



UTTAR PRADESH STATE INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC
SCIENCE, LUCKNOW

presents

First Edition
UPSIFS NATIONAL
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



G.GIRI & PARTNERS LLP
ADVOCATES SINCE 1987

RULEBOOK



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

SCC[®]
ONLINE

MEDIA PARTNER

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ONLINE **TIMES**

MEMORIAL GUIDELINES

All rules laid down henceforth regarding the submission and formatting of the memorial have to be strictly adhered to. Non-adherence to the same will attract penalties as described later in this section.

The teams may formulate and raise sub-issues arising from the Issues Raised in the Moot Proposition.

All queries and requests for clarification on the Moot Proposition shall be submitted exclusively via e-mail on or before 15th September 2026. Queries received after this date shall not be entertained.

GENERAL RULES & SUBMISSION:

- All teams shall be required to submit two Memorials - one on behalf of the Petitioner and one on behalf of the Respondent.
- The use of a Compendium shall not be mandatory for any Participating Team. However, teams that choose to use a Compendium shall be required to submit a copy of the same along with their Memorials.
- Teams shall submit the Petitioner and Respondent Memorials in both PDF and DOCX formats through the designated Google Form shared by the Organising Committee through the official communication channels of the Competition, no later than 11:59 P.M. (IST) on 10th October 2026. Late submissions shall attract penalties.

- The files shall be named strictly in accordance with the allotted Team Code, as follows:
 - P-TC-01 – Petitioner Memorial
 - R-TC-01 – Respondent Memorial
 - C-TC-01 – Compendium, if applicable
- Apart from the Team Code mentioned on the file name and Cover Page, no identifying information, including the names of participants or their College, University, or Law School, shall appear anywhere on the Memorial or in the submission.
- Kindly note that in case of multiple submissions by the teams, the one submitted last shall only be considered for evaluation.
- No amendments, alterations, or modifications shall be permitted to the Written Submission/Memorial after the submission of the soft copy.
- All teams qualifying for the Quarter-Final Round shall be required to submit 5 hard copies of the Memorial for the Petitioner and the Respondent to the Organising Committee for use during the Oral Rounds.
- During the Oral Rounds, participating teams shall carry separate copies of their respective Memorials for their personal use. The copies submitted to the Organising Committee, if any, shall not be returned to the participating teams.

- Upon completion of the Competition, the Organising Committee reserves the right to use, reproduce, or publish the Memorials submitted by the Participating Teams for academic, educational, or promotional purposes, as it deems appropriate.
- The Memorial shall comprise of the following parts:
 1. Cover Page
 2. Table of Contents
 3. List of Abbreviations
 4. Index/List of Authorities
 5. Statement of Jurisdiction
 6. Statement of Facts
 7. Statement of Issues
 8. Summary of Pleadings
 9. Arguments Advanced/Detailed Pleadings
 10. Prayer

FORMATTING OF THE MEMORIAL:

- The Cover Page of each Memorial shall contain
 1. The name of the forum before which the proceedings are being conducted;
 2. The title of the Competition;
 3. The name of the case;
 4. The party on whose behalf the Memorial has been prepared;
 5. The allotted Team Code in the upper-right corner; and
 6. The Cover Page shall be BLUE for the Petitioner and RED for the Respondent.

- The Memorial shall be prepared on A4 size paper. The Body of Arguments shall not exceed 30 pages in total. The complete Memorial, including the Cover Page, shall not exceed 40 pages.
- The body of the Memorial shall be typed in Garamond, 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing. Footnotes shall be in 10-point font with single line spacing. The use of endnotes shall not be permitted. Headings and titles shall also be in 12-point font.
- The Cover Page shall be prepared in Garamond, 14-point font.
- All teams shall follow the 21st Edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation for citation purposes.
- A margin of 1 inch shall be maintained on all sides of each page.
- The full name of the Competition shall appear on the top-left side of the header, while the allotted Team Code shall appear on the top-right side of the header.
- Page numbers shall be placed at the bottom-right corner of each page. The ancillary pages shall be numbered using Roman numerals, while the Arguments Advanced shall be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- A double line spacing shall be maintained at the beginning of each Issue Raised.

- Quotations of 50 words or more shall be presented as block quotations and appropriately indented.

EVALUATION:

Each Memorial shall be evaluated for a maximum of 100 marks based on the following criteria:

S.NO.	PARAMETERS	SCORING
1.	Application of Facts	20
2.	Reasoning & Understanding of Law and Procedure	25
3.	Knowledge, Interpretation and Application of Law	25
4.	Use of Authorities and Precedents	15
5.	Grammar, Presentation and Formatting	15
Total		100

PENALTIES:

- Late submission of the Memorial shall attract a penalty of 5 marks per day.
- Incorrect file naming or failure to submit the Memorial as a single file shall attract a penalty of 1 mark per Memorial.
- Exceeding the prescribed page limit shall attract a penalty of 1 mark per extra page.
- Failure to include any mandatory section in the Memorial shall attract a penalty of 3 marks per section.

- Failure to include the required information on the Cover Page shall attract a penalty of 1 mark per violation, while failure to comply with the prescribed colour coding shall attract a penalty of 2 marks per Memorial.
- Failure to comply with the prescribed formatting requirements, including font, font size, margins, spacing, citation style, and pagination, shall attract a penalty of 1 mark per violation.
- Disclosure of the identity of the team or the institution represented by it shall result in disqualification.
- Plagiarism exceeding 10% and the use of AI-generated content exceeding 20% in a Memorial shall result in the disqualification of the concerned team.

ORAL ROUNDS

GENERAL RULES:

- The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted online through Microsoft Teams. The Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds shall be conducted offline at Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow.
- In each Oral Round, a team shall be represented by two Speakers who shall present the arguments. The Researcher shall not participate in the oral arguments.
- The division of time between the two Speakers shall be communicated to the bench secretary/bailiff before the commencement of the respective round.

- During the Online Preliminary Rounds, teams shall not use any electronic device other than the device being used for the Oral Round. Violation of this provision may attract penalties, including disqualification.
- A rebuttal, if permitted by the Judges, shall be limited to responding to the Respondent's submissions, while a sur-rebuttal, if permitted, shall be limited to responding to the Petitioner's rebuttal. No new legal issue shall be raised during rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:

- Each team shall be allotted fifteen (15) minutes to present their case, including the time taken for questioning by the Judges and, where permitted, rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- The division of time between the two Speakers shall be at the discretion of the team, subject to a minimum of five (5) minutes and a maximum of ten (10) minutes per Speaker.

QUARTER - FINAL ROUNDS:

- Each team shall be allotted thirty (30) minutes to present their case, including the time taken for questioning by the Judges and, where permitted, rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- The division of time between the two Speakers shall be at the discretion of the team, subject to a minimum of twelve (12) minutes and a maximum of eighteen (18) minutes per Speaker.

SEMI - FINAL ROUNDS:

- Each team shall be allotted forty five (45) minutes to present their case, including the time taken for questioning by the Judges and, where permitted, rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- The division of time between the two Speakers shall be at the discretion of the team, subject to a minimum of twenty (20) minutes and a maximum of twenty five (25) minutes per Speaker.

FINAL ROUND:

- Each team shall be allotted sixty (60) minutes to present their case, including the time taken for questioning by the Judges and, where permitted, rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
- The division of time between the two Speakers shall be at the discretion of the team, subject to a minimum of twenty five (25) minutes and a maximum of thirty five (35) minutes per Speaker.

SCORING:

S.NO.	PARAMETERS	SCORING
1.	Knowledge of Law	30
2.	Application of Law to Facts	20
3.	Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions	20

4.	Time Management and Organisation	15
5.	Style, Advocacy Skills & Demeanour	15
	Total	100

RESEARCHER'S TEST

Only the Researcher of each team qualifying for the Quarter-Final Rounds shall be eligible to appear for the Researcher's Test.

The Researcher's Test shall be conducted in offline mode at the Competition venue on 30th October 2026.

The Researcher securing the highest marks in the Test shall be awarded the **Best Researcher Award**.

The Test shall consist of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). Each question shall carry one (1) mark, and the Test shall be conducted in pen-and-paper mode. Participants shall complete the Test within thirty (30) minutes.

The use of any unfair means, including mobile phones, smart devices, or any other electronic equipment, during the Test shall result in immediate disqualification from the Researcher's Test.

DELAY IN APPEARANCE/PRESENTATION

The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted online through Microsoft Teams. The meeting link shall be shared with the participating teams before the scheduled round.

Participants shall join the meeting only at their allotted time and shall keep their cameras enabled throughout the round.

A team failing to appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled commencement of the round may, at the discretion of the Organising Committee, be permitted to appear ex parte or face appropriate action.

Participants must ensure a stable internet connection and a quiet environment. Any technical issue shall be immediately communicated to the Courtroom Coordinator or Organising Committee.

The use of unfair means or violation of the online round & offline round instructions may attract appropriate action, including disqualification.

If a team scheduled to participate in an Offline Round fails to appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled commencement of the round, a walkover shall be declared in favour of the opposing team. The defaulting team shall be disqualified from the Competition and shall not be permitted to participate in any subsequent round.

SCOUTING

Scouting by any Speaker, Researcher, team member, or any person affiliated with a participating team shall result in the immediate disqualification of the concerned team.

Scouting shall include attending, observing, listening to, or otherwise accessing the oral submissions of another team, except where the concerned team is participating in that round or where access to Memorials is permitted as part of an official exchange conducted by the Organising Committee.

No person affiliated with a participating team shall access or obtain information regarding the oral submissions of another team through any unauthorized means.

The decision of the Organising Committee regarding any alleged instance of scouting shall be final and binding.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Teams shall maintain complete anonymity throughout the Competition and shall not disclose the name of their institution or any other information, in any manner whatsoever, that may reveal their identity to the Judges.

Any breach of anonymity or violation of the Competition Rules may result in appropriate penalties, including deduction of marks or disqualification, at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

All participants shall maintain professional conduct and courtroom decorum and shall show due respect towards the Judges, Organising Committee, volunteers, and fellow participants throughout the Competition.

MISCELLANEOUS

If any member of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, such notification or information shall be deemed to have been communicated to the entire team.

All references to time shall be construed as references to Indian Standard Time (IST).

The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend or modify any rule or provision of the Competition if necessary. Any such changes shall be communicated to the participating teams through official communication channels and shall be binding on all teams.

In the event of any unforeseen or unexpected situation arising during the Competition, the Organising Committee shall take appropriate measures, and its decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

Any dispute, grievance, or issue arising in connection with the Competition shall first be brought to the attention of the Organising Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

The teams in the Preliminary Rounds shall be ranked, in the following order of priority: (i) win-loss record; (ii) higher aggregate score; (iii) higher Memorial Score; (iv) higher aggregate Speaker Score; (v) higher individual Speaker Score; and (vi) if the tie still persists, the rank shall be determined by a toss of a coin conducted by the Organising Committee.

All the communication must be done only by the official e-mail id or contact numbers provided in the brochure. Participants must not contact the organising committee in any informal manner.

The Moot Proposition is a fictional narrative created solely for the purposes of the Competition. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or deceased, or actual events is purely coincidental.

Teams shall disclose any potential conflict of interest involving a Judge, Organising Committee member, or any other person associated with the Competition to the Organising Committee at the earliest opportunity.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action, including disqualification, in case of any misconduct, violation of the Rules, or attempt to improperly influence the Competition.