



Bonavero
Institute
of Human
Rights



Virtual International Rounds

**Addendum to the Price Media
Law Moot Court
Competition Rules**

2019/2020 Competition Year

1. INTERNATIONAL ROUNDS

1.1 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- a) Due to risks associated with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak around the world, the Price Moot Administration has taken the decision to adopt the following Addendum to enable the virtual running of the International Rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2019/20.
- b) The Moot will take place virtually, with teams requested to record their pleadings for the preliminary rounds, and with the use of videoconferencing software for the semi-final and Final rounds. This is detailed below.
- c) No round of the Moot will take place in person and there will be no Moots or Moot-related events that will physically take place during the week of 30th March - 03 April 2020.
- d) This Addendum governs the Virtual International Rounds of the Price Moot 2019/20. Where something is not prescribed in this Addendum, the 2019-2020 Price Media Law Moot Court Competition Rules will apply.

1.2 SCHEDULE

- a) **6 March 2020:** Teams are notified about the Virtual International Rounds
- b) **11 March 2020:** Deadline for teams to confirm their participation in the Virtual International Rounds
- c) **13 March 2020:** Price Moot Administration will conduct a random draw, pairing up teams for the Preliminary Rounds. This shall be livestreamed on Facebook. Provision of memorials for opposing teams.
- d) **23 March 2020:** Deadline for teams to upload their recorded videos of oral pleadings for the applicant and the respondent on Dropbox.
- e) **1 April 2020:** Announcement of the Semi Finalists and email exchange of Memorials.
- f) **2 April 2020:** Semi Finals to take place via video conferencing software. Time slots to be announced.
- g) **3 April 2020:** Virtual Finals of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition to take place via video conferencing software. Time to be announced.
- h) All dates and times will be in the Oxford time zone.

2. ORAL PLEADINGS: PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

2.1 SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY ROUND ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) Each team shall prepare, record and upload two (2) Oral Pleadings - one on behalf of the Applicant and the other on behalf of the Respondent for the Preliminary Rounds.
- b) Each team shall have **thirty (30) minutes** to present their arguments. Since there is no possibility of questions from adjudicators, teams are advised to use this time wisely to make their strongest arguments in the clearest manner. There will be no extra time granted.
- c) Each team may divide its thirty (30) minutes between the two oralists provided that no oralist is allocated less than ten (10) minutes or more than fifteen (15) minutes for the oral pleadings.
- d) The order of the pleadings in the Virtual International Round of the Competition will be: Applicant 1, Applicant 2 and then Respondent 1, and Respondent 2.
- e) There is no rebuttal and sur-rebuttal in the Preliminary Rounds of the Virtual International Round of the Competition.
- f) Only two (2) team members shall present the arguments during an Oral Round on a team's behalf.

2.4 RULES FOR UPLOADING OF PRELIMINARY ROUND ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) Each team shall record their Preliminary Round Oral Pleadings for the Applicant in one file, and Oral Pleadings for the Respondent in a separate file.
- b) Both files should be uploaded to the Dropbox link provided by Price Administration **by 12 noon GMT on 23 March 2020** in a folder with the team code as the name. For instance, the folder must be titled '101' with the Applicant file titled '101A' and the Respondent file titled '101R' if your team code is 101.
- c) Teams shall also upload a Word document with the names of the speakers for each side in the order that they are presenting their Oral Pleadings in the recorded video. The Word document should reflect the team code in its name. For instance, the document should be named 'Team 101 Speakers' if your team code is 101.

3. JUDGING ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) For each Preliminary Round, the PA shall employ two (2) judges. The PA may employ three (3) judges to judge the Semi Finals and the Finals (the Advanced Rounds).

3.1 SCORING CRITERIA AND POINTS

- a) Each oral pleading will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each

of the judges. Breakdown of the oral scores has been amended to place less emphasis on style and more on quality and structure of legal argument.

- b) 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
 - Strategic use of facts to highlight legal positions
 - Use of relevant treaties, custom, case law, regional judgments, legal scholarship
 - 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 effectively: persuasiveness and fluency

4. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING WINNER OF A MATCH AND QUALIFYING TEAMS FOR SEMI FINALS

4.1 Procedure for Winning a Match

- a) The same procedure (including memorial scores) prescribed in the 2019-2020 Price Media Law Moot Competition Rules in rule 8.2.1 Procedure for Winning a Match will apply with the following modifications:
- b) In the Oral Pleadings each of the 2 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. The same comparison will be carried out for the second Judge.
- c) Since our scoring system is made for 3 judges, scores of the missing third judge will be divided between the competing teams in a particular match. Every team will thus get 1 extra Round Point by default in the Virtual International Rounds. Therefore, a total of 4+1 Round Points can be won in the Oral Pleadings in each match. As a result, there are 7+1 Round Points to be won in each match and the team with the higher number of Round Points wins the match.

4.2 Procedure for Determining the Teams for the Semi Final Rounds

- a) The same procedure prescribed for qualification to advanced rounds in the 2019-2020 Price Media Law Moot Competition Rules in rule 8.2.3 Procedure for Winning a Match will be applicable.

5. ORAL PLEADINGS: ADVANCED ROUNDS

- a) The top four teams with the highest round points shall advance to the Semi Finals. Thereafter, the winner of each Semi Final shall advance to the Final Round.
- b) The Semi Final rounds shall be held on **02 April 2020** via video conferencing software. Time slots will be announced via email once the qualifying teams and their geographical locations have been determined.
- c) The Final Round shall be held on **03 April 2020** via videoconferencing software. Time to be announced via email once the qualifying teams and their geographical locations have been determined.

5.1 VIDEO CONFERENCING SET UP FOR THE SEMI FINALS AND FINALS

- a) The Rules for Oral Pleadings of the Semi Finals and Finals are the same as the Preliminary Rounds except for the following differences:
 - i) Both teams will be invited to join a videoconference and the moot round will be held virtually, in real time.
 - ii) No special equipment is necessary to participate. We suggest you set up a suitable venue as follows:
 - Teams must be located in a quiet room which can be closed and private and have a desk and chairs for the oralists as well as space to seat coaches and other team members during the argument.
 - Teams are obliged to secure an adequate and reliable internet connection and reliable hardware for video conferencing for the duration of the match, as well as to have power supply for all equipment that will be used for at least 2 hours. We suggest teams previously test all equipment and connections in order to avoid possible technical problems.
 - The camera should be positioned in a way to see the team's table with all team members and clearly see the oralist at the stand.
 - Teams should ensure that the microphone is set up close to the oralist and that it works properly. In any event, if there is no microphone available, the speaker must be audible in the recording.
 - After finishing the speeches teams are not allowed to mute their microphones but are obliged to be quiet and to avoid any unnecessary noise that can affect the opposing team's presentation.

5.2 TIME ALLOCATION, REBUTTAL AND SUR-REBUTTAL

- a) The time allocation for each side's Oral Pleadings will revert to **forty-five minutes** (45) in total.
- b) Each team may divide its forty-five (45) minutes as it deems best provided that no oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments.
- c) The Applicant team may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttal. This must be clearly stated in the Oral Pleadings of the first oralist. The Applicant is forbidden from making new legal arguments in the rebuttal and may only respond to arguments raised by the Respondent in the course of main pleadings
- d) The Respondent team may also set aside a upto five (5) minutes for sur-rebuttal, but may use this time only if the Applicant team exercises its right to rebuttal. The sur-rebuttal must respond only to the points that the Applicant makes during the rebuttal.
- e) If a team fails to reserve time for a rebuttal or sur-rebuttal at the start of the oral round it may not then request that such time be added during the course of the round.
- f) The order of Oral Pleadings will be as follows: Applicant speaker 1, Applicant speaker 2, Respondent speaker 1, Respondent speaker 2, Rebuttal, Sur-rebuttal.
- g) The three (3) judges are empowered to intervene with questions during the presentation of Oral Pleadings.
- h) Teams will not be required to provide bailiffs / clerks to keep time. The Price Moot Administration will provide bailiffs.
- i) The winners of Semi Finals and Finals will be determined and announced by the judges in consultation with one another. Memorial scores will not be taken into account in these matches.

6. TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

6.1 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 provide written feedback at the conclusion of every match in the Preliminary Rounds.

6.2 INSPECTION OF SCORE SHEETS AND PHOTOCOPIES

- a) All teams will be emailed their Memorial and Oral Pleadings score sheets of 2 matches in Preliminary Rounds before the advancing Semi Finals 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.

6.3 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.

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