

Table of Contents

I.	DEFINITIONS	2
II.	INTERPRETATION	3
III.	ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION.....	4
IV.	REGISTRATION	4
V.	CLARIFICATIONS	5
VI.	MEMORIALS.....	5
VII.	ORAL ROUNDS.....	8
VIII.	STRUCTURE OF ORAL ROUNDS	10
IX.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	12
X.	IMPORTANT DATES.....	13

I. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise provided, the words used in these Rules shall be construed as hereinafter provided:

- 1.1. “*Administrator*” means the administration of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, and shall also include the members of the Committee of Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights, RGNUL;
- 1.2. “*Oral Rounds*” mean the Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Final Rounds, and the Final Round of the Competition;
- 1.3. “*Bench Memorandum*” means the memorandum of law, issues, and authorities concerning the Competition prepared by the Authors/Administration;
- 1.4. “*Bench*” refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the Oral Rounds, individually or collectively;
- 1.5. “*Committee*” means the Centre for Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights, RGNUL;
- 1.6. “*Clarifications*” refer to the explanations to the Proposition issued by the Administration and published on the official website/social media of the Moot pursuant to Rule 18;
- 1.7. “*Competition*” means the 2nd National IP Law Moot Court Competition, 2026;
- 1.8. “*Memorial*” means the written arguments submitted by each team in accordance with these Rules;
- 1.9. “*Oral Pleadings*” mean a team’s oral submissions, comprising pleadings by two oralists, presented before the Bench on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party;
- 1.10. “*Participating Team*” means a team that is eligible to participate in the Competition upon completion of the registration procedure;
- 1.11. “*Participating Institution*” means the parent institution of the participating team;

1.12. “*Proposition*” means the hypothetical Moot Proposition of the Competition released by the Administration. Clarifications, as defined under Rule 18, shall form an integral part of the Proposition;

1.13. “*Penalty*” refers to the deductions imposed on the Memorial scores of a Participating Team;

1.14. “*Petitioner*” means the side that argues on behalf of the Petitioner at any given stage of the Competition;

1.15. “*Plagiarism*” means the direct or substantial duplication of another person’s work, represented as one’s own, without proper acknowledgment through citation or quotation marks;

1.16. “*Preliminary Rounds*” mean the Oral Rounds conducted prior to the Advanced Rounds, as defined under Rule 36, for the purpose of determining qualification to the Advanced Rounds;

1.17. “*Rebuttals*” mean the arguments presented by the Petitioner in response to the Respondent’s submissions at the conclusion of the main pleadings of all oralists;

1.18. “*Respondent*” means the side that argues on behalf of the Respondent at any given stage of the Competition;

1.19. “*Scouting*” means the act of a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team with which such person is associated;

1.20. “*Oralist*” means a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round;

1.21. “*Sur-rebuttal*” means the response presented by the Respondent to the Rebuttals as defined under Clause 1.17;

1.22. “*Team Code*” means the code allotted to a Participating Institution by the Administrator upon completion of registration in accordance with Rule 11.

II. INTERPRETATION

2. The Administrators shall have the exclusive authority to interpret these Rules in the interest of fairness and equality. The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the Administrators shall be conclusive, and their decision regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.

3. The teams qualifying through the Memorial Stage shall participate in the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition, which shall be held offline from **9 March 2026 to 10 March 2026**. The Administrators reserve the right to modify the mode of the Competition. In the event of any such modification, the participants shall be notified in advance.

III. ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

4. Participation in the Competition is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing either the three-year or five-year LL.B. degree programme at any institution in India. Students pursuing LL.M. or Diploma courses shall not be eligible to participate.
5. Cross-institutional teams are permitted to participate in the Competition.
6. There is no cap on the number of teams in the competition. More than one team from an institution may participate.
7. There is no requirement to obtain permission or a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Moot Court Committee of the participant's institution to take part in the competition
8. Each Participating Team shall consist of two (2) members. Both members of the team shall be designated as Oralists or Speakers.
9. Once registered, a team shall not be permitted to alter its composition in any manner. Any change, if permitted, shall be made only with the express permission of the Administrators, at their sole discretion, upon sufficient cause being shown.
10. Any change with respect to the contact details of the participants shall be intimated to the Administrators with immediate effect.
11. Each team that has successfully completed the registration requirements under these Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Upon allotment, the Team Code shall be used by the team for all communications with the Administrators throughout the duration of the Competition.

IV. REGISTRATION

12. The last date for registration for the Moot is 5 February 2026.
13. Link for registration: <https://forms.gle/KFHV89ufYEBYs8Mv5>.
14. All Participating Institutions shall confirm their participation by duly filling out the registration form through the registration link on or before 5 February 2026, 11:59 PM IST.
15. The Participating Teams shall be required to pay a registration fee of INR 1,500/- (Early Bird) on or before 27 January 2026. Thereafter, the registration fee shall be INR 2,000/- per team.

It is clarified that the registration fee is exclusive of applicable GST. In the event that a team qualifies for the Memorial Qualifier Rounds, the fees applicable for the Advanced Rounds shall be communicated separately.

16. The link for payment of the Registration Fee is provided below:
https://rgnul.lsacademia.in/lisa_rgnul/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp.
17. The last date for depositing the Registration Fee and registration is 5 February 2026. Failure to pay the Registration Fee within the stipulated time shall result in cancellation of the registration of the Participating Team.

V. CLARIFICATIONS

18. The last date for seeking clarifications to the Moot Proposition is 11 February 2026. All such requests shall be submitted only through the prescribed [Google Form](#).
19. Requests for clarifications shall be clear, concise, and strictly confined to the facts of the case. Requests relating to substantive arguments or issues of law shall not be entertained.
20. The clarifications shall be released on 14 February 2026.

VI. MEMORIALS

21. Each team shall prepare one (1) Petitioner Memorial and one (1) Respondent Memorial. The language of all Memorials shall be English. The Memorials shall contribute to the determination of the outcome of a match in the Preliminary Rounds in the manner prescribed under Rule 35. Based on the Memorial scores, the top sixteen (16) ranked teams shall qualify for the Oral Rounds. Memorial scores may also be used for the purpose of seeding in subsequent rounds.

22. Submission of Soft Copies of Memorials:

22.1. All teams shall submit soft copies of the Memorials for each side in both MS Word and PDF formats on or before **11:59 PM IST on 20 February 2026**. Submission shall be made **only through the prescribed [Google Form](#)**.

22.2. Any submission made after the prescribed deadline, unless extended by the Administrators, shall be treated as a late submission and shall attract penalties. A penalty of **one (1) mark per hour per side**, up to a maximum of **twenty-four (24) hours**, shall be imposed for delay in submission of the soft copy. A further penalty of **one (1) mark per day per side** shall be imposed for delay in submission of the hard copy of the written submissions.

22.3. Each Memorial shall be contained in a single file. The file name shall consist of the allotted Team Code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in the Memorial, i.e., “P” for Petitioner and “R” for Respondent. For example, the Petitioner Memorial of Team Code 9 shall be titled “**TC 9P**”.

22.4. A penalty of **one (1) mark per side** shall be levied if the written submission is made in any format other than that prescribed.

23. Submission of Hard Copies of Memorials:

23.1. Only teams qualifying for the Advanced Rounds shall be required to submit hard copies of their Memorials on the day of the Draw of Lots for the Advanced Rounds. Each such team shall submit **four (4) copies** of each Memorial. The hard copies must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted earlier. Any discrepancy shall attract penalties.

24. General Conditions for Memorials:

24.1. Memorials shall not contain any form of identification other than the Team Code. Any mark, symbol, or identification that may reveal the identity of the team shall result in **immediate disqualification**.

24.2. Petitioner Memorials shall have a **blue** cover page and Respondent Memorials shall have a **red** cover page.

24.3. A penalty of **one (1) mark per side** shall be imposed if the incorrect cover page is used.

25. Guidelines for Format of Memorials:

25.1. The Memorials shall contain the following components in the order specified below:

25.1.1. Cover Page: The Cover Page shall contain the case title, side of the Memorial, year of the Competition, name of the forum, and the Team Code at the top right corner.

25.1.2. Table of Contents

25.1.3. List of Abbreviations

25.1.4. Index of Authorities: The Index of Authorities shall list all authorities cited in the Memorial and shall indicate the relevant page number(s) and/or paragraph number(s) where each authority is cited.

25.1.5. Statement of Jurisdiction

25.1.6. Statement of Facts: The Statement of Facts shall contain a concise narration of relevant facts and permissible inferences drawn therefrom. Argumentative facts are strictly

prohibited. The Statement of Facts shall not exceed **two (2) pages**. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of **one (1) mark for each excess page**.

25.1.7. Issues Raised

25.1.8. Summary of Arguments: The Summary shall concisely encapsulate the substance of the arguments and shall not merely reproduce headings or sub-headings. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed **two (2) pages**. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of **one (1) mark for each excess page**.

25.1.9. Pleadings / Arguments Advanced: All legal arguments shall be confined strictly to this section. Any violation shall attract a penalty of **two (2) marks**. The Pleadings / Arguments Advanced section together with the Prayer shall not exceed **twenty (20) pages**. Non-compliance shall result in a penalty of **one (1) mark per excess page**.

25.1.10. Prayer

Non-compliance with Clauses **25.1.1 to 25.1.8 and 25.1.10** shall result in a penalty of **one (1) mark for each missing section**. Non-compliance with Clause **25.1.9** shall result in the Memorial **not being evaluated**.

25.2. Team Code: The Team Code shall be mentioned at the top right corner of the Cover Page and shall be followed by the side for which the Memorial is prepared. Teams shall use “P” for Petitioner and “R” for Respondent (e.g., **TC 36P** or **TC 36R**).

25.3. Margin: The Memorial shall maintain uniform margins of **one (1) inch** on all sides. Non-compliance shall attract a penalty of **one (1) mark per side**.

25.4. Font, Size, and Line Spacing: The text shall be in **Times New Roman or Garamond**, font size **12**, with **1.5 line spacing**. Non-compliance shall attract a penalty of **0.5 marks per incorrect parameter**, subject to a maximum of **two (2) marks per page**.

25.5. Footnotes: Footnotes shall be in **Times New Roman or Garamond**, font size **10**, single-spaced, with double spacing between consecutive footnotes. Citations shall conform strictly to the **Harvard Bluebook (20th Edition)**. Non-compliance shall attract a penalty of **one (1) mark per page**. Substantive or speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited and shall attract a penalty of **one (1) mark per substantive citation**.

25.6. Header and Footer: The font for headers and footers, if used, shall be **Times New Roman or Garamond**, font size **10**, single-spaced. Non-compliance shall attract a penalty of **one (1) mark per page**.

25.7. Page Limit: There shall be no overall page limit for the Memorial, except that the Pleadings / Arguments Advanced section shall not exceed **twenty (20) pages**. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, or appendices shall be permitted.

26. Plagiarism: In the event plagiarism is detected in any Memorial, the concerned Participating Institution shall be issued a show-cause notice by the Administrators. Upon a finding of plagiarism, the Administrators may impose any sanction deemed appropriate, including disqualification from the Competition.

27. Memorial Evaluation Criteria:

Sl. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
1	Knowledge and Correct Application of Law	20
2	Depth and Quality of Legal Research and Use of Authorities	20
3	Clarity, Structure, and Logical Coherence of Arguments	20
4	Originality, Analytical Ability, and Issue Framing	20
5	Adherence to Formatting Rules, Citation Style, and Language Proficiency	20
	Total	100

VII. ORAL ROUNDS

28. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

26.1. Preliminary Rounds; and

26.2. Advanced Rounds, comprising:

- i. Semi-Final Rounds;
- ii. Final Round.

29. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order of oral submissions shall be as follows:

27.1. Petitioner Speaker 1;

27.2. Petitioner Speaker 2;

27.3. Respondent Speaker 1;

27.4. Respondent Speaker 2;

27.5. Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

30. **Speaker Score:** The Speaker Score shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score obtained by a speaker in the Preliminary Rounds only. The Individual Aggregate Score shall be calculated as the sum of the following:

28.1. Score obtained by the Speaker in Preliminary Round I;

28.2. Score obtained by the Speaker in Preliminary Round II; and

28.3. One-half of the Memorial Score.

31. Participants may use their own bare acts, printouts, and commentaries during the Rounds, provided that anonymity is not violated at any stage.

32. The decision of the Judges with respect to the marks awarded to each team shall be final and binding.

33. Teams shall notify the Court Clerks of the division of time between the two (2) Speakers, including time reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals, prior to the commencement of the Round. Once communicated, such time allocation shall not be altered.

34. The Judges may, at their discretion, extend the prescribed time limits. The determination of the time structure and the discretion to permit Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals shall vest solely with the Judges.

35. Oral Round Scoring Criteria

Sl. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
1	Knowledge of Law and Applicable Law	20

Sl. No.	Criteria	Marks Allotted
2	Application of Legal Principles to the Facts	20
3	Advocacy Skills, Clarity of Speech, and Court Etiquette	20
4	Responsiveness to Judicial Questions and Presence of Mind	20
5	Time Management	20
	Total	100

VIII. STRUCTURE OF ORAL ROUNDS

36. Preliminary Rounds:

36.1. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once on behalf of the Petitioner and once on behalf of the Respondent. No two teams shall face each other more than once during the Preliminary Rounds.

36.2. The match-ups for the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined by a draw of lots. The draw of lots shall take place on **7 March 2026**.

36.3. Each side shall be allotted a maximum of **thirty (30) minutes** to present its arguments, of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than **eighteen (18) minutes**. The allotted time shall be inclusive of time reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals. The maximum time for Rebuttal shall be **two (2) minutes**, and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal shall be **one (1) minute**. Each Speaker shall be required to argue for a minimum of **twelve (12) minutes**, exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

36.4. Scoring:

36.4.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the ranking of teams shall be determined on the basis of a combination of Memorial Scores and Speaker Scores. Based on such cumulative scores, the **top four (4) teams** shall qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds.

37. Semi-Final Rounds:

37.1. The four (4) teams qualifying for the Semi-Final Rounds shall each argue **once only**, for the side allotted to them by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be determined accordingly.

37.2. Two (2) teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock-out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi-Final Round shall advance to the Final Round. The Bench strength for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be an odd number, but not one.

37.3. For the Semi-Final Rounds, each team shall be allotted **forty-five (45) minutes** to present its arguments, which may be distributed at the team's discretion, provided that no Oralist is allotted less than **fifteen (15) minutes** or more than **twenty-five (25) minutes** for the presentation of main arguments. A maximum of **five (5) minutes** may be reserved for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal.

38.4. Scoring:

38.4.1. Qualification to the Final Round shall be determined solely on the basis of **cumulative Speaker Scores** obtained in the Semi-Final Rounds.

39. Final Round:

39.1. The two (2) teams qualifying for the Final Round shall each argue **once only**, for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The Bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number, but not one.

39.2. The team that wins the Final Round shall be declared the **“Winning Team”**, and the opposing team shall be declared the **“Runners-Up Team.”**

39.3. For the Final Round, each team shall be allotted **forty-five (45) minutes** to present its arguments, which may be distributed at the team's discretion, subject to the condition that no Oralist is allotted less than **fifteen (15) minutes** or more than **twenty-five (25) minutes** for the presentation of main arguments. A maximum of **five (5) minutes** may be reserved for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal.

39.4. Scoring:

39.4.1. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined solely on the basis of the **Oral Round scores**.

39.4.2. The time allocation and rebuttal provisions under Rule **37.3** shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Final Round.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

40. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Any instance of scouting by a team member shall result in **immediate disqualification** of the concerned team.

41. If a team scheduled to participate in a Round fails to appear within **ten (10) minutes** of the scheduled time, the opposing team present shall be permitted to proceed **ex parte**.

42. Participants shall conduct themselves in a dignified and professional manner and shall not cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, the Judges of the Competition, or any other participants.

43. The Administrator reserves the right to take appropriate action against any unethical, unprofessional, or immoral conduct.

44. Facilities such as photocopying, library access, and internet connectivity may be provided, subject to the convenience of the Administrators, and details thereof shall be communicated to the teams prior to the commencement of the Competition. Notwithstanding the same, participants are advised to make their own arrangements for such facilities.

45. The Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or misplacement of belongings of any team during the Competition.

46. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents, or other administrative decisions relating to the conduct of the Competition, shall lie solely within the discretion of the Administrators. Any decision so taken shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

47. All queries relating to the Moot Proposition and the Rules and Regulations shall be addressed **only via email** to **ciipr@rgnul.ac.in**.

48. Any other queries, may be addressed to the designated Team Heads:

Vasundra Koul +91 8427683710

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Dev Arora +91 9560659468

X. IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Registration	5th February, 2026
Last Date for Seeking Clarifications	11th February, 2026
Release of Clarifications	14th February, 2026
Deadline for Memorial Submission	20th February, 2026
Results of Memorial Qualifier Rounds	25th February, 2026
Oral Rounds (Offline)	9-10 March, 2026
Valedictory	10th March, 2026