



Bonavero
Institute
of Human
Rights



PRICE MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION
2019-2022 CLARIFICATIONS TO THE ADDENDUM TO THE PRICE MEDIA
LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES

A. FORMAT

1. Why are there only 2 matches for the Preliminary Rounds (instead of 3 matches as per the norm)?

Due these unexpected circumstances, and in order for the Virtual International Rounds take place successfully, the Price Moot Administration has considered various possibilities of carrying out the moot with the least impact on the fairness of the competition. The short period of time before the Finals; changed format of the competition; changed timeline/schedule of the competition and coordination with judges who are willing to assist with Virtual Moot are the key reasons why the PA has taken this decision to scale down the number of Preliminary Rounds.

2. For the Preliminary Rounds, why are there only 2 oral judges (instead of 3 judges as per the norm)? Further, even if 2 judges are used, why must the 2 Round Points of the third judge be equally split between both teams (the better alternative would be to calculate the score of the third judge based on the average score of the two judges, and to distribute the 2 Round Points accordingly by comparing the score of this average score)

See response to question 1. Moreover, our scoring system has been specifically constructed for 3 judges. We are not in position to make any changes at this stage. That will demand a lot of work by the developer and that is why we explained how the scores from the 3rd judges will be divided. Again this does not compromise on the fairness in scoring teams as it neutralises the role of the third judge.

3. Why is the Advanced Rounds only consisting of Final and Semi-Final? In the event there are many teams participating in the virtual moot, would it be possible to hold a Round of 16 and/or Quarter-Final for the Advanced Rounds?

See response to question 1. Additionally, due to the fact that we thought it important to have the Advanced Rounds via video conference, the Round of 16 and Quarter Final rounds would have been too onerous to coordinate, given the teams that have qualified from various time zones across the world. For this reason we decided to scale down the moot to Semi Finals and Finals only.

4. After the confirmation of team participation in the virtual moot, will the number and/or identities of teams be disclosed?

We will notify teams how many will participate in Virtual International Rounds.

B. JUDGES

5. Are the memorials of all teams being marked by a fixed panel of 3 judges as per the norm?

Yes, procedure with memorials will stay the same.

6. Who are the oral judges for the Preliminary Rounds and the Advanced Rounds? Will teams be notified of their identities and/or background beforehand?

We are still in the process of confirming which judges are willing and able to assist us with the Virtual International Rounds. This will mean that the information will not be available in full in advance, but we can assure you that the pool of judges will be the same people as those who were supposed to be in Oxford personally. You will receive the oral round score sheets where you will be able to see the identity of the judge.

7. For the Preliminary Rounds, are there different panels of oral judges scoring each match (or group of matches) or is there only a fixed panel of 2 judges scoring all matches? If it is the latter, is the panel instructed to compare the performance of teams from different matches to standardize their scores (for instance, by comparing Applicant Team A from Match 1 with Applicant Team B from Match 2)?

We endeavour to have different panels of judges for each match. However, this depends on the availability of judges. In any event judges will be scoring teams based on standardised scoresheets and will be briefed, as per usual, on how to properly judge oral submissions. This is the same principle that we follow for the International Rounds in Oxford.

8. For the Preliminary Rounds, what are the procedures or instructions to be followed by the oral judges? Do they refer to the teams' memorials during each match? Are they required to watch every match in a single continuous sitting? Do they finalise the scores at the end of each match after hearing both sides (or are they allowed to amend the scores after watching other matches)?

We will pair teams and send judges as a single match. They will watch it as if it were a live match. We will ask them to fill out the oral rounds score sheet. Judges will thus grade individual matches on their own merit based on the standardised scoresheets.

C. ORAL PLEADINGS

9. For the Preliminary Rounds, how are the matchups arranged? Is it purely by random draw? Or are there certain conditions (for instance, that teams from the same regional cannot meet each other – as appears to be the norm from previous years)?

It will be a purely random draw.

10. For the Preliminary Rounds, are teams allowed to view their opponents' pre-recorded videos? *[In a normal moot, teams are able to hear the opponent's submission]*

Team will only be able to read the opposing memorials.

11. For the Preliminary Rounds, can teams be allowed a right to reply or rebuttal after the submission of videos and viewing the opponent's video? If not, what instructions are given to the judges in assessing a match where teams do not clash on issues? *[In a normal moot, teams have the right of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal. However, since teams upload their submissions simultaneously in this virtual moot format and teams are not bound by their memorials, there is a high likelihood of teams end up submitting on different issues – especially considering the reduction of submission time to 30 minutes. Particularly, the Respondent should not be penalised if they incorrectly anticipate and address the Applicant's oral submission.]*

Teams will need to adapt and try to focus more on memorials since they won't have any other leads. We will do our best to brief the judges in this regard and explain the changes. We have also changed our scoring criteria to reflect this, the score sheet will be published in advance.

12. For the Preliminary Rounds, what happens if an opponent team withdraws or fails to submit the pre-recorded video? Will such team be automatically disqualified and the other team be awarded all Round Points?

The defaulting team will be disqualified. The oral round points for that match will be awarded to the other team.

13. For the Preliminary Rounds, does late submission of a pre-recorded video render the defaulting team automatically disqualified or receiving some form of penalty?

Teams are advised to upload the recorded preliminary oral pleadings well in advance, to account for any possible technological problems. If teams submit the recorded pleadings later than the deadline, the defaulting team will be penalised 1 oral round point. If recorded pleadings are still not received within 12 hours after the deadline, teams will be disqualified.

D. TECHNICAL

14. Are there any specific requirements or prohibitions to the format of the pre-recorded video for the Preliminary Rounds? Does the video need to be filmed continuously to include both oralists' submission in a single take?

The rules specify that only two files must be uploaded - one file with both oralists for the applicant, and the other file with both oralists for the respondent. The file must have both oralists presenting arguments consecutively with no undue delay. In the event that it is not filmed all at once, teams must ensure that it is edited in such a way that the arguments are presented consecutively with no break in the recording.

15. For the Advanced Rounds, what video conferencing software will be used?

This will be determined based on the best software for all parties involved in the Advanced Rounds (judges, organisers, teams).

16. For the Advanced Rounds, what happens when there is a technical glitch to the video conferencing? Will the timer be stopped or teams be allowed to request for an extension of time?

We will advise judges to grant additional time, but teams need to establish a secure internet connection and to test it in advance. As well to have a plan B in case something goes wrong.

17. Are teams allowed to add subtitles to the pre-recorded video or provide a written transcript of their submission?

The addition of subtitles or provision of written transcripts is not permitted.

18. For the Preliminary Rounds, what image needs to be captured on the camera? Does it need to include the team's table as well?

It is not an obligatory rule in the Addendum as it is for the Advanced Rounds. It is up to the team to decide.

19. For the Advanced Rounds, do the panel of judges convene in the same room (or do they connect remotely to the video conference software separately)? If it is the former, would teams be given the option to travel to submit live before the panel?

We are still making a decision on that. Even if it will be the former the teams won't be given the option to travel to submit live since all teams are going to be treated equally.

20. For the Advanced Rounds, is it mandatory for all team members and the team coach to be captured on the camera (as per Rule 5.1(a)(ii) of the Addendum)? *[It may be problematic for certain team coaches to be present in light of the time difference and their full-time jobs. Further, some coaches may not have intended to travel to Oxford to begin with.]*

Rule 5.1 of the Addendum says the following:

“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.”

Rule 5.1 refers to the team’s table (where 1 oralist +of counsel will be sitting) in addition to the oralist that will be speaking. In any event, the coach is not allowed to sit at the team's table as per Rules of the Competition - so it is not necessary or desirable for the coach to be present on camera.

E. AWARDS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

21. Is there a Best Memorial Award? If yes, can a team still be eligible for such award even if they decline to participate in the virtual moot?

Yes, there is a Best Memorial Award. Yes, teams will still be eligible for this award even if they cannot participate in the virtual moot.

22. Are there awards for the Best Oralist of the Preliminary Rounds and/or Final Round?

Yes, all the speaker awards remain the same. Yes, there will be awards for the Best Oralist of the Preliminary Rounds and the Final Round.

23. Will teams receive a brochure (in electronic format) similar to the physical brochure contained in the team kit during International Rounds (containing the list of teams and judges in the competition)?

Yes, teams will receive the Brochure via email after the conclusion of the Virtual International Rounds 2019/20.

24. After the completion of the competition, will the ranking of teams and oralists for the Preliminary Rounds be published to the teams?

The top 10 oralists from the Preliminary Rounds will be published and publicly available. If teams are interested in knowing their position in the Preliminary Rounds, please contact the Price Moot Administration and your position will be communicated via email. The Price Moot Administration, as per usual practice, will not publish the complete list.

25. After the completion of the competition, how will the results of the virtual moot be publicized on the website? Will the relevant details be specified

(e.g. format of the competition, number of teams participating and declining to participate, etc.)?

The results of the Virtual International Rounds will be published on the website and social media. As per usual practice, the number of participating teams will be highlighted. The Price Moot Administration will explain the circumstances and format of the moot adequately on the website and social media.