CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

7th Surana & Surana and RGNUL International Arbitral Award Writing Competition, 2026

RULEBOOK



www.rgnulcadr.in

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. The Competition shall be conducted in two phases:
   a. **Phase I** - Arbitral Award Submission; and
   b. **Phase II** - Arbitral Award Presentation.
2. Phase I shall comprise the submission of Arbitral Awards in accordance with the **Submission Guidelines** prescribed under this Rulebook and within the notified deadline.
3. All submissions shall be evaluated anonymously against the criteria in Annexure II. The top **ten (10)** entries by Phase I score shall be shortlisted for Phase II.
4. In Phase II, i.e., the Award Presentation Phase, the shortlisted participants shall present their awards before a panel of judges in an online format, in accordance with the **Presentation Guidelines** set out in this Rulebook.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Competition is open to students pursuing an undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, or any other academic programme at any university worldwide at the time of registration.
2. Participants may register individually or in a team of two. A team shall be treated as a single entry.
3. Teams comprising participants from different institutions are permitted, provided that each participant independently satisfies the eligibility criteria.
4. An entry submitted by a student of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), whether individually or as part of a team, shall not be eligible for the first, second, or third prizes.
5. No fee shall be charged for registration, submission of the Arbitral Award, or participation in the Presentation Round.

STRUCTURE OF THE ARBITRAL AWARD

1. Participants shall draft an arbitral award on the basis of the Competition Problem. The Award shall broadly follow the structure outlined below. Participants are encouraged to refer to the Draft Arbitral Award given under Annexure I for guidance:
   a. **Cover Page, bearing only the Team Code and no identifying information of the participant(s) or institution(s);**

b. **Background of Facts and Issues;**

c. **Arguments of the Claimant(s);**

d. **Arguments of the Respondent(s);**

e. **Decision/Reasoning of the Tribunal;**

f. **Conclusion, arranged issue-wise;**

g. **Operative Award, including costs;**

h. **Signature(s) of the Arbitrator(s); and**

i. **Place and Date of Arbitration.**

2. The award may favour either the Claimant(s) or the Respondent(s) but must be well-reasoned and thoroughly analysed.

3. The guidelines in this Section are directive and not restrictive. Participants may exercise discretion in drafting, provided they comply with the overarching rules of the Competition.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

The following formatting guidelines shall be adhered to while preparing the arbitral award:

a. **Font:** Times New Roman;
b. **Font Size:** 12 for the main body of the award, and 10 for footnotes;
c. **Line Spacing:** 1.5 for the main body, and single spacing for footnotes;
d. **Alignment:** Justified;
e. **Margins:** 1 inch on all sides;
f. **Page Numbering:** Pages shall be numbered consecutively at the top-right corner of each page.
g. **Citation Style:** Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 22nd edition; and
h. **Page Limit:** The Arbitral Award shall not exceed 30 pages, inclusive of the cover page and footnotes.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Participants must register for the Competition by **11:59 PM IST on 28th November, 2026**, by filling out the **Registration Form** [here]. Registration and submission of the Arbitral Award shall be carried out through **separate forms**, and completion of the Registration Form alone shall not constitute submission of the Award.

2. Upon successful registration, each registered entry shall be allotted a Team Code, which shall be used for all subsequent submissions and communications relating to the Competition.
3. The Award must be submitted by the registered participants in both Microsoft Word (.docx) and PDF formats. The files must be named "[Team Code]_ArbitralAward".
4. Participants must submit their Awards by **11:59 PM IST on 20th December, 2026**, by filling out the **Submission Form [here].** Submissions received after the prescribed deadline shall not be considered for evaluation.
5. The Award shall not contain the name, institution, contact details, or any other identifying information of the participant(s). Participants shall ensure that identifying metadata is removed from the submitted files.
6. The use of Generative AI tools in the preparation of the final submission is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this requirement shall result in immediate disqualification.
7. Requests for clarifications may be submitted through the **Clarification Form [here]** by **11:59 PM IST on 28th November, 2026**. Responses shall be shared with all registered participants to ensure uniformity.
8. Only one submission per registered entry shall be accepted. In the event of multiple submissions by the same entry, only the last submission received before the deadline shall be considered for evaluation.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

1. SHORTLISTING AND FORMAT

a. The top **ten (10)** entries in Phase I score shall be shortlisted.

b. The Presentation round shall be held **online**. The date, schedule, meeting link, and other instructions shall be communicated by the Organising Committee to the shortlisted participants/teams.

c. Each shortlisted participant/team shall present its Arbitral Award before a panel of judges.

2. TIME ALLOCATION

a. Each participant/team shall be allotted **15 minutes** for the presentation of its Arbitral Award, followed by **5 minutes** for questions from the panel. The total time allocated to each participant/team shall be **20 minutes.**

b. The panel may, at its discretion, grant an extension of time, pose questions during the presentation, or combine the presentation and questioning segments.

c. The timekeeper shall issue a warning when **two minutes remain** in the allotted presentation time and shall indicate when the allotted time has expired. The presentation shall conclude upon expiry of the allotted time, unless the panel grants an extension.

d. In case of co-authorship, team members may divide the allotted presentation time between themselves. However, teamwork shall form an integral component of the evaluation.

3. Presentation Materials

a. Participants may use a PowerPoint presentation and may also submit a compendium to the panel. Soft copies of any such materials must be emailed to submissions.cadr@rgnul.ac.in and ai@lawindia.com no later than **16 January 2027**.

b. Materials must bear only the Team Code. Late or non-submitted materials may not be presented.

c. Presentations must be confined to the award as submitted. Participants are not permitted to introduce new findings that depart from the submitted award. Further, the use of Generative AI tools in preparation of the presentation materials is strictly prohibited.

4. Online Conduct and Technical Requirements

a. Participants are requested to ensure that they have a stable internet connection, a working camera and microphone, and a quiet environment before the commencement of their slot.

b. Cameras must remain switched on throughout the round. Virtual backgrounds and any display of institutional affiliation through logos or attire are prohibited.

c. Participants must join the designated platform at least 10 minutes before their allotted slot. A delay exceeding 10 minutes may result in forfeiture of the slot.

d. Rounds may be recorded by the Organising Committee for evaluation and archival purposes. Participants shall not record the proceedings.

e. In case of a genuine technical difficulty, the Organising Committee may, at its discretion, pause the round, allow a short reconnection window, or reschedule the slot. Time lost due to technical failure shall be compensated at the discretion of the panel.

f. Participants shall not receive assistance from any third party during the round.

5. Final Scoring

a. The final score of each shortlisted entry shall be the aggregate of: Phase I award score (Annexure II, out of 100) normalised to 60%, and Phase II presentation score (Annexure III, out of 100) normalised to 40%.

b. Entries not shortlisted shall be ranked by their Phase I scores.

c. In the event of a tie in the final score, preference shall be given first to the higher score under **"Legal Analysis and Reasoning"** in Phase I, and then to the same parameter in Phase II.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding in case of any dispute or ambiguity regarding the interpretation of these Rules.
2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend these rules, including dates, where necessary. Amendments shall be communicated to all registered participants.
3. The Organising Committee reserves the right to publish or share the award and presentation of shortlisted participants, without the participants' prior consent.

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening of Registrations	**07.11.2026**
Release of Problem	**07.11.2026**
Closing of Registrations	**28.11.2026**
Last Date for Seeking Clarifications	**28.11.2026**
Release of Clarifications	**01.12.2026**
Submission of Arbitral Awards	**20.12.2026**
Announcement of Shortlisted Candidates for Online Presentation	**05.01.2027**
Online Presentation	**17.01.2027**

CONTACT DETAILS

Co-Host & Joint Administrator

Mr. Preetam Surana

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Head - Academic Initiatives

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ANNEXURE I: DRAFT AWARD

1. **Cover Page**

2. **Background of Facts and Issues:**

3. **Arguments of the Claimant(s):**

4. **Arguments of the Respondent(s):**

5. **Decision/Reasoning of the Tribunal:**

6. **Conclusion (Issue-wise):**

   I. ….

   II. ….

   III. ….

7. **Operative Award (Including Costs):**

   I. ….

   II. ….

   III. ….

_____ _____ _____

Arbitrator 1 Arbitrator 2 Arbitrator 3

[Place of Arbitration]

ANNEXURE II: SCORING CRITERIA FOR THE ARBITRAL AWARD

CRITERIA	WEIGHTAGE (MARKS)
Legal Analysis and Reasoning	20
Application of Substantive and Procedural Law, Depth of Research and Legal Accuracy	20
Reasoning on Reliefs and Remedies	10
Interpretation of Facts and Evidence	10
Clarity, Coherence, and Structure	10
Formatting, Referencing, Presentation and Compliance with Rules	10
Adherence to Arbitration Principles and Enforceability	10
Originality and Creativity	10
TOTAL	**100**

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event of a tie at the award evaluation stage, preference shall be given to the participant/team scoring higher in ***Legal Analysis and Reasoning.***

ANNEXURE III: SCORING CRITERIA FOR THE ONLINE PRESENTATION

CRITERIA	WEIGHTAGE (MARKS)
Knowledge and Relevance of the Subject	20
Legal Analysis and Reasoning	20
Response to Questions	20
Structure and Time Management	20
Manner of Presentation	20
TOTAL	**100**