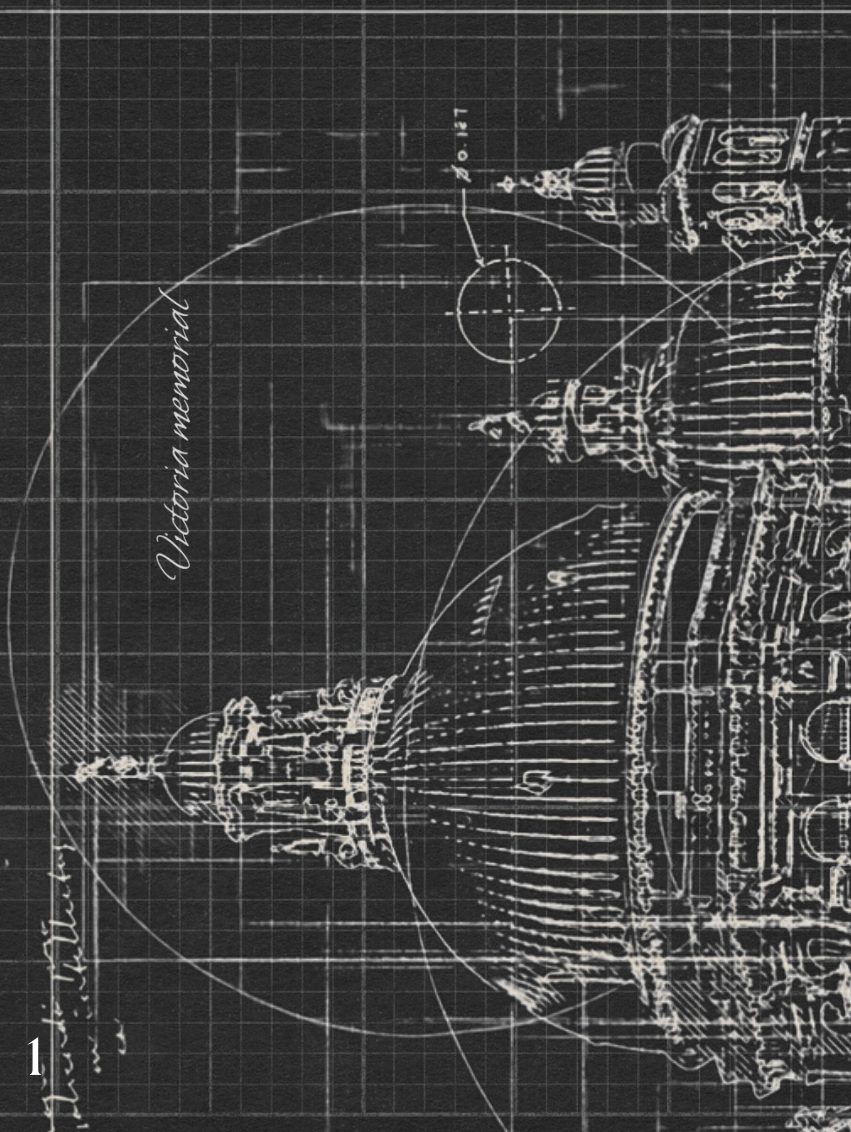
HERBERT SMITH
FREEHILLS
KRAMER

18th NUJS-HSF KRAMER NATIONAL CORPORATE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

13th – 15th March, 2026

Rulebook



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 B.A. LL.B. (or similar) course at the time of the Competition are eligible to compete in the Competition. Each institution shall enter only one team.

2.2. Team Composition and Selection

2.2.1. 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.

2.2.2. 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. All research, drafting, editing, and revision of memorials shall be carried out exclusively by the members of the participating Team.

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 during the Competition.

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION

3.1. Registering Names of Team Members

3.1.1. Each Team shall submit the names of all Team members to the Competition Committee ('CC') on or before January 31, 2026. Registration shall be completed exclusively by filling the Registration Form, circulated by the CC. Upon receipt of a duly completed registration form, the CC shall formally acknowledge the application and intimate the concerned institution accordingly.

3.1.2. All Team members' names must be clearly written or typed in the registration form, with due care taken to ensure accuracy in spelling. The names shall appear on participation certificates exactly as provided in the form, and no subsequent changes shall be permitted.

3.1.3. Each Team must submit a duly authorised and institutionally endorsed Authorisation Form in the manner prescribed by the CC. This must ordinarily bear the signature and seal of the Head of the Institution. However, where such signature cannot be obtained, the Team may submit an authorisation email issued by either the Head of the Institution or the concerned Faculty Advisor in lieu thereof.

3.2. Team Name / Number as Identification

Each Team shall be assigned a unique Team Name / Number by the CC, which shall be used for all identification purposes throughout the Competition. The names of participants, their institutions, or any identifying marks shall not appear on or within the Written Submissions. The inclusion of signature pages is strictly prohibited.

RULE 4: JUDGES

4.1. Three Judge Panels

4.1.1. Wherever practicable, rounds of the Competition shall be adjudicated by panels of three (3) judges, except during the preliminary rounds. No judge shall adjudicate a round involving a Team with which they are directly affiliated.

4.1.2. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the CC may constitute panels of two (2) judges, even for the Advanced Rounds.

4.1.3. The final rounds of the Competition shall be adjudicated by a larger bench, as determined by the CC.

4.2. Anonymity of Teams

The identity of each Team shall remain strictly confidential throughout the Competition. While judges may be informed of the identities of individual participants, the names of the institutions represented by the Teams shall not be disclosed to the judges at any stage of the Competition.

4.3. Prior Viewing of Teams

Judges shall not adjudicate a Team that they have adjudicated in a previous round of the Competition. Where a judge is required to adjudicate the same Team more than once, the CC shall endeavour to ensure that the judge adjudicates the Team on the opposite side in the subsequent round.

4.4. Feedback By Judges

Judges in any round of the Competition are encouraged to provide direct and constructive feedback to Teams upon the conclusion of the round. However, judges shall not disclose to any Team the results of their individual determinations or the scores awarded to the Team.

RULE 5: CLARIFICATIONS ON THE COMPETITION PROBLEM OR RULES

5.1. Teams or institutions may submit written requests seeking clarifications on the Moot Problem or these Rules. All such requests must be received by the CC on or before January 15, 2026, and may be submitted via email in the manner prescribed by the CC.

5.2. Clarifications issued in response to legitimate requests shall be consolidated and circulated by email to the participating institutions, tentatively by January 24, 2026. Where an institution has failed to provide the CC with accurate contact details of a designated contact person, the CC shall not be responsible for, nor guarantee, the delivery of any clarifications or corrections.

RULE 6: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

6.1. Submission of Written Submissions

6.1.1. All Written Submissions shall strictly comply with the general requirements set out below. Failure to adhere to these requirements shall attract penalties as determined by the CC.

6.1.2. Each Team shall prepare and submit two Written Submissions – one on behalf of the Appellant and one on behalf of the Respondent. Submission shall be made only in soft copy. Each participating Team must submit one soft copy each of the Appellant and Respondent Written Submissions, to be emailed to the CC. The Written Submissions must be prepared using Microsoft Word 2007 or above, or compatible software.

6.1.3. The soft copies of the Written Submissions must be sent in such manner as prescribed by the CC, on or before 11:59 PM (IST) on February 06, 2026. Equipment or technical failures of any kind, including computer or software malfunction, shall not be accepted as grounds for condoning late submission or non-compliance with formatting requirements. Once submitted to the CC, Written Submissions may not be altered.

6.2. Format of Written Submission

All Written Submissions shall be typed and formatted on standard white A4 size paper (21 × 29.7 centimetres), except for the cover page, which may be printed on coloured paper. The text of all parts of the Written Submissions, excluding the cover page, shall be in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, 10-point font.

The body text of the Written Submissions shall be formatted with one-and-a-half (1.5) line spacing, while footnotes shall be single-spaced. Quotations from sources external to the Written Submissions that exceed 50 words shall be presented as block quotations, indented on both the left and right margins, and may be single-spaced.
All Written Submissions shall be submitted in the English language.

6.3 Description of the Written Submission

6.3.1. 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)

6.3.2. 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”). Any inclusion of substantive argument or legal interpretation in any other section of the Written Submission shall attract penalties.

6.3.3. 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 Written Submissions. 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.

6.3.4. 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 include unsupported facts, distortions of stated facts, argumentative statements, or legal conclusions.

6.3.5. 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.

6.3.6. 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.

6.3.7. 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 Submissions.

6.4. Word Limit

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

6.5. Margins

Each page of the Written Submissions (regardless of content) shall have margins of at least one inch, or two point five four (2.54) centimetres, on all sides, excluding page numbers.

6.6. Cover Pages of the Written Submissions

6.6.1. Different-coloured Cover Pages

Each Team shall distinguish its Appellant Written Submission from its Respondent Written Submission by using different-coloured, non-white cover pages. The prescribed colours shall be Red for the Appellant Written Submission and Blue for the Respondent Written Submission.

6.6.2. Information Contained on the Cover Page of Written submission

Each Written submission should bear on its cover the following, and only the following:
(a) the Team Name / Number (as provided by the CC);
(b) the name of the court;
(c) the name of 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 Submission for Appellant').

6.7. Citation Standard

Teams may adopt any uniform citation standard of their choice. However, in-text citations are strictly prohibited.

6.8. Anonymity and Removal of Identifying Information

Written Submissions shall be completely anonymised. No Written Submission shall contain, whether on the cover page, in the body, footnotes, headers, footers, file name, or any other part of the document, any personal identifiers, including the names of Team members, the name of the institution represented, logos, mottos, or any other information capable of revealing the identity of the Team or its institution.

The only permissible identifier in a Written Submission shall be the Team Name / Number as allotted by the CC. No other identifying information shall be included in any form.

Teams shall ensure that all document metadata (including author name, editor name, organisation, tracked changes, comments, and revision history) is fully removed prior to submission. Any failure to comply with this requirement shall attract penalties as prescribed by the CC and may result in disqualification in cases of serious or repeated violation.

6.9. Memorial Qualifier

Based on the aggregate Memorial Scores, the top twenty (20) Teams shall qualify for the In-Person Oral Rounds of the Competition, which will be held at the NUJS Campus from March 13, 2026, to March 15, 2026.

RULE 7: ORAL PLEADING PROCEDURES

7.1. General Procedures

The In-Person Oral Rounds of the Competition shall be conducted from March 13, 2026, to March 15, 2026.

7.1.1 Preliminary Rounds

Each Preliminary Round shall consist of sixty (60) minutes of oral pleadings, with the Appellant and Respondent allotted thirty (30) minutes each. A maximum of two (2) Team members shall make oral presentations during any round.

Prior to the commencement of the round, each Team shall inform the Court Clerk of the manner in which it proposes to allocate its allotted time among:
(a) the first Speaker;
(b) the second Speaker; and
(c) rebuttal (for the Appellant) or sur-rebuttal (for the Respondent).

Only one (1) Team member may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. No individual Speaker shall plead for more than twenty (20) minutes during the Preliminary Rounds, inclusive of rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

7.1.2. Advanced Rounds

The Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final Rounds (together the 'Advanced Rounds') shall each consist of ninety (90) minutes of oral pleadings, with the Appellant and Respondent allotted forty-five (45) minutes each in every round following the Preliminary Rounds. A maximum of two (2) Team members shall make oral presentations during any such round.

Prior to the commencement of the round, each Team shall inform the Court Clerk of the manner in which it proposes to allocate its allotted time among:
(a) the first Speaker;
(b) the second Speaker; and
(c) rebuttal (for the Appellant) or sur-rebuttal (for the Respondent).
Only one (1) Team member may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.
No individual Speaker shall plead for more than twenty-five (25) minutes in any round subsequent to the Preliminary Rounds, inclusive of rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

7.1.3. Extension of Time at Judges' Discretion

Judges may, at their discretion, extend the total oral argument time allotted to a Team beyond the prescribed limit. In the Preliminary Rounds, such extension shall not exceed an additional five (5) minutes per Team beyond the thirty (30) minute allocation. In the Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final Rounds, such extension shall not exceed an additional five (5) minutes per Team beyond the forty-five (45) minute allocation.

Where a Team is granted such additional time, any Speaker directed by the Bench to further expand upon submissions may, for that purpose, exceed the otherwise applicable individual time limit of twenty (20) minutes in the Preliminary Rounds or twenty-five (25) minutes in subsequent rounds.

7.2. Order of Submissions

The order of oral submissions in each round of the Competition, at all stages, shall be as follows: Appellant Speaker 1 → Appellant Speaker 2 → Respondent Speaker 1 → Respondent Speaker 2 → Rebuttal (Appellant Speaker 1 or 2) → Sur-rebuttal (Respondent Speaker 1 or 2).

Each Team may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. As a matter of courtesy to the Bench, Teams shall indicate at the commencement of their oral submissions whether they intend to reserve time for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal, and the quantum of time so reserved. Only one (1) Team member may deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

7.3. Ex Parte Procedure

In exceptional circumstances, including where a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Oral Round, the CC may, after waiting for a period of thirty (30) minutes, permit the Round to proceed ex parte. In such proceedings, the appearing Team shall present its oral pleadings, which shall be assessed and scored by the judges, to the extent possible, as though the opposing Team were present and arguing. The Team that fails to appear for the scheduled Round shall forfeit all Oral Round points for that Round.

7.4. Team Members

7.4.1. During each Oral Round, one (1) additional Team member may attend the hearing together with the two (2) designated Speakers. Such person shall be either a Team member registered pursuant to Rule 3.1 or an observer officially authorised by the CC.

7.4.2. The additional Team member or authorised observer shall not communicate with the Speakers in any manner during the hearing, whether orally or through written means.

7.5. Communications during Oral Rounds

7.5.1. During an Oral Round, the two designated Speakers may communicate with one another only through written means. No speaking or oral communication between the designated Speakers shall be permitted.

7.5.2. The Team's researcher, or any observer officially authorised by the CC, shall not communicate with the Speakers in any manner during the Oral Round, whether orally or through written or electronic means.

7.6. Anonymity of Teams in Courtrooms

7.6.1. Teams shall be identified by Team Name / 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.

7.6.2. 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 institution or clothing revealing the identity of their institution.

7.7. Scouting

Scouting, in any form, is strictly prohibited. No Team member, coach, observer, or any person associated with a Team shall attend, observe, monitor, record, or otherwise obtain information from any Oral Round involving another Team, whether in person or through any means, for the purpose of gaining a competitive advantage.

Any violation of this Rule shall attract penalties as determined by the CC, including but not limited to score deductions, forfeiture of rounds, or disqualification. The determination of the CC in this regard shall be final and binding.

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.

8.2. Pairings

The pairing of Teams for the Preliminary Rounds shall, in the first instance, be determined by a draw of lots. Once finalised by the CC, the official pairings shall be conclusive, subject only to such modifications as the CC may deem necessary to account for Teams that fail to appear at the commencement of the Competition or to prevent Teams from facing each other more than once.

In such circumstances, the CC shall have the authority to revise the pairings. Where Teams are newly paired pursuant to such revisions, the CC shall ensure that the relevant Written Submissions are provided to the Teams as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any event, not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the newly paired round.

8.3. Advanced Rounds

The eight (8) highest-ranking Teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarterfinals, which shall be conducted on a knock-out basis. The winners of the Quarterfinals shall advance to the Semifinals, and the winners of the Semifinals shall contest the Final Round of the Competition. For the Quarterfinals, pairings shall be determined based on the rankings from the Preliminary Rounds, such that the highest-ranked Team shall face the lowest-ranked Team, the second highest-ranked Team shall face the second lowest-ranked Team, and so on. The same method shall apply mutatis mutandis to subsequent Advanced Rounds of the Competition.

8.4. Pleading Option

8.4.1. In the Advanced Rounds of the Competition, the pleading option, being the right to choose the side to be argued, shall be determined by a coin toss. The CC shall designate the party entitled to toss the coin.

8.4.2. Upon the exercise of the pleading option, the opposing Team shall be immediately informed of the side it is required to argue in the ensuing round, and both Teams shall be afforded a reasonable period of time to prepare for the next round. The relevant Written Submissions shall be exchanged immediately thereafter.

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 scale of fifty (50) to one hundred (100) points.

Likewise, each Oral Round will be scored by a panel of at least 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:
a) Knowledge of law and facts.
b) Clarity, brevity and style.
c) Use of authorities and citation.
d) Analysis and organisation.
e) General impression.

The Oral Submissions will be judged on the following grounds:
a) Knowledge of law.
b) Use of authorities.
c) Interpretation of facts and appreciation of principles of evidence.
d) Ingenuity and persuasiveness.
e) 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:

Excellent	18-20 points
Good	16-18 points
Fair	14-16 points
Average	12-14 points
Poor	10-12 points

No judge shall award a score of less than fifty (50) points for either a Written Submission or an Oral Submission.

9.2. Calculation of scoring points

Two (2) categories of points shall be awarded to Teams at each stage of the Competition, namely: Team Score and Round Points.

9.2.1. Team Scores

The calculation of Team Scores shall be subject to the deduction of Penalty Points under the provisions of Rule 13.

9.2.1.1. Written Submission Team Scores

The Total Written Submission Score for a Team in any Oral Round shall be calculated by aggregating the scores awarded by the Written Submission judges for the side argued by the Team in that particular Oral Round.

The Total Competition Written Submission Score for a Team for the entire Competition shall be calculated by aggregating all four (4) scores awarded to the Appellant and Respondent Written Submissions combined. This aggregate score shall be used solely for the purpose of determining the Best Written Submission Awards.

9.2.1.2. Oral Team Scores

The Total Oral Team Score for each Team in a Round shall be calculated by aggregating the scores awarded by the judges to each of the two (2) Speakers. Where a panel of two (2) judges is constituted, this shall result in a total of four (4) individual scores per Team per Round (two Speakers × two judges). Where a panel comprising more than two judges is constituted, the number of scores shall increase correspondingly, and all such scores shall be aggregated for the purpose of determining the Total Oral Team Score.

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 that round. 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 maximum of four (4) Round Points may be awarded for Oral Argument scores in each Round. For each judge, the combined scores awarded to the two Speakers of one Team shall be compared with the combined scores awarded by that judge to the two Speakers of the opposing Team. The Team receiving the higher combined score from a judge shall be awarded two (2) Round Points for that judge. Where a judge awards equal combined scores to both Teams, the Round Points attributable to that judge shall be divided equally, with 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 an individual round will be determined by Total Round Points. The Team receiving the highest number of available Round Points wins the round. In the event that Teams have an equal number of Round Points, the Team with the highest Total Team Score 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 shall govern Team rankings.

The Total Competition Round Points shall be calculated by summing the Round Points earned by the Team across its two (2) Preliminary Rounds.

9.3.3. Total Competition Team Scores

Where two (2) Teams are tied on the basis of Total Competition Round Points, the tie shall be resolved by reference to the Total Competition Team Score, with the Team having the higher Total Team Score from the Preliminary Rounds being ranked higher. The Total Team Score shall be calculated by aggregating the Team Scores obtained by the Team across its two (2) Preliminary Rounds.

9.3.4. Win-Loss Record

Where Teams remain tied after the application of the foregoing criteria, rankings shall be determined by reference to the win–loss record in the Preliminary Rounds. A Team with a win–loss record of 2–0 shall be ranked higher than a Team with a record of 1–1, which in turn shall be ranked higher than a Team with a record of 0–2, and so forth.

9.3.5. Tie-Breaking Procedure

Where two (2) or more Teams remain tied after the application of Rule 9.3.4, the rankings shall be determined in the following manner:
(a) Where only two (2) Teams are tied and such Teams have faced each other during the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of that Round shall be ranked higher for the purposes of the Final Rankings.
(b) Where only two (2) Teams are tied and such Teams have not faced each other in any prior Round, and where time and logistical constraints permit, the CC may schedule a Run-Off Round. The pleading option for such Run-Off Round shall be determined by a coin toss, which shall be called by the CC. The winner of the Run-Off Round shall be ranked higher for the purposes of the Final Rankings.

Where none of the foregoing methods resolves the tie, the CC shall, at its discretion, determine the appropriate method for establishing the official rankings, taking into account the interests of the Teams and the integrity of the Competition. The decision of the CC in this regard shall be final and binding, and shall not be subject to appeal or review.

9.4. Scoring Procedure for Advanced Rounds

The scoring procedure applicable to the Preliminary Rounds shall apply mutatis mutandis to all Advanced Rounds of the Competition. The Team securing the higher number of Total Tea, Round Points shall be declared the winner of the Round. Where the Total Team Round Points are equal, the Total Team Round Score shall be determinative. In the event of a further tie after consideration of the Total Team Round Score, the Team favoured by a majority of the speaking judges shall be declared the winner.

9.4.1. Judges' Comments

Judges are encouraged to provide direct and constructive feedback to Teams upon the conclusion of the Oral Round. However, judges shall not engage in any commentary that may disclose the contents of the Bench Memorial or indicate the outcome or winner of the Round.

9.5. Winners

The Team that prevails in the Final Round shall be declared the Winners of the Competition, and the opposing Team shall be recognised as the Runner-Up.

9.6. Ranking of Speakers

The Total Speaker Score for each Speaker in the Competition shall be calculated by aggregating the scores awarded by the four (4) judges across the two (2) Preliminary Rounds. The aggregate score from the two (2) Rounds shall then be averaged for the purpose of determining the Speaker's ranking. Speakers shall be ranked from highest to lowest on the basis of their averaged scores. All scores shall include any penalties assessed against the Speaker. Any Speaker who has pleaded in only one (1) Round shall be ineligible for ranking.

Ties shall be permitted, except for the purpose of determining awards. Where a tie arises for the purpose of awards, the tie shall be resolved by reference to the Speaker's highest single-round score. Failing resolution under the foregoing criteria, the CC may adopt such other criteria as it deems appropriate for resolving the tie, and any decision taken by the CC in this regard shall be final and binding.

9.7. Ranking of Written Submissions

The Total Written Submission Score for each Team shall be calculated by aggregating the Total Team Score of the Team's Applicant Written Submission and the Respondent Written Submission. Written Submissions shall be ranked from the highest to the lowest Total Written Submission Score. Ties shall be permitted in the ranking of Written Submissions, including for the purpose of awards. All scores shall include any penalties imposed in accordance with 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 impose penalties shall be classified into two (2) categories: Non-Discretionary Penalties (Rule 10.5) and Discretionary Penalties (Rule 10.6). Both Non-Discretionary and Discretionary Penalties may be imposed either as Generic Penalties or Specific Penalties.

A Generic Penalty shall arise from a general violation of the Rules and shall apply to a Team across all rounds of the Competition. By way of illustration, late submission of a Written Submission to the CC may attract a Generic Penalty.

A Specific Penalty shall arise from a violation confined to a particular instance and shall apply to a Team only in the specific round in which the violation occurs. For example, disruptive conduct during a particular round may attract a Specific Penalty applicable only to that round.

10.3. Application of Penalties

All penalties shall be applied per judge's score. For instance, where a panel comprises three (3) judges, a penalty of fifteen (15) points shall have a cumulative effect of forty-five (45) points when applied across the combined scores of the three 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

Mandatory Written Submission Penalties may be imposed only by the CC and shall be deducted from each individual judge's score awarded to a Team's Written Submission. Where a Written Submission is evaluated by only two (2) judges pursuant to Rule 9.3, the applicable penalties shall be deducted from the scores awarded by each of the two judges.

Where a violation pertains solely to one of the Written Submissions, the penalties shall be applied only to the offending Written Submission.

The CC shall notify all affected Teams of any penalties imposed under this Rule prior to the commencement of the first Preliminary Round.

10.4.1.1 Delay in Submission of Written Submissions

Any Written Submission postmarked after the prescribed deadline shall attract a penalty of five (5) points for the first day of delay.

For each subsequent calendar day of delay beyond the first day, an additional penalty of three (3) points per day shall be imposed, subject to a maximum delay period of five (5) additional days.

Any Written Submission, whether Appellant or Respondent, that is not postmarked within six (6) calendar days of the prescribed deadline shall not be accepted for evaluation and shall result in the automatic disqualification of the Team, without further notice.

10.4.1.2. 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
6.8	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 Submissions	5 points for each missing part
6.3.2	Substantive legal argument outside ofapproved sections of Written Submission	5 points
6.4	Excessive lengthof 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 solely upon consultation with the judges. Where the CC confirms the occurrence of a violation attracting a Mandatory Oral Pleading Penalty, such penalty may be imposed accordingly.

In instances where the judges are unable to confirm the occurrence of the alleged violation, or where only written commentary has been provided by the judges, the CC shall, prior to imposing any penalty, consult with the affected Teams and the courtroom clerk, if any.

Where a Team believes that a violation attracting an Oral Pleading Penalty has occurred, it may submit a written complaint to the courtroom clerk within five (5) minutes of the conclusion of the Oral Round during which the alleged violation occurred. Such complaint shall clearly specify the nature of the violation and the parties involved. Where no courtroom clerk is present, the complaint shall be submitted directly to the CC within the same time period.

Under no circumstances shall Teams approach the judges directly in relation to any alleged violation or potential penalty. Any complaint or communication addressed directly to the judges shall be disregarded.

10.4.2.2. Consultation with Clerks and Judges

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 summarise 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 the occurrence of an event.

10.4.3. Activity Subject to Mandatory Penalties

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

Rule	Summary	Penalty
7.5	Improper Courtroom Communications	5 points
7.6.1	Scouting	See Rule 7.6 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 impose Discretionary Penalties of up to fifteen (15) points for violations of these Rules that are not expressly enumerated as Mandatory Penalties. Such violations may include, without limitation, non-compliance with requirements relating to the format or revision of Written Submissions, as well as inappropriate or unprofessional conduct by Team members or any affiliated persons during the Competition.

The quantum of any Discretionary Penalty shall be commensurate with the seriousness of the violation, as determined by the CC in its sole discretion. Discretionary Penalties shall be imposed only by the CC.

Teams may bring any potential violation to the attention of the CC by way of a written complaint, submitted in the manner and within the time prescribed by the CC.

10.5.2. Special Consideration for Oral Rounds

Only judges or courtroom 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:
a) engaging in poor sportsmanship;
b) submitting multiple frivolous complaints against other Teams;
c) engaging in inappropriate behaviour at the counsel table during the Oral Rounds;
d) engaging in inappropriate discussion with oral pleading judges before their submission of scores at the end of a Round; and
e) 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 shall hear 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 their Team shall compete.

For coaches or advisors who are concerned that they may be recognised by judges, concerns may be alleviated by avoiding talking to, sitting near or directly behind either Team 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 of the Preliminary Rounds, if possible, or as soon as practicable if incurred after the beginning of the Preliminary Rounds.

10.7. Appeals

Any Team against whom a penalty is proposed or imposed shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond to any complaint raised by an opposing Team or to any penalty assessed by the CC prior to a final determination. The CC may, where it considers appropriate, protect the anonymity of the complaining Team.

Any appeal against a penalty imposed or an interpretation of these Rules by the CC shall be submitted in writing to the Grievance Redressal Committee within one (1) hour of notification of the penalty. The decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee on all such appeals shall be final and binding.

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 authorised 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 comprise the two Faculty Advisers from NUJS. The Grievance Redressal Committee shall adjudicate and resolve all disputes arising out of or in connection with the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

RULE 13: EQUITY COMMITTEE

There shall be an Equity Committee which will be introduced to the participating teams by the Convenor/Co-convenor of the Moot Court 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 the participating teams prior to the dates of the Competition.

RULE 14: AWARDS

The following awards will be given in accordance with these rules:
a. Winning Team
b. Runners Up Team
c. Best Speaker
d. Best Written Submission (Appellant Side)
e. Best Written Submission (Respondent Side)