

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. Definitions:

a) Advanced rounds: It refers to the Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Final rounds of the Competition.

b) Memorial: It means the written arguments submitted, on behalf of both Parties, according to the official competition rules by each team.

c) Memorial Evaluators: It refers to the evaluators who will be responsible for marking the memorials submitted by the teams.

d) Oral rounds: It refers to a team's pleadings, comprising of both speakers, submitted orally in front of the judges on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.

e) Parties: It refers to the parties to the dispute as identified by the moot proposition as Informant/Appellant and Opposite Party/Respondent.

f) Preliminary rounds: It refers to the Oral Rounds which will take place before the Advanced Rounds of the Competition for the purpose of determining the teams which will proceed to the Advanced Rounds.

g) Raw Scores: The aggregate of the memorial scores and the preliminary oral round scores in the round will constitute the Raw Scores of a team for a specific round.

h) Round Points: For every round, every team will be evaluated on two aspects: memorial score and score in the oral rounds. The memorial of every team will be scored by two (2) Memorial Evaluators.

The memorial score of a team as marked by each Memorial Evaluator will be compared against the memorial score of the other team by the same Memorial Evaluator. The team which receives a higher memorial score will be awarded one and a half (1.5) round points per evaluator. Similarly, in oral rounds, a higher score given by a Judge in a Preliminary Round will carry three (3) round points per judge and a higher score given by a Judge in Quarter-finals and Semifinals will carry two (2) round points per judge.

i) Rules: Rules mean these official Competition Rules and any applicable supplements to these Rules published by the Competition Administrator.

j) Scouting: Scouting is the act of attending a round in which the members of the team or any person related to the team are not competing.

k) Team code: Team code refers to the unique number allotted to each participating team for the purpose of this Competition.

2. Eligibility:

All students enrolled in a 3-year LLB programme or a 5-year integrated LLB programme shall be eligible to participate in the CCI-HNLU 12th HNMCC 2022. However, only one team per university/institution shall be eligible to participate.

3. Team Composition:

The team composition shall be as follows: 2 Speakers & 1 Researcher. The teams may choose to participate without a Researcher.

4. Registration:

Registration for the CCI-HNLU 12th HNMCC 2022 will open on December 12th, 2021. The last date for registration shall be 11:59 PM, January 15th, 2022.

The registration fee for the Competition is ₹5,000 and has to be paid either through RTGS/NEFT/IMPS or through a Demand Draft. The payment details can be found in the registration form.

The following documents shall be submitted by the teams at the time of registration:

- A letter of approval from the university permitting the team to take part in the competition.
- Scanned copy of Demand Draft of the registration fee or the Receipt of online payment.

The registration form can be accessed [here](#).

5. Assistance to a team from another team (s) or third parties:

Teams are not permitted to receive substantive assistance towards the preparation of memorials or arguments from any third parties, including teachers, alumni, students, etc. Any team found getting such assistance from third parties shall be immediately disqualified.

Further, in the event of collusion between two or more teams, all concerned teams will be subject to immediate disqualification.

6. Clarifications to the Moot Proposition:

Clarifications can be sought until 11:59 PM, January 5th, 2022.

7. Rights over the memorials:

The Competition Administrator reserves the right to disseminate and reproduce the memorials for the purpose of the Competition. Submission of memorials in this Moot will constitute the consent of the teams to such dissemination and reproduction.

The Competition Administrator will not be responsible for any mistakes that are a part of the memorial.

8. Memorial Rules:

A. Format:

a) Each participating team is required to prepare a memorial for each party to the dispute with the following mandatory heads:

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Index of Authorities
- Statement of Jurisdiction
- Statement of Facts (not exceeding 2 pages)
- Issues Raised
- Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 2 pages)
- Arguments Advanced (not exceeding 20 pages)
- Final Submission/Prayer (not exceeding 1 page)

b) Teams shall cite authorities using footnotes in accordance with 20th Edition of Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation.

c) The Cover Page of each memorial must contain only the following information:

- The Team Code in the upper right corner of each memorial
- The name of the forum resolving the dispute
- The name of the Competition
- The Cause Title
- The party for which the memorial is prepared

d) All teams shall send one copy of the memorials in .docx format (Microsoft Office 2019, 2016, 2013 or 2010) as well as .pdf format to 12hnmcc2022@hnl.u.ac.in on or before 11:59 PM, February 10th, 2022, with the subject line as 'Memorials for <Team Code>'.

- All four files (two .docx and two .pdf) should be submitted through a single mail.
- Memorials submitted twelve (12) hours i.e. after 11.59 AM, February 11th, 2022, will not be accepted and shall be disqualified from the Competition.
- A memorial once submitted will be considered as final, and cannot be revised.
- In the scenario where any memorial is sent in late (in separate emails), the penalty for late submission imposed on the latter memorial will be imposed on both the memorials equally.
- The penalty will also be imposed if the aforementioned documents are sent in separate emails.

e) It is the responsibility of each participating team to ensure that the electronic copies of the memorials:

- Can be opened with Microsoft Office 2019, 2016, 2013 or 2010 (.docx format) and Adobe Acrobat Reader 9 (.pdf format).
- Are named according to the team code and the party for which the memorial is proposed. (For instance, Team 01 will name its memorials as 01 I and 01 OP where 'I' is the Informant/Appellant and 'OP' is Opposite Party/Respondent)

f) The teams have to submit four (4) sets of hard copies for each side of the memorials to the Competition Administrator on or before February 17, 2022.

g) All parts of the memorial (including headers, footers and headings) shall be typed on A4 sized paper/format, with the following formatting specifications:

- Font Type: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12
- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Margins: 1 inch on each side

h) For footnotes, the Formatting Specifications are:

- Font Type: Times New Roman Font Size: 10
- Single Spacing between lines
- Margins: 1 inch on each side
- Speaking footnotes or endnotes are not allowed.

i) The memorials shall be spiral bound. The following colour schemes should be followed for the cover page of the memorial:

- Informant/Appellant – BLUE
- Opposite Party/Respondent – RED

j) The memorials shall not contain any annexure, photograph, graph, diagram or any other representation of like nature.

k) The hard copies of the memorials have to be identical to the soft copies submitted by the team. In case of any violation of this rule, the team shall incur a penalty, subject to the decision of the Competition Administrator.

B. Penalties:

a) Any memorial violating any of the specifications mentioned under Rule 8.A will be penalized according to the following scheme:

S. No.	Criterion	Penalty (each side)
1.	Late submission of Memorials	(-) 1 mark each, for every hour after the deadline
2.	Exceeding page limit prescribed in Rule (a)	(-) 1 mark per extra page
3.	Not following the Rules (c), (g) & (h)	(-) 0.5 mark per specification per page
4.	Not following Rule (b)	(-) 0.5 per violation, with a cap of 0.5 per page
5.	Exclusion of items mentioned in Rule (a)	(-) 2 mark per specification
6.	Submitting memorials in multiple emails	(-) 1 mark
7.	Speaking footnote or endnote	(-) 0.5 mark per footnote

b) There will be a maximum cap on the penalties which are imposed for the violations mentioned in the table:

- For late submission of memorials, a maximum of 12 marks will be imposed as penalties.
- For not following the formatting specifications prescribed in Rules (c), (g) & (h) as mentioned under Rule 8.A along with speaking footnotes and endnotes, a maximum penalty of 20 marks will be imposed.
- No cap on penalties will be imposed on any specification other than those mentioned above.

c) Plagiarism in "Arguments Advanced" and "Summary of Arguments" shall be punishable by immediate disqualification. Plagiarism up to 10% is permissible. No relaxation will be made in the above rule under any circumstances.

d) Appeals regarding penalties shall lie with the Competition Administrator and the decision shall be final and binding.

C. Scoring criteria:

The marks distribution for the memorial shall be as follows:

S. No.	Criterion	Marks
1.	Application of Facts	25 marks
2.	Reasoning	25 marks
3.	Use of Authorities and Precedent	20 marks
4.	Understanding Law and Procedure	20 marks
5.	Presentation	10 marks

9. Anonymity:

There should be no indication of the institutions which the team represents, or the name of the members in the memorials or any other material carried inside the courtroom. The teams must also not disclose such information during the oral rounds. The teams should not attempt to disclose such information to the Judges, or any other person as decided by the Competition Administrator, for the entire duration of the Moot Court Competition.

The violation of this rule will cause severe penalties, which may involve disqualification, as determined by the Competition Administrator.

10. Format of the Competition:

The Moot shall consist of Preliminary rounds and Advanced rounds. Each team will argue in two (2) preliminary rounds, once on behalf of each Party. In the Advanced rounds, the teams would represent only one side in each round.

11. Researcher Test

A Researcher Test shall be conducted for adjudicating the "Best Researcher" on 18th February 2022. The Speakers shall not be eligible to participate in the test. However, in the case of a 2 member team, one of the speakers shall be eligible to appear for the Researcher Test and that shall be notified to the Organizers at the time of Formal Registration.

12. Oral Rounds:

A. Format:

In the Preliminary rounds, power match-up (Team 1 v. Team 20, Team 2 v. Team 19 and so on) and slide match-up system (Team 1 v. Team 11, Team 2 v. Team 12 and so on) shall be used to determine the match-ups in the first and the second round respectively. The teams with the highest number of wins will proceed to the Advanced Rounds from the Preliminary Rounds. The team with the higher number of Round Points in a round will be deemed to have won a round.

In a situation where there exists a tie in the number of two or more teams, the team with the higher number of total Round points will proceed to the Advanced Rounds. If the tie still subsists, it will be decided in the following order:

- On the basis of Raw Scores
- On the basis of 'Reasoning in the Application of Principles'
- The final decision will be made on the basis of a Coin Toss

The marks breakup for the Oral Rounds shall be as follows:

S. No.	Criterion	Marks
1.	Response to Questions and Articulation	25 marks
2.	Reasoning in the Application of Principles	25 marks
3.	Use of Authorities and Precedents	20 marks
4.	Application of Facts	20 marks
5.	Advocacy Skills, Court Craft and Demeanor	10 marks

B. Bench strength:

The Bench for the purposes of the Preliminary Rounds shall consist of two judges. For the Advanced Rounds, there will be a three-judge bench for Quarter-finals & Semifinals and a five-judge bench for the Final.

C. Communication between members of the team:

During the Oral Rounds, communication between the members of a team shall be allowed, however, the same must be in written form and must not disturb the decorum of the Court.

D. Electronic devices in the Courtroom:

The participating teams are not allowed to carry or use any electronic devices, except wristwatches (no smart-watches), in the Courtroom. In case a member of a team is found using any electronic device during the Oral Rounds, the team shall invite a severe penalty which may include disqualification.

E. Scouting:

Every form of scouting is strictly prohibited and shall cause disqualification of the team from the Competition. The decision of the Competition Administrator shall be final in this regard.

F. Duration:

For Preliminary Rounds, each team will be allotted a total of thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments. No speaker shall be allowed to plead for more than twenty (20) minutes. Each team is entitled to reserve a maximum of five (5) minutes, out of the total thirty (30) minutes, for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.

For Advanced Rounds, each team will be allotted a total of forty-five (45) minutes to present their arguments. No speaker shall be allowed to plead for more than twenty-five (25) minutes. Each team is entitled to reserve a maximum of five (5) minutes, out of the total forty-five (45) minutes, for rebuttals and sur-rebuttals.

The teams are requested to arrive at the designated Courtroom fifteen (15) minutes before the Round is supposed to start. In case the team is unable to report the designated Courtroom after ten (10) minutes of the starting of the Round, the team will forfeit the Competition and the Round will continue as an ex-parte round.

13. Advanced Rounds:

The party to be represented by the teams in the Advanced Rounds shall be decided by way of a coin toss.

Qualification in the Advanced Rounds (from Quarter-finals to Semi-finals and so on) will be determined by win/loss in the respective Advanced Round.

14. Awards and Trophies:

Awards will be distributed in the following categories:

A. Team:

The team which wins the final round will be adjudged as the 'Winner of the CCI-HNMCC 2022' and will get an amount of ₹ **1,00,000** along with a trophy. The team members of the winning team will also be given an opportunity to intern with **AZB & Partners**.

The team which secures second place will get the title of 'Runners-up' and ₹ **50,000** as a cash prize.

The finalists will also be awarded various goodies from SCC Online.

B. Best Memorial:

The team with the highest memorial score (aggregate) will get the 'Best Memorial' prize along with a cash prize of ₹ 20,000.

C. Best Speaker:

The speaker who secures the highest score (average) at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds will get an award for the 'Best Speaker' with a cash prize of ₹ 20,000. It is necessary to argue for both parties in order to be eligible for the 'Best Speaker Award'.

D. Best Researcher:

The researcher with the highest score in the Researcher Test will get the 'Best Researcher' prize along with a cash prize of ₹ 10,000.

15. Code of Conduct:

A violation of the prescribed Code of Conduct will invite sanctions which will be decided by the Competition Administrator.

- Teams are expected to behave with other team members and the Judges/ Organisers/ Volunteers in a dignified manner.
- Teams should not attempt to influence Judges/ Organisers in any manner.
- Participants are expected to maintain decorum in the court during the Competition and to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.
- The teams should not engage in any form of unethical, unprofessional and wrongful conduct during the entire period of the Competition.
- Participants should not indulge in the consumption/carrying of drugs/ alcohol/ arms or ammunitions/ immoral/ illegal activity or any other form(s) of taste/addiction during the course of the Competition.
- Participants must adhere to the Sexual Harassment Code.

16. Exemplary Power clause:

In case of any dispute arising in the interpretation of the rules, or otherwise, the decision of the Organizing Secretary in consultation with the Organizing Committee would be final and binding.