 points
Style, Poise, Courtesy, Organization, and Demeanor	20 points
Time management	20 points

- i.
 - i. It is not mandatory to submit a compendium, but if you do so it is mandatory to submit 2 printed copies of the same. The guidelines for it are: To avoid unnecessary bulk, it is required that in the compendium for the book/case or any other resource that you are citing, you shall have the first page of the resource and the relevant pages only. For example: if you are citing a paragraph(s) from a case say X v. Y, for this part of the compendium you should have the first page of the case, followed by relevant pages. The responsibility of making a coherent, accessible compendium folder lies with the teams. An index for the compilation (at the beginning of the file/folder) is also mandated. The organizing committee bears no responsibility due to any issues caused to judges in finding a relevant document or page.
 - ii. The judges' decisions concerning the outcome of the rounds shall be final.

3. Preliminary Rounds

- a. All the teams that qualify Stage I: Memorial Evaluation Round shall be eligible to participate in the preliminary rounds.
- b. There shall be two preliminary rounds. Each team shall argue in both rounds, once as Applicants and once as Defendants.

- c. In the Preliminary rounds, the memorial scores of the teams will be used to determine the match-ups; a power match-up system (Team 1 v Team 24, Team 2 v Team 23...) and a slide match-up system (Team 1 v Team 13, Team 2 v Team 14...) shall be used for the first and the second round respectively.
- d. Each round shall be decided by allocating a total of 6 round points, with all points being awarded based on the Oral Scores of the teams.
- e. A bench of 2 judges will judge each round in the Preliminary Rounds.
- f. No team shall face the same bench in the preliminary rounds more than once.
- g. A total of 3 points per judge will be allocated for the Preliminary Rounds. For each judge, if the cumulative Oral Score of one Team exceeds the cumulative Oral Score of the other Team by 10% of the higher cumulative Oral Score, then the team with the higher cumulative Oral Score will be awarded 3 points and the other team with 0 points. If such a difference is less than 10%, the team with the higher score will be awarded 2 points, and the other team will be awarded 1 point. In the case of a tie, the Teams will be awarded 1.5 points each for that judge. Example: In a round between Team A and Team B, Judge 1 gives a cumulative Oral Score (Speaker 1 + Speaker 2) of 170 marks to Team A and 165 marks to Team B. The difference is 5 marks. Since this difference is less than 10% of 170 (which is 17) for Judge 1, Team A will be awarded 2 points, and Team B will be awarded 1 point. In the same round, if Judge 2 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 155 marks to Team A and 175 marks to Team B. Here, the difference of 20 marks is more than 10% of 175 (which is 17.5), and hence, Team A will be awarded 0 points, and Team B will be awarded 3 points. The total round points for that round will be: Team A: 2 (Judge 1) + 0 (Judge 2) = 2 Points and Team B: 1 (Judge 1) + 3 (Judge 2) = 4 Points.

- h. The marks given by all the judges (out of 400) will be cumulated to determine the Best Speaker.

4. Quarter-Finals

- a. The top 8 teams with the most points shall qualify for the Quarterfinals. In case of any tie, the memorial scores shall be referred. In case of a further tie, speaker scores will be considered.
- b. For the Quarter Final Rounds, the rankings of the Preliminary Rounds shall be used for the match-ups. (Team 1 v. Team 5; Team 2 v. Team 6; Team 3 v. Team 7; Team 4 v. Team 8)

5. Semi-Finals

- a. The winning team in each of the four Quarter-Final Rounds shall advance to the Semi-Final Rounds.
- b. In Semi-Final Rounds, the pairings shall be as follows concerning the match numbers: the winner of Match 1 v. the winner of Match 4; and Match 2 v. Match 3.

6. Finals

- a. The Winning Team from each of the two Semi-Final Rounds shall advance to the Final Round. The Winner of the Final Round shall be declared the Competition's winner.

7. Researcher's Test

- a. The Researcher's test is mandatory for all the teams participating in the Competition.

- b. The Researcher's test will be conducted on 19th January, 2024.
- c. Once the Researchers are seated for taking the test at the designated time and place, an organizing committee member will share several objective-type questions that must be filled by the Researcher.
- d. The Researcher will be given a specific time (which will be conveyed later) to answer each question once the organizing committee member has shared the question.
- e. The Researcher cannot communicate with their team members or anyone else during the test.
- f. The Researcher is not permitted to refer to any written material or electronic devices during the Researcher's test.

8. Scouting

Teams shall not be allowed to observe the orals of another team unless they have been officially knocked out of the competition. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.

9. Accommodation, Food and Transport

- a. Accommodation and food shall be provided to all teams by the NALSAR University of Law from the evening of 19th January, 2024 to the evening of 21st January, 2024.
- b. The Travel Details Form must be duly filled and sent by the teams shortlisted for Stage II whenever sent by the organisers.

VI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Organizers recognize that discrimination and/or harassment undermines the integrity of the Competition and the members involved in the Competition. The Organizers affirm their commitment to ensure that each member of the Competition, including Participants, Volunteers, Organizers, and Judges, shall be permitted to participate and work in an environment free from any form of illegal discrimination based on national origin, race, colour, religion, caste, disability, sex (including sexual misconduct), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and/or marital status. The Organizers recognise their obligation to work towards an environment where diversity is valued, and opportunity is equalized.

1. Prohibited Conduct

- a. Prohibited conduct is defined as any misconduct based on any form of Discrimination or Harassment based on the abovementioned criteria. Misconduct can be verbal, written, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual because of characteristics related to a ground of discrimination. It includes, and is not restricted to, making jokes, epithets, innuendos, singling out a person for humiliation, negative stereotyping, and making comments on characteristics related to a ground of discrimination.
- b. Sexual or Gender-based Discrimination is defined as per clause (k) of Section 2 of the University Grants Commission (Prevention, prohibition, and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions) Regulations, 2015.
- c. The organizers encourage all members involved in the Competition to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop any prohibited

conduct. Taking action may include direct intervention when safe to do so, enlisting the assistance of friends, or seeking assistance from a person in authority. It is the particular responsibility of those members involved in the Competition who hold positions of authority over others to avoid actions that can be considered a violation of this Policy or unprofessional.

2. Scope and Application of Policy

This Policy applies to all members involved in the Competition, including all Participants, Judges, Volunteers, and Organizers.

3. Penalty for Prohibited Conduct

The Organizers reserves the right to take prudent action against any member partaking in such Prohibited Conduct, including the imposition of penalties and, in severe cases, disqualification (in case of Participants) or blacklisting from future editions of the Competition.

VII. AWARDS

1. **Winning Team Award:** The winning team will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 50,000.
2. **Runners-Up Team Award:** The runners-up team will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 25,000.
3. **Best Speaker** will receive a trophy and cash prize of INR 10,000.
4. **The Team with the Best Memorial - Applicants** will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000.
5. **The Team with the Best Memorial - Defendants** will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000.
6. **Best Researcher** will receive a trophy and a cash prize of INR 10,000.
7. **All participating teams** will be provided with a certificate of participation.

VIII. CONTACT DETAILS

Further clarifications regarding the competition may be sought from:

Rishabh Shah (Head, Organising Committee): +91 97991 43100

Manav Garg (Treasurer): +91 98762 41378

Nayani Gupta: +91 87701 71170

Gargi Pandey: +91 93052 13050

Vaibhav Gautam: +91 98109 19515

Email: pilmoot@nalsar.ac.in