

**OFFICIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR
THE NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION (NMCC)
2026**

Organised by NMCC Organising Committee, Map of Justice



7 AUGUST 2026

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GENERAL RULES

Article 1 – Organisation

- a. The National Moot Court Competition (referred to as “the Competition”) is organised by Map of Justice (referred to as “the Organisation”) and comprises the Preliminary/Quarter-final Rounds, Semi-final Rounds, and Final Round.
- b. All content created by the Organising Committee and the Board of Advisors for the Competition, including, but not limited to, the Official Rules of Procedure, Moot Problem, any supplementary rules, etc., remains the exclusive property of the Organisation. These materials may not be copied or used for any purpose other than administering or participating in the Competition, unless prior written approval is obtained from the Board of Advisors.
- c. The Oral Rounds of the Competition will be conducted in person in Dhaka, and the date, time and venue details will be informed by email to all the registered participants by 10 November 2026.

Article 2 – Subject and Object

- a. All Teams participating in the Competition are presumed to have knowledge of and shall be subject to these Rules. The object of the present Official Rules of Procedure (“Official Rules”) is to govern the Competition.

Article 3 - Interpretation of the Rules

- a. The Organisation has the sole authority to interpret and amend the provisions contained in the Official Rules.
- b. The Organisation reserves the right to make changes at any time before the commencement of the Oral Rounds, if deemed necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the participating teams via email or through the website of the Organisation (mapofjustice.org), whichever is convenient and works in the interest of time.

Article 4 - Aim of the Competition

The Competition is designed to inspire university students to deepen their understanding of national law, both in theory and practice, with a particular focus on the jurisdiction and jurisprudence of various Bangladeshi courts. Through the simulation of court proceedings involving a hypothetical case, participants engage directly with legal principles and courtroom advocacy. This year’s edition emphasises expanding knowledge of the Constitution. Additionally, the Competition offers participants the opportunity to engage with other legal and administrative institutions based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, aiding in enhancing and expanding the student network for better future advocacy initiatives.

I. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Article 5 - Participation

- a. All students from educational institutions that offer a law degree, whether at the undergraduate or post-graduate level in a field related to law, are eligible to participate in the Competition. This is to allow all participants with the level playing field, and thereby, bars students from High Schools and Colleges from participating in this competition.
- b. Students seeking to participate from an institution shall be actively enrolled in the said institution during the time of registration till the conclusion of the competition.
- c. Each institution may register up to two (2) Teams, regardless of the number of colleges, departments, faculties, or schools it comprises.
 - i. Teams may be composed of students from one or more of these internal units (colleges, departments, faculties, or schools).
 - ii. Each of these teams from the same institution shall assume the role of independent segregated teams, and strictly ensure that they do not share materials, including research content with each other prior to the competition to take preparation for the rounds.
 - iii. Each of these teams shall not share any Team Member, Contact Person, or Team Coach/Adviser.
- d. It is the duty of every institution to ensure that no more than two (2) Teams register from its institution for the NMCC 2026.
- e. Every team that registers after the second team from the same institution shall be subject to possible disqualification, without a refund of the registration fee.
- f. Each of the teams, at no time during the competition, shall be allowed to exchange its Team members with each other. This Rule shall not be read in contravention to Article 6, rather to be read in harmony; i.e. while amending and changing team members requires approval from the Organiser, no amendment to interchange members between the teams registering from the same institution, shall be allowed.
- g. The Organisation reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to permit more than two (2) Teams from a single institution to participate in the Competition.

Article 6 - Team Composition

- a. Each Team will be comprised of three (3) mooters, to be registered as speakers and researcher accordingly. The team may be accompanied by one (1) coach/adviser; however, it is not mandatory. The amount of Team Members may never exceed three (3) at any moment during the Competition.

- b. For the oral rounds in the competition this year, the roles and designation of the three mooters will be distributed as follows, and will be recognised in such manner during the rounds accordingly:

APPELLANT	RESPONDENT
Speaker 1: Senior Advocate	Speaker 1: Attorney General
Speaker 2: Advocate	Speaker 2: Additional Attorney General
Researcher: Advocate-on-Record	Researcher: Advocate-on-Record

- c. Submitted registration forms can only be amended with prior approval from the Organisation. To receive approval for any amendments, please send your reasoned request to nmcc@mapofjustice.org. For this Article, amendments include:
- Name and contact detail(s) of Team Member(s)
 - Name and contact detail(s) of Team Contact Person
 - Name and contact detail(s) of Team Coach
 - Spelling of any name(s)
- d. Registration forms may be amended at any time before 20 September 2026 at 5:00pm [BDT].
- e. No team that registers after this date, but before the deadline of registration, shall seek to amend their registration form.
- f. Notwithstanding this rule, subject to exceptional circumstances and with substantive proof, or in the interests or fairness of the Competition, the Organisation reserves the right to allow/disallow changes in a Team's composition after this deadline.
- g. Either a Coach or a Team Member (the 'contact person') shall be appointed by the Team to represent the respective institution and the Team during the Competition before the Organisation. Communications from the Organising Office will be made directly to teams' designated contact person and the Coach, if they are different persons.
- h. Any changes made to the details of the contact person must be communicated via email at nmcc@mapofjustice.org.

Article 7 - Eligibility

- a. Only actively enrolled students in Bachelors, Masters, or Post-graduate studies are eligible to participate, subject to the provisions of Article 7c.
- b. Non-law students may be considered eligible, provided that they have the requisite legal knowledge. It is each Team's responsibility to ensure that its Members have a level of legal knowledge suitable for the Competition and the team's scoring.
- c. Any person admitted to practice, including having taken and passed the bar exam, are prohibited to participate.
- Any participation or involvement of such capacity is going to be handled strictly and may result in team disqualification at any moment during the Competition, without any show-cause notice.
 - These restrictions shall not extend to Team Coaches.

- d. The Coach shall not be considered as a Team member and only be contacted as the contact person on behalf of the team if there is no other contact person appointed.
 - i. Their role encompasses selecting the team members, instructing them on legal principles and research methodology, advising on written and oral advocacy, and managing the competition logistics. Essentially, the coach acts as a mentor, helping students develop their legal skills and prepare for the competition.
 - ii. They shall not at any point in time assist the team with their legal research for their written or oral advocacy.

II. REGISTRATION

Article 8 - Team Registration

- a. Teams can register via the Competition's website between 8 August 2026 and 24 September 2026 by 11:59pm [BDT], and not a minute later. Registration will close by 25 September 2026, at 00:00am [BDT].
- b. Teams are requested to seek endorsement, in the form of an Affidavit of Team Declaration and Oath, as provided in the registration link, from their home institution prior to filling up the registration form.
- c. The Endorsement shall, after being filled, signed and sealed, be scanned and uploaded at the time of registration.
- d. A confirmation of participation will be sent to the Teams via email to the contact person on a rolling basis upon successful registration till 30 September 2026.
- e. Universities shall register their team with details of the team members, contact person, and Coach [if appointed], at the time of registration. Incomplete submission of the Affidavit of Team Declaration and Oath, in any of the fields, will not be considered as valid registration, irrespective of whether registration fees have been paid or not. It is the responsibility of the Team to submit the amended registration as per Article 6b.

Article 9 - Registration Fee

- a. The registration fee for participation in the Competition is 6,000 BDT per teams, comprising three (3) Team members.
 - i. The registration fee is non-refundable from the moment of registration form submission.
 - ii. Under no circumstances will the registration fee in the form of ensuring Team's participation, waived.
- b. The registration fee covers the participation of three (3) Team Members. Even if the Team consists of less Team Members, it is not possible to pay a reduced fee.
- c. A Team Coach/Adviser may accompany the team on the day of the Competition, for whom no registration fee is required.
- d. Institutions have the option to send observers for the competition. The registration forms for the Observer(s) will open by September 2026:

- i. Institutions that have sent team(s) for participation, have the option to send observers at a discounted fee of only 1000 BDT per observer, per university. A total of three observers is allowed per institution.
Any observer that joins the team on the day of the Competition, if not registered earlier, shall pay the registration fee per person, and shall be allowed entry only after that. Observers of that institution are obligated to stay with their institution's teams throughout the competition.
- ii. Institutions not participating in the competition may also send observers to observe the rounds. The registration fee for observation in the competition is 2000 BDT per observer per institution. The Organising Committee reserves the right to send the observers to any of the respective rooms as per their discretion.
- e. The registration fee is to be paid to Map of Justice in its bKash account, the details of which are provided below:
bKash Account Number: +8801743299007 (personal)

Article 10 - Team Identification

- a. In the interest of fairness and objectivity, each Team shall be assigned a Team Code upon their registration in their confirmation email. This number becomes the Team's main identifier throughout the Competition.
- b. Any further communications with the Organisation as well as other competitors during the competition must be done under the denotation of this Team Number.
- c. Teams must not reveal the identity of their institution to the Judges at any time during the Competition [the duration of the Competition shall be calculated from the moment a team registers for the competition till the conclusion of the Final Round.
- d. The Organisation may disqualify or impose a penalty against any Team that intentionally or inadvertently discloses its institution to a Judge during the Competition, regardless of whether such disclosure takes place in the Written Submissions (refer to Article 17), occurs during an Oral Round (refer to Article 34), or after Rounds completes, but before the competition ends.

III. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Article 11 - Case Publication

- a. Teams will be provided with a fictional case, intended to enable the students to familiarize themselves with the law and practice of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The Competition's moot problem (hereinafter: "the Problem") will be made publicly available on the Competition's website by 7 August 2026.
- b. Each Team may request clarifications and corrections to the Problem and the Official Rules by 25 August 2026, 11:59PM [BDT]. All requests must be submitted to the designated email address at nmcc@mapofjustice.org.

- c. All teams will receive the updated Problem, with clarifications and corrections, if any, by 10 September 2026, through the competition website.

Article 12 - Preliminary Rounds

- a. The Preliminary Round of the Competition shall consist of two (2) consecutive phases, each independently graded: a written round (Written Submissions) and an oral round (Hearings).
- b. Each Team shall address the Problem in the roles of (a) Appellant, and (b) Respondent, and shall submit one (1) Concise Statement of the Appellant, and one (1) Concise Statement of the Respondent, totaling a number of two (2) written Submissions per team.
- c. Each Team shall participate in two (2) Hearings before the Bench, once each in the role of Appellant and Respondent.
- d. The match-up for the Preliminary Round is randomly arranged.
- e. The written and oral phases of the Preliminary Round are independently assessed. The sum of the scores obtained in both phases after the deduction of any penalty points will qualify the eight (8) best Teams for the Quarter-Final Round. Both phases, the written and oral rounds, count for 50% of the total score each. If two or more Teams rank at number 8, the Team with the highest total score in the oral phase of the Preliminary Round will proceed to the Quarter-Finals.
- f. Teams must notify the Organising Office via email at nmcc@mapofjustice.org of any potential scheduling conflicts by 10 October 2026.
- g. In the event the number of teams registering for the competition is eight (8) or less, the competition will commence with the Preliminary Rounds and immediately proceed to Semi-Final Round.
- h. In the event, a team withdraws or forfeits during the Preliminary Round, hearings will proceed with the remaining allocated teams.
- i. In the event, the total number of teams registering for the competition is an odd number, the competition structure will change, and the teams will instead be arranged based on their Written Submission scores, and not randomly. Where an odd number of teams creates a scheduling imbalance, the lowest-ranked teams based on Written Submission scores shall be placed in a Draw of Lots to determine which team(s) shall argue an additional round.

Article 13 - Quarter-Final Rounds

- a. The top eight (8) Teams of the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the Quarter-Final Round.
- b. The Quarter-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the Written Submissions and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary Round will not be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Quarter-Final Round.
- c. Quarter-Final matchups will be predetermined by the Preliminary Rounds ranking:
- Quarter-Final Matchup 1: 1st vs 8th place Teams
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 2: 2nd vs 7th place Teams

- Quarter-Final Matchup 3: 3rd vs 6th place Teams
 - Quarter-Final Matchup 4: 4th vs 5th place Teams
- d. In the event a Quarter-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organising Office reserves the right to invite the team ranked 9th in the Preliminary Rounds to replace them.
 - e. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Quarter-Final, the method will be determined during the competition per the discretion of the Organising Committee.
 - f. The winning Team of each of the four (4) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. The winning Team in each match-up of the Quarter-Final Round shall advance to the Semi-Final Round.

Article 14 - Semi-Final Rounds

- a. The four (4) winning Teams of the Quarter-Final Round, or top 4 teams from Preliminary rounds if there were no Quarter-Final Rounds, will proceed to the Semi-Final Round.
- b. The Semi-Final Round will consist of an oral phase only. The result of the Written Submissions and the result of the Hearings of the Preliminary, and Quarter-Final Round will not be taken into account in assessing the final scores of the Semi-Final Round.
- c. Semi-Final matchups will be predetermined by the order of the advancing Teams in the rankings from their Preliminary Rounds:
 - Semi-Final Matchup 1 : 1st vs 4th place Teams
 - Semi-Final Matchup 2 : 2nd vs 3rd place Teams.
- d. In the event a Semi-Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organising Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Quarter-Finals that did not advance to the Semi-Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.
- e. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Semi-Final, the method will be determined during the competition per the discretion of the Organising Committee
- f. The winning Team of each of the two (2) match-ups shall be decided by majority vote of the Judges. Ties in scores are not permitted. The winning Team in each match-up of the Semi-Final Round shall proceed to the Final Round.

Article 15 - Final Round

- a. The winner of each match-up of the Semi-Final Round will proceed to the Final Rounds.
- b. To decide which role each Team will represent in the Final Round, a designated Team Member of each qualified Team will select one envelope out of two envelopes provided by the Organisation. Every envelope will contain a different role. The role mentioned in the envelope the designated Team Member draws, is the role that Team will be representing in the Final Round.
- c. In the event that a Finalist team withdraws or forfeits, the Organising Office reserves the right to invite the highest-ranked team from the Semi-Finals that did not advance to the

Final to replace them. This procedure may apply for any additional withdrawals or forfeitures.

- d. The Bench of the Final Round will announce the winner of the Competition (to be picked at the discretion of the Bench). The Team winning the Final Round will be the winner of the Competition, regardless of the scoring of the Written Submissions and the results of the Team in the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round, and Semi-Final Round.

IV. CHAPTER 5: REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Article 16 – Written Submission

- a. All Teams must submit a total of two written submissions, (1) one Concise Statement of the Appellant, and (1) one Concise Statement of the Respondents, by email to nmcc@mapofjustice.org by 10 October 2026 at 11:59PM BDT.
- b. Written Submissions which are not submitted by this deadline will be subject to penalty points.
- c. A reduction of two (2) points for each 24-hour period, or part thereof, that exceeds the deadline, per submission, will be imposed. Receipt of the submission, five or more days after the deadline without seeking prior permission from the Organisation, will result in the disqualification of the Team.
- d. Submission must occur in a single email message with both the submissions attached as separate files titled “Concise Statement of the Appellant ##” and “Concise Statement of the Respondent ##”, respectively (where “##” is the official Team Number assigned by the Organiser in the confirmation email). Failure to comply with this provision will be penalised with one (1) penalty point per violation.
- e. Only the latest version of the submission shall be accepted. Any submission made via email after the deadline shall be deemed clear and express acceptance of the applicable penalty.
- f. Each Team must submit its submissions in both Microsoft Word and PDF format. Failure to do so will be penalised with two (2) penalty points per incorrect submission.

Article 17 - No Identification in Written Submissions

- a. Each Team must omit the following references in their written submissions and in the metadata of the files:
 - The names of Team Members;
 - The name of its university.
- b. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with ten (10) penalty points per violation.

Article 18 - Format of submission

- a. Each Team must submit its written submissions in size 12 Times New Roman font style. This requirement applies to all pages of the written submission.
- b. Each page must have a margin of 1in on every side of the text.

- c. The written submissions must be continuously page-numbered, with each page being numbered.
- d. Every paragraph of the document shall be numbered.
- e. The line spacing for all parts of the document is to be 1.5 lines.
- f. The documents shall not contain tracked changes that have not been properly accepted or comments that have not been properly removed prior to submission.
- g. Any violations of this article are sanctioned with one (1) penalty point per violation. More than one violation of the same item of this Article is considered as one violation in total.

Article 19 - Word Limit

- a. Each Written Submission must not exceed 6,000 (Six Thousand) words (including all texts within the document).
- b. Violations of this article are sanctioned by five (5) penalty for every additional 500 words, or part thereof, by which a specific written submission exceeds the prescribed word limit.
For instance: 6,001–6,500 words: 5-point penalty
6,501–7,000 words: 10-point penalty
7,001–7,500 words: 15-point penalty.
- c. If both the written submissions exceed the word limit, penalty will be imposed on both the submissions.

Article 20 - Order of Content

- a. Each Written Submission shall contain the necessary information and shall be presented in the order provided in the Template [to be shared by 25 August 2026]. Every Team is asked to use these templates to prepare their submissions.
- b. Every paragraph, as is evident from the template, should be numbered.
- c. Violations of this article are sanctioned by two (2) penalty points per violation.

Article 21 - Page Requirements

- a. The first page must contain the following information in an organised format as per the template:
 - Team number;
 - Forum of the Competition;
 - Year.
- b. Violations of this article will be sanctioned with one (1) penalty point per violation.

Article 22 - Footnotes

- a. Footnotes must be in Times New Roman font style, size 10 font. Footnotes of more than one line in length must be single-spaced.
- b. The spacing between each footnote shall be 6pt.

- c. OSCOLA (Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities) is the suggested citation style guide for the references; although consistency in reference to sources throughout the written submission is primarily required.
- d. There is no requirement for preparing any 'Index' or 'List' of Authorities.
- e. Full citation of a source must be used in the footnotes the first time a source is cited. Abbreviations of sources within footnotes are allowed thereafter.
- f. Incorrect/fictional footnotes generated by AI tools are not permitted, and shall result in five (5) penalty point per violation.
- g. Violations of this article, save for item (f), are sanctioned with two (2) penalty points per violation.
- h. More than one violation of the same item of this Article, save for item (f), will be considered as one violation in total.

Article 23 - Scoring Structure Written Submissions

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall quality of the written submissions.
- b. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and use of rules of law: max 25 points.
 - Proper, organised and articulate analysis of the facts and law: max 25 points.
 - Logic, reasoning and persuasiveness: max 20 points.
 - Original thought, creative argumentation: max 15 points.
 - Extent and use of research: max 10 points.
 - Grammar and style: max 5 points.
- c. Score sheets will be emailed to each Team upon the cessation of the Competition.

Article 24 - Use of AI Tools

- a. ChatGPT and other forms of generative AI are permitted as an aid in researching, writing, and editing your submissions. However, if AI is used, Teams should be careful about confirming their citations to authority since there has been a history of fictional or incorrect citations generated by AI.
- b. Use of incorrect/fictional citations generated by AI will be penalised in accordance with Article 22. f.

Article 25 - Written Submission Penalties

- a. The Evaluators do not impose any penalties, as it is the sole discretion of the Organisers to impose penalties for rules violations.
- b. These Penalties shall be deducted from each of the individual Evaluators' scores of a Team's Written Submission.
- c. The Organisation shall notify all Teams of any penalty points imposed upon their written submissions prior to the commencement of the competition. While the Teams will not be

informed of their total scores at that time, they will be made aware solely of the penalties incurred via the disclosure of the penalty sheet.

Article 26 – Researcher’s Test

- a. Only the participant registered and designated as a Researcher is permitted to appear for and take the Researcher’s Test which will run for a time period of thirty (30) minutes.
- b. Researcher’s Test shall be conducted in-person at such time and place during the Competition days, as may be determined by the Organising Committee.
- c. Participation in the Researcher’s Test is mandatory for all the Teams
- d. Utmost integrity shall be exercised and NO participant shall resort to any kind of unfair practices throughout the entire stipulated time duration for the Test. Non-compliance of the same shall be settled by the final decision of the Organising Committee.
- e. The Points scored in the Researcher’s test by a participant shall be solely used for the purpose of adjudicating the “Best Researcher” Award of the Competition. Thus, failure to participate in the Researcher’s Test will result in the Team being ineligible for the Award.

V. CHAPTER 6: ORAL ROUND PROVISIONS

Article 27 - General procedures

- a. Each Team shall participate in two (2) Hearings during the Preliminary Round, with the Speakers representing each role twice. Each Team shall participate in the Researcher’s Test once, and shall send their Researchers to participate in the Test duly.
- b. Each Hearing for the Preliminary Round, Quarterfinal Round and the Semi-final Round shall take up to one (1) hour, including the time for the question-answer, as well as rebuttal and sur-rebuttal. During each round, the Appellant and Respondent are each allotted 30 minutes to conclude their submissions.
 - To clarify, each team gets a total of 30 minutes to present its oral submissions. The speakers have the liberty to distribute their time within these 30 minutes;
 - A speaker in a team shall not allocate more than 5 minutes for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal, the time of which is included within the speaker’s time. There is no restriction or limitation with regards to how less or more time is allocated for each speaker. However, the Court and the hon’ble judges are at liberty to keep record and note of such accordingly;
 - Any time waived during the speaking time allocated by the speaker may not be added to their time of rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- c. Upon the entry of the Bench Judges, each Team scheduled to appear has a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes from the start of the scheduled time to appear before the Bench.
 - The Competition will proceed on an *ex-parte* basis after the expiration of fifteen (15) minutes.

- The team that appears after the commencement of the hearing after the designated fifteen (15) minutes, will be subjected to a 10-point penalty.
 - The team that does not appear for the Hearing without prior proper notice shall be deemed disqualified from the competition.
 - In exceptional circumstances and with substantive proof, the Organisation may decide to delay the start of the Hearings or reschedule the session.
- d. Electronic devices shall not be used by the speaker as support for their pleadings. The counsel, co-counsel, spectators, observers as well as Coaches and Advisors, shall not use electronic devices to take notes, cross-check, record time, communicate, or any other use during the Hearing.
- e. Oral communication between the Team members is strictly prohibited during that Team's pleadings. The Team members may communicate in writing only during the pleadings of the opposing parties.
- f. Communication, be it oral, written or electronic, with the audience/observers/coaches/other team members is strictly prohibited during the Hearing.
- g. Written communication or exhibits may be presented or delivered by a Team Member to any judge.
- h. Written communication in the form of complaints may be delivery by any Team Member to the Bench Officer.
- i. Counsels and co-counsels are prohibited from using any type of phone/mobile phone and smartwatches to keep record of the time. A Bench Officer, the designated time-keeper alone will be tasked with timekeeping throughout the pleading.
- j. Improper courtroom communication may result in a deduction of up to 10 penalty points per team.
- Improper Courtroom Communication refers to any unauthorized communication, as per this Article, by a Team Member, Coach, or Adviser, during a Hearing that may influence or assist a Team in the conduct of the proceedings. Such communication includes verbal, written, visual, gestural, or electronic communication, including the use of mobile phones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, earpieces, messaging applications, email, social media, or any other electronic or wireless device to send, receive, or access information related to the proceedings, and shall implicate the Team it results in influencing or assisting.

Article 28 - Speakers

- a. Each Team will have two (2) individual speakers. Every individual speaker of a Team will represent in their pleadings as either the Appellant Counsel or Respondent Counsel. The rebuttal must not be presented by a team member other than the designated speakers; i.e. researchers are not allowed to orally submit at any stage of the Competition.
- b. Each Team must submit the role allocation within the Team prior to the commencement of the round.

- c. Each speaker will present in accordance with the time allocated under Article 26b.

Article 29 - Order of Appearance and Time Division during Hearing

- a. The order of the pleadings in each Hearing is as follows:
- Submission for the Appellant:
 1. Senior Advocate as the 1st Speaker of the Appellant's side
 2. Advocate as the 2nd Speaker of the Appellant's side
 - Submission for the Respondents:
 3. Attorney General as the 1st Speaker of the Respondents' side
 4. Additional Attorney General as the 2nd Speaker of the Respondents' side
 - Rebuttal/Sur-rebuttals by a Counsel
 5. Rebuttal by an Appellant Speaker
 6. Sur-rebuttal by a Respondent Speaker
- b. No team is allowed to waive their time for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- c. Researchers, or the Advocates-on-Record, are not allowed to rebut or sur-rebut during the oral rounds, and shall be done only by the Speakers of the Teams.
- d. Any other time division is strictly forbidden. Time not used in the presentation may not be allocated to the rebuttal, and time not used in the rebuttal may not be allocated to the presentation.
- e. Questions posed by the Judges are included in the speaking time of the presentation and of the rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, respectively.

Article 30 - Scope of Pleadings

- a. A Team's oral pleadings are not limited to the scope of the Team's Written Submissions.
- b. Teams may refer directly to the opposing Teams' Written Submissions in their main argument.
- c. Speakers are not allowed to introduce new issues in their rebuttal. All arguments and issues raised by opposing counsels during both the presentation and rebuttal may be discussed during the rebuttal.
- d. Objections regarding the substantive content of the pleadings are under no circumstances allowed at any moment during the proceedings. Objections regarding procedural issues (i.e. time allocation) are permitted.

Article 31 - Bench Composition

- a. Each Bench will generally be composed of two (2) Judge(s) in the Preliminary Round. For the Advanced Rounds, the Bench will be composed of two (2) Judge(s) and one (1) Presiding Judge, a total of three (3) adjudicators, and shall be assisted by a Bench Officer, unless circumstances mandate otherwise.
- b. Judges in the Hearings will not adjudicate the team's oral submission based on the Teams' Written Submissions'.

- c. Judges are not permitted to give their individual opinion outside the deliberation room regarding the quality of the presentations and results of the participating Teams. Furthermore, Judges are encouraged to give the participating Teams substantive feedback on the performance of the team, however, they shall, in no way, disclose the result of the round.
- d. During the oral rounds, the Bench shall ensure respect for the Official Rules and will assess the quality of the arguments. The Judges are encouraged to intervene with appropriate questions during the oral pleading to further assess the knowledge and the preparation of the speakers.
- e. The Bench will follow its own rules within the framework of accepted norms of judicial practice, and with regards to questions of doubt or dispute in the procedure or facts. A decision of the Presiding Member of the Bench shall be final.
- f. The Judges shall mark the oral arguments in accordance with the scoring criteria provided for in Article 32.
- g. A Team's objections to the composition of the Bench due to conflict of interest or prior relationship must be disclosed and communicated to the Bench Officer prior to the commencement of the specific round of the Hearing. All Bench Officers shall communicate the same immediately with the Organising Committee. The Hearing will commence only after any decision regarding such a conflict is addressed. No such communication after the commencement of the Hearing will be taken into cognizance once the Hearing concludes.

Article 32 - Role of the Bench Officers

- a. The Bench Officers are nominated by the Organisation.
- b. The Bench Officer are responsible for:
 - briefing and advising the Bench Members on the Rules of Procedure contained herein;
 - keeping the order during the Hearing;
 - facilitating the Hearing sessions' development;
 - ensuring that no electronic devices are being used by the Teams before the start of the Hearing;
 - timekeeping;
 - any other task within their scope of responsibilities as requested by the Organising Office or Bench.

Article 33 – Scoring Structure Oral Submissions

- a. Scores are awarded out of a maximum of 100 points for the overall performance of the Team during each pleading. The submission and the rebuttal shall be awarded together withing one score only.
- b. Points are allocated as follows:
 - Knowledge and use of rules and principles of law: max 20 points.

- Knowledge and use of the facts: max 20 points.
 - Questions and rebuttal: max 20 points.
 - Persuasiveness and style of presentation: max 20 points.
 - Organisation, structure, and time management: max 20 points.
- c. Scores will be published upon the cessation of the Competition.

Article 34 - Rules of Conduct

- a. All participants should maintain the fullest dignity and decorum, not only in the Courtroom but during the entire Competition. Inappropriate behaviour or blatant disregard for the Rules may result in deduction of up to 15 penalty points for teams, and in extreme cases, to their disqualification.
- b. Any form of discrimination or harassment is strictly prohibited. The Organising Office reserves the right to remove participants (i.e., team members, judges, bench officers) from the Competition in case of violation of these rules.
- c. Participants may not directly or indirectly indicate their Jurisdiction, nationality, or school of origin to the judges, including through the wearing of name tags, pins, logos, scarves, uniforms, or other signifiers (including university colours), or the placement of folders, files, library books, or other materials identifying their school on counsel table. For the purposes of this Rule, the term “participants” includes Team Members, Team Advisors, Team Coaches, and observers affiliated with the Team. Blatant disregard for this rule may result in deduction of up to 15 penalty points, and in extreme cases to the disqualification of the Team.
- d. Complaints and alleged violations of any of the Rules by a Team can be informed to the Organising Committee.
 - a. The Complaint must indicate, at least, the following details in order for the Organising Committee to take action, including imposition of any penalty prior to the announcement of the result:
 - i. The details of the perpetrator including Team code: Whether the full team, or a specific person in a team, or Coach, Adviser, or Observer violated the rules;
 - ii. The details of the violation: which action contributed to the violation;
 - iii. The reference to the Official Rules of Procedure: Which Article of the Official Rules of Procedure was violated;
 - iv. The details of the round: During which round [Preliminary or Advanced] the violation took place.
 - b. Complaints can be sent at any time throughout the duration of the competition.
 - c. All Complaints are to be sent to nmcc@mapofjustice.org or through a hand-written complaint format;
 - d. All complaints will be treated confidentially.

Article 35 - Recording of the Hearing

- a. Participants are strictly forbidden to (voice/audio) record the rounds during their own or their opposing counsels' submission.
- b. Violations of this article are sanctioned with fifty (50) penalty points.

Article 36 - Scouting

- a. Scouting is forbidden at all times during the Competition.
- b. For the purpose of this competition, 'scouting' is defined as:
 - when a Team or one or more of its members, or Advisor, Coach or observers, attend a Hearing in which they are not participants;
 - instances where students, coaches, or spectators discuss with or pose questions of substantive issues of constitutional law to the Judges.
- c. Violations of this article will result in disqualification. A Team's disqualification is final and irrevocable.

VI. CHAPTER 7: COMPETITION SCORING

Article 37 – Raw Scores

- a. Written Raw Points: In each Preliminary Round, the Written Submission Score for each team is the Written Submission judges' scores for the side the team argued in that Oral Round. A team's total competition Written Score is the sum of the two (2) scores for its Appellant and Respondent's Written Submission.
- b. Oral Raw Points: In each Preliminary Round, a Team's Total Oral Raw Score is the sum of the scores of the two (2) judges for each of its two oralists. A team's total Oral Score is the sum of the eight (8) score per team, once as Appellant and once as Respondent.
- c. Total Raw Scores: In the Preliminary Rounds, a team's Total Competition Score is the sum of the team's total competition written score and the team's total oral score.

Article 38 – Round Scores

- a. Written Round Points: In each match, a total of one (1) Round Point will be awarded based on a comparison of the written submissions. The Written Submissions to be compared should correspond to the side that the Teams argued in that Preliminary Round. In other words, the scores of the Appellant Team's Concise Statement should be compared against the scores of the Respondent Team's Concise Statement. For each comparison, the Team with the higher score is awarded one (1) Round Point. Hence, one round point is awarded to the Team with the higher of these two scores. If in any such comparison the two Teams' scores are equal, each Team is awarded half (0.5) Round Point.
- b. Oral Round Points: In each Preliminary match, a total of four (4) Round Points will be awarded based on a comparison of combined oral argument scores, and for the Advanced Rounds [Quarter-final, Semi-final and Final], a total of six (6) Round Points will be

awarded based on a comparison of combined oral argument scores. With the respective number of adjudicators on the Bench, for each judge, the sum of the judge's score for 1st and 2nd Speaker of the Appellant is compared to the sum of the judge's scores for 1st and 2nd Speaker of the Respondent. For each judge, the Team with the highest combined oralist score is awarded two (2) Round Points. If in any such comparison, the two Teams' scores are equal, each Team is awarded one (1) Round Point.

- c. Total Round Points: In any given match, the Team receiving the greater of the five (5) available Round Points [for Preliminary Rounds] and the greater of seven (7) available Round Points [for Advanced Rounds] wins the match. If the two Teams have an equal number of Round Points, the Team with the higher Total Raw Score wins the match. If the two Teams have an equal number of Total Round Points and an equal number of Total Raw Score, the match is a draw. Methods to break the ties will be shared and discussed should the situation arise.

VII. CHAPTER 8: THE AWARDS

Article 39 - Categories of the Awards

- a. The following Awards will be given after the Final Round:
 - Champion;
 - Runner-up.
- b. The following Awards will be given by the Organisation in accordance with the scores obtained by Team members in the Preliminary Round of the Competition:
 - Best Appellant Speaker Award
 - Best Respondent Speaker Award
 - Best Researcher Award
- c. Upon completion of the entire program, each Participant shall receive a Certificate of Participation.