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TRIAL AND APPELLATE ADVOCACY SOCIETY

8TH KMT C

KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

30TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER 2026



KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act, 1956

SCHOOL OF LAW

Established : 2007



RULE BOOK

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8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS // CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026

ARTICLE NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1	NOTIFICATION	5
2	DEFINITIONS	5-6
3	AIM & OBJECTIVES	7
4	ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL RULES	7
5	MODE, DATES & VENUE	7
6	LANGUAGE	8
7	ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION	8
8	WITNESSES	8-9
9	REGISTRATION	9
10	REGISTRATION FEES	9
11	ANONYMITY	10
12	DRESS CODE	10
13	MEMORIALS	10-11
14	STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION	12
15	TIME BOUND PROCEEDINGS	12-13
16	RECORDING OF EVIDENCE	13
17	TIE-BREAKER	13-14
18	JUDGING CRITERIA	15
19	SCOUTING	15
20	PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS	15-16
21	QUERIES & CLARIFICATIONS	16

"The law is a pattern. Once you see the pattern, you can predict the outcome."

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ORGANISED BY TRIAL AND APPELLATE ADVOCACY SOCIETY | TAAS

TABLE OF CONTENTS // CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026

ARTICLE NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
22	MISCELLANEOUS	16
23	CONTACT US	17

"The law is a pattern. Once you see the pattern, you can predict the outcome."

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 1: NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the authority conferred upon the Trial and Appellate Society, KIIT School of Law, Bhubaneswar ("TAAS"), the following Rules are hereby notified for the conduct of the 8th KIIT National Mock Trial Competition, 2026

- 1.1 These Rules may be called THE 8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION RULES, 2026.
- 1.2 These Rules shall apply to all Participants, Teams, and Institutions registered for the Competition.
- 1.3 These Rules shall come into force from the date of publication of this Rulebook and shall remain in force until the conclusion of the Valedictory Ceremony.

ARTICLE 2: DEFINITIONS

In this Rulebook, unless the context otherwise requires:

- i) **"Organising Committee"** refers to the Trial and Appellate Society (TAAS) KIIT School of Law, and any Sub-Committee, faculty member, or person appointed or authorised by it to administer the Competition.
- ii) **"Bench"** refers to the panel of Judge(s) presiding over a Trial Round, whether comprising a single Judge or a division bench, as constituted at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- iii) **"Chief Examination / Examination-in-Chief"** refers to the examination of a witness by the party who has called such witness.
- iv) **"Clarifications"** refer to the official clarification(s) to the Trial Proposition issued by the Organising Committee in response to queries submitted by Teams.
- v) **"Closing Statement / Final Arguments"** refers to the concluding oral address made by each side after the conclusion of witness examination, summarising the evidence led and reinforcing the case theory.
- vi) **"Competition"** refers to the 8th KIIT National Mock Trial Competition, 2026.
- vii) **"Cross-Examination"** means the examination of a witness by the opposing party for the purpose of testing the credibility of the witness and the veracity of testimony given in Chief Examination.
- viii) **"Disqualification"** means the exclusion of a Team from further participation in the Competition, resulting in forfeiture of all cash prizes, awards, and eligibility for any Certificate of Merit, pursuant to Rule 20.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

- ix) **"Judge"** means any person appointed by the Organising Committee to evaluate a Team's Memorial and/or Oral Pleadings.
- x) **"Memorial"** means the written submission prepared and submitted by each Team in accordance with Rule 13.
- xi) **"Opening Statement"** refers to the initial oral address made by each side at the commencement of the Trial, outlining the facts and case theory without making arguments on the merits.
- xii) **"Participant"** refers to a bona fide student who, having completed the registration process, officially represents a Team in the Competition.
- xiii) **"Penalty"** means points deducted from a Team's score on account of non-adherence to these Rules or any supplementary directions issued by the Organising Committee.
- xiv) **"Rules"** means these Rules, together with any supplementary rules, clarifications, or directions issued by the Organising Committee from time to time.
- xv) **"Scouting"** means observing, or attempting to observe, any Round of the Competition other than a Round in which one's own Team is participating, or interacting with a Judge in any manner prior to the declaration of results.
- xvi) **"Speaker / Counsel"** refers to a Team Member designated to conduct Opening Statements, Examination and Cross-Examination of witnesses, and Closing Statements.
- xvii) **"Team"** means a group of Participants representing an eligible institution, constituted in accordance with Rule 7.
- xviii) **"Team Code"** means the unique alphanumeric code allotted to each Team for the purpose of preserving anonymity.
- xix) **"Trial Proposition"** means the moot problem, including all annexures, exhibits, evidence, and witness statements, together with any Clarifications issued in relation thereto.
- xx) **"Witness"** means an individual examined by Counsel during the course of the Trial, portrayed by a Team's witness provided by the Organising Committee, as applicable.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 3: AIMS & OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Competition aims to nurture participants' understanding of trial court procedure, evidentiary principles, and litigation strategy by bridging classroom theory with real-world advocacy practice.

3.2 The Trial Proposition shall be framed in consonance with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023; the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023; and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to familiarise participants with the recently enacted criminal law framework.

3.3 The Competition seeks to develop participants' skills in the examination and cross-examination of witnesses, the tendering of documentary evidence, persuasive oral advocacy, and professional courtroom decorum.

ARTICLE 4: ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL RULES

4.1 The Competition shall be administered by the Organising Committee, whose decisions on all matters shall be final and binding.

4.2 All Participants must strictly adhere to these Rules and to any supplementary instructions issued by the Organising Committee by e-mail or through the official Competition WhatsApp group.

4.3 The Organising Committee reserves the **right to amend, omit, or add to these Rules**, and to amend the schedule or format of any Round, as may be necessitated by the number of participating Teams or by unforeseen circumstances. Any such change shall be communicated to all Teams in advance.

ARTICLE 5: MODE, DATES & VENUE

5.1 **MODE-:** The Competition shall be conducted in Offline Mode.

5.2 **DATES:**

- The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted on **31st October**.
- The Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds (collectively, the "Advanced Rounds") from **31st October to 1st November 2026**.

5.3 **VENUE:**

At KIIT School of Law, Campus-16, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 751024, India.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 6: LANGUAGE

6.1 The official language of the Competition shall be **English**.

6.2 Notwithstanding Rule 6.1, counsel may examine the witness partially in Hindi during oral proceedings, subject to the leave of the presiding judge, and any person assisting counsel (including a witness) may use Hindi at any stage of the proceedings.

ARTICLE 7: ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

7.1 The Competition is open to all bona fide students pursuing a bachelor's degree in law (LL.B., B.A.LL.B., or equivalent, whether the three-year or five-year course) from any University, College, or Department of Law recognised by the Bar Council of India.

7.2 Each Team shall comprise **three (3) Members: two (2) Speakers and one (1) Researcher**.

7.3 The Speakers shall act as Counsel and shall conduct Opening Statements, Examination and Cross-Examination of witnesses, and Closing Statements. The Researcher shall assist in research and the briefing of witnesses.

7.4 Once registered, no change in the composition or designated roles of a Team shall be permitted, save with the express prior permission of the Organising Committee.

7.5 No coach, faculty advisor, or any person other than the three (3) registered Team Members shall be permitted in the courtroom during any Round of the Competition.

7.6 A maximum of two (2) Teams shall be permitted to register per institution.

ARTICLE 8: WITNESSES

8.1. Organisers will provide the witnesses. The witnesses will be generally assigned and briefed by the Organisers. However, each team will have an opportunity to specially brief their witnesses. The witnesses to be briefed will be assigned to each team forty-five (45) minutes prior to the commencement of the respective round.

8.2. To maintain impartiality and transparency during the rounds a team shall not be assigned similar witnesses in preliminary rounds.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

8.3. The number of witnesses allowed to be examined may vary from round to round.

8.4. It is not mandatory for the teams to examine all the witnesses. However, a minimum of 2 witnesses and maximum of 3 has to be examined in each round.

ARTICLE 9: REGISTRATION

9.1 Participation in the Competition shall be limited to **Thirty (30) Teams**, allotted through a two-phase process set out below.

9.2 Phase I – Online Registration

Online registration shall constitute the first phase, wherein Participants shall complete the prescribed Google Form and submit the registration fee through the prescribed online payment method.

9.3 Phase II – Final Registration

Further, the Participants will be submitting the Registration form and the Payment Slip (Hard Copy- Duly filled and signed by the College Authority) to Student Convener, TAAS, School of Law, Campus-16, KIIT University, Patia, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) - 751024.

9.4 Registration fee per team is ₹6,000 which shall be paid in form of the payment method specified in the brochure in favour of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) payable at Bhubaneswar. The hard copy of the receipt of the same must reach the Organisers on the day of arrival at Campus-16, School of Law, KIIT University, Patia, Bhubaneswar- 751024.

ARTICLE 10: REGISTRATION FEE

10.1 The total registration fee per Team shall be Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand only), mandatory under any circumstances

10.2 All fees, once paid, shall be non-refundable under any circumstances, including withdrawal from the Competition after registration.

10.3 Accommodation would be taken care of along with meals included for the participants throughout the day.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 11: ANONYMITY

11.1 Each Team shall be allotted a unique Team Code upon the closure of registrations. Student Counsel may introduce him/herself to the court in the usual manner and may also state their names. However, the team's affiliation shall not be indicated to the judges at any time.

11.2 The name of a Team's institution shall never be disclosed to the Judges, Court Secretaries, or opposing Teams, at any stage of the Competition, whether during Oral Rounds or in the Memorials.

11.3 No Participant shall wear or carry any item bearing the name, crest, logo, or other identifying mark of their institution, including blazers, ties, pins, notebooks, or stationery.

11.4 Any breach of anonymity, whether during Oral Proceedings or in a Memorial, shall result in Disqualification of the erring Team, at the discretion of the Organising Committee, pursuant to Rule 20.

ARTICLE 12: DRESS CODE

12.1 Participants appearing as Counsel and researcher shall wear formal advocate's attire: white shirt, black trousers, and a plain black blazer, free of any institutional logo or identifying mark. (For both male and female counsels)

12.2. Participants shall carry their Competition ID- Card for the purpose of identification of their team during the competition.

12.3 The dress code shall be strictly observed during the Inaugural and Valedictory Ceremonies as well.

ARTICLE 13: MEMORIALS

13.1 **Soft copies of the Memorial-** In only PDF format, shall be submitted through the prescribed form on or before 24th October 2026, 11:59 p.m. IST. Submissions with delay of more than one day from the deadline shall stand disqualified.

13.2 **Hard copies of the Memorial-** Each Team shall prepare 5 sets of memorials i.e., 5x2 = 10 memorials addressing both the Prosecution's and the Defence's shall be submitted through the prescribed form on 30th October 2026.

13.3 **Contents-** Each Memorial shall contain, in the following order:
(a) Cover Page; (b) Table of Contents; (c) List of Abbreviations;

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

(d) Index of Authorities; (e) Statement of Jurisdiction; (f) Statement of Facts; (g) Statement of Charges; (h) Summary of Arguments; (i) Arguments Advanced; (j) Prayer; and (k) List of witnesses.

13.4 Formatting- Memorials shall be typed on A4 paper in Times New Roman, font size 12 for the body (headings in size 14) with 1.5 line spacing; footnotes in Times New Roman size 10 with single line spacing, conforming to the Bluebook (22nd edition); margins of one inch on all sides; and page numbers centred at the bottom of each page.

13.5 Page Limit - The Arguments Advanced and Prayer shall not exceed 20 pages in aggregate, excluding footnotes. Memorial shall not exceed 35 pages excluding list of witness page.

13.6 Anonymity - The Memorial shall not disclose, directly or indirectly, the name of the institution, the names of Participants, or any identifying mark. The Team Code alone shall appear on the top right-hand corner of the cover page. Any breach shall result in immediate Disqualification.

13.7 Submission - The memorials must be submitted in the google form attached below in only PDF format and PDF should be named as TC_XXX Prosecution/ TC_XXX Defence where "XXX" should be replaced by the respective team codes.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE SUBMISSION LINK
(Last Date of Submission 24th October)

13.8 Marking Criteria -

13.8.1-Late Submission of Memorial: A penalty of 5 marks shall be deducted for a day of delay in the submission of the memorial and submissions with delay of more than one day from the deadline shall stand disqualified.

13.8.2- Exceeding the Prescribed Page Limit: A penalty of 2 marks shall be deducted for each page exceeding the prescribed page limit.

13.8.3- Non-Compliance with Formatting/Citation Requirements: A penalty of 2 marks shall be deducted for each instance of non-compliance with the prescribed formatting and citation requirements.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 14: STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

14.1 The Competition shall be conducted in the following sequence of Rounds:

- Two (2) Preliminary Rounds (Offline) – 31st October 2026
- Quarter-Final Rounds (Offline, knockout) – 31st October 2026;
- Semi-Final Rounds (Offline, knockout) – 1st November 2026; and
- The Final Round (Offline) – 1st November 2026.

14.2 Each Team shall argue once as Prosecution and once as Defence in the Preliminary Rounds. No Team shall face the same opponent twice during the Preliminary Rounds.

14.3 The top eight (8) Teams, ranked on the basis of cumulative Oral Round in the Preliminary Rounds, shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds. In the case of a tie between two teams, the team with higher marks scored in the memorial shall advance to the Quarter-Finals. Sides and pairings for the Quarter-Finals shall be determined by seeding (Rank 1 v. Rank 8, Rank 2 v. Rank 7, and so forth).

14.4 The Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds shall each be knockout rounds. Sides for the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final shall be determined by a draw of lots.

ARTICLE 15: TIME-BOUND PROCEEDINGS

15.1 The order of proceedings and the time allocated to each stage shall be as follows. Time not utilised in one stage shall not be carried over to another. Extra time used without the leave of the presiding Judge may attract a deduction of marks.

A. Preliminary Rounds/Quarter-Final Rounds – Total 30 minutes per side (1 hour per Round)

STAGE	PROSECUTION	DEFENCE
OPENING STATEMENT	3 MINUTES	3 MINUTES
CHIEF EXAMINATION OF OWN WITNESSES	8 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES	8 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES
CROSS-EXAMINATION OF OPPOSING WITNESSES	12 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES	12 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES
CLOSING STATEMENT / FINAL ARGUMENTS	5 MINUTES	5 MINUTES

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

B. Semi-Finals/ Final Rounds – Total 45 minutes per side (1.5 Hours per Round)

STAGE	PROSECUTION	DEFENCE
OPENING STATEMENT	5 MINUTES	5 MINUTES
CHIEF EXAMINATION OF OWN WITNESSES	10 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES	10 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES
CROSS-EXAMINATION OF OPPOSING WITNESSES	18 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES	18 MINUTES FOR ALL WITNESSES
CLOSING STATEMENT / FINAL ARGUMENTS	10 MINUTES	10 MINUTES

ARTICLE 16: RECORDING OF EVIDENCE

16.1 Teams are expected to take their own notes of the questions and answers elicited during Examination and Cross-Examination. No official transcript of depositions shall be made available by the Organising Committee.

16.2 No participant shall independently audio-record or video-record any Round, in whole or in part. The Organising Committee reserves all rights of recording and reproduction of the proceedings. **Any electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the courtroom premises.**

ARTICLE 17: TIE-BREAKER

1. Team Scores

In the event of a tie in the team scores during the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Finals, or Semi-Finals, the qualifying team shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria, in the strict order specified below, until the tie is resolved:

1. Memorial Score;
2. Researcher Test Score;
3. Sub-Scores of the Oral Rounds, in the following order:
 - (a) Knowledge of Facts and Application of Law;
 - (b) Understanding of Evidence and Procedure;
 - (c) Ability to Conduct Examination/Cross-Examination;
 - (d) Persuasiveness and Logical Reasoning; and
 - (e) Use of Legal Authorities.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

2. Best Speaker

In the event of a tie between two or more participants for the **Best Speaker** position, the tie shall be resolved on the basis of the following criteria, in the **strict order** specified below, until the tie is broken:

1. Sub-Scores of the Oral Rounds, in the following order:

- (a) Knowledge of Facts and Application of Law;
- (b) Understanding of Evidence and Procedure;
- (c) Ability to Conduct Examination/Cross-Examination;
- (d) Persuasiveness and Logical Reasoning; and
- (e) Use of Legal Authorities.

3. Best Researcher

In the event that two or more participants obtain an equal score in the **Researcher Test**, the tie shall be resolved by reference to the Memorial Score of their respective teams. The participant belonging to the team with the higher **Memorial Score** shall be ranked higher.

4. Best Witness

The **Best Witness** shall be determined on the basis of the participant who obtains the highest score in the **Final Round**.

In the event of a tie, the scores obtained in the following rounds shall be considered successively, until the tie is resolved:

1. Final Round;
2. Semi-Finals;
3. Quarter-Finals; and
4. Preliminary Rounds.

5. Final Tie-Breaker

If the tie remains unresolved even after applying the respective tie-breaker criteria specified above, the matter shall be decided by **draw of lots**.

The draw of lots shall be conducted in the presence of **only the parties directly affected by the tie and the designated members of the Organising Committee (OC)**. No other participant or team member shall be permitted to be present during the draw of lots.

The decision resulting from the draw of lots shall be final and binding upon all affected parties.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

ARTICLE 18: JUDGING CRITERIA

PARAMETERS FOR JUDGMENT OF ORAL ROUNDS ARE:

1. Knowledge of facts
2. Logic & clarity in reasoning
3. Persuasiveness and deference to court.
4. Proper, articulate and systematic analysis of the issues arising out of facts.
5. Understanding of the laws of evidence and procedure.
6. Ability to successfully conduct chief/cross examination within the allotted time.
7. Ability to elicit favorable facts from witnesses.
8. Ability to deal with unreceptive, argumentative or hostile witnesses.
9. Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy from related aspects of law)
10. Knowledge of the relevant provisions relating to penal laws.
11. Written submission.

ARTICLE 19: SCOUTING

19.1 Teams will not be allowed to observe the orals of any other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the teams will result in disqualification.

19.2 Any team can file a written complaint with the Organiser, regarding a case of scouting. The Organiser's Decision is Final.

19.3 The researchers shall sit with the speakers at the time of the orals and shall not attend the court sessions of any other team participating in the competition.

ARTICLE 20: PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS

20.1 A Team shall be liable to Disqualification, at the discretion of the Organising Committee, on any of the following grounds:

Scouting, as defined under Rule 19;

breach of anonymity, as defined under Rule 11;

20.1.1 More than 25% Plagiarism in the Memorial;

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #KMTC-08/2026 | RULE BOOK

20.1.2 use of offensive, derogatory, or disrespectful language at any stage of the Competition;

20.1.3 any form of unfair means, including referring to unauthorised material, receiving external assistance, or communicating with persons outside the Team during a Round; or

20.1.4 any other conduct unbefitting the legal profession.

20.2 Disqualification shall result in forfeiture of all cash prizes, awards, and eligibility for any Certificate of Merit or Participation, and any fees already paid shall stand forfeited.

20.3 The decision of the Organising Committee on any question of Disqualification shall be final and binding, and no request for review or reconsideration shall be entertained.

ARTICLE 21: QUERIES & CLARIFICATIONS

21.1 All queries regarding the Trial Proposition shall be submitted through the prescribed Google Form on or before 2nd October 2026, 11:59 p.m. IST. No queries shall be entertained thereafter.

21.2 A consolidated list of Clarifications shall be released on or before 12th October 2026 and shall be deemed to form part of the Trial Proposition.

ARTICLE 22: MISCELLANEOUS

22.1 Any procedural or technical grievance arising during a Round shall be communicated promptly to the Court Manager. Participants shall not directly approach a Judge during proceedings.

22.2 If any one Member of a Team is notified of any detail concerning the Competition, such Team as a whole shall be deemed to have been duly notified. All details shall be shared to the point of contact given during the registration.

22.3 The Organising Committee reserves the right to decide upon any matter not expressly provided for in these Rules, and its interpretation of these Rules shall be final and binding.

8TH KIIT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CASE FILE: #2026-KMTC-08

ARTICLE 23: CONTACT US



ENQUIRIES

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SCHOOL OF LAW

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**EVIDENCE.
ARGUMENT.
VERDICT.**

DESIGN & BRANDING PARTNER



OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER

MEDIA COLLABORATOR

