RULEBOOK

THE 9TH VICTOR'S MOOT

The Victor's Moot

H V PERERA QC MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL MOOT COMPETITION

MOOT SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The present rules only govern the procedure of The H V Perera QC Memorial International Moot Competition, also referred to as The Victor's Moot, organised by the Moot Society of Sri Lanka Law College, hereinafter referred to as "The Organisers/ Organising Committee".

1.2 Teams must refer to and follow the Timeline, 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 shall specify 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/graduate program in law or an equivalent professional qualification at a university or other institution

AND

2.2 Those who have **not** been licensed to practice in the legal field (Attorneys-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. REGISTRATIONS

5.1 The registration process consists of two (2) phases:

5.1.1 Application: Teams must complete the registration form with all the required details. The form can be accessed through the designated link provided. Teams are not required to pay the registration fee during this phase.

5.1.2 Qualified Teams Registration: During this phase, the selected teams will be required to proceed with Qualified Teams Registration by making the registration fee payment to confirm their registrations.

5.2 Selected teams must ensure that their eligibility is confirmed by their respective Institute before proceeding with Qualified Teams Registration. Confirmation of eligibility must be provided to the Organising Committee via an official letter from the University.

5.3 The registration fee for Sri Lankan teams will be LKR 15,000. For foreign teams, the registration fee will be USD 150.

5.4 Once the teams have been notified of their selection for Qualified Teams Registration, they must make the payment within the designated period. This period begins immediately after teams receive notification, and concludes on the 03rd of April 2026. Requests for time extensions may be considered if communicated by the team to the Organising Committee.

5.5 After the payment of the registration fee, teams must submit a scanned copy or screenshot of the payment receipt to The Organisers along with the Confirmation of Eligibility Letter.

5.6 Upon successful completion of the Qualified Registration process, each team shall be assigned a team code. All further communication will be conducted using this team code via the nominated email address.

5.7 Teams should use the assigned team code during the submission of memorials and throughout all 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 of the participants. Participants failing to comply with the dress code shall be penalised.

7. THE MOOT PROBLEM

7.1 The Organisers shall invite a duly qualified person/s to draft the Moot Problem. The author of the Moot Problem shall remain anonymous.

7.2 The Organisers 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.

7.4 Teams cannot introduce new facts outside of what is available in the Moot Problem.

7.5 Requests for clarification regarding the Moot Problem or its interpretation shall be made prior to the deadline specified in the Timeline. Any such request should 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 clarifications 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 Rounds shall be conducted virtually through video conferencing and physically in Sri Lanka.

8.1.1 The competition shall consist of two (2) Preliminary Rounds, one (1) Quarter-Final Round, one (1) Plate Semi-Final Round, one (1) Plate Final Round, one (1) Semi-Final Round, one (1) Bronze Finals Round and one (1) Final Round.

8.1.2 During the Oral Submissions, two (2) members of each team will 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 who make submissions as the Respondents).

8.1.3 All Preliminary 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 muted at all times, except when presenting arguments. A speaker shall unmute his/her microphone after being invited to do so by the arbitral tribunal. Participants are required to keep their videos switched on at all times.

8.1.6 The participants must ensure that their internet connections are available and stable at the time of the Preliminary oral rounds. In the event of a poor connection, the arbitral tribunal will wait for a maximum of 10 minutes, after which the round will 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 organisers 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 defaulting team had been present and arguing.

8.1.9 The arbitral tribunal 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 to be in the room while the rounds are conducted. However, video technicians are allowed in the room, as long as they maintain a fair distance from the speakers.

8.1.11 Electronic devices (other than the timer and the device being used to log into the video conferencing platform) will not be allowed during the oral rounds. (Refer 11.5)

8.1.12 All rounds from Quarterfinals onwards shall take place physically in Sri Lanka. The venues shall be informed in due course via email.

8.1.13 Teams are expected to be present on time at the venue without delays to ensure smooth functioning of the competition.

8.2 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

8.2.1 The Preliminary Rounds will be held virtually on the 20th of June 2026.

8.2.2 During the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall argue once for the Claimant and once for Respondent.

8.2.3 The top eight teams with the highest aggregate score shall advance to the Quarter-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 the total of the scores of the two speakers in the respective rounds.

8.2.5 In the event of a tie, the team with the greatest number of wins in the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Round. Further, in the event of a tie in the score as well as in the number of wins, the written memorial scores of the two teams shall be considered.

8.2.6 All rounds from the Quarter-Finals onwards will take place physically in Sri Lanka, and the advancing participants will be expected to bear the costs in relation to Flights, Visas, and accommodation. Transportation to and from the competition venue will be provided by the organisers.

8.3 QUARTER-FINAL ROUNDS

8.3.1 Quarter-Final Rounds will be held on the 18th of July 2026.

8.3.2 The Quarter-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 Quarter-Final Rounds. Consequently, the teams will be provided with their opponent's written memorial.

8.3.4. The winners of the Quarter-Final Rounds shall advance to the Semi-Final Rounds.

8.4 PLATE ROUNDS

8.4.1 Two Plate Semi-Final Rounds will be conducted. The Plate Semi-Final rounds will take place on the 18th of July 2026, and the Plate Final round will take place on the 19th of July 2026.

8.4.2 Plate Semi-Finals will take place between the four teams that are knocked out from the main Quarter-Final rounds. It will be a knockout round.

8.4.3 Following the declaration of the Quarter-Final Round results, lots shall be drawn to allocate teams for the plate Semi-Final Rounds. Consequently, the teams will be provided with their opponent's written memorial.

8.4.4 The Winners of the Plate Semi-Finals round will move on to the Plate Finals round. It will be a knockout round.

8.4.5 The Winner of the Plate Final round shall be declared “The Plate Round Winner”.

8.5 SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS

8.5.1 The Semi-final Rounds will be held on the 18th of July 2026.

8.5.2 The Semi-final Round shall be a knockout round.

8.5.3 Following the declaration of the Quarter-Final Rounds results, lots shall be drawn to allocate teams for the Semi-Final Rounds. Consequently, the teams will be provided with their opponent’s written memorial.

8.5.4 The winners of the Semi-Final Rounds shall advance to the Final Round. The eliminated teams shall advance to the Bronze Final Round.

8.6 BRONZE FINAL ROUND

8.6.1 The Bronze Final Round shall be held on the 19th of July 2026.

8.6.2 The Bronze Final Round shall be a knockout round. The winner of the Bronze Final Round shall be declared as the Second Runners-up of the Competition.

8.7 GRAND FINAL ROUND

8.7.1 The Grand Final Round shall be held on the 19th of July 2026.

8.7.2 The Grand Final Round shall be a knockout round. The winner of the Grand Final Round shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.

9. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

9.1. All written submissions must be submitted via the designated Google Form within the specified deadline. Late or incorrectly submitted entries may be subject to penalties.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

9.2 Each team must prepare written submissions in support of the legal position of both the Claimant party and the Respondent party.

9.3 Each team is to submit an electronic version of both their written submissions in both PDF and Microsoft Word (.docx / .doc) formats, 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 the Google form provided on or before 11.59 pm (IST) on the date specified in the Timeline.

9.4 Any team that fails to submit written submissions by the deadline will not be eligible for the Memorial Awards (Best and Runners-Up Memorial) of The 9th H V Perera QC Memorial International Moot Competition.

9.5 The Cover Page of the Memorial must have the following colour scheme:

Blue: Claimant Cover Page

Red: Respondent Cover Page

9.6 All teams will receive the written memorials of the teams they are scheduled to meet in the Preliminary Rounds no less than three days prior to the competition by email.

9.7 Each individual Memorial shall not exceed 30 pages, excluding the Cover Page, and pages containing the Table of Contents, and Bibliographical Lists (cases, legal texts, statutory instruments, etc.).

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

9.8.1 Typed on standard A4 size page

9.8.2 Font type: Times New Roman.

9.8.3 Font size for body text: 12; the text of the written submission must have one-and-a-half spacing.

9.8.4 Font size for footnotes: 10; text of footnotes may be single-spaced.

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

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

9.8.7 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.

9.8.8 The Memorial must not contain any Annexures / Photographs/ Sketches/ Exhibits/ Affidavits, etc.

9.9 Submissions containing AI-generated content will incur penalties that may result in a deduction of marks.

10. ORAL HEARINGS

10.1 The competition will comprise two (2) Preliminary Rounds, one (1) Quarter-Final Round, one (1) Plate Semi-Final Round, one (1) Semi-Final Round, one (1) Plate Final Round, one (1) Bronze Final Round, and one (1) 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) – once for each side in the Preliminary Rounds. In the event of a tie in scores, the team with the highest number of wins shall advance to the Quarter-Final Round. In the event of a tie in both the score and the number of wins, the team with the highest written memorial score shall advance to the Quarter-Final Round.

10.3 Only two (2) speakers of the maximum allowed four (4) speakers may present Oral Submissions in a 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 oral arguments, rebuttals, and surrebuttals must be determined by the teams and conveyed to the arbitral tribunal prior to the commencement of each round. Participants must adhere to the prescribed order of pleading set by The Organisers.

10.6 Arbitrators may, at their discretion, extend the time limit for the oral arguments up to a maximum of five minutes per team.

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 Organising Committee one week prior to the oral submission (20th June 2026), exclusively via the designated Google Form. The relevant case law should be summarised to one page, and follow the formatting guidelines of the written submission.

11.2 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 their entirety, rather than simply providing their titles.)

11.3 Teams will not be permitted to submit any material to the arbitral tribunal if such material bears the name or seal of their College/University.

11.4 It is mandatory that any material intended to be submitted to the arbitral tribunal is submitted to the opponent.

11.5 During the oral submissions, the participants cannot submit to the tribunal any material containing pictorial representations whatsoever.

11.6 With permission from the arbitral tribunal, participants may use an electronic device to assist in timing their oral submissions.

11.7 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 the tribunal, the teams shall be liable for a minimum penalty of a 50% deduction of the total oral submission score in all subsequent Preliminary Rounds.

12. AWARDS

12.1 An award for the Champions and an award for the Runner-Up Team.

12.2 An award for the Plate Round Champion.

12.3 An award for the Second Runner-up and Third Runner-up Teams.

12.4 An award for the Best Claimant Memorial and an award for the Best Claimant Memorial Runner-Up.

12.5 An award for the Best Respondent Memorial and an award for the Best Respondent Memorial Runner-Up.

12.6 An award for the Best Oralist, Runner-Up Best Oralist, and Honourable Mentions for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th ranked oralists, determined by the highest aggregate score across all Preliminary rounds, divided by the number of rounds participated.

12.7 An award for the Best Oralist of the Finals.

12.8 Certificates will be awarded to all those who qualify for the outrounds.

12.9 All participants will receive Certificates of Participation.

13. PENALTIES

13.1 Any participant found cheating or with an unauthorised individual present in the room will be immediately disqualified from the competition.

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,

13.2 AI Usage Policy: Any content generated using artificial intelligence (AI), including but not limited to ChatGPT, will be subject to scrutiny and may be marked down. Participants must ensure that their submissions reflect original thought and effort

14. MISCELLANEOUS

14.1 The Organising 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 Organising Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, and immoral conduct.

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 Organising Committee.

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

14.2.3 The Organisers' 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 Organisers' decision on the same shall be final and binding.

14.2.5 The Organisers 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.

14.2.6 All teams must submit any and all required materials, including team photographs, written memos, case files, additional materials, and registrations, exclusively via the designated Google Forms.

14.3 COPYRIGHTS

14.3.1 All problems and materials created as part of the Victor's Moot competition are copyrighted and any re-use requires permission of the Moot Society of the Sri Lanka Law College. Permission for educational use will not be unreasonably withheld. Authorship must always be attributed. Commercial use is prohibited.

14.3.2 Memorials once submitted, shall be the property of the Moot Society of the Sri Lanka Law College. By submitting the Memorials, Team members grant the Moot Society of the Sri Lanka Law College a non-exclusive licence of the copyright in the Memorials. The authors acknowledge and consent to the Moot Society of the Sri Lanka Law College using the memoranda for, amongst other purposes, research issues relating to the substance and activities of the Moot. Where this is done, the Moot Society of the Sri Lanka Law College confirms the memoranda will be used in an anonymised fashion unless prior approval is obtained.


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