



THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION

VICTOR'S MOOT 2023

**THE MOOT SOCIETY
OF SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The present rules only govern the procedure of The H V Perera QC Memorial Moot Competition also referred to as The Victor's Moot (hereinafter "The Competition"), organized by the Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law College (hereinafter "The Organizers").
- 1.2 Teams must refer and follow the Timeline and Schedule updated annually and published on the Official Website at <https://thevictorsmoot.com/> (hereinafter "The Website").
- 1.3 The Timeline shall be published at the announcement of The Competition and specifies the important dates and deadlines leading up to The Competition. The schedule shall specify the program of events of The Competition and shall be published no less than one week prior to the commencement of The Competition.

2 ELIGIBILITY

The Competition is open to teams composed of students:

- 2.1 Enrolled in either an undergraduate program in law or equivalent professional qualification at a university or other institution

AND

- 2.2 Who have not received their undergraduate qualification or any other professional qualification in the legal field (Attorney at law, Barristers, Solicitors, etc.) at the time of oral hearings.

3 TEAM COMPOSITION

- 3.1 Each university shall be represented by only one (1) team.
- 3.2 Each team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) members and a maximum of four (4) members.
- 3.3 The selection process and eligibility of the team is the sole responsibility of each University.

4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

- 4.1 The Competition, including all forms of oral and written submissions, shall be in English.

5 REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Duly completed registration form, together with the registration fee and a confirmation of the eligibility of competitors by the University, must be submitted on or before the deadline date as specified. Substitution of names shall not be permitted after the registration deadline.

- 5.2 Teams may participate in The Competition by making an application to the Organizers via email to thevictorsmoot@gmail.com.

- 5.3 The registration fee per Sri Lankan team shall be **LKR 10,000**.

- 5.4 The registration fee for foreign teams shall be **USD 120**.

- 5.5 Registration fee for Sri Lankan teams shall be made by bank deposit to,

A/C Name: Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law College

A/C Number: 1000066454

Bank: Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC

Branch: Hulftsdorp Branch

- 5.6 The payment of the registration fee must be completed and attached to the registration form. However, if a team is unable to do so, the payment of the registration fee must be completed within a span of 10 days after the registration form has been filled. Even if a team registers with less than 10 days till registrations close (10th June), the team must complete the payment on or before 10th June 2023. Time extensions in this regard may be considered if they are conveyed by the team to the organizing committee.

- 5.7 Accordingly, the scanned copy/screenshot of the receipt of payment must be emailed to the organizers if it has not already been submitted with the registration form.

- 5.8 Registration fee for teams outside of Sri Lanka shall be made by Wire Transfer as follows:

*A/C Name: Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law
College*

A/C Number: 1000066454

Bank: Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC

Branch: Hulftsdorp Branch

Swift Code: CCEYLKLX

Bank Code: 7056

Branch Code: 0232

- 5.9 Upon completion of registration, each team shall be given a team code. Thereafter all correspondence shall be in reference to the team number, through the nominated email address on registration.
- 5.10 The same team code must be used by the teams during the submission of memorials and during all the rounds of the Competition.

6 DRESS CODE

- 6.1 The dress code for the rounds of The Competition shall be **Western Formal**.
- 6.2 Strict adherence to the dress code is expected from the participants. Participants failing to comply shall be removed from the competition platform.

7 MOOT PROBLEM

- 7.1 The Organizers shall invite a duly qualified person/s to draft the Moot Problem. The author of the Problem shall remain anonymous until the inaugural session of The Competition.
- 7.2 The Organizers will distribute the Moot Problem on the date specified in the Timeline via the Website and the same Moot Problem will be used throughout The Competition. If the release of the Moot Problem is delayed for any reason, a notice will be emailed, and teams will be given extra time for the submission of memorials.
- 7.3 Teams are to identify the subject matter of the moot based on the Moot Problem and all literature provided with it.
- 7.4 Teams cannot introduce new facts outside what is available in the Moot Problem.
- 7.5 Requests for clarifications regarding the Moot Problem or its interpretation, shall be made prior to the deadline specified in the Timeline. Any such request shall be made by email to thevictorsmoot@gmail.com.
- 7.6 Answers to clarifications issued will be distributed to all teams through email correspondence on the date specified in the Timeline. Clarifications issued become part of the Moot Problem.
- 7.7 Requests for clarification shall:
 - 7.7.1 Cite the page number of the Moot Problem to which their request relates,
 - 7.7.2 Be limited to matters that would appear to have legal significance in the context of the Moot Problem (not simple typographical errors, for example),
 - 7.7.3 Include a short explanation of the expected significance of the clarification if possible.

8 FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

8.1 Conducting of rounds virtually through video conferencing

- 8.1.1 The Competition shall consist of two (2) Preliminary Rounds, a (1) Semi-final Round and a (1) Final Round.
- 8.1.2 During the Oral Submissions, two (2) members of each team shall be allowed to present their submissions in a single round. It is permitted to appoint different speakers for the different rounds (the two team members making submissions as the Claimants need not be the same two members that make submissions as the Respondents).
- 8.1.3 All rounds of The Competition shall be conducted virtually by way of video conferencing through a video conferencing platform. The details of the video conferencing platform will be provided to the teams at least one week prior to The Competition.
- 8.1.4 The contact person of each team will be notified of the meeting ID, password, and link via email.
- 8.1.5 The participants shall keep their microphones on mute at all times, except when addressing arguments. A speaker shall unmute his/her microphone after being invited to do so by the arbitral tribunal. Participants are required to keep their video switched on at all times.
- 8.1.6 The participants must ensure that their internet connections at the time of the oral submissions are stable. In the case of a poor connection, the arbitral tribunal will wait for a maximum of 10 minutes, after which the round would be conducted ex-parte.
- 8.1.7 If a team or a team member encounters technical difficulties while participating in the virtual Moot, they must notify the Organizing Office immediately, or as soon as possible, of the issue and its cause.
- 8.1.8 If a team scheduled to take part in a round does not appear for 10 minutes after the scheduled start of the round, the round shall be conducted ex-parte and the scoring shall be done as if the defaulter team had been presenting and arguing.
- 8.1.9 The Arbitrator may ask a team member to substitute and plead on behalf of a specific role if a designated speaker is unable to join the hearing, or if a designated speaker joins the hearing but has technical difficulties commencing his or her oral argument.

- 8.1.10 Participants are advised to locate themselves in a walled room, with a closed door and without distractions during the oral rounds. Only the team members are permitted in the room while the rounds are conducted. However, video technicians are allowed to be in the room, as long as they maintain a fair distance from the speakers.
- 8.1.11 Electronic devices (other than the device being used to log into the video conferencing platform) will not be allowed during the Oral rounds. Participants will be asked to place their mobile phones out of reach, but close enough to be heard. (Refer 11.5)

8.2 Preliminary Rounds

- 8.2.1 Preliminary Rounds will be held on 2nd September 2023.
- 8.2.2 During Preliminary Rounds, each team shall argue once for the Claimant and once for the Respondent.
- 8.2.3 The top four teams with the highest aggregate shall advance to the Semi-final Round, the qualification is based on the total aggregate score of the teams in both the Preliminary Rounds.
- 8.2.4 The aggregate score of a team shall be computed as a total of the scores of the two speakers in the respective rounds.
- 8.2.5 In an event of a tie, the team with the most number of wins in the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Semi-final Round. Further in an event of a tie in the score as well as in the number of wins, the memorial marks of the two teams shall be considered.

8.3 Semi Final Round

- 8.3.1 Semi Final Round will be held on 3rd September 2023.
- 8.3.2 The Semi Final Round shall be a knockout round.
- 8.3.3 Following the declaration of the Preliminary Rounds results, lots shall be drawn to allocate teams for the Semi Final Rounds. Consequently, the teams will be provided with their opponent's memorial.
- 8.3.4 The winners of the Semi Final Round shall advance to the Final Round.

8.4 **Final Round**

- 8.4.1 Final Round shall be held on 3rd September 2023.
- 8.4.2 Final Round shall be a knockout round. The winner of the Final Round shall be declared as the Winner of the Competition.

9 **WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS (MEMORIALS)**

- 9.1 Each team must prepare written submissions in support of the legal position of both the Claimant party as well as the Respondent party.
- 9.2 Each team is to submit an electronic version of both their written submissions in **both PDF and Microsoft Word** (.docx / .doc) with only the,

Team code for Claimant,

Team code for Respondent,

(with no reference to the university name, its logo, and the names of the participants)

through email to **thevictorsmoot@gmail.com** on or before **11.59 pm (Sri Lankan Time)** on the date specified in the Timeline.

- 9.3 Any team that fails to submit written submissions by the deadline (time) will not be eligible for the Memorial Awards (Best and Runners-Up Memorial).
- 9.4 The Cover Page of the Memorial must have the following color scheme:

Blue: Claimant Cover Page

Red: Respondent Cover Page

- 9.5 All teams will receive the memorials of the teams they are scheduled to meet in the Preliminary Rounds no less than one week prior to the competition by email.
- 9.6 Each individual Memorial shall not exceed a limit of 30 pages, excluding the Cover Page, and pages containing the Table of Contents, and Bibliographical Lists (cases, legal texts, statutory instruments etc.).

9.7 The Memorial shall be formatted according to the following specifications:

9.7.1 Typed on standard A4 size page

9.7.2 Font type: Times New Roman.

9.7.3 Font size for body text: 12; the text of the written submission must have one-and-a-half spacing. Font size for footnotes: 10; text of footnotes may be single-spaced. However, two separate footnotes must be double-spaced.

9.7.4 Margin: 1 inch (2.54cm) margin on each side of the A4 size page

9.7.5 Footnotes must follow the Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA).

9.7.6 Quotations of sources outside of the memorial of fifty words or more in any part of the memorial shall be block quoted and must be in italics.

9.7.7 The Memorial must not contain any Annexure/ Photographs/ Sketches/ Exhibits/ Affidavits etc.

9.8 Any Written Submission failing to adhere to any of the specifications enumerated will be penalized according to the scheme below,

Rule	Marks Deducted
9.4	2 each
9.6	1 each for each additional page
9.7.1	1 mark
9.7.2	1 mark
9.7.3	0.5 marks each
9.7.4	1 mark
9.7.5	4 marks
9.7.6	1 mark each
Total marks deductible	15 marks

9.9 The Following will be the marking criteria and the marks allocated to each category:

Marking Criteria	Marks Allocated
Knowledge of the Law and Extent of Research	30
Proper and Articulate Analysis, Clarity and Organization	25
Knowledge of Facts	15
Evidence of Original Thought	20
Grammar and Style	10
TOTAL	100

10 ORAL HEARING

- 10.1 The competition will comprise two (2) Preliminary Rounds, one (1) Semi-Final Round one (1) Final Round of Arguments. Depending on the number of Teams that apply the organizers retain the right to hold an additional Quarter Final Round. Other than the preliminary round, all other rounds shall be held on an elimination basis.
- 10.2 Each team shall present submissions for both sides (Claimant and Respondent) – each side once in the Preliminary rounds. In an event of a tie in scores the team with the highest number of wins shall advance to the Semi-final round. In an event of a tie in the score and the number of wins the team with the highest written memorial score shall advance to the Semi- final round.
- 10.3 Only two (2) speakers of the maximum allowed four (4) speakers may present Oral Submissions in single round.
- 10.4 Teams need not restrict their Oral Submissions to the Memorial.
- 10.5 Each team will have a maximum of 40 minutes to present their Oral Submissions. The Speaking order and time allocations for the Oral arguments, Rebuttals and Surrebuttals must be determined by Teams and conveyed to the Arbitration Panel prior to the commencement of each round.
- 10.6 Arbitrators may at their discretion extend the time limit for the oral arguments up to a maximum of **five minutes per team**.
- 10.7 Each speaker will be marked on a total of hundred (100) marks by each Arbitrator. The average of the marks of all Arbitrators will be taken as the final score.
- 10.8 Communication among members during a particular round shall not be permitted. However, nonverbal communication between the two speakers is allowed.

10.9 The following will be the Marking Criteria and the Marks allocated to each speaker by each Arbitrator:

Marking Criteria	Marks Allocated
Knowledge of the Law and Facts	25
Application of Law to the Facts	20
Use of Authorities	10
Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions	15
Clarity of Thought	10
Style, Poise, Courtesy, & Demeanor	10
Time Management & Organization of Arguments	10
TOTAL ORAL SUBMISSION SCORE PER SPEAKER	100

10.10 Any team failing to adhere to any of the specifications enumerated above shall be penalized as below,

Rule	Marks Deducted
10.8	Maximum of 50 marks deductible from each speaker with 10 marks
10.9	Maximum of 10 marks deductible from each speaker

11 SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

- 11.1 All teams will be expected to submit any case law(s) and authorities to which they intend to refer during the oral submissions, and they should be submitted to the Organizing Committee one week prior to the oral submission (26th August 2023) via email to thevictorsmoot@gmail.com. Time extensions in this regard may be considered if they are conveyed by the team to the organizing committee.
- 11.1.1 It is imperative for teams to take note that any relevant case law(s) or authorities, as specified above, must be submitted in the form of the actual material. (i.e., if presenting case law, ensure to submit the case title along with the case facts in its entirety, rather than simply providing their titles.)
- 11.2 Teams will not be permitted to submit any material to the Arbitration Panels if such material bears the name or seal of their College/University.
- 11.3 Any material intended to be submitted to the Arbitration Panel is mandatory to be submitted to the opponent.
- 11.4 During the oral submissions, the participants cannot submit to the Panel any material containing pictorial representations whatsoever.
- 11.5 With permission from the Arbitration Panel, participants may use an electronic device to assist in timing their oral submissions.
- 11.6 If at any instance a submission is made with any material in violation of the above rules and if any picture, sketch, photo, cartoon, caricature, audio film, video film, projector-slide or a computer-generated image is submitted or presented to Panel, the teams shall be disqualified from the competition forthwith.

12 AWARDS

- 12.1 An award for the Champions and an award for the Runner-Up Team.
- 12.2 An award for the Best Memorial and an award for the Runner-Up Memorial.
- 12.3 An award for the Best Speaker, an award for the Runner-Up Best Speaker. The Best Speaker and Runner-Up Speaker Awards will be determined by the highest aggregate score of all Preliminary rounds that the contestant has argued divided by the number of rounds participated.
- 12.4 All participants will receive Certificates of Participation.

13 PENALTIES

13.1 Any Team where at least one of its members, including the Coach or Faculty Adviser, is found in the Preliminary Rounds to be,

13.1.1 Viewing Moots with the intention of affording their team an unfair advantage or

13.1.2 Engaging in any other form of scouting,

- shall be liable for a minimum penalty of up to 50% deduction of the total oral submission score in all subsequent Preliminary Rounds.

14 MISCELLANEOUS

14.1 The Organizing Committee possesses extraordinary power, whereby they reserve the right to act in a manner that they deem appropriate to address any situations that may arise during the competition or with regard to any other matter related to the competition.

14.2 All participants are expected to maintain decorum during the competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, and immoral conduct. Extra-Ordinary Power of the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to act in a means in which the Organizing Committee seems appropriate to deal with situations that may arise during the course of the competition.

14.2.1 If a Team believes that the Rules of the Competition have been violated at any stage of the Competition, the Team shall, within half an hour after the completion of the round in which the alleged violation has occurred, register a complaint with the Organizing Committee.

14.2.2 Team(s) shall not approach the Arbitration Panel with any complaints, under any circumstances whatsoever.

14.2.3 The Organizers' decision as regards the interpretation of the rules, or any other matter related to the competition will be final and binding.

14.2.4 In case of a situation which is not contemplated in the rules, the Organizers' decision on the same shall be final and binding.

14.2.5 The Organizers' reserve the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of the above rules without any prior notification, if so required as they may deem appropriate.

14.3 Rights over the Memorials

- 14.3.1 Upon completion of the Competition, the Organizing Committee shall reserve the exclusive right to use the memorials submitted to them, as they deem appropriate. The copyright over the memorials submitted for participation in the Competition is assigned by the participants and shall also vest completely and fully in the Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law College.
- 14.3.2 The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim(s) or dispute(s) arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.
- 14.3.3 Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of the Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law College, 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.
- 14.3.4 Distribution of these materials on affiliated websites 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.