

**MEDIATION BOMBAY**  
**INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMPETITION, 2022**

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**COMPETITION RULES & SCORESHEETS**

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**MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY MUMBAI**

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Mumbai

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## **FOREWORD – MEDIATION BOMBAY 2022 RULE BOOK**

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“*Kaizen*” is a Japanese term, meaning a “change for the better” or “continuous change”. It implies that every single change we make in our lives, no matter how small, is noteworthy and gradually and continuously leads to overall improvement. Every single change by a person, regardless of how insignificant it may seem, leads to this sustained improvement, and this is reflected in the theme for our competition as well: Sustainability and Profit.

The biggest change the world has seen in the last many years is the COVID-19 pandemic. Ranging from mundane events like going to the movies or eating at a restaurant, to much larger events such as the global economy or international travel or business, the world no longer functions the way it used to before.

While the university would love to physically interact with the enthusiastic participants and the professionals, after the resounding success of the Competition in the past 2 years, we have decided to hold this Competition in an online format on the Zoom Platform, in the best interests of everyone involved. Further information about the Competition and this format can be found in this rulebook or on our website - [mediationbombay.com](http://mediationbombay.com). Regardless of this online format, we wish to promote this concept of kaizen and hope that this will not impact the enthusiasm for this Competition, and will bring about several small changes leading to continuous overall development. This Competition is an attempt to reach out to our community, celebrate our successes, communicate ideas and share resources.

## I. DEFINITIONS

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The terms and phrases used in this rule book shall have the meaning as defined hereunder, unless specified otherwise in a particular Rule:

1. **“Breakout Rooms”** refers to the online sub-meeting rooms on the Zoom Platform to be used for the Main Round, Confidential Information distribution, and Caucus Breakout Sessions. [Download links provided]
2. **“Competition Problem”** refers to a problem framed by the Problem Committee, to be used in the Competition Sessions.
3. **“Competition”** refers to the 2022 edition of Mediation Bombay – International Dispute Resolution Competition.
4. **“Confidential Information” [CI]** refers to the key points of information provided to Negotiating Teams regarding the party they represent [Requesting or Responding Party].
5. **“Confidential Information Session”** refers to the time period in which Negotiating Teams are provided access to Confidential Information. During this time the Mediators can prepare their strategy for the round.
6. **“Expert Assessor/s”** refers to persons(s) nominated and/or selected by the Organizing Committee, who evaluates and scores the performance of the Negotiating Team and the Mediator(s), during a mediation session in accordance with the Competition Rules. All assessors shall provide to the Organizing Committee a Statement of Trust declaring their neutrality, impartiality and independence to assess the teams of the Competition; and disclosing any conflict of interests with the participants, or the university, if it may cause a hindrance to the assessment of the round.
7. **“Feedback”** refers to the critique provided by Expert Assessors to the Competition Session Participants, in relation to each of their performances in the Main Round.
8. **“General Information”** refers to factual information related to a Competition Session, which shall be accessible to all Participating Teams.

9. **“General Lobby”** refers to the Zoom room where all participants and assessors will gather before the Main Round begins and to which a Negotiating Team reports to during a Caucus. The Session Supervisors and all members providing technical assistance to participants and assessors will remain present in this General Lobby throughout.
10. **“Host Institution”** refers to Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai.
11. **“Institution/s”** refers to all Colleges and Universities across the world.
12. **“Main Round”** refers to the stage of Competition Session immediately following the Confidential Information Session, where the Teams are tasked to mediate on the Competition Problem.
13. **“Mediator”** refers to a participant who has registered or is designated as a Mediator.
14. **“Negotiating Team”** refers to a team comprising of two participants - one Counsel and one Client - from the same institution.
15. **“Official Website”** refers to the official website of the Competition, i.e. mediationbombay.com
16. **“Organizing Committee”** – The Organizing Committee for the Competition refers to all the members of the organizing committee of Mediation Bombay 2022.
17. **“Penalty”** refers to the reduction in marks or disqualification of participants or any other disciplinary action taken by the Organizing Committee on account any violation of these rules.
18. **“Problem Committee”** refers to the Problem Drafting Committee of Mediation Bombay 2022, responsible for drafting and contributing to the Competition Problem(s).
19. **“Reflection Session”** refers to the session wherein, the Judges will ask a set of questions to the participants in order to analyse their plans and strategies and their overall performance in the round.
20. **“Registration Fee”** refers to the fee to be paid by Selected Teams for participation in the Competition.
21. **“Room Coordinator”** refers to a member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of a particular Competition Room.

22. **“Rule”** refers to a particular individual rule contained in this Rulebook, along with the sub-rules/ points thereunder. The Participants are deemed to know and accept these rules on the account of their registration in the Competition.
23. **“Session Supervisor”** refers to the member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.



## **II. GENERAL**

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1. The third edition of Mediation Bombay: International Dispute Resolution Competition, 2022, organized by Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai will be held virtually from 20 to 24 April 2022.
2. All the rules contained herein are mandatory in nature, and Penalties for non-compliance, where existent, are provided for in the relevant Rule/s.
3. The Competition aims to provide an international platform for students from the world's top universities to improve their mediation and negotiation skills, step out of their comfort zone, and realise the many benefits of mediation. It provides a platform for law students to develop several skills that one requires to be a successful legal practitioner. By exposing the participants to complex, contemporary simulations, the Competition is structured in a manner to encourage prospective lawyers to adapt to real life situations.
4. The Competition comprises two separate segments:
  - The “Negotiating Pair” or the “Client-Attorney” Mediation Competition.
  - The “Mediator” Mediation Competition.

## **III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

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1. The Following is the Eligibility Criteria for the respective segments:
  - a) Negotiating Pair:
    - Participation is open to law students who are currently pursuing a degree of law from any recognized law college/university across the world.
    - A participant who has graduated from the aforesaid course not less than 6 months ago, as on the date of the Competition, is an eligible participant for the purposes of these Rules.
    - A person who has previously been a participant in one segment, in a previous edition of the Competition is not an eligible participant, for that same segment, for the purposes of these Rules.

b) Mediator:

- Participation is open to law students who are currently pursuing a degree of law from any recognized law college/university across the world.
- A participant who has graduated from the aforesaid course not less than 6 months ago, as on date of the Competition, is an eligible participant for the purposes of these Rules.
- A person who has previously been a participant in one segment, in a previous edition of the Competition is not an eligible participant, for that same segment, for the purposes of these Rules.
- A certified mediator/ person who has mediated settlements professionally is not an eligible participant for the purposes of these Rules.

#### **IV. REGISTRATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE.**

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##### **[A] PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

1. Teams shall provisionally register here via their University, in a group of 3, i.e., a Negotiating Pair (2 participants) and a Mediator (1 participant).
2. Teams shall submit an application form with the relevant information as requested by the form.
3. No payment is required to provisionally register a team.
4. A maximum of two teams from each university are permitted to provisionally register unless an exception is provided.
5. Cross-University teams are not permitted to register

##### **[B] SELECTION**

1. Only 24 teams shall be selected by the Organizing Committee.
2. The Organizing Committee, in consultation with the Convenor, will select the teams on the basis of the following criteria at their discretion.
  - Achievements of the applying University in Negotiation and Mediation Competitions.
  - Achievements of the individual participants applying for the Competition.
  - Mediation and Negotiation Courses available at the Applying Institution.
  - ADR Events hosted by the Institution.

### **[C] REGISTRATION FEE**

1. Only Selected Teams are required to pay the Registration Fees.
2. The Registration Fees for the Negotiating Pair is Rs. 6000/- and for the Mediators is Rs. 3000/-.
3. The Registration Fees includes the following:
  - Admission to all the events of the Competition, including all training, the opening ceremony and the valedictory ceremony.
  - Admission to Networking Sessions organized during the Competition.
4. The payment of fees can be done via any electronic means of money transfer. Proof of the payment must be attached to the final registration form.
5. Any and all Bank Charges/Transfer Charges must be paid by the recipient.
6. Failure to make timely payments, or full payments will result in forfeiture of the University's Spot in the Competition.
7. The Registration Fees is non-refundable.

## **V. MEDIATION ROUNDS**

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### **[A] GENERAL**

1. A Mediation Round, for the purpose of this Competition, will involve two Client-Attorney Pairs and a Mediator. The Negotiating Pairs will discuss the Mediation Problem and their discussion will be facilitated by the Mediator.
2. The Client – Attorney pair of the University is distinct from the Mediator of the same University. They are completely independent.
3. As such, a Mediator of 'X' Institution, cannot mediate a round involving the Client – Attorney Pair from 'X' Institution.
4. The qualification of Mediator from 'X' Institution to the advanced rounds is neither dependent on nor impacted by the qualification of the Client – Attorney pair from 'X' Institution, or vice versa.
5. A Mediation Round includes the Preparation time, the Mediation Session, the Reflection Session, the Feedback Session, and Scoring of the Session.

## **[B] MEDIATION PROBLEM**

1. Each Mediation Round will be based on a Mediation Problem.
2. A Mediation Problem shall consist of General Information for all Parties, and Confidential Information for each party (Only for Client – Attorney Pairs).
3. The Participants will receive the General Information for the Preliminary Rounds and Elimination Rounds before the start of the Competition at a date decided and communicated by the Organizing Committee.
4. Prior to the Rounds, the Client – Attorney Pairs will be informed which side to the mediation they will represent. They will be provided with the Confidential Information accordingly.
5. The Confidential Information is provided at short notice (minimum 30 minutes prior to the round) to the participants. It is designed to test the Participants' understanding of the Problem as well as to test their quick-thinking and adaptability.
6. The Confidential Information contains crucial details regarding the respective side's case.
7. Accordingly, the Client – Attorney pairs should not disclose the Confidential Information to anyone else at any time, between the receipt of the information and the conclusion of the round for which it is applicable. However, disclosure by the participating negotiating pairs during a competitive session is allowed.
8. Clarification to the General Information so published will be provided, if deemed necessary, on a date decided and communicated by the Organizing Committee.
9. Interpretation of the Mediation Problem:
  - Teams are requested to stay within the confines of the General and Confidential Information.
  - Teams are advised not to import real world facts, news, and statistics into the problem.
  - The Problems are subject to Reasonable Interpretations.
  - The reasonability of such an interpretation is to be decided at the discretion of the Assessors.

- A Penalty may be levied on parties in case they deviate from facts, make up new facts, or unreasonable infer facts. This Penalty is dependent on the discretion of the Assessors.

### **[C] CAUCUS**

1. A Mediation round may be aided by a Caucus or Private Session.
  - A Caucus is an individual session in which only one-party converses with the Mediator in the absence of the opposing party.
2. A Caucus may be called by either party to the Mediation, or by the Mediator.
3. Calling a Caucus is not compulsory in this Competition.
4. A Cross Caucus is permitted.
  - A Cross Caucus is one in which the Clients from either side talk to each other in the absence of their counsels, but in the presence of the Mediator, or the Counsels from either side talk to each other in the absence of their Clients, but in the presence of the Mediator.
  - Parties are not allowed a Cross-Caucus in the final Round.
5. A Caucus may be held for a maximum of 4 minutes per team in the Preliminary Rounds, and a maximum of 7 minutes per team in the Elimination Rounds. This time is included in the maximum time allowed for a Mediation Round.
6. The Mediator is responsible for ensuring the time limits of the Caucus are not violated.

## **VI. ROUND STRUCTURE AND FORMAT**

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1. There shall be 4 preliminary Mediation Rounds
  - Each Client-Attorney will participate in 4 Mediation Rounds.
  - Each Mediator will participate in 2 Mediation Rounds.
2. Based on their scores, the Client-Attorney teams and Mediators will qualify to the advanced rounds.
3. The advanced rounds consist of a Quarter-final, a Semi-final, and a Final round.
4. Details concerning the respective segments are provided under Rule VII [C] and VIII [C].

**[A] TIME OF THE ROUNDS**

1. Each Preliminary Round will run for a total of 130 Minutes.

It shall have the following time composition:

- 30 Minutes: Preparation time with the Confidential Information.
- 60 Minutes: Time for the Mediation Session (inclusive of the Caucuses).
- 10 Minutes: Reflection Session.
- 20 Minutes: Feedback provided by the Assessor.
- 10 Minutes: Time taken by the Assessors to score the Participants.

2. Each Quarter-Final Round will run for 155 Minutes.

It shall have the following time composition:

- 40 Minutes: Preparation time with the Confidential Information.
- 75 Minutes: Time for the Mediation Session (inclusive of the Caucuses).
- 10 Minutes: Reflection Session.
- 20 Minutes: Feedback provided by the Assessors.
- 10 Minutes: Time taken by the Assessors to score the Participants.

3. Each Semi-Final Round will run for 115 Minutes.

It shall have the following time composition:

- 75 Minutes: Time for the Mediation Session (inclusive of the Caucuses)
- 10 Minutes: Reflection Session.
- 20 Minutes: Feedback provided by the Assessors.
- 10 Minutes: Time taken by the Assessors to score the Participants.

4. The Final Round will run for a total of 130 Minutes.

It shall have the following time composition:

- 90 Minutes: Time for the Mediation Session (inclusive of the Caucuses)
- 10 Minutes: Reflection Session.
- 20 Minutes: Feedback provided by the Assessors.
- 10 Minutes: Time taken by the Assessors to score the Participants.

5. The Confidential Information for the Semi-Finals rounds shall be given to the Client-Attorney Pair 90 mins before the aforesaid rounds.
6. The Confidential Information for the Final round shall be given to the Client-Attorney pair who qualified to finals, minimum 4 hours before the aforesaid rounds.
7. The Time allotted to the Mediation Rounds may be subject to change at the discretion of the Organizing Committee and will be notified to participants if required in a timely manner.

## **VII. CLIENT-ATTORNEY COMPETITION**

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### **[A] TEAM COMPOSITION**

1. A Participating Team in this segment shall mean a Negotiating Pair (2 Participants).
2. In any round, one participant will play the role of the client (or equivalent), and the other participant shall play the role of a counsel (or equivalent).
3. A Negotiator code will be allotted to each team, which they shall not disclose to anyone until the end of the Competition.

### **[B] NATURE AND SCHEME OF THE ROUND**

1. Prior to the Rounds, based on the General Information, teams shall be informed which sides they represent in a Mediation Round.
2. Each Team will compete in 4 Preliminary Rounds.
3. Teams will compete with one another with an aim to resolve a dispute/secure a transaction as is required by the General and Confidential Information.
4. As mentioned before, each round shall have a common General Information and a separate Confidential Information available to each side, which they shall not disclose to the other side, before the mediation session commences.
5. Mediators shall only be privy to the General Information. Teams shall not share Confidential Information with Mediators before the round.
6. **The Negotiating Pair Scoresheet is provided as an accompanying document.**

### [C] ROUND PROGRESSION

1. After the conclusion of the 4 Preliminary Rounds, the 12 teams with the highest cumulative difference in scores shall progress to the Quarter Finals Round.
2. In case of any tie in the 'cumulative difference score', the absolute scores the team has secured shall be the tiebreaker. Further tiebreakers are to be notified at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.
3. The Quarter Final Rounds:
  - 12 teams to qualify.
  - Match ups to be made on the basis of "reverse power" i.e. (1<sup>st</sup> v 12<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> v 11<sup>th</sup>, etc.).
  - Side allocation to be done via draw of lots (unless provided otherwise).
  - Winners to be decided by a Majority of the panel of assessors on Knockout basis.
4. The Semi Final Rounds:
  - 6 winners of the Quarter Finals to qualify.
  - Matchups and side allocations to be done via draw of lots (unless otherwise provided).
  - Winners to be decided by a majority of the panel of assessors on Knockout basis.
5. The Tri-Party Grand Finale
  - 3 Winners of Semi Finals to Qualify.
  - Side allocation to be done via draw of lots (unless provided otherwise).
  - Winners to be decided by a majority of the panel of assessors.
  - An external professional mediator will act as the Mediator for the final round

## VIII. MEDIATOR COMPETITION

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### [A] TEAM COMPOSITION

1. A Participating Team in this section shall mean a Mediator (1 participant).
2. A Mediator Code will be allotted to each team, which they shall not disclose to anyone until the end of the Competition.

### [B] ROUND FORMAT & STRUCTURE.

1. Mediators will only be privy to the General Information which is provided in advance of the rounds.
2. Each Round will have only 1 Team (i.e. 1 Mediator).
3. Each Team will compete in 2 Preliminary Rounds.
4. A Mediator competes by facilitating the discussion between the Client Attorney pairs.
5. A Mediator competes with other Mediators on an absolute score basis only since two mediators never mediate the same Mediation Round.
6. **The Mediator Scoresheet is provided as an accompanying document.**

### [C] RANKING & PROGRESSION

1. After Conclusion of the 2 Preliminary Rounds, the 6 teams with the highest absolute scores shall progress to the *Mediator Semi-Final* (Quarter Final Round of the Competition).
2. In case of any tie in the absolute scores, the marks scores in the 'management of mediation process' shall be the tie-breaker. Further tiebreakers are to be notified at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

3. The Mediator Semi Final Rounds (Quarter Finals Round of the Competition)
  - 6 teams to qualify.
  - Round allocation to be done via draw of lots (unless provided otherwise).
  - Winners to be decide on a raw score basis.
4. The Mediator Final Round (Semi Finals Round of the Competition)
  - 3 winners of the Semi Finals to qualify.
  - Winners to be decided on a raw score basis, with specific judge focus on the Mediator.
5. The Final Round of the Competition
  - A Professional Mediator would act as the Mediator for the final round of the Competition.
  - Mediator does not compete in this round.

## **IX. MODE OF CONDUCT**

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### **[A] PLATFORM**

1. The Competition (all rounds, ceremonies and networking sessions) will be conducted virtually on the platform Zoom.
2. Each Participant will be provided with a link to join the General Lobby. The participants will be directed towards their respective CI Breakout Rooms to discuss their CIs. After this, the participants will be directed to the Breakout Rooms for their Mediation Session.
3. All participants must strictly follow the instructions given by the Organizing Committee regarding navigation on the virtual platform. Non-compliance with the same will lead to disqualification of the team (Refer to Rule XI).
4. A Technical Orientation Session along with a platform trial will take place on the day designated for the training session for the participants.
5. Any doubts or queries regarding the technical aspects of the Competition must be clarified with the Organizing Committee soon after the orientation and before the dates designated for the Competition.

6. Screen sharing options will be available to the participants. However, participants are recommended to make scarce use of the same, only to share very important documents with others, which have to be shared with the Organizing Committee beforehand (Refer to Rule XIV [9]).

**[B] DEVICES & CAMERA**

1. Each participant must have access to a laptop or a desktop computer in order to participate in this Competition. Each participant must log in only through one device. The participants must not login to the platform through other devices like mobile phones, tablets, etc.
2. Each participant must have access to a stable internet connection with a speed of at least 20 Mbps and a backup internet connection in case of disruption in/ failure of their primary internet source. Use of an Ethernet cable is recommended to connect to the internet, as it will greatly improve video and audio quality. If a Wi-Fi connection is being used, the participants are requested to always keep their devices in close range.
3. Participants are required to use the latest version of the Zoom Application on their devices (Participants are expressly instructed not to use Zoom through their browser). The participants are also required to test their microphones and cameras beforehand to ensure that they are clearly audible and visible during the rounds
4. Each participant shall be seated in a professional setting with a solid background/ against a wall and must assure that there is no disturbance/ noise from the surroundings. The venue must be a quiet location which can be closed and private and which has adequate and reliable internet activity and a proper seating arrangement. Locations in open spaces or hallways or cybercafes or similar areas are strictly not permitted.
5. In the event a participant faces any technical/network issues and disconnects from an ongoing round, a maximum of 5 minutes will be given to the said participant to reconnect with alternative means, in case of a preliminary rounds. If such participant is unable to reconnect within the prescribed time, the round shall progress in their absence and the scoring will be done accordingly.
6. In case of the quarter-final, semi-final and the final rounds, if a participant faces any technical/network issues and disconnects from an ongoing round, a maximum of 10 minutes will be given to the said participant to reconnect with alternative means. If such

participant is unable to reconnect within the prescribed time, the team to which such participant belongs shall stand knocked out and the opposite team shall be declared the winner of the round.

## **X. AWARDS**

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### **[A] MAIN AWARDS**

#### **1. Winner Trophy - Best Negotiating Pair**

To be awarded to the Negotiating team declared as the winner of the Final Round of the Competition, which will include additional benefits.

#### **2. 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Trophy – Negotiating Team**

To be awarded to the Negotiating Team that finishes second in the Final Round of the Competition, which will include additional benefits.

#### **3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Trophy – Negotiating Team**

To be awarded to the Negotiating Team that finishes third in the Final Round of the Competition, which will include additional benefits.

#### **4. Winner Trophy – Best Mediator**

To be awarded to the Mediator declared winner of the Mediator Finals, which will include additional benefits.

#### **5. Runner-up Trophy – Mediator**

To be awarded to the Mediator who finishes second in the Mediator Finals, which will include additional benefits.

### **[B] SPECIAL AWARDS**

1. Best Upcoming Negotiating Team.

2. Best Upcoming Mediator.

3. Best Teamwork – Negotiating Team.

4. Best Opening Statement – Mediator.

- The Organizing Committee may give out additional prizes as Special Awards.

### [C] VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

1. All participants of the Competition will be provided Certificates.
2. All Main Awards and Special Awards shall be accompanied by a 'Certificate of Merit'.
3. All participating teams shall attend the Valedictory Ceremony held on the last day of the Competition.
4. No Awards, including certificates of participation, would be awarded in absentia.

## **XI. DISQUALIFICATION & PENALTIES.**

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### [A] DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Subject to the discretion of the Organizing Committee, a Team may be disqualified:
  - In case of substantial non-compliance with the rules.
  - If they cause disciplinary problems on the virtual platform.
  - If they disclose the Confidential Information of a Mediation Round, in any manner whatsoever, which is not allowed by the Rules.
  - If they disclose the team code, or insinuates to an Assessor the name of the University the team is from.
2. Any decision to disqualify a Team will be formally communicated to the University of the concerned team by the Organization Committee.
3. For the Purpose of this Rule, Team means either a Negotiating Pair or a Mediator.
  - Therefore, the disqualification of a Mediator of University X would not mean the disqualification of the Negotiating Pair of University X.

### [B] PENALTIES

1. Subject to the discretion of the Organization Committee, the Assessors may impose a maximum Penalty of 10 marks per Mediation Round, if the Participating Team:
  - Imports facts or makes up facts that are not provided in the General Information or Confidential Information, such that it causes prejudice to the other competing teams.
  - Does not adhere to the time limits set out in Rule VI (A) or otherwise intimated by the Competition Organizers.
  - Does not adhere to the Dress Code set out in Rule XIV (3).
  - Does not adhere to the Official Language as per Rule XIV (6).

## **XII. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL**

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1. All grievances regarding disqualification, penalty, other violation of these Rules, or an equity policy violation shall be addressed to the Organizing Committee through the Grievance Redressal form provided on the Official Website of the Competition.
2. Every effort will be made to resolve the Grievance at the earliest.
3. Each aggrieved party shall have adequate opportunity to be heard.
4. Grievances other than those regarding equity policy violations shall have a reasonable limitation period which at the very latest coincides with the last day of the Competition.
5. To clarify, a grievance of such nature may be filed within reasonable limitation period and no later than the valedictory ceremony of the Competition.

## **XIII. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE – RESIDUARY RULES**

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1. The Organizing Committee's decision on any matter in the lead up to the Competition and during the Competition is final and conclusive.
2. The Organizing Committee may take any other reasonable measure that may be required for the efficient conduct of the Competition.
3. The Organizing Committee's interpretation as to the implementation or applicability of the Rules is final and conclusive.

## **XIV. MISCELLANEOUS**

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1. Accommodation:
  - No Accommodation is required by the participants owing to the virtual nature of the Competition.
2. Coaches:
  - Coaches are permitted to accompany teams.
  - Teams must inform the Organizing Committee in case they wish to bring a Coach.
  - Coaches may not assist the teams during the Mediation Session.
  - Anyone may be a Coach, except a person who is also an assessor in the Competition.
  - Coaches may not disclose Confidential Information to third parties.

3. Dress Code:

- Members of the Participating Teams shall be dressed in formal attire for the duration of the Competition. Both Western and Indian Formals are permitted.
- This includes the opening and valedictory ceremony.

4. Equity Policy: [To be notified at a later date]

- The Competition shall have an Equity Policy.
- The Equity policy operates as a separate document from these Rules.
- An Equity Policy briefing will be provided to the teams on the 1st Day of the Competition.

5. Notice:

- Notice given to the Participating Teams' contact person, or any other individual member shall be deemed to be notice to the entire team.
- Notice shall be given to the Organizing Committee when a mail is sent at mediationbombay@gmail.com, during the duration of the Competition.

6. Official Language:

- The Language of the Competition is English.
- Use of unparliamentary language/ discriminatory language is prohibited.
- Official communication in any other language during a Mediation Round will reflect negatively.

7. Photography and Videography:

- Participants agree to being photographed and their rounds video-taped during the Competition.
- These photos shall remain the property of MNLU Mumbai.
- Participants, Coaches, may not take any photos, videos, or voice recordings. However, permission to do so may be granted by the Organizing Committee.

8. Score Sheets:

- Participants may request access to their score sheets.
- This must be done at end of the competition and by writing a mail to mediationbombay@gmail.com.
- Only the participants requesting the scoresheets will be provided with the same on the email address mentioned in the request.

9. Technology and Additional Materials:

- Use of Social Media applications like WhatsApp etc. are permitted to converse with teammates. However, participants should ensure that any such use does not disturb the Mediation Session.
- The teams must share all the documents intended to be shared with the opposing party and/or the mediator/s prior to the round with the Organizing Committee.

10. Withdrawals & Blacklisting:

- A University which has committed to participate may be blacklisted from participation in future events, if it withdraws from the Competition after such commitment, thereby prejudicing all other participating teams.
- A decision to do so is dependent on the discretion of the Organizing Committee, but must be taken after giving an opportunity to the withdrawing University to provide a justification for their withdrawal.