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12th MANIPAL RANKA INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION – 2026

1. SHORT TITLE

- This Rulebook shall be referred to as the Competition Rules for the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition - 2026.

2. DEFINITION

- Compendium: “Compendium” means a compilation of cases and authorities cited by the participant during the oral rounds.
- Competition: “Competition” means the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition - 2026.
- Final round: “Final Round” means the round conducted to determine the winner of the competition.
- IST: “IST” means Indian Standard Time
- Memorial: “Memorial” means the written pleadings of each Team, written and submitted pursuant to these Rules.
- Moot Court: “Moot Court” means a single oral presentation between two Teams, one representing Claimant and one representing Respondent.
- Moot proposition: “Moot Proposition” means the problem of the Competition released by the Competition Organisation Committee. Clarifications shall form part of such Proposition.
- MUJ Moot Court Society: “MUJ Moot Court Society” means the society constituted for the organisation of the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition - 2026 including any other person authorized to deal with all events, consequential upon or incidental to the competition. It shall also include the Competition Organisation Committee for the purpose of interpretation of these rules.

- Oral Round: “Oral Round” means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of the bench, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.
- Oralist: “Oralist” refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round.
- Participant: “Participant” refers to any member of any team representing any institution participating in the competition.
- Penalty: “Penalty” means the consequence of a violation of any rule whether by way of deduction of point or declaring disqualified and such a person would be referred to as penalised.
- Preliminary round: “Preliminary Rounds” means a set of Matches which form the first stage of competition where each Team competes with two different teams, once from each side for the purpose of determining qualifiers for the pre-quarter final round(s).
- Pre-Quarter round: “Pre-Quarter round” means the round conducted to determine the Quater-finalists.
- Quarter Final round: “Quarter Final Round” means the round conducted to determine the semi-finalists.
- Rebuttal/ sur rebuttal: “Rebuttal” means to the set of arguments/challenges that the Claimant shall raise at the end of the main pleadings of all the orators.
- Rules: “Rules” means these rules which are formally referred to as the Competition Rules for the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition - 2026.
- Semi Final round: “Semi Final Round” means the round conducted to determine the finalists.

- Sur-Rebuttal means the reply provided by the Respondents to the challenges/arguments raised by the petitioners during the Rebuttal.
- Team Code: “Team Code” means the code allotted to a Participating team by the Competition Organisation Committee after registration.
- Team: “Team” means the total of all registered as participants representing any university or college allowed to participate in the competition excluding dummy, observer, coach(s), etc.

3. AIM AND PURPOSE

- The purpose of this moot court competition rules is to create an environment that closely mirrors the dynamics of real court/arbitral tribunal proceedings. These rules emulate legal procedures, including time limits for oral arguments, adherence to rules of arbitration, and the application of legal ethics and professional conduct. By adhering to these rules, participants gain a realistic understanding of the challenges and expectations associated with advocating before a court/tribunal.
- The purpose of the moot court competition rules is to establish transparent evaluation criteria and scoring mechanisms. These criteria typically include factors such as legal reasoning, clarity of argument, responsiveness to opposing arguments, presentation skills, and knowledge of relevant law. By providing clear guidelines for evaluation, the rules ensure consistency, fairness, and objectivity in assessing participants' performances.
- The primary aim of the moot court competition is to create a fair and level playing field for all participating teams. These rules establish clear procedures, requirements, and guidelines that ensure equal opportunities for all teams to present their arguments and be evaluated solely based on their merits. By

setting out standardized procedures, the rules help prevent any undue advantages or biases that may arise during the competition.

4. POWERS OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- The Competition Organisation Committee shall have the exclusive power and discretion to interpret, implement, amend, and clarify the rules of the Competition including the power to resolve disputes pertaining to the rules in the interest of fairness and equality.
- The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the Competition Organisation Committee shall be conclusive and the decision of the Competition Organisation Committee regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.
- The Competition Organisation Committee shall have the power and discretion to resolve the dispute arising between the teams.

5. DATE AND VENUE OF THE COMPETITION

Draw of Lots/Preliminary Rounds	2nd October 2026 (Online Mode)
Researchers's Test	3rd October 2026
Inaugural Ceremony/Pre-Quarter Finals/Quarter Finals	31st October 2026 (In-Person)
Semi-Finals/Final and Valedictory Ceremony	November 1, 2026. (In-Person)
Venue	Virtual/Manipal University Jaipur, India

6. IMPORTANT DATES OF THE COMPETITION

Sr. No.	Particulars	Date
1.	Release of Moot Problem	29 July 2026
2.	Opening date of the registration of the competition	29 July 2026

3.	Closing date of the registration of the competition	23 rd September 2026
4.	Last date of seeking clarification	4 th September 2026
5.	Release of clarification	11 th September 2026
6.	Last date of Memorial Submission in Soft Copy.	29 th September, 2026
7.	Full Registration Fee Payment Window	29 th July 2026 to 23 rd September 2026
8.	Accommodation Fee Registration Window	4 th October to 11 th October 2026
9.	Last date of Memorial Submission in Hard Copy. (6 hard copies from each side)	To be submitted during the registration process.

7. ELIGIBILITY

- The Competition is open to all students, enrolled bona-fide on a regular basis in an Undergraduate law program in any University/College in India or abroad.
- Not more than one team shall be allowed to register and participate in the competition from the same College/Institution/University.

8. TEAM COMPOSITION

- Each team shall comprise of three members. Under no condition shall a team consisting of more or less than 3 members be allowed to participate. However, the Competition Organisation Committee may allow a team comprising of at least 2 members in exceptional circumstance and after hearing the members on merits. The decision of the Competition Organisation Committee, in this regard, shall be final.

- Such Team shall designate two of its members as speakers; and shall designate one member, who has not been designated as a speaker, as a researcher. The team must, amongst its members, identify the speakers and the researcher at the time of registration itself.
- Teams shall identify the speakers and researcher during registration. Only those participants, registered as Oralists in the registration form, shall be allowed to speak.
- No extra member or observer shall be allowed.
- No swapping of designation of the members shall be allowed.
- Once registered, a team will not be permitted to vary the composition of the team in any manner. Changes, if any, may only be made with the express permission of the Competition Organisation Committee, if due reason is shown for the same.

9. REGISTRATION

The Registration process shall be as follows:

- Teams are required to register for the competition from **29 July 2026 to 23 September 2026 by 23:59 IST.**
- The registration link for the competition is: <https://forms.gle/7oDfhdkDPB8ieu5SA>
- **Payment link for registration is:**
<https://formbuilder.ccavenue.com/live/ccavenue/manipal-university-jaipur-2/12th-manipal-ranka-international-moot-court-competition-2026002>
- The Registration form completed with all team details must be submitted online only.
- Once the registration is done Teams will get the confirmation email. **Team Codes will be intimated later.**
- Participation of the teams in the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition - 2026 is subject to the payment of the full registration fee mentioned herewith. For this purpose, the team will be deemed to have been “**formally registered**” only upon the payment of the full registration fee.
- The registration fee for Indian participants shall be payable in two stages. Teams registering shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of INR 5,000. Teams that qualify for the rounds following the Preliminary Rounds shall be required to pay an additional amount of INR 5,000, inclusive of food and accommodation, upon communication of their qualification by the Competition Organisation Committee.
- The registration fee for international participants shall be payable in two stages. Teams registering shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of USD 50. Teams that qualify for the rounds following the Preliminary Rounds shall be required to pay an additional amount of USD 50, inclusive of food and

accommodation, upon communication of their qualification by the Competition Organisation Committee.

- The amount paid as registration fee shall be non-refundable. No claim for a refund of the fee shall be entertained, and no such request or application will be considered.

10.DRESS CODE

- The participants shall follow the below mentioned dress code at the time of their presentation:
 - (i) Females: White salwar kurta & dupatta or white shirt and black trousers or skirt along with black coat and tie.
 - (ii) Males: white shirt, black trousers, black tie along with black coat.
- The dress code for all the functions at the competition shall be western formals for gentlemen and western or Indian formals for ladies.

11. RESEARCHER'S TEST

- A researcher's test will be conducted via online mode to evaluate the participating researchers, for the purpose of adjudging the "Best researcher" category of award.
- Researcher's test will be conducted on 3rd October 2026 in Online mode only.

12.CLARIFICATION TO THE PROBLEM

- All requests for clarification to the problem must be submitted to mootcourt.society@muja.manipal.edu only. Clarifications through any other mode/means are discouraged and will not be entertained.
- The teams may seek clarifications latest by September 4, 2026 (11:59 P.M IST), post which no clarification will be entertained.
- The Competition Organisation Committee reserve the right to provide clarifications only in relation to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments of the case.

- The clarifications, as and when issued, shall become a part of the Moot Proposition.

13. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- The Competition consists of the following levels:
 - Preliminary Rounds
 - Pre- Quarter Round
 - Quarter Final Round
 - Semi-Final Round
 - Final Round
- Pre- Quarter Round, Quarter Final, Semi-Final and the Final Round will be the knockout rounds.
- Preliminary rounds will be conducted on October 2, 2026 (virtual mode).
- Pre-Quarter Final Rounds, Quarter-Final Rounds will be conducted on October 31, 2026.
- Semi-Finals and Final Round will be conducted on November 1, 2026.
- There shall be two Preliminary rounds followed by one round each of Pre- Quarter Round, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Round.
- Court language shall be English only.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:

- There shall be two Preliminary rounds in the online mode. In the two Preliminary Rounds, the Participating Teams shall argue for both the sides. The team which argues from one side in the first Preliminary Round shall argue from another in the second Preliminary Round.
- The pairing of teams for the Preliminary Rounds shall be done by a draw of lots by the Competition Organisation Committee. No two teams shall argue against each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.
- Each Team will be given the opposing team's Memorials after the draw of lots. No team shall be provided any information regarding the

identity of the opposing teams or any other team participating in the Competition.

- The selection of the top 16 teams for Pre-Quarter Round shall be based on the following criteria:
 - First, the team with 2 wins in the preliminary rounds will be ranked higher than the team with single win.
 - Further, the ranking shall be prepared in a manner that the team with the higher total score after the two preliminary rounds shall be ranked subsequently.
 - For teams that have the same total round score and wins in the preliminary rounds, the team with the higher score in researcher test shall be ranked higher.
 - Lastly, if two teams have the same total preliminary round score, same wins and the same scores in researcher test, then the team with the higher memorial score shall be declared qualified.
- In case any opponent team fails to appear in an Oral Round, the issue shall be decided by the Competition Organisation Committee.

PRE-QUARTER ROUND

- In the Pre-Quarter Round, each Participating Team shall be assigned to argue for one side, i.e., each team shall argue only once against the team determined by and for the side decided by a draw of lots.
- Each Team will be given the opposing team's Memorials after the draw of lots. No team shall be provided any information regarding the identity of the opposing teams or any other team participating in the Competition.
- It shall be a knockout round. The winner of each round shall move to the quarter-final. Eight (8) teams shall move to quarter-finals.

QUARTER FINAL ROUND

- In the Quarter-Final, each Participating Team shall be assigned to argue for one side i.e., each team shall argue only once against the team determined by and for the side decided by a draw of lots.
- Each Team will be given the opposing team's Memorials after the draw of lots. No team shall be provided any information regarding the identity of the opposing teams or any other team participating in the Competition.
- It shall be a knockout round. The winner of each round shall move to the semifinal. Four (4) teams shall move to semi-finals.

SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL ROUND

- The selection of 4 teams for the Semi-Final Round and of 2 teams for the Final Round shall be on a 'knock-out' basis.
- The winner of each Semi Final Round shall move to the Final Round.

TIME LIMIT

- Each team will be given a maximum of 30 minutes to present their case orally in the Preliminary Rounds, 30 minutes in the Pre-Quarter-Final Round, 30 minutes in the Quarter-Final Round, 35 minutes in the Semi-Final Rounds and 40 minutes in the Final Round.
- The division of time is left to the discretion of the team members, subject to a maximum of 17 minutes for one speaker in Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final, Semi Final round and Final round.
- The time for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal is included within the time provided for the respective rounds. The final decision as to the structure and the right to rebut/sur-rebut shall vest with the judges. Only one speaker shall be allowed to go for the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal round.
- In case any speaker continues to speak after the completion of his/her time, the additional time that is used, will be deducted from the time allocated to his/her co-speaker, or from the time allotted for the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal, as the case may be.

- Under no circumstances, the researcher shall be allowed to address the bench. Such conduct shall be treated as a violation of competition rules.

EVALUATION CRITERIA OF ORAL ROUND(S)

Criteria	Marks
Knowledge of the Law and application of legal principles	25
Questions & Answers	20
Use of authorities and precedents	15
Knowledge of the Facts	10
Style, Poise & Demeanour: formality, respect, and professionalism	10
Organization & Time Management	10
Articulation and Innovation in arguments	10

14.MEMORIAL

- All the teams are required to submit soft copy of the memorials each for both sides.
- The soft copy of the memorials each shall be sent by the team on or before 23:59 IST on September 29, 2026. The Link for submission of memorials will be notified later. The memorial must be submitted in .pdf and .doc/.docx format (both).
- The copies of the memorials must bear cover page in conformity with the following scheme:
 - a. Blue- Claimant/Petitioner
 - b. Red – Respondents
- No amendment to the memorial will be permitted after submission.
- Teams are not permitted to raise arguments in the oral rounds that are not present in the memorial.

- Each memorial shall consist of and only the following **heads** in the same order as is mentioned here.
 1. Cover Page
 2. Table of Contents
 3. List of Abbreviations
 4. Index of Authorities
 5. Statement of Jurisdiction
 6. Statement of Facts
 7. Issues Raised
 8. Summary of Arguments
 9. Arguments Advanced
 10. Prayer
- Each memorial shall consist of the following details on the cover page:
 1. Team code on the top right-hand corner of the cover page.
Memorials without the team code will not be evaluated.
 2. Name and place of the forum.
 3. Name of the parties and their status.
 4. Memorial filed and the party that the team is appearing on behalf of.
- The following content specification must be adhered to:

1.	Language	English
2.	Font and Size (Body)	Times New Roman, 12 pts
3.	Line Spacing (Body)	1.5 lines
4.	Font and Size (Footnotes)	Times New Roman, 10 pts
5.	Line Spacing (Footnotes)	Single line
6.	Page Margins	1 inch on all sides
7.	Page Limit	
a.	Entire Memorial	32 pages (max)
b.	Arguments Advanced	20 pages (max)

8.	Paper Specification	White A4 Sized Paper
9.	Body of the Memorial	Justified
10.	Citation style	Harvard Bluebook (21 st edn.)

- The memorial must not contain any identification mark or symbol identifying the team apart from the team code. Any such identifying mark/ symbol will lead to disqualification of the team.
- The memorials shall be original and devoid of plagiarism. Memorials with more than 20% plagiarism and/or more than 10% AI generated content shall be rejected.
- **Memorials that do not comply with the above-mentioned specifications will be penalized as follows:**

Violation	Penalty
Breach of memorial anonymity	Disqualification from the Competition
Missing or additional head	2 marks for every violation
Incorrect order of heads	2 marks (one-time deduction)
Incorrect font size in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
Incorrect line spacing in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
Uniformity in footnotes	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
Incorrect page size and/or page margin in the main body of the Memorial	1 mark for every page on which there is a violation
Missing or unnecessary information on cover page	1 mark per piece of information
Substantive legal arguments outside the arguments advanced section	2 marks for every page on which there is a violation

Exceeding the page limit of the arguments advanced section	3 marks for every page that is in excess of the prescribed page limit
Extra information in footnotes	1 mark for each violation (1 mark will be deducted for every footnote that has extra information)
Use of endnotes	3 marks
Memorials with more than 20% plagiarism and/or more than 10% AI generated content	Disqualification

MARKING CRITERIA FOR MEMORIALS

- Memorial from each side shall carry total of hundred (100) marks.
- The following shall be the criteria for marking the memorials:

Criteria	Marks
Appreciation and application of facts	10
Identification of legal principles	15
Quality and extent of research: Use of relevant cases, statutes, treaties, and scholarly articles	30
Presentation: Adherence of Memorial Structure, Language and Grammar, Formatting and Style and Compliance with guidelines	25
Logical structure and clarity of thought in arguments	10
Relief Sought	10

15.COMPENDIUM

- Teams are free to present their Compendiums during their Oral Rounds as per the discretion of the Bench.
- Teams should maintain anonymity in the compendium. No reference to the names or emails of participants, name of institution, or any details, except for the team code allotted to the team should be made in the compendium.
- There will not be any passing of notes to the judges. The compendium shall be prepared keeping this requirement in mind.

16.PLAGIARISM

- The Arguments Advanced in memorials submitted should be free from plagiarism. The plagiarism percentage should not exceed 20% under any circumstances. Breach of the mentioned limit shall lead to disqualified.

17.PRIZES & AWARDS

- Certificate for participation will be given to all the participants.
- Prize Money of the Competition is as follows:

Winner	Trophy, Certificate of appreciation and cash prize of INR 51,000
Runners Up	Trophy, Certificate of appreciation and cash prize of INR 25,000
Best Speaker	Trophy, Certificate of appreciation and cash prize of INR 10,000
Best Memorial	Trophy, Certificate of appreciation and cash prize of INR 10,000
Best Researcher	Trophy, Certificate of appreciation and cash prize of INR 10,000

18.OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

- All official communication regarding the 12th Manipal Ranka International Moot Court Competition – 2026 shall be made through mail to: mootcourt.society@muja.manipal.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION

Official Email Id: mootcourt.society@muja.manipal.edu

Moot Court Committee's Website: www.mccmuja.weebly.com

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