17th NUJS-HSF
Corporate Law Moot Court Competition
7th-9th February, 2025

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A. ABOUT THE WBNUJS KOLKATA

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, or NUJS, is one of the premiere institutions for legal education, among the National Law Universities in India. It was envisioned as a centre of excellence for lifelong learning and continues to be committed to providing world class education and pioneering reform in the legal field by enabling its students towards research based justice oriented ethical learning. It is one of the three national law schools which has the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as the Honourable Chancellor of the University. Professor (Dr.) Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti is the current Vice Chancellor of the University.

NUJS offers an integrated 5 year degree of B.A./B.Sc. LL.B. (Hons.) at the undergraduate level and the Master of Laws (LL.M.) programme at the post-graduate level, as proposed and implemented by the Bar Council of India. Furthermore, NUJS also offers M.Phil., Ph.D., and diploma in business laws and other programmes as well as a variety of online courses which attract students globally.

Around twenty-five years after its establishment, today, NUJS has produced several successful alumni working in the legal field in national and international law firms, litigation as well as the judiciary, civil services, academia, policy and governance. The University has been consistently ranked as one of the most prestigious legal educational institutions in South Asia.

The University aims to empower many more students by not just imparting legal knowledge but by nurturing mature, socially conscientious and responsible young professionals through continually striving for innovation in teaching, learning and community service, making them social engineers for positive change.

WBNUJS is pleased to partner with HSF for the Seventeenth Edition of the NUJS-HSF Corporate Law Moot Court Competition, 2025 and we look forward to welcoming the participating teams to our campus.

B. ABOUT HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) is one of the world's leading professional services businesses, bringing together over 5,000 people across 24 offices in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and the US. As a market-leading, full-service law firm, HSF advises many of the biggest and most ambitious organisations across all major regions of the globe. Clients trust HSF with their most important transactions, disputes and projects because of the firm's ability to cut through complexity and mitigate risk. HSF offers local insight and seamless cross-border service in all major regions. Positioned to support the major trade flows, HSF helps the world's top companies thrive in the global economy.

HSF is proud of its market-leading India practice. We have a deep bench of lawyers steeped in India experience across our offices globally and we operate seamlessly as one adaptable team that can be tailored as required for any transaction or dispute. HSF has made a long-term commitment to India, both to clients with whom HSF has had relationships lasting decades and by a wider commitment to India through a variety of initiatives in partnership with leading Indian law schools, support for Indian legal charities and an India graduate recruitment programme.

We are pleased to be partnering with NUJS for the Seventeenth Edition of the NUJS-HSF Corporate Law Moot Court Competition, 2025 and we look forward to interacting with the participating teams in February 2025.

C. ABOUT THE NUJS-HSF NATIONAL CORPORATE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The NUJS Moot Court Society proudly presents the **Seventeenth Edition** of the NUJS-HSF Corporate Law Moot Court Competition, 2025, to be held on February 7-9. The competition, organized by the **West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences** (NUJS) in association with **Herbert Smith Freehills LLP** (HSF), takes place annually on the university campus at Kolkata, India.

Herbert Smith Freehills leads the track record in advising clients on significant cross-border transactions, projects, disputes and debt and equity financings, with heritage stretching back more than a hundred years. Collaborating with NUJS, it helps elevate our commitment to raising the standard of legal education, making the moot court competition one of the most prestigious of its kind.

The competition has grown to become one of the most distinguished Corporate Law moots in India. Aiming to elevate the standard of legal education in India, it provides a stellar opportunity for students to learn about the fascinating complexities of Indian corporate law in depth. It fosters the development of problem solving, public speaking and advocacy skills, while promoting collaboration, teamwork and resilience under compelling pressure. With a prodigious roster of judges and an unparalleled standard of problem, it raises the bar for extraordinary performances and application of legal education every year.

The competition is organized by the NUJS Moot Court Society (MCS), with the help of the Organising Committee, and enthusiastic volunteers, all of whom are dedicated to making the event a memorable experience for the participants. The MCS is a student-run committee that administers and promotes excellence in mooting activities at NUJS.

Bearing the lauded performances by participants from all across the country in the past editions of the competition, we hope to provide you with a platform to showcase your brilliance, skill, and aptitude channelled towards developing analytical and critical thinking skills while discerning the intricacies of legal knowledge.

D. SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION

DATE	EVENT
14.12.2024	Commencement of Registration + Release of Brochure and Moot Proposition
20.12.2024	Last Date for Seeking Clarifications on the Moot Proposition
25.12.2024	Release of Clarifications
31.12.2024	Last Date for Registration
14.01.2025	Submission of Memorials
31.01.2025	Release of Shortlisted Teams
07.02.2025	Opening Ceremony
08.02.2024	Preliminary Rounds + Announcement of Quarter-Finalists + Quarter-Finals
09.02.2024	Semi-Finals + Finals + Closing Ceremony

E. RULES OF THE COMPETITION

RULE 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. The administrator of the Competition shall be the Competition Committee (the "**CC**")as constituted by the MCS.

1.2. The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules, and all teams and participants shall be presumed to have read and understood these Rules.

RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Team Member Eligibility

All students enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in either a 3-year LLB course or a 5-year integrated BA LLB (or similar) course at the time of the competition are eligible to compete in the Competition, on being sent an invite. Each college or university shall enter only one team.

2.2. Team Composition and Selection

A Team shall be ordinarily composed of three (3) members, with two Oralists and one Researcher. A two-member team comprising of only two Oralists with no Researcher will also be permitted. A minimum of two members will thus be required for each team.Teams wishing to bring additional members as observers shall be required to intimate the CC at the earliest but the same shall however not be eligible for a certificate.

2.3. Outside Assistance to Teams

All research, writing and editing must be solely the product of Team members.

2.4. Use of Opposing Team's Written Submissions

No Team shall be allowed to view or otherwise become privy to any Written Submission other than the respective Appellant and Respondent written submissions of scheduled opposing Teams in the course of the Competition.

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION

3.1. Registering Names of Team Members

Each Team shall submit all Team members' names to the CC by December 31, 2024. Registration can be done only through google forms. The CC shall intimate the concerned

school of the receipt of the application.

Team members' names shall be clearly written or typed on the form, with attention given to the spelling of each Team member's name. Names shall appear in the manner that Team members wish them to appear on their participation certificates. If the signature of the head of the institution cannot be obtained, the team may even send an authorization mail from the head of the institution or the faculty advisor concerned.

3.2. Team Number as Identification

Each Team shall be assigned a Team Number selected by the CC Teams shall use their Team Numbers for identification purposes.

Names of participants or their colleges may not appear on or within the Written Submissions. Signature pages are prohibited.

RULE 4: JUDGES

4.1. Three Judge Panels

Three (3) judge panels shall be utilized whenever possible, except in the preliminary rounds. No judge will be directly affiliated with any Team participating in the round at which they are judging. In extenuating circumstances, the CC may authorize panels of two (2) judges. The final rounds of the competition will be judged by a larger bench.

4.2. Anonymity of Teams

The identity of a Team shall be kept completely confidential during the Competition. Although judges are allowed to know the identities of individual participants, the identity of the Universities the participants represent will not be revealed to the judges.

4.3. Prior Viewing of Teams

Judges should not view a Team which they have viewed in a previous Round of the Competition. If a judge must view a Team twice, the CC shall strive to ensure that the judge views the Team's opposite side.

4.4. Feedback By Judges

Judges in any Round of the Competition are encouraged to provide direct feedback to Teams regarding the Teams' performance at the completion of the Round. Judges shall not reveal to any Team the results of their individual determinations or the Team's Scores.

RULE 5: CLARIFICATIONS OF THE COMPETITION PROBLEM OR RULES

Teams may submit written requests for clarifications of the Moot Problem or these Rules. Requests for such clarifications must be received by the CC by December 20, 2024.Teams may submit requests for clarifications by email.

All clarifications to legitimate requests will be summarised and e-mailed to the participating colleges by December 25, 2024, tentatively. If, however, the college has failed to provide the CC with the details of a contact person, the CC cannot guarantee the delivery of the clarifications and corrections.

RULE 6 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

6.1. Submission of Written submissions

All Written submissions must conform to the following general requirements. Teams will be penalized for failure to abide by these requirements.

Each team shall prepare an Appellant and a Respondent Written submission. There shall be only soft-copy submission of the written submissions. Each Team participating in the Competition must submit one soft copy, (to be emailed to NUJS, the software used should be Microsoft Word 2007 or above or compatible software, **entries in PDF format will not be accepted**) of the appellant as well as the respondent Written Submission.

Equipment failure or problems, including computer disk failure, will not be considered as grounds for condoning late submissions or improper formatting of the Written Submissions. Teams must send the soft copy of the Written Submissions as an email attachment by 11:59 PM on January 14, 2025. The soft copies should be sent to **nujshsfmoot@gmail.com**. Once submitted to the CC, Written Submissions may not be altered.

6.2. Format of Written submission

Written Submissions must be typed and reproduced on white standard A4 paper (21 x 29 3/4 centimetres) except for the covers, where coloured paper may be used. The fontand size of the text of all parts of the Written submission (except the cover page), must be in Times New Roman 12-point. Footnotes must be in Font size 10. The text of all parts of each Written submission must have one and a half spacing, except that the textof footnotes must be single-spaced, however, quotations to sources outside of the Written submission of 50 words or more in any part of the Written submission shall beblock quoted (i.e. right and left indented) and may be single-spaced. All submissions must be in English.

Description of the Written Submission

6.2.1. Parts of the Written Submission

The Written Submission shall consist of the following parts:

i. Table of Contents;
ii. Index of Authorities;
iii. Statement of Jurisdiction;
iv. Questions Presented;
v. Statement of Facts;
vi. Summary of Pleadings;
vii. Pleadings, including the Conclusion/Prayer for Relief; and
viii. Appendix (Optional)

6.2.2. Legal Argument Limited to Pleadings Section

Substantive, affirmative legal argument or legal interpretation of the facts of the Moot Problem may only be presented in the "Pleadings" section of the written submission, including the conclusion/prayer for relief (except insofar as such argument may be summarised in the "Summary of Pleadings" or anticipated in the "Questions Presented"). Teams which include arguments or legal interpretation in any other part ofthe written submission shall be penalised.

6.2.3. Index of Authorities

Each Written Submission shall include an "Index of Authorities." The Index of Authorities shall contain a list of all legal authorities cited in any section of the WrittenSubmission. This list shall include a description of each authority adequate to allow a reasonable reader to identify and locate the authority in a publication of general circulation.

6.2.4. Statement of Facts

Each Written Submission shall include a full "Statement of the Facts." The Statement of the Facts shall be limited to the stipulated facts and necessary inferences from the problem and any clarifications to the same. The Statement of the Facts must not includeunsupported facts, distortions of stated facts, argumentative statements, or legal conclusions.

6.2.5. Summary of the Pleadings

Each Written Submission shall include a "Summary of the Pleadings." The Summary of the Pleadings shall consist of a substantive summary of the "Pleadings" section of the Written Submission in paragraph form, rather than a simple reproduction of the headings contained in the Pleadings section.

6.2.6. Pleadings & Prayer

The pleadings shall contain the substantive arguments with appropriate citations. The teams must endeavour to follow a uniform method of citation. The prayer shall be the effective remedies requested in the pleadings.

6.2.7. Appendix

All teams have the option of including an appendix. The appendix may contain all relevant provisions of law and a summary of important judgements cited if any. The appendix shall not exceed 10 pages and should follow the format of the rest of the written submission.

6.3. Length

The "Pleadings" section of the Written Submission, including footnotes or endnotes which refer to the "Pleadings" section of the Written Submission, and the Prayer may have no more than **7000 words**.

6.4. Margins

Each page of the Written submissions (regardless of content) shall have margins of at least one inch, or two point six (2.6) centimeters, on all sides, excluding page numbers.

6.5. Covers

6.5.1. Different-coloured Covers

Each Team must distinguish its Appellant Written Submission from its Respondent Written Submission by submitting each with a different-coloured, non-white cover. Thecolours chosen by the Team to distinguish Appellant and Respondent written submissions are to be as follows: **Red** for Appellant and **Blue** for Respondent.

6.5.2. Information Contained on Cover of Written submission

Each Written submission should bear on its cover the following, and only the following:
(a) the Team Number (to be inserted by the CC); (b) the name of the court; (c) the nameof the parties; (d) the nature of the case (Civil/ Criminal/ Writ/ SLP etc.); and (e) the title of the document (i.e., "Written submission for Respondent" or "Written submissionfor Appellant").

6.6. Citation Standard

Teams are free to use any uniform citation standard. However, in-text citations will notbe permitted.

6.7. Memorial Qualifier

On the basis of total Memorial Scores, the top 20 teams will progress to the Oral Rounds which will be held In Person.

RULE 7 ORAL PLEADING PROCEDURES

7.1. General Procedures

The oral rounds for the competition shall take place on February 7-9, 2025. Preliminary Rounds of the Competition shall consist of sixty (60) minutes of oral pleadings. The Appellant and Respondent shall be allotted thirty (30) minutes each during Preliminary Rounds. Two (2) members, and no more than two (2) members, from each Team shall make oral presentations during the round. Prior to the beginningof the Oral Round, each Team shall brief the Court Clerk regarding the manner in whichthey wish to allocate their 30 minutes among (a) the first Speaker, (b) the second Speaker, and (c) rebuttal (for Appellant) or sur-rebuttal (for Respondent). Only one Team member may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. No single Speaker shall plead more than twenty (20) minutes during Preliminary Rounds, including rebuttal or sur- rebuttal. Any Team member may act as a Speaker during any round of the Competition.

During Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final Rounds the Oral Rounds shall consist of ninety (90) minutes of oral pleadings. The Appellant and Respondent shall be allotted forty-five (45) minutes each during every subsequent round after Preliminary Rounds.Two (2) members, and no more than two (2) members, from each Team shall make oralpresentations during the round. Prior to the beginning of the Oral Round, each Team shall brief the Court Clerk regarding the manner in which they wish to allocate their 45minutes among (a) the first Speaker, (b) the second Speaker, and (c) rebuttal (for Appellant) or sur-rebuttal (for Respondent). Only one Team member may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. No single Speaker shall plead more than twenty-five (25) minutes during each subsequent round after Preliminary Rounds, including rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. Any Team member may act as a Speaker during any round of the Competition.

7.1.1. Extension of Time at Judges' Discretion

Judges may, at their discretion, extend total Team oral argument time beyond the forty-five (45) minute allocation, up to an additional five (5) minutes per Team. Speakers asked to further expand upon arguments may, in this instance, appear for morethan thetwenty-five (25) minute individual limit.

7.2. Order of Submission

The order of the oral submissions in each Round at all levels of the Competition shall be: Appellant 1 --> Appellant 2 --> Respondent 1 --> Respondent 2 --> Rebuttal (Appellant1 or 2) --> Surrebuttal (Respondent 1 or 2).

Each Team may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttal or surrebuttal. As a courtesyto the judges, Teams should announce whether they intend to reserve time for rebuttal or surrebuttal at the beginning of their oral argument, and how much time they intend to reserve. Only one Team member may deliver the rebuttal or surrebuttal.

7.3. Ex Parte Procedure

In extreme circumstances, such as when a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Oral Round, the CC, after waiting thirty (30) minutes, may allow the Oral Round to proceedex parte. In an ex parte proceeding, the attending Team presents its oral pleading, whichis scored by the judges to the extent possible as if the absent Team had been present and arguing. In such a case, the Team that fails to appear for the scheduled Round forfeits all six (6) of the Round's Oral Round Points.

7.4. Team Members

During each Oral Round, one (1) additional Team member may attend the online hearing with the two (2) Speakers. The person attending shall be one of the Team members registered pursuant to Rule 3.1.

7.5. Competition Communications

Team members participating in an Online Hearing may communicate with each other during the Moot in any written or electronic medium. No other person, including a coach/assistant coach, may communicate with any team member in any way during a Hearing, save to give technical assistance with any equipment being used to participatein the Hearing.

7.6. Anonymity of Teams in Courtrooms

Teams shall be identified by Team Number and the side of the dispute they represent only. However, Team members may provide their individual names to judges for purposes of conducting courtroom discussions.

Participants shall not disclose the identity of their Team through direct or indirect means, including statements to judges, name tags or other signifiers, the placement of folders, files, library books, messages or other materials bearing the name or logo of the school or clothing revealing the identity of their school.

RULE 8 COMPETITION PROCEDURES

8.1. Preliminary Rounds

Teams with top 20 Memorial Scores as per Rule 6.7 shall participate in Preliminary Rounds consisting of two (2) Oral Rounds, once as Appellant and once as Respondent. Each Team shall face any opposing Team only once in the Preliminary Rounds.

8.1.1. Pairings

The pairing of Teams for Preliminary Rounds shall be done, in the first instance, by a draw of lots. Official pairings of Teams once completed by the CC shall be final, exceptas may be modified by the CC to account for Teams which do not appear at the start ofthe Competition or to separate teams which have already met each other once. The CCshall have the power in such circumstances to revise the pairings. If Teams must be newly paired, they must be provided appropriate Written Submissions as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the newly paired round.

8.2. Quarter-final, Semi-final and Final Rounds

The eight highest-ranking teams from the preliminary rounds will advance to the quarter-finals and will meet each other in knock-out competition. The winners of the quarterfinals will advance to the semi-finals and the winners of the semi-finals shall participate in the final rounds. In the quarter finals the highest ranked team in the preliminary round will face the lowest ranked team and so on. (1 v. 8, 2 v. 7….). The same method shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the other rounds of the Competition.

8.3. Pleading option

The pleading option ("the right to choose which side to argue") in the knockout roundsshall be determined by a coin toss. The CC shall appoint the party to toss the coin.

Once the pleading has been selected, the opposing Team shall be notified immediatelyof the side it shall argue in the next round and both Teams shall be granted a reasonabletime to prepare for the next round.

Written submissions shall be exchanged immediately upon the exercise of the pleadingoption.

RULE 9 COMPETITION SCORING

9.1. Preliminary Rounds

Scoring of the Preliminary Rounds shall consist of two parts: the scoring of the Written Submissions, and the scoring of the oral arguments.

Each Team Written submission shall be submitted to two (2) Written Submission judges. The Written submissions shall be reviewed and scored by each judge on a scaleof fifty (50) to one hundred (100) points.

Likewise, each Oral Round will be scored by a panel of two (2) judges. Each judge shall score each Speaker on a scale of fifty (50) to one hundred (100) points.

9.1.1. Grounds of Scoring

The written submissions will be judged on the following grounds:

1. Knowledge of law and facts.
2. Clarity, brevity and style.
3. Use of authorities and citation.
4. Analysis and organisation.
5. General impression.

The oral submission will be judged on the following grounds:

1. Knowledge of law.
2. Use of authorities.
3. Interpretation of facts and appreciation of principles of evidence.
4. Ingenuity and persuasiveness.
5. Style, poise and court mannerisms.

9.1.2. Grounds of Scoring

The judges are expected to score the written and oral submissions keeping in mind the following criteria:

1. Excellent: 18 - <20 points.
2. Good: 16 - <18 points.
3. Fair: 14 - <16 points.
4. Average: 12- <14 points.
5. Poor: 10- <12 points.

No judge can score a written or oral submission at less than 50 points.

9.2. Calculation of scoring points

Two (2) categories of points shall be awarded to Teams in each stage of theCompetition: Team Score and Round Points.

9.2.1. Team Scores

The calculation of Team Scores shall be subject to the deduction of Penalty Points underthe

provisions of Rule 13.

9.2.1.1. Written Submission Team Scores

The calculation of the Total Written Submission Score for each Team per Oral Round is determined by adding together the Written Submission judges' scores for the side theTeam argued in that respective Oral Round.

The Total Competition Written Submission Score is determined by adding all four (4)scores for the Applicant and Respondent Written Submissions combined. This total score shall be used for purposes of Best Written Submission Awards.

9.2.1.2. Oral Team Scores

The calculation of the Total Oral Team Score for each Team per Round shall be determined by adding the scores of the two (2) judges for each Speaker. There will be therefore a total of four (4) scores per Team (2 Speakers) per round.

9.2.1.3. Total Team Scores

The Total Team Score for each Round shall be the sum of the Team's Total Written Submission Team Scores for that round and the Team's Total Oral Team Score for thatround. The Total Competition Team Score is determined by adding the Total Team Scores from each of the two rounds.

9.2.2. Round Points

9.2.2.1. Written submission Round Points

A total of two (2) Round Points may be awarded to Written Submissions in each Round.The individual Written Submission judges' scores for each Team participating in a round are compared to that judge's score for the opposing Team. For each comparison,the Team with the higher score will be awarded one (1) Round Point. If a judge rates the Teams equally, the point from that judge shall be split, each Team receiving one- half (.5) of a Judge's Point.

9.2.2.2. Oral Round Points

A total of four (4) Round Points may be awarded for oral argument scores in each Round. The score from each judge's evaluation of the two Speakers combined shall becompared to that judge's score for the two Speakers on the opposing Team. The higherscoring Team per judge per round shall be awarded two (2) Round Points. If a judge scores the Teams equally, the points from that judge are split, each Team receiving one (1) Round Point.

9.2.2.3. Total Round Points

The Total Round Points for each Round shall be the sum of a Team's written submission Round Points and Oral Round Points.

9.3. Calculation of scoring points

9.3.1. Determination of Winner of an Individual Round

The winner of the round will be determined by Round Points. The Team receiving thegreatest number of the six (6) available Round Points wins the round. In the event that Teams have an equal number of Round Points, the Team with the highest Total TeamScore shall be declared the winner of the Round.

9.3.2. Total Competition Rounds Points

The total number of Round Points obtained by a team in the preliminary rounds shallgovern Team rankings.
The Total Competition Round Points are calculated by adding the Total Round Pointsfrom the Team's two (2) Rounds.

9.3.3. Total Competition Team Scores

If two (2) Teams are tied after comparing total round points, the Total Team Score thencontrols and the Team having the highest Total Team Score from the Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked higher. The Total Team Scores are calculated by adding the Team Scores from the Team's two (2) Rounds.

9.3.4. Win-loss

If after comparing the total point teams are still tied, then the win-loss record will govern the rankings. A Team with a win-loss record of 2-0 (2 wins, 0 losses) will rankhigher than a Team with a win-loss record of 1-1 (1 win, 1 loss), which will rank higherthan a Team with a win-loss record of 0-2, etc.

9.3.5. Tie-Breaking Procedure

If two or more Teams are tied after application of Rule 9.3.4., the rankings shall be accomplished as follows:

(a) If only two (2) Teams are tied and if the two (2) tied Teams have faced each other in the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of that Round may be ranked higher for purposes of Final Rankings.

(b) If only two Teams are tied and the Teams have not faced each other in earlier Rounds, and time permits, a special Run-Off Round may be scheduled. The pleading option for such a Round should be determined by coin toss. The coin toss shall be called by the CC. The winner of such a Round shall be ranked higher for the purposes of Final Rankings.

If none of the methods described herein settles the tie, the CC shall determine the propermethod for establishing official rankings at their discretion, taking into consideration the interests of the Teams and the Competition as a whole.

9.4. Scoring Procedure for Advanced Rounds

The same scoring procedure will be applied in the advanced rounds. The team with thehigher round points will be deemed to have won the court. If the round points are tied then the round score will be considered. In case of a tie after consideration of the roundscore, the team whom a majority of the speaking judges consider better will be declaredthe winner.

9.4.1. Judges' Comments

Judges are encouraged to provide direct feedback to Teams regarding their performanceat the completion of the Oral Round. They shall not engage in any commentary whichmay reveal the content of the Bench Memorial or announce the winner of the round.

9.5. Winners

The winner of the Championship Round shall be Champion and the opposing Team shall be recognized as the Runner-Up.

9.6. Ranking of Speakers

Total Scores for each Speaker in the Competition shall be determined by adding the four (4) judges' scores from two (2) Preliminary Rounds. The total score from those two (2) Rounds shall be averaged to determine the Speaker's ranking. Scores will include any Penalties assessed against the Speaker.

Speakers shall be ranked from highest to lowest. Ties are permitted except for the purpose of the awards. If a Speaker argued in only one (1) Round, he or she is ineligiblefor ranking.

9.7. Ranking of Written Submissions

Total Written Submission Scores for each Team shall be determined by adding the TotalTeam Score of a Team's Applicant Written submission and the Total Team Score of the Respondent Written submission, four (4) total judges' scores. Team Written Submissions shall be ranked from the highest Total Written submission Score to the lowest. Ties are permitted in the

ranking of Written Submissions. Scores shall includePenalties per Rule 13.

RULE 10 PENALTIES

10.1. General Procedure

The following is a list of Penalties which may be imposed upon Teams in the Competition.

10.2. Types of Penalties

The power of the CC to assess Penalties is divided into two (2) categories: Non- discretionary (Rule 10.5), and Discretionary (Rule 10.6). Non-discretionary and Discretionary Penalties shall be applied against a Team either as a Generic or SpecificPenalty. Generic Penalties are a general violation and apply against a Team in all of its rounds, e.g. mailing a Written Submission late to the CC.

A Specific Penalty is a specific violation, and shall apply against a Team only in a specific round, e.g. being penalized for disruptive behaviour against one particular Team.

10.3. Application of Penalties

All Penalties apply against each judge's score, i.e. a Penalty of fifteen (15) points shallhave a cumulative effect of forty-five (45) total points from the combined score of three (3) judges.

10.4. Mandatory Penalties

For the following violations, Penalties will be assessed as a matter of course, without discretion on the part of the CC.

10.4.1. Mandatory Written submission Penalties

The following Penalties may be imposed only by the CC and shall be deducted from each of the individual judges' scores on a Team's written submission. In the event that a written submission is scored by only two (2) judges under Rule 9.3, the Penalties shallbe deducted from each of the two (2) judge's scores prior to calculating the third score.

In instances where only one written submission is in violation of the Rule, Written submission Penalties may be deducted from the scores of the offending written submission only.

The CC shall notify all affected Teams of imposed Penalties prior to the first Preliminary Round.

10.4.1.1 Delay in Mailing Written submissions

Written submissions postmarked after the deadline as designated shall be penalized five (5) points.

10.4.1.2 Extreme Delay in Mailing Written submissions

Written submissions shall be penalized three (3) points per day, in addition to the initialfive (5) points described in Rule 10.4.1.1 for delay up to an additional five (5) days. Written submissions for either the Appellant or Respondent not postmarked within six (6) days of the deadline shall not be submitted for judging, and shall automatically receive disqualification.

10.4.1.3 Other Mandatory Written Submission Penalties

Penalties shall be assessed for violations of other Rules concerning the written submissions by reference to the following table:

Rule Number	Summary	Penalty
3.2, para. 2	Indication of team identity in Written Submission	**5 points**
6.2	Font of inconsistent size, improper line spacing, or improper format of block quotations)	**2 points per violating page, up to a total of 10 points**
6.3.1	Failure to include all parts of Written submission	**5 points for each missing part**
6.3.2	Substantive legal argument outside of approved sections of Written submission	**5 points**
6.4	**Excessive length of Pleadings**	**1 point per 100 words exceeded**

10.4.2. Mandatory Oral Pleading Penalties

10.4.2.1. Procedure

The CC is empowered to impose Mandatory Oral Pleading Penalties based upon consultation with the judges only. If the CC confirms the occurrence of an event subjectto imposition of Mandatory Penalties, the Penalty may be applied. In instances where the judges cannot confirm

the occurrence or the judges have provided only written commentary on the occurrence, the CC shall consult with the affected Teams and courtroom clerk prior to imposing the Penalty. If a Team believes that a violation of a nature which would incur a Oral Pleading Penalty has occurred, the Team may bring the alleged violation to the attention of the courtroomclerk in writing within five (5) minutes of the completion of the Oral Round during which the alleged violation occurred. Written complaints shall clearly identify the violation and the parties involved in the violation. The Teams shall in no case directly approach the judges regarding a potential Penalty or violation of these Rules. Complaints brought directly to judges shall be disregarded. If there is no clerk, Teams shall approach the CC with complaints.

10.4.2.2. Consultation with Clerks

The CC shall consult with the clerk and the judges, to verify or otherwise confirm a Penalty. The clerk shall inform the CC of the alleged violation. The CC shall consult with the judges in investigating the alleged violation. If the CC cannot be located, the clerk shall assist the judges to summarize the complaint and their impressions briefly on paper for the benefit of the CC Courtroom clerks may not confirm a ruling or interpret these Rules, but may only provide assistance in verifying circumstances or theoccurrence of an event.

10.4.3. Activity Subject to Mandatory Penalties

Penalties shall be assessed for violations of other Rules concerning the WrittenSubmissions by reference to the following table:

Rule	Summary	Penalty
7.5	Improper courtroom communications	**5 points**
7.6.1	Scouting	**See Rule 7.6.1 for description of Penalty.**
7.9	**Violation of anonymity in courtroom**	**15 points**

10.5. Discretionary Penalties

10.5.1. General Violations

The CC may assess up to fifteen (15) point Penalties for violations of these Rules not specifically listed under Mandatory Penalties including, but not limited to, violations as to revisions and form of Written Submissions and inappropriate behaviour on the part of Team members or affiliated parties during the Competition. The size of the Penalty shall correspond to the degree of the violation in the judgment of the CC. DiscretionaryPenalties shall be imposed only by the CC. Teams shall bring potential violations to theattention of the CC in writing.

10.5.2. Special Consideration for Oral Rounds

Only judges or clerks shall be empowered to bring potential violations from the oral proceedings to the attention of the CC. Exceptions shall be made in circumstances involving violations that occur prior to or after the actual oral proceeding outside the courtroom where judges or clerks would not otherwise be privy to the circumstances, or in situations where the courtroom judges clearly ignore their obligations. In such instances, Teams may submit timely written notification of potential violations to the CC.

10.5.3. Activity Subject to Discretionary Penalties

10.5.3.1 Unsportsmanlike Behaviour by Team Members or Affiliated Persons

The CC may, after consultation with judges, impose up to a fifteen (15) point Penalty against a Team for behaviour which substantially prejudices the conduct of the Competition, including, but not limited to:

- engaging in poor sportsmanship;
- submitting multiple frivolous complaints against other Teams;
- engaging in inappropriate behaviour at the counsel table during the Oral Rounds;
- engaging in inappropriate discussion with oral pleading judges before their submissionof scores at the end of a Round; and
- exhibiting blatant disregard for the procedures or requirements outlined in the Rules.

Activity giving rise to a Penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct in the courtroom must be witnessed by at least the clerk or one judge in the courtroom. In all cases, the CC shallhear from both Teams, i.e. the Team alleging a violation (or allegedly harmed by a violation) and the Team alleged to have committed the violation, and consult with the clerk, and judges before making a final determination.

Penalties for unsportsmanlike behaviour may be imposed in addition to any other Penalties that may have been imposed under the provisions of these Rules.

10.5.3.2 Activity of Affiliated Persons

In exceptional circumstances, the CC has the discretion to impose from three (3) to fifteen (15) point Penalties when a coach, advisor or other person affiliated with the Team has disclosed his or her Team's identity to one or more judges before whom theirTeam shall compete.

For coaches or advisors who are concerned that they may be recognized by judges, concerns may be alleviated by avoiding talking to, sitting near or directly behind eitherTeam and not communicating with either Team in the presence of the judges.

10.6. Notice to Teams

The CC shall notify Teams of the imposition of such Penalties prior to the beginning ofthe Preliminary Rounds, if possible, or as soon as practicable if incurred after the beginning of the Preliminary Rounds.

10.7. Appeals

Any penalized Team shall be granted an opportunity to reply to complaints by opposingTeams or Penalties assessed by the CC prior to a final ruling. The CC may protect the anonymity of a complaining Team. Appeals of a Penalty assessment or Rules interpretation of the CC shall be provided to the Grievance Redressal Committee in writing within one (1) hour of notice of the Penalty. The Grievance Redressal Committee's decision on all appeals is final.

RULE 11 INTERPRETATION OF RULES

11.1. General

Questions concerning the interpretation of these Rules must be submitted to the CC. Clerks, administrative assistants and judges are not authorized to interpret these Rules.

11.2. Powers to Promulgate Additional Measures

The CC may promulgate such other measures as may be deemed advisable for the orderly conduct of the Competition or to correct deficiencies in the Competition.

RULE 12 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEE

The Grievance Redressal Committee shall be composed of the two faculty advisers of NUJS. The Grievance Redressal Committee shall deal with all disputes arising out of the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

RULE 13 EQUITY COMMITTEE

There shall be an Equity Committee composed of two nominated equity officers who will be introduced to the participating teams by the Convenor/Co-convenor of the MootCourt Society

at the time of inauguration to deal with issues relating to sexual harassment. The Equity Policy of NUJS Moot Court Society will be sent to all of the participating teams prior to the dates of the Moot Court Competition.

RULE 13 AWARDS

The following awards will be given in accordance with these rules:

1. Champion Team
2. Runners Up Team
3. Best Speaker
4. Best Written Submissions.

ANNEX RULES FOR ONLINE HEARING

General rules

1. All rules presented in the main body of this document shall be applicable to the Online Hearings.
2. The speaker must ensure that his/her name, team number and role are properly displayed during the Hearing.

Software and Hardware

1. All teams are responsible to ensure they have access to software and hardware, including a stable Internet connection, that enables them to properly participate in the Competition.
2. The CC will provide for the online platform where the Hearings will be held and all necessary instructions for its use.
3. The speaker is not permitted to share his or her screen, or present any other text or written materials at any stage.
4. During a Hearing, a judge shall, to the degree possible, arrange the camera so that his or her face is visible to the speakers. The speaker delivering oral pleadings shall also configure his or her camera to permit the judges to observe his or her face.
5. All participants in a Hearing shall have their microphone muted unless they are making their oral presentation, or they receive questions from the panel of Judges. Judges should have their microphone muted unless they are asking a question. speakers may sit when making their submissions.

Technical Difficulties

1. Where a team or a team member is experiencing technical problems in joining an Online Moot, they must inform the CC immediately, or as soon as possible, of the problem and

the reasons (if known) for it.

2. Where a technical problem occurs during a Hearing, the CC shall exercise his or her discretion as to how to proceed.
3. If a team fails to join the Hearing due to technical reasons, the Organizing Office, after waiting 30 minutes, shall allow the Hearing to proceed ex parte.
4. Where a team member, who has been designated as a speaker for one of the roles, either is unable to join the Hearing, or having joined the Hearing has such technicaldifficulties as makes it impossible for him or her to commence his or her oral argument, the Judges may permit another team member to be substitute and plead

F. FURTHER DETAILS

Venue: West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
12 LB Block, Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700098

Official Website: www.nujs.edu

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/school/nujskolkata/posts/?feedView=all

Instagram: nujskolkata, mcs.nujs

Email: nujshsfmoot@gmail.com

Registration Form: https://forms.gle/mNQC329D9KZAWrbn9
Participating teams are requested to fill the Google Form and upload a scanned copy of the filled-up registration form. A soft copy of the registration form can be found here.

In case of any queries, please contact

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