



12TH RGNUL

**NATIONAL MOOT COURT
COMPETITION, 2024**

(4th April, 2024 – 6th April, 2024)

KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERS

RULES & REGULATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. *Short Title:*

These Rules shall be called the ‘12th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition Rules, 2024’.

2. *Definitions:*

Unless otherwise stated following shall be construed herein under as–

- i. “**Administrator**” shall mean Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab.
- ii. “**Appellant**” shall include Appellant, Plaintiff, Petitioner, Complainant, Prosecution, Informant, etc.
- iii. “**Bench**” refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the oral rounds, individually or collectively.
- iv. “**Clarifications**” means explanation published by the Host University to the moot problem, with regards to query posed by any participating team of the Competition within the given deadline.
- v. “**Competition**” means 12th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2024.
- vi. “**Moot Proposition**” means the Proposition released by the Organizers on the date specified in Rule II (2) and shall include any subsequent clarification(s) as and when released by the Organizers.
- vii. “**Oral Score**” means the scores given by the judge to a particular orator/speaker of the participating team pleading before the bench during the round of oral assessment.
- viii. “**Orator**” means one of the two designated speakers in a participating team.

- ix. **“Organizers”** means the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Moot Court Committee.
- x. **“Participating Team”** means the team which is eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure.
- xi. **“Participating Institution”** shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams.
- xii. **“Respondent”** shall include Defendant, Respondent, Defence, etc.
- xiii. **“Rules”** means the 12th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2024 Rules.
- xiv. **“Team Code”** means a unique code assigned by the Host University to the registered participating team.
- xv. **“Written Submissions”** means the memorandum of written submissions (memorials) submitted by any participating team according to the rules of the Competition.

II. GENERAL RULES

1. Date and Venue of the Competition:

The 12th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2024 will be held in **Online Mode** from 4th April 2024 to 6th April 2024 through the Cisco Webex software.

The organizers reserve the right to switch the mode of the Competition. The participants will be notified in advance of the mode of the Competition in case of any modifications.

2. Date of Release of Moot Proposition:

The Moot Proposition will release in the **Second Week of February, 2024.**

3. *Team Eligibility and Composition:*

- i. Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing the three years or five years LL.B. degree course in any institution in India. Students pursuing their LL.M. and Diploma courses are not eligible for participation.
 - ii. Only one team shall be allowed to represent each participating institution.
 - iii. Each participating team should have three participating members. In a team, two members shall be designated as 'Speakers' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.
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4. *Registration Procedure:*

- i. **Registration:** The registration for the moot shall open on 08th of February, 2024. A total of 32 slots are available for the moot, meaning thereby that the registration for the moot shall take place on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- ii. All the participating institutions have to confirm participation by filling the registration form via [the registration link](#), on or before 29th February, 2024, 11:59.
- iii. In furtherance to this, the participating Universities are required to send a detailed mail consisting the details of the participating members along with an **Authorization Letter/Mail**.
- iv. **Allotment of Team Code:** Each team which has successfully completed the Registration requirements under the Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Once the Code is allotted, every team must use this team code for any further communication(s) with the Organizers during the entire course of the Competition.
- v. **Change in Team Composition:** Any change in team composition must be intimated to the Organizer at the earliest via a mail to the nootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in.

- vi. **Registration Fees:** The participating teams are required to pay **INR 3,000/-** as registration fees at the time of registration. The Link for the payment of Registration Fees: https://lsacademia.in/lsa_rgnul/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp
- vii. The last date to depositing the registration fees is **29th February, 2024**. Non-payment of Registration Fees shall result in cancellation of Registration of the Participating Team. In such a scenario, the newly available slot shall be given to the next team in line.

5. Dress Code:

- i. The Participants are expected to be appropriately attired for the rounds of the Competition. Robes and collar bands are not permitted.
- ii. The Dress Code for the Inauguration, Oral Rounds and Valedictory & Prize Distribution shall strictly be:
 - a. **For Gentlemen** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants and a black blazer); and
 - b. **For Ladies** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals.

III. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by submitting [this google form](#) on or before **04th March, 2024**. **Clarification requests sent after this date shall not be entertained.**

IV. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

1. Strict Adherence to Rules Regarding Written Submissions:

All requirements have to be strictly followed. Non adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.

2. Written Submissions to be prepared from Both Sides:

Each team must prepare Written Submissions for both sides to the dispute.

3. Submission of Soft Copy of Written Submissions:

- i. The soft copies of the written submission from each side should be **uploaded on [this google form](#)** and also sent to the Organizers on mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in in both **.docx** and **.pdf** format latest by **22nd March, 2024 before 11:59 PM.**
- ii. The subject of the mail shall be **“Written Submission: TC ”**.
- iii. The name of the files shall be in accordance with the following format - **TC 01 A/TC 01 R.**
- iv. Written Submissions from both sides should be sent as attachments in a single e-mail.
- v. A penalty of 1 mark shall be levied in case:
 - a. the written submission is submitted in any other format and/or;
 - b. multiple files are submitted by the team.
- vi. A team submitting the soft copies 24 hours after the deadline shall stand disqualified from the Competition, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Organizers.

4. Penalty for Late Submission:

- i. A penalty of 1 mark per hour per side, up to 24 hours past the deadline, shall be deducted in case of delay in the submission of soft copy of written submissions.
- ii. A further penalty of 1 mark per day per side shall be levied in case of delay in submission of hard copy of written submission.

5. General Conditions for Written Submissions:

- i. The Written Submissions shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc. which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the written submission, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- ii. Appellant's Written Submissions are required to have a Blue cover page and Respondent's Written Submissions are required to have a Red cover page.
- iii. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page of the written submission.

6. Guidelines for Formatting:

- i. Written Submissions Structure: The Written Submissions must contain following contents:
 - a. *Cover Page* – The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the written submission, year of Competition, name of the forum and team Code on top right corner;
 - b. *Table of Contents*;
 - c. *List of Abbreviations*;
 - d. *Index of Authorities*: The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Written submission. The Index must indicate the page number(s)

and/or the paragraph number(s) of the Written submission in which the authority is cited;

e. *Statement of Jurisdiction;*

f. *Statement of Facts:* The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page;

g. *Issues Raised;*

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

i. *Pleadings / Arguments Advanced:*

1. All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the written submission. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks.
2. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page;

j. *Prayer.*

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

ii. **Team Code:** The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the

cover page. The code must be succeeded by the side for which the written submission is prepared. The teams must use “A” for Appellant / P for “Petitioner” / D for “Defendant,” / R for “Respondent.” For example: in case the Team Code is 36 the team must write “TC- 36A” in case of written submission for Appellant and “TC-36R” in case of written submission for Respondent.

iii. **Margin:** The Written submission must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark each side of Written Submissions.

iv. **Font, size and line spacing:** The text font should be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 12 and must be in 1.5 line spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 0.5 mark per incorrect format of font, size and line spacing with a maximum of 2 marks per page of the Written Submissions.

v. **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10 and singly spaced. There should be double line spacing between two footnotes. The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20th Edition) should be followed in the written submission throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.

vi. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, 1 spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Written Submissions.

Page Limit: There is no maximum page limit on the Written Submissions and the pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be of a maximum of 20 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.

Sr. No.	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1	Evidence of Original Thought	20
2	Knowledge of Law and Facts	20
3	Proper and Articulate Analysis	20
4	Clarity and Organization	10
5	Extent and Use of Research	10
6	Correct Format and Citation	10
7	Grammar and Style	10
	Total	100

V. ORAL PLEADING ROUNDS

1. *General Procedure:*

- i. Draw of lots will take place on **4th April, 2024**. The language to be used during the Oral Pleading Rounds shall only be English.
- ii. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

- a. **Preliminary Rounds;** and

- b. **Advanced Rounds:**

- i. Quarter-Finals
 - ii. Semi-Finals
 - iii. Finals

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

- a. Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 1;
 - b. Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 2;
 - c. Respondent Speaker 1;
 - d. Respondent Speaker 2;
 - e. Rebuttal: Appellant - Any one of the two Speakers;
 - f. Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers.

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

- v. The Best Speaker Award shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds. Individual Aggregate Score shall be determined as the sum of the following:

- a) Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round I;
 - b) Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round II; and
 - c) Half of Memorial Score
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- vi. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may however, be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at the discretion of the Judges. Such notes shall be passed through the court clerks present in the court room.
 - vii. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Written Submissions.
 - viii. The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the Oral Rounds, subject to the discretion of the judges. (Subject to the condition that the rounds are conducted on campus in Offline Mode.)
 - ix. Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
 - x. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

2. Splitting of Time between Speakers:

- i. Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- ii. If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals as the case may be. This rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded at the discretion of the Judges to not be deducted from the time of the subsequent Speaker.
- iii. While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.

- iv. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with Judges.

3. Exchange of Written Submissions:

- i. The exchange of Written Submissions shall take place prior to the Oral Pleading Rounds.
- ii. Teams are prohibited from making any marks on the opponent's Written Submissions thus exchanged. Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Written Submission, electronically or otherwise.

4. Preliminary Rounds:

- i. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Appellant and once for the Respondent.

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No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

- ii. **Draw of Lots:** The match up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of draw of lots. Draw of lots shall take place on 4th April, 2024.
- iii. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

5. Scoring in the Oral Rounds

1. The Preliminary Rounds

- 1.1. There will be two (2) Preliminary Rounds to ensure that each team is given the opportunity to argue from both sides of the Proposition.
- 1.2. The fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds shall be determined by draw of lots.
- 1.3. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the criteria of evaluation of the memorials scores and the speaker scores from which the top 8 teams will proceed to the Quarter-Final Rounds.

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2. The Quarter-Final Rounds

2.1. The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be based on the system of power matchup as follows:

Rank 1 v. Rank 8 (Quarter Final Round I)

Rank 2 v. Rank 7 (Quarter Final Round II)

Rank 3 v. Rank 6 (Quarter Final Round III)

Rank 4 v. Rank 5 (Quarter Final Round IV)

2.2. For the Quarter Final Rounds, each team shall argue ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

2.3. Four (4) teams shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Quarter Final Round shall qualify to the Semi Final Rounds. The knockouts will be decided on the basis of the rules mentioned above (1.6), i.e. based on the score of the oral rounds only.

2.4. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties shall be ranked higher.

3. **The Semi Final Rounds**

3.1. The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:

Winner of Quarter Final Round I v. Winner of Quarter Final Round IV

Winner of Quarter Final Round II v. Winner of Quarter Final Round III

3.2. Two (2) teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi Final Rounds shall qualify to the Final Round. The knockouts will be decided on the basis of the rules mentioned above (1.6), i.e. based on the score of the oral rounds only. The bench-strength for this round shall be an odd number but not one(1).

3.3. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties shall be ranked higher.

4. **The Final Round**

4.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

4.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the 'Winning Team'. The other team shall be declared as the 'Runners-Up Team'.

4.3. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on the basis of the rules mentioned above (1.6), i.e. based on the score of the oral rounds only. The bench-strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one (1).

4.4. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties shall be ranked higher.

7. Scouting:

- i. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
 - ii. Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organizers.
 - iii. Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.
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8. Delay in Appearance/Presentation:

If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

9. Scoring Criteria:

S. NO.	MARKING CRITERIA	Max Marks
1.	Knowledge of Law	10
2.	Logic and Reasoning	10
3.	Organisation and Clarity	10
4.	Persuasiveness	10
5.	Deference to Court	10
6.	Proper and Articulate Analysis of Issues	10
7.	Understanding of Relevant Legal Principles	10
8.	Knowledge and Use of Legal Authorities and General Principles of National Law	10
9.	Ingenuity, Analogous Reasoning and Ability to Answer Questions	10
10.	Reference to Written Submissions/ Compendium and Adherence to Time	10
	Total	100

VII. AWARDS

The following awards shall be awarded in the Competition:

- i. **Best Team:** The Team winning the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 20,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty Thousand Only).
- ii. **Runners Up:** The runners up team in the final round of the Competition shall be given a trophy and a cash prize of INR 15,000/- (Indian Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only).
- iii. **Best Speaker:** The speaker having the highest score in the preliminary rounds shall be given a cash prize of INR 8,000/- (Indian Rupees Eight Thousand Only).
- iv. **Best Written Submission:** The team having the highest average written submission score from both sides shall be given a cash prize of INR 8,000/- (Indian Rupees Eight Thousand Only)
- v. Certificates of merit shall be given to all the teams qualifying for the Quarter-finals and beyond.
- vi. Certificate of participation shall be given to all the participating teams.
- vii. The awards, certificates of merit and certificates of participation shall be given during the valedictory ceremony to be conducted on 6th April, 2024. No certificate will be given to the team before or after the valedictory function.



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IX. MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Etiquette:

- i. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizers, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.
 - ii. The Organizers reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.
 - iii. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Organizers and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Irrespective, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.
 - iv. The Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.
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2. Interpretation of Rules & Regulations:

- i. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Organizers.
- ii. Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

X. Correspondence / Contact Data

1. Registration Formalities:

The address for correspondence for all the Formalities and Written Submissions is:

Dr. Geetika Walia,
Coordinator, Moot Court Committee
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab,
Sidhuwal Campus, Bhadson Road, Patiala – 147001.

XI. Moot Proposition/Rules and Regulation

Any and all clarifications and queries regarding the Moot Proposition and Rules & Regulations shall be sought only via e-mail to **mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in**.

Any other queries (other than the Moot Problem) may be directed at the following persons:

Dr. Geetika Walia (Faculty Co-coordinator)	+91 - 9646023882
Ms. Divyani Saldi (Student Convener)	+91- 6283672133
Mr. Satrajit Somavanshi (Student Convener)	+91- 9140667691

12th RGNUL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024

(4th April, 2024 – 6th April, 2024)

LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

Notification of the Competition and Release of the Moot Proposition	Second Week February, 2024
Last Date of registration form (submission of registration form online)	29 th February, 2024
Last Date for Seeking Clarifications	4 th March, 2024
Release of Clarifications	9 th March, 2024
Last Date of Submission of Soft Copy of Written Submissions	22 nd March, 2024
Draw of Lots and Exchange of Written Submissions	4 th April, 2024
Preliminary Rounds and Quarters	5 th April, 2024
Semi Final and Final Rounds	6 th April, 2024
Valedictory and Prize Distribution	6 th April, 2024

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