

**6th SURANA & SURANA & RGNUL
INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2023**

06th – 08th October 2023



**Profession Partners &
Joint Organizersp**

**Host &
Joint Organizers**

VENUE

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law

Mode

Virtual

[E-mail: mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in)

Phone: 0175-2391383

06th October – 08th October 2023

RULES AND REGULATIONS (as of 4.10.2023**)**

I. AIM AND PURPOSE

- a. The Surana & Surana and RGNUL International Law Moot Court Competition, 2023 has been conceived with the aim of creating opportunities for learning the development of jurisprudence on emerging trends in International Law besides developing cutting edge skills in research, writing and advocacy.
- b. Further, it is aimed to facilitate the evolution of International Law through the jurisprudential analysis of the existing law and consequential emergence of new laws

II. DEFINITIONS

1. **Advanced Rounds**: It shall refer to the Quarter – Finals, Semi – Finals, and a Final Round of the Competition.
2. **Competition**: It shall refer to the VI edition of the Surana & Surana and RGNUL, International Law Moot Court Competition, 2023.
3. **Disqualification**: It shall render a team invalid to continue participating in the Competition.
4. **Judge**: It shall refer to any person appointed to evaluate a Participant’s Memorial or Oral Pleading.
5. **Memorial**: It shall refer to the written arguments submitted by each team, on behalf of both the Parties, according to the official competition rules.
6. **National Administrator**: It shall refer to the Registrar, RGNUL (Chairman, Moot Court Association RGNUL).
7. **Oral Rounds**: It shall refer to a team’s pleadings, comprising of both speakers, submitted orally in front of the judges, on behalf of one of the parties, against another team representing the opposing party.
8. **Parties**: It shall refer to the parties to the dispute as identified by the moot proposition as **Defence and Prosecutor**.

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9. **Penalties:** It shall refer to points deducted for violation of any Rules mentioned hereunder. **Note:** The organizing committee reserves the authority to disqualify any team if there is any grave violation of these Rules.
10. **Preliminary Rounds:** It shall refer to the Oral Rounds which will take place prior to the Advanced Rounds of the Competition for the purpose of determining the teams which will proceed to the Advanced Rounds.
11. **Rules:** It shall refer to these official Competition Rules and such other applicable supplements to these Rules published by the Organizing Committee.
12. **Organizing Committee:** Shall mean and include those members mentioned in Clause XX.
13. **Scouting:** It shall refer to the act of attending a round in which the members of the team or any person related to the team are not competing.
14. **Team code:** It shall refer to the unique number allotted to each participating team for the purpose of this Competition. This would primarily be used for all submissions of memorials.
15. **Competition Team code:** For the oral rounds based on the fixtures competition team codes will be allotted through a draw of lots as part of the orientation.

III. VENUE AND DATE

The 6th Surana & Surana & RGNUL INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2023-2024 shall be held virtually from 06th – 08th October 2023, Rajiv Gandhi National University Of Law, Panjab, Patiala.

IV. LANGUAGE

The competition shall be in English language only.

V. ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open for students who are pursuing LLB (three-year / five-year) courses during the current academic year.

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VI. TEAM COMPOSITION

1. The maximum number of participants per team shall be restricted to 3 wherein only 2 shall be speakers and 1 shall be the designated researcher. The researcher shall be allowed to argue with the prior permission of the court and National Administrator in case of illness of the designated speakers.
2. **Note:** Only the designated speaker in the Preliminary Rounds shall be eligible for the Best Speaker award. No Team Coach, mentors, observer, or any other person shall be accompanying registered participating team members.
3. Teams should not disclose the identity of their institution; such disclosure shall invite penalties including disqualification. The decision for the same shall be at the discretion of the National Administrator.

VII. REGISTRATION

Final Registration:

1. Online Registration for teams commences from 30-August-2023.
2. The teams must register online by **15-September-2023** Teams will have to register online at www.moot.in.
3. After registering online, the teams must complete the **Registration Process** as stated below by sending a copy of the documents for authentication, at mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in
4. Participants will receive approval as acceptance of their request for participation within 2 days from the last date of registration.

Registration Process:

The following documents are required by the teams at the time of Final Registration:

- An external participation form / approval letter (with seal and signature) as provided in the rules duly filled from the participant's institution / moot society.
- Scanned copy of the receipt of online payment.

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Note:

Signatories on the registration form should be any of the following: Faculty- in charge of MCA /MCS / MCC, Registrar, Dean, Principal, Director, Vice-Chancellor.

General Guidelines:

- No change in the names & composition of the team shall be permitted after the receipt of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the Administrators.
- Only one Team is allowed per institution. Participants will receive an automated system-generated acknowledgment on the successful submission of registration.
- A provisional team code shall be allotted to the registered teams by the Host University after providing a receipt of final registration and payment via mail mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in . Any delay in the completion of the final registration process within the stipulated deadline may result in the cancellation of the participant's confirmed provisional registration at the administrator's sole discretion.
- The participants are strongly advised to ensure that there are no spelling errors in the information provided in pursuance of the participation certificates.
- In the event a team drops out of the competition or is disqualified, the team next in line as per registration data (when the registration exceeds the permitted (34 teams)) will be offered the chance to participate in the competition at a short notice. Such teams will have to submit their memorials to be eligible at least 3 days prior to the dates of the competition.

Registration Fee:

The registration fee of **Rs. 3,000** is to be paid online by 15-September-2023. The participants can pay by accessing the link provided:

<https://www.rgnulrp.org/lisa/eventPortal/loginFrom.jsp>.

Receipt of the online payment is to be sent by email to: **mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in**.

Confirmation of the same will be mailed after receiving of the receipts.

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FEE ONCE PAID WILL NOT BE REFUNDED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

VIII. ORIENTATION

- a. There will be an Orientation Program on **October 6th, 2023**, for all the participants followed by a draw of lots and exchange of memorials. The fixture for the Preliminary Rounds will be disclosed during the orientation only.
- b. It will be mandatory for the teams to keep their cameras on during the Program. While their cameras are on, each member must ensure that a proper dress code is followed, and decorum is maintained.
- c. Preceding the Orientation there will be a brief Online Registration process. The participants will be asked to verify their identity and cross-check the personal details that have been filled out. For this exercise, the participants are advised to keep their personal ID card at hand.
- d. Team codes allotted previously by the host university are only to be used for the purposes of submission of memorial. The teams will be allotted fresh competition codes through a draw of lots at the end of the orientation session, after which team codes previously allotted will cease to be valid.

IX. MEMORIALS

The following requirements for memorials must be strictly followed.

- a. Each team must prepare memorials for both parties to the dispute (**Defence and Prosecutor**).
- b. The soft copy of the Memorials for the **Defence and the Prosecutor** should be submitted through mail to mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in , with a copy to mootcourt@lawindia.com on or before **25th September 2023 (Monday), 23:59 P.M. IST** and the subject of the mail should be marked as “*Memorial Submission by Team Code _____ for Surana & Surana and RGNUL International Law Moot Court Competition, 2023*”.

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- c. Furthermore, the soft copy of the memorials should also be submitted via google form link. The memorials shall be submitted in **Word format as well as PDF Format**. The file shall be named as “**Team Code- Memorial for Defence**” and “**Team Code- Memorial for Prosecutor**” respectively.
- d. Once the soft copy of the memorials has been submitted, **no revisions, supplements, or additions will be allowed.**
- e. The memorials have to be on A4 size paper and must contain.
- i. Cover Page
 - ii. Table of contents
 - iii. Table of abbreviations
 - iv. Index of authorities
 - v. Statement of jurisdiction
 - vi. Statement of facts (1 page only and argumentative statement of facts would attract penalties)
 - vii. Statement of issues
 - viii. Summary of arguments (not more than 2 page)
 - ix. Arguments advanced (not more than 25 pages)
 - x. The prayer
- f. The font size should be 12 (doubles space) for body and for footnotes, it should be 10 (single space) & double spaced between two footnotes. (Foot noting must conform to the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th Edition)
- g. The memorial must have a margin measuring one inch on all sides of each page.
- h. The page numbering should be on the top right corner of each page.
- i. Covers must be placed on briefs as follows:

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Applicant: Blue Colour; Respondent: Light Red Colour.

- j. The cover page of the memorial must state the following:
- i. Team code (on the top right corner)
 - ii. The cause title.
 - iii. Identify brief as Applicants / Respondents as is applicable.
 - iv. Name of the Court/Tribunal appearing before

*** Name of the Participating University shall not be revealed on the cover page or any other pages of the memorial**

- k. The identity of the institution shall not be revealed anywhere in the memorial. Violation of this provision shall result in penalties including disqualification. The National Administrator's decision shall be final.
- l. The teams may share a separate compendium, which will carry all the annexure and case laws that have been referred to in the memorial. The compendium will have a white cover. The teams will retain them and may present them, through the Researcher, to the Judges during the rounds through screen sharing. Any identifying marks/seal of the college/university shall attract severe penalties including disqualification. The compendium will have to take care of this requirement.
- m. Late submissions will be penalized by two points each per memorial for every 6 hours of delay after the due date. **Memorials beyond a delay of two days will not be accepted with due penalty.** This will by default disqualify the team from participating in the Competition. There should be no plagiarism in the written submissions furthermore, the use of artificial intelligence in the drafting of arguments is strictly prohibited failing which, the penalty will be upon the organizing committee's sole discretion.

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The penalties will be applicable as follows:

Date of Submission	Penalty
On or before 25th September, 11:59 pm	N/A
On or before 26th September 5:59 pm	2 Points
On or before 26th September 11:59 am	4 Points
On or before 26th September 5:59 pm	6 Points
On or before 26th September 11:59 pm	8 Points
On or before 27th September 5:59 am	10 Points
On or before 27th September 11:59 am	12 Points
On or before 27th September 5:59 pm	14 Points
On or before 27th September 11:59 pm	16 Points
After September s 27th 11:59 pm	Disqualification

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ROUNDS

There will be two preliminary rounds of arguments, a quarter-final round, a semi-final round, and a final round.

A. Preliminary Round

- a. There will be two preliminary rounds of arguments per team, one for applicant & another for respondent.
- b. No team will face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.
- c. Each team will face a different bench in their second round of arguments.
- d. Preliminary will be held on **7th October 2023 (Friday)**.
- e. Top Eight teams from the Preliminary Rounds will advance to the Quarter finals rounds that will be decided on:
 - i. Win points.
 - ii. Win points + Aggregate raw points.
 - iii. Win points + Aggregate raw points (in case of tie minus memorial marks)

Memorial marks will be added to the scores of both the preliminary rounds only.

VIII.B. Quarter finals / Semi-finals Round / Final Round:

- a. Lots / power matching will decide the side of the arguments in Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals.
- b. The Quarter Final Rounds will be held on **7th October 2023**.
- c. The Semi Final Rounds will be held on **8th October 2023**.
- d. The Finals will be held on **8th October 2023**.
- e. The Quarterfinals / Semi-finals will be a knockout round.

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IX RESULTS

Results of the preliminary rounds shall be announced after the completion of rounds of all the teams. Similarly, the results of the Quarterfinals / Semifinals shall be announced after completion of the rounds of all qualified teams of respective rounds. The results of the final rounds shall be announced in Valedictory Ceremony.

XI **ORAL ROUNDS**

As circulated on 23.09.2023.

ORDER OF TEAMS IN RELATION TO THE THREE ISSUES

1. Team A representing the Defence will face Team B representing the Prosecution
2. Team A will argue Issues 1 and 2 and Team B will respond to Issues 1 and 2. Team A **will rebut, and Team B will sur rebut.**
3. Team B will now argue Issue 3. Team A will respond followed by the rebuttal, sur rebuttal.

XI.A. Preliminary Rounds & Quarterfinals

- a. Each team will get a total of 30 minutes to present their case. This period of 30 minutes is inclusive of the time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- b. The division of time is at the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 15 minutes per speaker. It is the duty of the Team to inform the division of time to the court clerk before the arguments begin.
- c. Oral Pleadings shall be confined to the pleading in the Memorials.
- d. The Researcher can pass notes discreetly to the Speakers during the Oral Pleading Round subject to the discretion of the Judges.
- e. The attendance of the Researcher at the time of Oral Pleading Rounds is compulsory.

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XI.B. Semifinals & Finals

- a. Each team will get 45 minutes to present their case inclusive of the time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- b. The division of time is at the discretion of the team members, with a maximum of 25 minutes and minimum of 20 minutes per speaker.
- c. Oral Pleadings shall be confined to the pleading in the Memorials.
- d. The attendance of the Researcher at the time of Oral Pleading Rounds is compulsory.

XII DRESS CODE

The dress code shall be the advocate's attire during the competition rounds.

XIII SCOUTING

Teams will not be allowed to observe the orals pleading rounds of any other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team members shall result in disqualification from the Competition.

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XIV SCORING

XIV.A. Orals

The parameters for judging the oral presentation on a scale of 0 – 100 points are:

- i. Knowledge of facts
- ii. Logic and reasoning
- iii. Organisation and clarity
- iv. Persuasiveness
- v. Deference to the court
- vi. Proper and articulate analysis of the issues arising out of facts
- vii. Understanding of the legal principles directly applicable to the issues
- viii. Ability to explain clearly the legal principles in general keeping to the time allotted.
- ix. Knowledge and use of legal sources and authorities and general principles of international law.
- x. Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy from related aspects of law)

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XIV.B. Written Submissions (Memorials)

- a. The memorials shall be marked on a scale of 1-100 points each.
- b. Any revisions, supplements, or additions to the memorials after submission shall attract severe penalties subject to the discretion of the National Administrator.⁸
- c. Award of the points shall be based on the following parameters:
 - i. Logical progression of ideas
 - ii. Effective use of headings to outline arguments.
 - iii. Understanding essential legal issues presented
 - iv. Focus on essential (not collateral) issues.
 - v. Clear, concise and unambiguous writing style
 - vi. Forceful and persuasive presentation
 - vii. Integration of facts into legal argument
 - viii. Understanding of strengths and weaknesses of case
 - ix. Discussion of viable alternative arguments
 - x. Understanding and analysis of authority
 - xi. Proper use of citations and citation form
 - xii. Effective use of authority to support arguments
 - xiii. Ability to distinguish adverse cases.
 - xiv. Neatness, legibility, no typographical errors, or format errors
- d. non-compliance of the rules mentioned in Clause X above shall attract severe penalties.

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XV AWARDS

- a. Winner – Rs. 21000,
- b. Runner's up – Rs.15,000/-
- c. Best Memorial - Rs. 8,000/-
- d. Best Student Advocate –Rs. 8,000/-

All participants will be issued participation certificates.

XVI ANONYMITY

- a. Student council may introduce her/himself to the court in the usual manner and may also state her/his names. However, the team's college / institution affiliation may not be mentioned at any time before the awards ceremony.
- b. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers shall refrain from identifying a team's school at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, ties, patches, or pins or carrying identifying material (such as a book with a college logo, or college seal).

XVII FINALITY OF THE DECISION

The decision of the judge shall be final and binding.

XVIII POLICY FOR VIRTUAL ROUNDS

- a) The Oral Rounds for the competition will take place virtually via **Google Meet** platform.
- b) It would be the responsibility of every team to ensure a stable internet connection. The audio and video of every member of the team should be clear. Every team must ensure a proper background. The organisers will under no circumstances be obligated to provide the participants with any such facility.
- c) All participants should mandatorily join with their laptops or desktops and other forms of device are to be avoided.
- d) **The link or the ID and password for the room on Google Meet will be conveyed to the participating teams before the oral rounds.**

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- e) Each participating member of every team is advised to install the Google Meet platform on their devices well in time.
- f) Each team is required to join the room at least twenty minutes before the scheduled time of
- g) commencement of the oral rounds.
- h) The participants' camera and microphone shall be firmly positioned throughout the oral rounds to show speakers and to ensure their voices are clearly audible.
- i) All participants must always keep their cameras on during the rounds. Camera to be switched off in case of technical glitches with the permission of the bench.
- j) At the time when one participant is speaking, others are expected to keep their microphones on mute. In case a participant is found disturbing the other pleader anyway, he/she or the entire team to which such participant belongs may be disqualified upon the discretion of the bench.
- k) Each participant is responsible for finding a suitable venue and background to participate. The venue must be a quiet location and one which has adequate and reliable internet connectivity and has a desk and chairs for the oralist. Locations in open spaces or hallways or cybercafés or similar areas are NOT permitted.
- l) Participants are cautioned to ensure that all equipment has a power supply sufficient to last for at least two hours without interruption.
- m) In case of a loss in internet connection, each team will be given a reasonable time to reconnect. If the problem persists the decision made by the organisers shall be final and binding.
- n) In the event where one or both of the speakers could not join due to connectivity issues, the team may be disqualified from the competition and at no circumstances can other members of the team be allowed to switch roles.
- o) Where a team does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time for the round, the round shall proceed as ex-parte.
- p) Compendium & memorials shall be mailed to uils.suranamoot2023@gmail.com along with the team competition codes on completion of the Orientation as directed by the organizers.
- q) Any compiled Research Material (Compendium) or other supplementary documents may be, as per the discretion of the bench, presented by the team by using the "screen sharing" option given they have fulfilled the preceding sub-clause.

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- r) Participants will not be allowed to use the feature of personal chat on Google Meet to communicate with their team members or members of the opposing team.
- s) Teams shall not use the internet or any other devices during the rounds for anything, except participating in the rounds.
- t) Participants can only sip water on screen during the competition. Consumption of other beverages or eatables is not permitted. Non-Speakers are to switch off video before drinking water.
- u) Participating speakers and researchers are permitted to join for the Virtual Competition from the same premises/room. However, the screen space shall be independent and the speakers, researcher to represent before the bench through individual/separate devices.
- v) Appropriate court room demeanour is to be maintained. This is mandatory.
- w) Participants are expected to cooperate with the organisers and the judges, in case anyone faces any issue.
- x) The organizers shall take best available measures to resolve or mitigate any connectivity issues that may arise. However, in cases where that is not possible, the organizer cannot be held responsible for the unforeseen issues which includes (but are not limited to) – Software failure and connectivity issues.

XIX COPYRIGHT

- a. The copyright over the memorials submitted for participation in the competition is assigned by participants and shall also vest completely and fully in Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab and Surana & Surana International Attorneys Chennai. The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.
- b. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in this collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

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- c. Distribution of these materials on affiliated websites such as www.moot.in does not constitute consent to any use of this material for commercial redistribution either via the Internet or using some other form of hypertext distribution. Links to the collection or individual pages in it are welcome.

XX ANY CLARIFICATIONS FOR THE COMPETITION CAN BE SOUGHT FROM:

Regarding queries on case / submission of memorials / accommodation/transport/ etc.

Dr. Geetika Walia
Faculty Co-ordinator, Moot Court Committee, RGNUL,
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Bhadson Road, Sidhuwal
Patiala, Punjab 147001.
Phone: 0175 2391383
Email – mootcommittee@rgnul.ac.in

Regarding registration

Preetam Surana
Partner - Dispute Resolution
Head - Academic Initiatives
Surana & Surana International Attorneys
Email: mootcourt@lawindia.com
Contact: 7448376000

Student Co-coordinators

Name	Mobile
Satrajit Somavanshi	9140667691 (Convenor, RMCC)
Divyani Saldi	6283672133 (Convenor, RMCC)

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Important Dates

Release Of Case Record	30th August 2023
Commencement of Online Registration	30th August 2023
Last Date for Online Registration	15th September 2023
Last Date for payment of Registration fee	15th September 2023
Last Date of Seeking Clarifications	14th September, 2023
Release Of Clarifications	16th September 2023
Last Date for Submission of Memorials soft copy (both applicant and respondent)	25th September 2023 at 11:59 p.m.
Inauguration, Orientation, Memo-Exchange	6th October 2023
Preliminary Round / Quarter Finals Round	7th October 2023
Semi-Finals / Finals & Valedictory and Prize Distribution	8th October 2023

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Date:

Registration form/ Approval letter

(Please fill in capital letters)

1. We hereby state that our participation complies with the rules and regulations of the competition.
2. We certify that the materials submitted/to be submitted are prepared by us and agree to indemnify the organizers, i.e. the Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.

(All particulars must be given)

Name & Address of the participating Institution:

Notification Email:

Regd. Mobile:

Name of the participant	Gender	Course	Year	Signature