

PRICE MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES

2026/2027 COMPETITION YEAR

Official Competition Rules of the 2027 International Rounds and the 2026/2027 Regional Rounds

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1. DEFINITIONS

a) "Advanced Rounds" refers to the Octo-finals, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals rounds of the Competition.

b) "Competition" means the current Price Media Law Moot Court Competition.

c) "Competition Case" means the official hypothetical problem which has been drafted and published for use in the Competition in accordance with Rule 4.

d) "Competition Year" means the period commencing on the date of the official release of the Competition Case and ends at the conclusion of the International Rounds.

e) "International Rounds" means the final stage of the Competition held at the University of Oxford each year after the completion of all the Regional Rounds for the Competition Year.

f) "Memorial" means the written arguments submitted, on behalf of both the Applicants and Respondents, according to the official Competition Rules by each Team. Memorials are also referred to as written pleadings.

g) "Oral Pleading" means a team member's individual presentation in an Oral Round.

h) "Oral Round" means a match comprising of pleadings of both Applicant and Respondent speakers, submitted orally in front of adjudicators.

i) "PA" means the Price Moot Court Administration. The administrators of the PA are the authoritative body for Price Media Law Moot Court Competition.

j) "Preliminary Rounds" refers to the matches which take place before the Advanced Rounds of the Competition and for the purpose of determining which teams advance to the Advanced Rounds.

k) "Regional Rounds" means any official competition administered by the PA, or under the approval of the PA, for the purpose of determining which teams from a specific region will advance to the International Rounds.

l) "Rules" means these official Competition Rules and any applicable supplements to these Rules published by the PA.

m) "Team Number" means the number assigned to each registered team by the PA in accordance with Rule 3.2.

2. ORGANISATIONAL RULES

2.1 ADMINISTRATION

a) The Competition is organised by the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford. There shall be a permanent administrative body, called the Price Moot Court Administration (PA).

b) The administrators comprising the PA shall be responsible for all administrative matters concerning the Competition and shall supply and distribute all necessary information to the participating teams.

c) The official email for all correspondence with the PA is pricemootoxford@law.ox.ac.uk

2.1.1 Composition of the Administration

a) The composition of the PA for the Competition Year will be announced on the website of the Price Moot Court Competition when the Competition Case is published.

b) The PA has the discretion to alter the composition of its membership at any time. In the event of any alterations, notification of the current membership of the PA will be announced on the website of the Price Moot Court Competition.

c) The composition of the PA for each of the Regional Rounds may differ from the composition of the PA for the International Rounds. In the event of this, all participants of those Regional Rounds will be notified of the composition of the PA for those Rounds.

2.2 DISCRETION OF THE ADMINISTRATION

2.2.1 Interpretation of Rules

a) The PA will have the exclusive authority to interpret these Rules in the interests of fairness and equality. This includes deviation from these Rules when necessary to uphold fairness and equality. In the event of such deviation, the PA will inform all participants concerned as soon as possible and aim to minimise any impact of such deviations on the teams.

2.2.2 Decisions of the PA Final and Binding

a) Any circumstance not covered by these rules will be up to the sole discretion of the PA. Decisions made by the PA in this regard will be adjudicated in the interests of fairness and equality.

b) All decisions of the PA shall be final and binding.

3. PARTICIPATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

3.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF TEAM MEMBERS

a) The Competition is open to students enrolled in a university pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Law at the time the competition takes place.

b) Students currently enrolled in or who have completed a research degree in law including a PhD programme – are not eligible to participate. Students that have any experience as practicing lawyer in any jurisdiction are ineligible to compete in this Competition, irrespective of their current status as a student.

c) Graduate or undergraduate students who are not enrolled in a Law degree but who are pursuing some other course of study related to Law may be eligible to participate at the discretion of the PA.

d) A previous participant is eligible to participate in the Competition as a representative for the university for which they previously participated, or a university in which they are newly enrolled provided that they meet all other eligibility requirements as set out in Rule 3.1. and the rest of the Rules of the Competition.

e) Previous participation as a Memorial or Oral Round Judge, in any Regional Round or the International Rounds of the Competition, disqualifies an individual from eligibility to participate as a member of a team.

f) These requirements do not apply for coaches of the teams. See rule 3.1.3.

3.1.1 Appointing and Selecting Team Members

a) An institution cannot register more than one (1) team and all team members must be from the same institution, unless a specific exemption from this requirement has been granted by the PA.

b) Students interested in participating in the Competition must first contact the concerned authorities in their respective institutions and receive the requisite authorization to represent the institution in the Competition.

c) In educational systems where a university has constituent colleges, each college can register a team or the university as such can be represented by a team comprising students from different constituent colleges.

3.1.2 Number of Team Members

a) Teams are expected to comprise no less than two (2) members and must have no more than six (6) members.

b) No other person, including the coach, may assist the team with researching, writing, editing or otherwise constructing its arguments. Failure to observe this rule may

result in penalisation or disqualification by the PA.

3.1.3 Team Coaches and Observers

a) Each team is permitted only one (1) coach who must be registered in addition to the team members mentioned in 3.1.2.

b) Coaches are strictly limited to providing general advice on applicable law, research methods and oral and written advocacy. Coaches are also bound by rule 7.5.1.

c) Observers are strictly limited to observing their affiliated team's oral round. Observers are bound by rule 7.5.1. They are not permitted to participate in the preparation of the written or oral argument.

d) The participation of observers or any other team affiliate must be communicated to the PA before the Competition and approved. During the Competition, for avoidance of doubt, those participants must be clearly marked as such. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the team being sanctioned.

3.1.4 Qualification Process for International Rounds

a) In order to qualify for the International Rounds, teams must compete from their respective region, where regional rounds are functioning. Teams are prohibited from competing in any other region unless they have extenuating circumstances that are confirmed by prior written permission from the members of the PA.

b) Where teams do not fall within any region that hosts Regional Rounds, the PA reserves the right to directly qualify such teams to the International Rounds based on the quality of their memorials.

3.2 REGISTRATION

a) A registration form prescribed by the PA including the participants' names, their current academic programme(s), the name of the coach, university, and other contact information for all team members must be submitted to the PA.

b) At the time of registration, teams shall select an official point of contact from the participating team who will be responsible for all official correspondence between the team and the PA.

c) In a case of any change of registered information, the team is obliged immediately to communicate changes with the PA. If these changes are not communicated with the PA then the PA reserves the right to disqualify the changed participants from participation.

d) After registration, participating teams will be provided with a Team Number, which will serve as their unique identifier both for Memorials and at the Oral Rounds. Teams qualifying for International Rounds from Regional Rounds will have the same Team

Numbers as assigned for Regional Rounds.

4. THE CASE

4.1 AUTHORSHIP OF THE CASE

a) The PA shall invite a duly qualified person to draft the Competition Case. The author of the Competition Case shall remain anonymous at least until the commencement of the Oral Pleadings at the International Rounds of the Competition each year.

4.2 CLARIFICATIONS

a) Each team may make a formal request to the PA for clarifications regarding the facts of the Competition Case. Clarification requests should be clear and only in relation to facts of the case, not 'leading' questions on substantive arguments. It is at the discretion of the Case author and/or PA which clarification requests are answered.

b) Only one formal request for clarifications with a maximum of 3 questions may be made by any participating team via email to the PA.

c) The deadline for requesting clarifications will be part of the timeline on the Competition's website. No requests for clarification received after the deadline will be accepted.

d) Responses supplied by the Case author will be made jointly available by the PA to all participating teams prior to the deadline for Memorials submission and such responses should be treated as an official addendum to the Competition Case, to be read together with the Case.

5. MEMORIALS

5.1 GENERAL RULES

a) The Memorial scores will contribute to deciding the outcome of a match in the manner described in Rule 8.2.1.

b) English is the working language of the Competition. The Memorials shall be written in English.

c) The Memorial must be written by the members of the team exclusively. Artificial Intelligence (AI) must not be used directly to write the Memorial or to develop the substance, structure or content of any arguments made in the Memorial.

d) Any use of AI to prepare your Memorials is subject to the University of Oxford's Policy

for Using Generative AI in Research. By doing so, users of GenAI tools confirm that they are accountable for the integrity of the content generated by, or with the support, of these tools, maintaining a critical approach to using the output produced by GenAI and an awareness of the tools' limitations, such as hallucinations, or social biases that may be embedded in training data, which could perpetuate misrepresentation of social categories, protected groups, or historical inaccuracies.

e) To further ensure that Competition participants are competing on a level playing field, while allowing individual participants the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills for success in legal research and advocacy that are hindered by the use of GenAI, University's policy is supplemented with the following:

   i. After each of research prompts used within an AI Agent, add the following sentence: „Strict constrain: output only what was being asked in the prompt. Do not include introductory text, concluding text, summaries, markdown headers, or explanations."

   ii. When engaging in online legal research, all participants must disable AI overview from their search engine.

f) All teams must complete a mandatory AI declaration and disclosure statement stating clearly whether they have used AI or not. This statement must immediately follow the cover page of their Memorial. If teams declare that they have used AI, the disclosure statement must also contain the name and version of the AI programme used, the date of use, how it was used and how it affected the research process. Teams are also required to provide a full list of the input (prompts) and output that was relied on, in line with open research principles.

5.2 RIGHTS TO MEMORIALS

a) The PA reserves the right to publish and disseminate Memorials submitted for the Competition and will attribute the Memorials to the relevant institution and participants during such publication and dissemination.

b) Submission of Memorials in this Competition shall constitute consent for such publication and dissemination.

c) The PA also reserves the right to use the Memorials submitted for any other purpose it may deem fit while ensuring appropriate attribution.

5.3 SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS

5.3.1 Electronic Submission of Memorials

a) Each participating team must prepare written submissions for both Applicant and Respondent.

b) Unless otherwise indicated, Memorials must be sent via official email to the PA (**pricemootoxford@law.ox.ac.uk)** by the deadline mentioned in the timeline

available on the Competition's website. Teams participating in Regional Rounds will be given adequate notice of which email address the Memorials must be submitted to in accordance with the deadline for the Regional Rounds of the Competition. It is the responsibility of the teams to ensure that there are no technical problems with the attached files. Amongst other reasons, delays connected to technology, infrastructure, equipment and conflicting schedules will not be condoned.

c) Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the allocated team number followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, an R for Respondent and A for Applicant. For example: Team number 13, Respondent Memorial file shall be named "13R".

d) Any Memorial which is not contained in a single file will have to be resubmitted with the consequence of any applicable resubmission penalties pursuant to Rule 6.1.2.

e) The submission of the Respondent and Applicant Memorials must be in one (1) email with the following information in the subject line: 'Team number' R + A, as described in this rule, paragraph c. No other information may be contained in the email.

f) All versions submitted to the PA, and to any other person under these Rules must be identical. Subject to paragraph (d), no changes of any kind may be made after submission of Memorials to the PA.

g) Each memorial should be electronically submitted in <u>both</u> Microsoft Word and PDF formats.

5.3.2 Late Submission

a) For penalties relating to late submission, see rule 6.1.3.

5.4 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5.4.1 Jurisdiction of the Court

a) The participants will work within an environment where all individuals in Member States of the United Nations enjoy the protections guaranteed by international human rights law. This objective will be engaged with the establishment of a fictional Universal Court of Human Rights that substitutes all jurisdictions of all other regional courts and becomes the final adjudicator when all national remedies have been exhausted.

b) Moreover, a Chamber of the Universal Court of Human Rights has been established to deal with issues specifically addressing cases that relate to Freedom of Expression. The Chamber is known as the "Universal Freedom of Expression Court", and this chamber of the Court will be the arena where the participants will present and argue their case.

c) Participants are not expected to raise issues related to jurisdiction and admissibility in their pleadings.

5.4.2 Applicable Law

a) The Universal Freedom of Expression Court, whose function is to decide in accordance with international law such disputes that are submitted to it, shall apply the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

b) The American Convention on Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights may be used to interpret the source listed in (a).

c) There is no hierarchy amongst the instruments listed in paragraph (b).

d) Team may use reports of United Nations Special Rapporteurs, reports and decisions of United Nations Treaty Bodies and regional human rights commissions, relevant academic literature, and decisions of any national and regional court(s) as subsidiary sources to supplement the primary sources listed in paragraph (a) and supplementary sources listed in paragraph (b).

5.5 FORMAT OF MEMORIALS

5.5.1 Memorial Style and Format

a) Memorials must be written in Microsoft Word and saved with the corresponding .doc or .docx file extension.

b) Pursuant to Rule 5.3.1(g), each memorial should be electronically submitted in two formats: (i) as a Microsoft Word document with the aforementioned file extension and (ii) in PDF format. Electronic documents submitted must contain no information or features other than those required by this rule (e.g. no comments, track changes, etc.). Breach of this provision will be penalized with a deduction of penalty points from the Memorial pursuant to rule 6.1.2.

5.5.2 Memorial Structure

- Each Memorial shall contain the following sections in the following order:

  a) Front Page

  b) Declaration and Disclosure Statement

  c) Table of Contents

  d) List of Abbreviations

  e) List of Sources/Authorities

  f) Statement of Relevant Facts

  g) Statement of Jurisdiction

  h) Questions Presented

  i) Summary of Arguments

j) Arguments

k) Prayer/ Relief Sought

5.5.3 Font and Spacing

a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), the text of all parts of the Memorial must be in Times New Roman, size 12 font and double-spaced.

b) Headings and sub-headings throughout the Memorials may be in a different font size, underlined and/ or highlighted.

c) Footnotes must be single-spaced, Times New Roman, size 10 font with a 12 pt space between separate footnotes.

5.5.4 Anonymity of Memorials

a) The names of the team members, coach, institution or country shall not be on any portion of the Memorial. Each team will be given a team number, pursuant to Rule 3.2 (c), which shall substitute the team's institutional affiliation until the disclosure of the oral phase of the Competition.
b) Any personal information should be removed from the document. This applies to the Document properties and personal information each word document has embedded in it as its metadata.

5.5.5 Penalties for non-compliance

a) Non-compliance with the formatting requirements will be penalised with a deduction of penalty points from the Memorial pursuant to rule 6.1.2.

5.5.6 Front Page

- The Front Page of the Memorial must have only the following information, which should be in the following order (this information should be centered, except where stated otherwise):

  a) In the top right-hand corner of the page, the team number allocated by the PA followed by "A" if an Applicant Memorial or "R" if a Respondent Memorial (e.g. Team Number 12 would put "12A" in the top right-hand corner of the Applicant Memorial cover page).

  b) The name and the year of the Competition (i.e., "The 2021-2022 Price Media Law Moot Court Competition)

  c) The name of the Case

  d) The title of the document (i.e., "Memorial for Respondent" or "Memorial for Applicant")

e) The number of words in the Arguments section. The number of words must be stated in the bottom right on the front page.

5.5.7 List of Sources/Authorities and Footnotes

a) The list of sources must contain references to all page numbers where sources or authorities are used or cited in the 'Arguments' section of the Memorial. Only authorities used or cited in support of arguments made in the 'Arguments' section of the Memorial may be included in the list of sources.

5.5.8 Statement of Relevant Facts

a) The Statement of Relevant Facts should be limited to facts relevant to the 'Arguments' section in the Memorial, and may not include unsupported facts, distortions of stated facts, argumentative statements, or legal conclusions.

5.5.9 Questions Presented

a) In this section teams should present the legal questions the Court is being called upon to decide in the context of the case. They must be presented as neutral questions, i.e. teams should not state their position on the questions raised in this section.

b) The questions must be precise, relevant to the facts and each question should ideally not be more than a sentence. While each legal question might have further sub-questions, teams must state only the main legal questions in this section. Usually, there are 4-5 main legal questions in every problem.

5.5.10 Summary of Arguments

a) A good Summary of Arguments should consist of a substantive summary of the "Arguments" section of the Memorial, rather than a simple reproduction of the headings contained in the Arguments section.

5.5.11 Arguments

a) Substantive, affirmative legal argument or legal interpretation of the facts of the Case may only be presented in the 'Arguments' section of the Memorial. The Arguments section shall not exceed five thousand (5,000) words excluding footnotes, but including all headings and sub-headings used in that section.

5.5.12 Footnotes and Citations

a) Each source or authority must be supported by bibliographical information using the Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA, 4th edition).

b) It is not permitted to provide any information in the footnotes that is not related to the identification of an authority or source. Footnotes may not include additional legal

arguments.

c) Endnotes are not permitted.

6. JUDGING MEMORIALS

6.1 SCORING CRITERIA AND POINTS FOR MEMORIALS

a) Each Memorial shall be assessed individually and independently by three (3) judges. Where necessary, the PA may authorize assessment by two (2) judges. In the event that Memorials are marked by two judges only, the procedure outlined in Rule 8.2.1 (Procedure for Winning a Match) shall be adjusted accordingly.

b) Every memorial will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each judge. Negative points will be awarded in the manner detailed in Rule 6.1.2. Therefore, in a match between Team 20 (Applicant) v. Team 10 (Respondent), Team 20's Applicant Memorial will be marked by three judges and can score up to a maximum of 300 points. The same is applicable for Team 10's Respondent Memorial. Where Memorials are marked by two judges, the maximum Memorial points to be allocated shall be 200.

c) A team's total Memorial score shall be the sum of points awarded for the Applicant Memorial and points awarded for the Respondent Memorial.

6.1.1 Substantive scoring

- Each judge can award a maximum of one hundred (100) points and memorials will be judged based on the following criteria:

  a) Correct legal analysis and its application to facts

  b) Quality and extent of research: relevant treaties, customs, case law, regional judgments, academic writings

  c) Recognition of problems: complete and correct recognition and weighting of problems

  d) Correct primary and alternative submissions

  e) Clarity and logic of argument

  f) Evidence of original thought

  g) Overall Presentation: Language, structure, format, citations

6.1.2 Procedural scoring (Memorial Penalties)

a) Non-compliance with rules concerning formatting and submission of Memorials

will result in a deduction from the allocated points. Irrespective of the actual penalties incurred, no more than 15 points can be deducted for each Memorial for non-compliance with procedural requirements. This rule does not apply to penalties for late submission under Rule 6.1.3.

RULE	VIOLATION	PENALTY
5.5.1	Additional content	**1 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.2	Missing or additional section	**2 points per violation**
5.5.2	Incorrect order of sections	**2 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.3	Incorrect font type or font size	**2 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.3	Incorrect spacing	**2 point (one-time deduction)**
5.5.4 (a)	Breach of memorial anonymity rule	**7 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.4 (b)	Breach of memorial anonymity rule	**2 point (one-time deduction)**
5.5.6	Missing or unnecessary information on front page	**1 point (one-time deduction)**
5.1	Missing AI declaration and disclosure statement	**7 point (one-time deduction)**
5.5.8, 5.5.11	Substantive legal argument outside the Arguments section	**3 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.11	Exceeding the word limit of the Arguments section	**2 point deduction** for every 100 words over the word limit
5.5.12(a)	Proper citation standard	**2 points (one-time deduction)**
5.5.12(b)	Text in footnotes	**1 point per violation** (up to 7 points)
5.5.12(c)	Use of endnotes	**3 points (one-time deduction)**
5.3.1(d)	Re-submission of memorial not contained in single file	**2 points (one-time deduction)**

5.5.8, 5.5.11	Plagiarism or undisclosed AI use	**5 points (one-time deduction)**

6.1.3 Penalties for Late Submission

a) The deadline for submission of Memorials shall be communicated to all participants via email to the team's official contact or by notification on the Competition website.

b) If a team fails to submit Memorials by the required deadline, the following penalties will apply: Starting at 1 minute past the deadline, 1 point will be deducted from each memorial for every hour of delay.

c) For the removal of all doubt, if the deadline for electronic Memorial submission is January 1, memorials must be received by the PA on or before 23:59 GMT on January 1. Memorials submitted on or after 0:00 on January 2 will incur a penalty as follows: 1 point penalty for memorials submitted between 0:00 - 0:59, 2 point penalty for memorials submitted between 1:00 - 1:59; 3 point penalty for memorials submitted between 2:00 - 2:59, etc.

d) A team which does not submit its memorials within 24 hours of the deadline will not be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds of the Competition.

6.2 REGIONAL ROUNDS MEMORIAL SCORES

a) Rule 6.1 shall apply *MUTATIS MUTANDIS* to the scoring of Memorials submitted in all Regional Rounds.

b) Teams qualifying for the International Rounds from Regional Rounds will have their Memorials remarked for the International Rounds where those Memorials were not first marked by the designated markers for the International Rounds.

7. ORAL PLEADINGS

7.1 GENERAL RULES

a) The Oral Pleadings count for 50% of the total raw score per team.

b) Oral Pleadings will be in English only. There will be no deviation from this language requirement.

c) The procedure for determining the winner of each match is set out in rule 8.2.1

7.2 GENERAL SCOPE OF ORAL PLEADINGS

a) Each team shall prepare two (2) Oral Pleadings (one for each speaker) on behalf of the Applicant and two (2) Oral Pleadings on behalf of the Respondent.

b) Each team shall have forty-five (45) minutes to present their arguments, including time for answering questions from adjudicators and rebuttals or sur-rebuttals.

c) The order of the pleadings in each Oral Round at all levels of the Competition will be: Applicant 1, Applicant 2, Respondent 1, and Respondent 2 followed by the Applicant's (any one oralist) rebuttal and then the Respondent's (any one oralist) sur-rebuttal.

d) Only two (2) team members shall present the arguments during an Oral Round on a team's behalf.

7.2.1 Time Allocation

a) The first team member presenting must inform the bailiff of the manner in which the team wishes to divide its forty-five (45) minutes between its (i) first Oralist, (ii) second Oralist, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Applicant) or Sur-rebuttal (for Respondent). The time allocation informed to the bailiff may under no circumstances be rearranged.

b) Each team's Oral Pleadings cannot exceed forty-five (45) minutes, including the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

c) Each team may divide its forty-five (45) minutes as it deems best provided that:

   i. No oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments

   ii. No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

For example, an acceptable allocation would be 21 minutes for each oralist's main arguments and 3 minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

d) The Respondent team may use the time set aside for sur-rebuttal only if the Applicant team exercises its right to rebuttal.

e) If a team fails to reserve time for a rebuttal or sur-rebuttal at the start of an Oral round it may not then request that such time be added during the course of the round.

7.2.2 Extension of Time at Judges' Discretion

a) Judges may, at their discretion, extend the time for an Oral Pleading as allocated in rule 7.2.1. Judges may also, at their discretion, determine how such extended time impacts the total time allocation in rule 7.2.1.

b) Judges cannot change the order of presentation of an Oral Round as stated in rule 7.2(c).

7.3 REBUTTAL AND SUR-REBUTTAL

a) As stated in rule 7.2, only one team member participating as an Oralist in the ongoing Oral Round may deliver the rebuttal for the Applicant or sur-rebuttal for the Respondent. Each team may reserve up to 5 minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal which they must utilise by speaking immediately. There will be no preparation time permitted. The information given to the bailiff need not indicate the team member selected to deliver the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

b) The Applicant's rebuttal, which immediately follows Respondent 2, must be limited to responding to the Respondent's Oral Pleadings; whereas the Respondent's sur-rebuttal is limited to responding to the Applicant's rebuttal.

c) The Applicant has the right to waive rebuttal, in which case the Respondent may not appear for sur-rebuttal.

7.4 COMMUNICATION DURING ORAL PLEADINGS

7.4.1 Oral Courtroom Communication between Counsel and Judges

a) During an Oral Round, oral communication is limited to the judges and the Oralist presenting a team's arguments.

7.4.2 Communication and Activity at Counsel's Table

a) During each Oral Round, one (1) additional Team Member may sit at counsel's table with the two (2) oralists; this individual shall be called "of counsel". Only individuals registered as team members pursuant to Rule 3.2 may act as of counsel. A team's coach cannot act as of counsel.

b) A maximum of three (3) team members may be seated at counsel's table: the two (2) oralists and one (1) of counsel.

c) Communication between the Oralist presenting a team's arguments and her/ his team's counsel's table is prohibited during presentation.

d) Communication at the counsel's table among other team members shall be in writing, and teams shall avoid all unnecessary and inappropriate behavior which disrupts or detracts from the Oral Pleading in progress.

e) Communication between participants at the Counsel's table and adjudicators should be through the Court Clerk only. Direct communication between participants at the Counsel's table and the adjudicators is prohibited.

f) If participants continue to engage in such communication at any point in the

Competition despite an earlier warning, the PA shall have the discretion to disqualify any such team from a particular Oral Round or from the remainder of the Competition, or to otherwise penalise that team.

7.4.3 Electronic devices

a) The use of electronic devices for any purpose is prohibited during the oral rounds by any team member actively participating in an oral round, whether acting as an oralist or seated at the counsel table.
    (i) This subrule does not apply to judges, coaches, observers, bailiffs, or any other spectators that are not seated at the counsel table.
    (ii) The only exception to this rule, for team members actively participating in an oral round, is time keeping devices that are single function stopwatches and not smart watches.

b) All persons present in the room including judges, coaches, observers, bailiffs, and team members, are strictly prohibited from recording the round.

7.4.4 Illustrative equipment

a) Exhibits/illustrative props are allowed without any further permission, provided the team itself supplies the equipment, the team has the equipment ready before the Oral Round is about to begin, the team makes sure that the equipment is not in any way seen or heard or in any other way distracts the judges while the opponent team is presenting their arguments, and that the equipment does not under any other circumstances intervene, distract or interfere with the opponent team's presentation of their Oral Pleadings.

7.5 SPECTATORS

7.5.1 Participating Teams

a) Team members, coaches, observers and other individuals directly affiliated with a team, may only attend Preliminary Rounds in which their team is competing.

b) For teams which have moved on to the Advanced Rounds of the Competition, team members, or individuals directly affiliated with a team, may only attend Advanced Rounds in which their team is competing.

c) Teams, and individuals directly affiliated with teams, which have not moved on to the Advanced Rounds may attend any oral match in the Advanced Rounds.

d) Once a team in the Advanced Rounds has been knocked out of the Competition, team members and individuals directed affiliated with the team, may attend all remaining Advanced Rounds matches.

7.5.2 Outside Spectators

a) All Rounds should be open to the public. The PA has the supreme authority in determining whether spectators are unnecessarily disturbing the Oralists during an Oral Round, in which case the spectator will be kindly asked to leave the room. Spectators are urged to show the utmost sportsmanship while presentations are being made and to be as silent as possible throughout the Competition.

7.5.3 Recording

a) The PA has the legal rights to all recordings and dissemination of such recordings whether audio, video, or other forms of recording which take place during the Competition.

8. JUDGING ORAL PLEADINGS

a) In each oral round, the PA shall employ three (3) judges whenever possible. Under special circumstances, the PA may authorize panels of two (2) judges. The PA may employ more than three (3) judges in the Advanced Rounds.

8.1 SCORING CRITERIA AND POINTS

a) Each oral pleading will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each of the 3 judges.

8.1.1 Substantive scoring

a) Each oralist can be awarded a maximum of one hundred (100) points per oral pleading based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Correct legal analysis and its application to facts
- Relevant treaties, relevant customs, case law, regional judgments, legal scholars, other
- Recognition of problems: complete and correct recognition and weighting of problems
- Clarity and logic of argument
- Correct primary and alternative submissions
- Evidence of original thought
- Overall presentation
- Ability to communicate with judges: persuasiveness and fluency
- Rebuttal or sur-rebuttal: ability to respond to opposing side's arguments

8.2 PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING WINNER OF A MATCH AND QUALIFYING TEAMS FOR EACH ADVANCED ROUND

8.2.1 Procedure for Winning a Match

a) As per rule 6.0, in each match the Memorials of each team will be marked by 3 judges with each judge giving a score out of 100. Therefore, each team's memorial will have 3 scores: a highest score, a middle score and a lowest score.

b) In each match, the highest score of the Applicant's Memorial will be compared with the highest score of the Respondent's Memorial,, the middle score of the Applicant's Memorial will be compared with the middle score of the Respondent's Memorial and the lowest score of the Applicant's Memorial will be compared with the lowest score of the Respondent's Memorial.

c) For scoring higher in each of the above comparisons, a team will get 1 Round Point. Therefore, in a match between Team 1 and Team 5, if Team 1 scores more than Team 5 in all the three comparisons, then Team 1 gets 3 Round points. If Team 1 scores higher than Team 5 only in two comparisons, then Team 1 gets 2 Round Points and Team 5 gets 1 Round Point. If scores being compared are the same, then each team will be awarded 0.5 point for each comparison. Therefore, there a total of 3 Round Points that can be won for the Memorials in each match.

d) In the Oral Pleadings each of the 3 judges' scores for the two teams will be compared. If Judge 1 in a match between Team 10 and Team 20 gives a higher number of points to Team 10, then Team 10 will get 2 Round Points. A similar comparison will be carried out for Judges 2 and 3. Therefore, a total of 6 Round Points can be won in the Oral Pleadings in each match. As a result, there are 9 Round Points to be won in each match and the team with the higher number of Round Points wins the match.

e) In the event that both teams have the same number of Round Points, the following procedure will be followed to resolve the tie:

    a. The Match Raw Scores of both teams will be compared to determine the winner of the match.

    b. If a tie still exists, it shall be broken in the following order:

        i. By comparing only the total Oral Pleadings scores.

        ii. By comparing only the total Memorial scores.

f) The PA reserves the right to allow Oral Round judges of the Advanced Rounds to determine the winner of the match by consultation rather than using the above procedure.

8.2.2 Raw Scores

a) The aggregate of the actual points awarded to a team by each of the 3 Memorial judges and each of the 3 judges during the Oral Pleadings will constitute the Match Raw Score.

For example, Team 15 in its first match could score 85, 85, 90 as Memorial scores and 80, 80, 85 for Speaker 1 and 90, 90, 85 for Speaker 2 as Oral Pleadings score. The Match Raw Score for Team 15 in the first match is sum of these scores –which is 770.

b) A team's Competition Raw Score shall be the aggregate of all of its Match Raw Scores.

8.2.3 Procedure for Determining the Teams for the Advanced Rounds

In deciding the teams for the Advanced Rounds, the following will be taken into account:

a) Teams with the highest number of wins in the Preliminary Rounds.

b) In case 2 teams or more have the same number of wins, they shall be ranked by comparing the aggregate Round Points in the Preliminary Rounds.

c) If ties still exist, then the Competition Raw Scores of the tied teams will be compared to determine the ranking inter se.

d) If a tie is not resolved by the above procedure, the tie shall be broken in the following order:

i. By comparing the sum of the Average Oral Pleadings Score and the Average Memorial Score. The Average Oral Pleadings Score is the total scores awarded to a team during the Oral Pleadings divided by the total number of that team's oral rounds judges. The Average Memorial Score is the total scores awarded to a team's Memorials divided by the total number of memorial judges for both Applicant and Respondent memorials.

ii. By comparing only the Average Oral Pleadings Score as calculated above.

iii. By comparing only the total Oral Pleadings score.

iv. By comparing the Average Memorial Score as calculated in (i).

v. By comparing only the total Memorial score.

8.2.4 Extra Match

a) In the event that the PA is unable to assign to a team its full complement of matches in the Preliminary Rounds due to extenuating circumstances, one of the participating teams will be randomly selected to play an extra match (a non-competitive Match).
b) An Extra Match is a match that is taken into account for scoring purposes for the team that would not otherwise have had its full complement of matches (the Scored Team) but is not taken into account for the team that is selected to play the extra match (the Substitute Team).
c) For the avoidance of doubt, the Extra Match will not contribute any win, loss, Round Points or Raw Scores for the purposes of determining whether the Substitute Team advances from the Preliminary Rounds.
d) The PA will inform the Substitute Team that it has been selected to play an extra match at the time that the Match Schedule for the Preliminary Rounds is released. Although

the Extra Match will be identified by the PA in advance, to ensure the integrity of the Competition, the Extra Match will not be revealed to the Substitute Team until the end of the Preliminary Rounds.

e) Prior to the start of the Preliminary Rounds, the PA will conduct a fair and transparent procedure which should satisfy the Substitute Team that the Extra Match identified by the PA during the scheduling of matches for the Preliminary Rounds is in fact the match that is not taken into account for that team during scoring.

f) The Extra Match will be scored by oral round judges in accordance with Rule 8.1 and the winner of the Extra Match will be determined in accordance with Rule 8.2.1.

9. TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

9.1 FEEDBACK ON MEMORIALS AND ORAL PLEADINGS

a) All judges will be strongly urged to provide feedback on the Memorials and performance in the Oral Pleadings. Judges of Oral Pleadings will be required to provide feedback at the conclusion of every match but will not reveal their decision, except where the winner is determined by consultation in accordance with Rule 8.2.1(e).

b) If judges do not provide feedback after the Oral Pleadings, participants have the right to seek feedback from adjudicators of Oral Pleadings immediately after the judges have completed marking for the match. However, such feedback has to be sought and given in the courtroom in the presence of the opposing team.

9.2 INSPECTION OF SCORE SHEETS AND PHOTOCOPIES

a) All teams have the right to inspect Memorial and Oral Pleadings score sheets before the advancing teams are announced.

b) Irrespective of the stage of the competition, no team will be given access to score sheets concerning matches in which the said team was not involved.

9.3 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

a) In the event of a complaint about the proceedings during the competition, contact the members of the PA as soon as possible either in person or by sending an email to pricemootoxford@law.ox.ac.uk.

b) The decision taken by the PA to resolve the complaint will be final and binding upon all participants, judges, and coaches in the competition.

10. COMPETITION SCORING AND PRIZE

a) The following prizes will be awarded in two categories: 'Winner' and 'Runner-up', except for the Best Oralist - Finals.

10.1 BEST MEMORIALS

a) The team with the highest aggregate Memorial points will win the prize for the Best Memorials.

10.2 BEST INDIVIDUAL ORALIST

a) The participant with the highest average score at the conclusion of the Preliminary Rounds will be adjudged the Best Individual Oralist. The average score will be calculated by dividing the total number of points of each speaker by the number of times the speaker has presented oral arguments.

b) In the case of four (4) Preliminary Rounds in the Competition participants have to present oral arguments a minimum of two (2) times to be eligible for this prize.

10.3 BEST ORALIST – FINALS

a) There will be an award for the Best Oralist in the finals. This prize will be decided by the Finals bench.

b) There shall be no Runner-up prize in this category.

For any clarifications, please contact the Price Moot Court Administration at: pricemootoxford@law.ox.ac.uk