



3RD NLUO-PHFI PUBLIC HEALTH LAW NATIONAL VIRTUAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2023

SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2023

ORGANISED BY

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA'S
CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LAW**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA

MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULE BOOK

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1. General Information

1.1. These are the rules for the **3RD NLUO-PHFI Public Health Law National Virtual Moot Court Competition, 2023.**

1.2. The competition is being conducted by **National Law University Odisha's Centre for Public Health Law** in collaboration with the **Public Health Foundation of India.**

1.3. The Competition shall be held from **September 7, 2023 to September 10, 2023** virtually.

1.4. The OC shall function as the point of contact, and any changes in the Rules of the Competition shall be notified by email to all participating teams.

1.5. The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with rules mentioned hereunder. Participants are required to comply with the rules and procedures prescribed herein.

1.6. The official email for all correspondence with respect to the Competition is cphl@nluo.ac.in

2. Definitions

2.1. **“Bench”** means the judges of an Oral Submission collectively.

2.2. **“Compendium”** means a compilation or collection of legal or other authorities that a Team seeks to rely upon during the Oral Submission.

2.3. **“Competition”** means the 3rd NLUO PHFI Public Health Law National Virtual Moot Court Competition, 2023.

2.4. **“Identity”** means any fact pertaining to the identity of the Team, its members, or the Institution/College/University represented by the Team and the state or region where such Institution/College/University is located and includes any identification marks/ seal of the Team or the Institution/ College/University represented.

2.5. **“Oral Submissions”** means the oral pleadings before a Bench as explained in **Rule 7** of the Rules of the Competition.

2.6. **“Oral Score”** means the score given by a judge in accordance with **Rule 8** of the Rules of the Competition.

2.7. **“Organizing Committee”** or **“OC”** means the Centre for Public Health Law, NLUO, including any other persons specifically authorized in this respect, appointed for the administration and conduct of the Competition and all events leading to the Competition.

2.8. **“Rebuttals”** mean the set of arguments/ challenges that the Petitioner(s) shall raise at the end of the main pleadings of all the Orators.

2.9. “**Scouting**” means any person observing the Oral Pleading Session of a Team other than that of the Team such person is associated with.

2.10. “**Team**” means the registered representatives of any Institution/College/University participating in the Competition and shall include only those members as specified in **Rule 3.2** of the Rules of the Competition.

2.11. “**Team Code**” means the code assigned to a Team through draw of lots.

2.12. “**Written Submissions**” means the memorandum of written submissions submitted by any Team as per **Rule 6** of the Rules of the Competition.

2.13. “**Written Submission Score**” means the score determined in accordance with the **Rule 8** of the Competition.

3. Eligibility and Team Composition

3.1. All students enrolled in a three (3) year LL.B. programme or a five (5) year LL.B. programme shall be eligible to participate in the Competition. However, only one team per institution shall be eligible to participate.

3.2. The team composition for the Competition shall be either two members (Both the members designated as Speakers) or three members (Two members designated as Speakers and one member designated as a Researcher).

3.3. Substitution of any team member or alteration of team composition is not allowed after the date of Registration except in extenuating circumstances and only with the permission of the Organizers.

3.4. A Researcher, in extenuating circumstances, may be allowed to argue during the Oral Rounds with the permission of the judges.

3.5. Any additional member or Team Coach accompanying a Team shall not be recognized and will not be entitled to a certificate from the OC.

4. Registration

4.1. Each team shall register for the competition by duly filling the Google Form [<https://forms.gle/q9Ns7tc58bJ6gg579>] **before 12th JULY 2023 (11:59 P.M. IST)**.

4.2. While filling the registration form, teams have to select an official contact person (**Team Liaison**). All communications concerning the competition shall be sent by e-mail to the Team Liaison of the team. It is assumed that all the information communicated and materials distributed to the Team Liaison is communicated to the team.

4.3. The registration fee for the competition is **INR 2,400/-**.

4.4. The payment related to registration fee under **Clause 4.3** shall be made through an online payment aggregator **SBI Collect** by following the steps mentioned below –

- Step 1) Click on the URL - <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/collecthome.htm>
- Step 2) Click the Check Box to proceed for payment.
- Step 3) Under “State of Corporate / Institution” select “Odisha” from the dropdown menu.
- Step 4) Under “Type of Corporate / Institution” select “Education Institute” from the drop-down menu and click on “GO”.
- Step 5) Under “Educational Institutions Name” select “NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA” from the drop-down menu and click on the “Submit” button.
- Step 6) Select the Payment Category “Registration for Seminar and Events”. Furnish the required details and make payment.
- Step 7) Download the SBI Collect Receipt. This receipt needs to be uploaded to the Google Form of Registrations.

4.6. All teams must attach the scanned copy of the payment receipt in the google form mentioned in **Clause 4.1**.

4.7. A Team Code shall be assigned to each registered team by the OC after the completion of the registration process.

4.8. The OC reserves the right to debar or cancel the registration of any team.

4.9. The decision of the OC shall be final and binding on the applicant teams.

5. Structure of the Competition

5.1. The Moot court Competition shall comprise of following rounds: a) **Preliminary Rounds:** Each team will have to present both the sides i.e., Petitioner and Respondent in this round. The top eight (8) teams, based on the cumulative score of memorials and preliminary rounds shall qualify for the quarterfinals. The draw of lots will take place after this round for the Quarter Final Rounds.

b) **Quarterfinal Rounds:** The top eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Round shall proceed to the quarterfinals. This will be a knockout round; hence winners will be decided on the basis of courtroom win. The draw of lots will take place after this round.

c) **Semi-Final Round:** The winning 4 teams from the quarter finals shall proceed in this round. This round will again follow the knockout rule. The draw of lots will again take place after the competition of this round.

d) **Final Round:** The winner from each court room fixture i.e., 2 teams from the semi-final round shall proceed to this round.

5.2. After the virtual orientation of the teams, the team must argue on behalf of the side in accordance with the draw of lots, (the Petitioner or the Respondent) in the preliminary round.

5.3. In case of tie, the team with higher memorial score will be taken into consideration to decide the winner.

5.4. Before the Quarterfinal, Semi-final and Final rounds, draw of lots shall be done to determine the side on which the Team shall be arguing i.e., Petitioner or Respondent.

5.5. The Teams shall be mailed the fixtures for each round. Further, the Teams shall also be mailed the soft copy of their opponent's Written Submission prior to the oral rounds.

6. Memorial Rules

6.1. General Rules for Memorial

6.1.1. All the teams must submit the soft copy of the memorial for both sides (Petitioner Respondent) on or before **11:59 PM (IST), August 30, 2023** to the cphl@nluo.ac.in in MS Word ('.doc' or '.docx') and PDF format.

6.1.2. Participants are allowed to frame additional issues other than those provided in the moot proposition, if desired.

6.1.3. The soft copy of memorials once submitted cannot be revised or resubmitted.

6.1.4. The Cover Page of the Memorial must follow the following colour scheme, Blue for the Applicant Cover Page and Red for the Respondent Cover Page.

6.1.5. The Memorial must not contain any Annexure / Photographs / Sketches / Exhibits / Affidavits or any other representation of like nature.

6.1.6. The memorials must not contain any identification apart from the team code allotted. If any discrepancy or any attempt to disclose identity by any team is detected by the Organizers, the team will be disqualified.

6.1.7. The memorials must be named in the following format: **"Team Code – Petitioner/Respondent"**, for example, **"T 101 - Petitioner"**. The file name shall not carry any other identifying marks.

6.1.8. Memorials for both the parties must be submitted in the same mail. Separate submissions or any request for separate submission will not be accepted or entertained.

6.1.9. Participants must refrain from using same language or copying from other's memorials and other sources. Even use of publicly available information must be accompanied by proper citations. These rules shall apply to all parts of the memorial and not just the Pleadings and Prayer. The Organizing Committee in consultation with the memorial judges will take a final decision regarding determination of cases of plagiarism and penal measures for such action.

6.1.10. Memorials that do not comply with the above-mentioned specifications will be penalized.

6.2. Rules on the Content and Formatting of Memorials

6.2.1. Each Team is required to prepare a memorial for each party of the dispute with the following mandatory heads:

- a. Table of Contents
- b. Index of Authorities
- c. Summary of Arguments
- d. Arguments Advanced (Must Not Exceed 15 Pages)
- e. Prayer

6.2.2. The score allotted will be recorded on the official scoring sheet for the Memorials. These scores will be kept confidential and will be disclosed at the end of the competition.

6.2.3. The Cover Page must contain only the following information:

- a. The Team Code.
- b. The name of the Forum resolving the dispute.
- c. The name of the Competition.
- d. Name of the parties and status before the Forum
- e. The party on whose behalf the memorial has been prepared

6.2.4. All parts of the memorial (including Headings, Headers and Footers) must be typed on A4 sized paper/format, with the following Formatting Specifications:

- a. Page Orientation: Portrait
- b. Font Type: Times New Roman
- c. Font Size: 12
- d. Line Spacing: 1.5
- e. Margins: One (1) Inch on Each Side

6.2.4. For Footnotes, the Formatting Specifications are as below:

- a. Format: Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) 4th Edition
- b. Font Type: Times New Roman; Font Size: 10
- c. Line Spacing: 1

7. Oral submissions

7.1 **Preliminary rounds:** Each team will get to present both sides i.e., Petitioner and Respondent as per the fixtures prepared by the OC.

7.2. As specified herein above in Clause 3.2, each team shall have two speakers who shall divide the oral submissions between themselves.

7.3. During the course of the Oral Submissions no speaker shall reveal his/her identity or the identity of his/her college/university by any means whatsoever. Thus, all participants must join the session using their team code and speaker code. In the event any participant reveals his/ her identity or the identity of his/ her college/ university, the team shall be marked negatively as deemed appropriate by the judges.

7.4 Semi-Final Round: The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows: Rank 1 v. Rank 4 (Round I) Rank 2 v. Rank 3 (Round II)

7.5. In the preliminary, quarter-final and semi-final rounds, each team will have **20 minutes** for argument and rebuttal. Each speaker shall argue for at least **7 minutes**.

7.6 Final Round: The top two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The team which scores the highest in the Final Round shall be declared as the ‘Winning Team’. The other team shall be declared as the ‘Runners-Up Team’.

7.7 Fixtures:

7.7.1 In the Preliminary Rounds and Quarter finals, Seeding Match-up system shall be used to determine the fixtures

7.7.2 In the Semi-final rounds, the Power Match-Up system, with the help of scores, shall be used to determine the Matchups.

Please note that due to the Power Match Ups for the Sem-final rounds, a situation may arise wherein a Team may have to argue against a Team that it has already argued against in a previous round. Further, a situation may also arise that the teams may have argued as Appellant or Respondent before another team with whom they have another round subsequently, with the same roles of Appellant or Respondent being allotted again. The same is not barred as per the Rules of the Competition.

7.8. In the final round, each team will have **30 minutes** for arguments. This time includes the time for rebuttals. Only one speaker can speak in rebuttal.

7.9. At the commencement of each session of Oral Submissions each team must notify the Court Officer the amount of time that the team wants to reserve for their rebuttal.

7.9.1 At the commencement of each session of Oral Submissions each team shall notify the Court Officer as to the division of time between the 2 speakers.

7.9.2 If any speaker continues to speak after the completion of his/ her time, the additional time which he/ she speaks for will be deducted from the time allocated to his/her co speaker, or from the time allocated for their rebuttal, as the case may be.

7.9.3 The final decision as to the time structure and the right to rebuttal/sur-rebuttal will as per the discretion of the Judges of the Bench.

7.10 Teams shall not be permitted to use ANY other electronic device, besides the device through which they are presenting their oral rounds to the judges, while their rounds are in session and violation of this rule may lead to the disqualification of the team.

7.11 The teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the rounds, the identity of the institution that they represent. However, a mention of speaker names in the scoresheets shall not amount to violation of anonymity.

7.12. During the course of the oral submissions, the participants cannot submit any other additional material to the court, as the judges already will already be in possession of the teams' memorials.

7.13 Delay in Appearance/Presentation

7.13.1 If a team scheduled to participate in the oral submissions of a round does not appear for ten (10) minutes after the scheduled commencement of such round, the other team shall have to make oral submissions *ex-parte*. It shall be up to the discretion of the Organizers on whether to allow or disallow a team to present their oral submissions in case it does not appear within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled commencement of the round.

7.13.2. The oral pleadings shall be conducted over an online video conferencing platform, the link for which shall be shared with the team members, not later than 30 minutes prior to the oral pleadings.

7.14 The team members are requested to be dressed in formals suitable for a court room proceeding. The team members would be excused from wearing blazers and ties in case these are not available to them in the present circumstances.

7.15. The team members are required to keep the video on for the entire duration of the rounds. It must be ensured that the visibility of a participant in an oral round is up to their torso, including their shoulder and hands. Additionally, before the commencement of each round, an audio check will be done for the members who are speaking during the oral pleadings, and in case of any issues, they are expected to communicate the same immediately using the Chat option. The participants must ensure that they are seated in a noise free area with minimum disturbances and the Organisers shall not be liable for any technical issues that may arise.

7.16 The team members are not permitted to chat or communicate privately with the judges during the rounds. The Organisers shall use the chat option to signify the time left and the members of the team are required to keep an eye on the time themselves as well.

7.17. In case of any technical issues or network problems that arise during the course of the oral rounds, the participant must immediately inform the Organisers who are moderating the session and are part of the meeting room. The Organisers shall take account of time lost and ~~are~~ that time allotted to a team for their oral pleadings is adhered to.

7.18. Use of any unfair means and violation of these instructions is strictly prohibited. The Organisers shall be the final arbiter in case of any conflicts/issues raised during the conduct of the moot court competition.

7.19. Scouting

7.19.1. Scouting by the speakers, researcher or any other person affiliated with a team will lead to immediate disqualification of such team.

7.19.2. Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if any person affiliated with a team is found:

- i. Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. the oral submissions in a round, except where the round is one in which the team to which he/she is affiliated is participating in;
- or

- ii. Reading a memorial of a team except where:
 - a. It is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or
 - b. The memorial has been obtained on account of an exchange of memorial prior to a round of the team to which he/she is affiliated

8. Evaluation Criteria

8.1. Evaluation Criteria for Written Submission

Written Submission will be marked on a scale of 100 marks per the following criteria:

S. No.	PARAMETERS (Memorial)	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Knowledge of Law & Facts	15
2.	Identification of Jurisdiction and Articulation of Issues	15
3.	Grammar & Presentation Style	5
4.	Application of Law to Facts	10
5.	Use of Authorities	10
6.	Proper Citation	10
7.	Format	10
8.	Originality in Presentation	10
9.	Organization of Arguments	5
10.	General Impression and Clarity of Thought	10
Total		100

8.2. Penalties on Memorials

PARAMETERS (Memorial)	MARKS DEDUCTED
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Late Submission	2 mark per memorial every 12 hours after deadline. Disqualification beyond 48 hours
Wrong File Name	1 Mark per Memorial
Exceeding Page Limits	3 Mark per exceeding page
Failure to include the required information on the cover page	2 Mark per violation
Failure to use the correct colour coding	2 Marks per Memorial
Failure to include all sections of the Memorials	2 marks per section
Disclosure of identity of the team or of institution being represented (in Memorials)	Disqualification
Use of incorrect font style, font size, margin or line spacing	1 mark per violation, maximum of 10 marks per side

8.3. Evaluation Criteria for Oral Pleading Sessions

Oral Pleadings will be marked on a scale of 100 marks as per the following criteria:

S. No.	PARAMETERS (Oral Rounds)	MARKS ALLOTTED	
		Speaker 1	Speaker 2
1.	Knowledge of Law and Facts	5	5
2.	Interpretation and Application of Law	10	10
3.	Use of Authorities and Precedents	10	10
4.	Articulation and Response to questions	10	10

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5.	Logical reasoning, clarity, brevity and ingenuity of arguments	5	5
6.	Arrangement, presentation and content of argument and Advocacy Skills	5	5
7.	General Presentation, Court Mannerisms and Time Management	5	5
		50	50
Total		100	

9. Awards

9.1. All participants will be presented with E-Certificates of Participation and all the winners of awards will be presented with E-Certificates of Merit and a cash prize in addition to E-Certificates of Participation.

Awards	Prize Money	Awards	Prize Money
Winners	Rs. 18,000	Best Speaker	Rs. 4,500
Runners Up	Rs. 12,000	Best Memorial	Rs. 7,500

10. Schedule

S. No.	PARTICULARS	DATES
1.	Commencement of Provisional Registration/ Release of the Moot Proposition	13 th June 2023
2.	Last date of Final Registration	12 th July 2023
3.	Submission date of Memorials	30 th August 2023

4.	Preliminary Oral Rounds (Knock Out)	7-8 th Sept. 2023
5.	Quarter-finals Rounds	9 th Sept. 2023
6.	Semi-finals Rounds	9 th Sept. 2023
7.	Finals Rounds	10 th Sept. 2023

11. Code of Conduct

11.1. The Rules governing the conduct of the Competition should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation thereof can attract penalties or disqualification at the sole discretion of the OC

11.2. All participants shall adhere to the online meeting guidelines, notified by OC via email, from time to time throughout the period of competition.

11.3. Any attempt to contact the framers of the Moot Problem will result in immediate disqualification.

11.4. The identities of the teams shall not be disclosed in any form in the memorials or the compendiums.

11.5. All participants shall maintain decorum in the Court Hall during the Competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.

11.6. Scouting of a team's future opponent is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification.

11.7. No team member or individual participating in the Competition shall attend the arguments of any other team or individual except for the Final Round or receive information from any person who has attended any of the other rounds in the Competition.

11.8. The Dress Code for the participants shall be formals. Men are expected to wear Western Formals only (Black Blazer, Black tie, Black Pants and White Shirt). Women can wear either Western Formals (Black Formal Skirt or Black Pants, White Shirt) or Indian Formals (White Kurta, Black Salwar).

11.9. The OC reserves the right to take appropriate action with regard to any dispute, unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

11.10. The Competition shall be conducted in English language only. All oral submissions and written submissions (memorials and compendium) shall be in English.

12. Rule for online platform

12.1. The Platform for conducting the moot shall be intimated after the registration of the teams is completed.

12.2. The participants must ensure that they have a strong internet connection with good audio and video facilities. They must use laptops or PC for the oral rounds. The use of cell phones is prohibited at all times.

12.3. The background of the participants on video shall be plain and shall not contain any symbols or any representations.

12.4. The participants (speakers) must ensure that any noise or audio other than the voice of the participant should not occur during the online oral rounds. It is advisable to plan and prepare for the online oral rounds in advance accordingly.

12.5. Participants shall be permitted to use the screen sharing feature for making their submissions.

12.6. The teams must ensure that they do not disclose the identity of their college at any stage during the competitions. Any kind of canvassing shall lead to the disqualification of the teams.

12.7. At the time when one participant is speaking, others are expected to keep their microphones on mute.

13. Miscellaneous

13.1. If and when any one of the members of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed.

13.2. In case of any doubt in the understanding or interpretation of any matter concerning the Competition, the decision of the OC shall be final and binding.

13.3. If there is any situation which is not contemplated in the rules, the OC's decision on the same shall be final and binding.

13.4. The OC reserves the right to amend, alter, vary or change, in any manner whatsoever, the Rules governing the Competition, which would be communicated to the teams within a reasonable period of time.

14. Contact details

Contact [Centre for Public Health Law](#) at:

cphl@nluo.ac.in / rishika.khare@nluo.ac.in

[LinkedIn](#) & [Instagram](#)

For more information, visit: www.nluo.ac.in
