



Bonavero
Institute
of Human
Rights



Virtual Rounds

Addendum to the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition Rules

2021/2022 Competition Year

**Official Addendum to the Competition Rules of the
2022 International Rounds and the 2021/2022 Regional
Rounds in South Asia, Asia Pacific, South-East Europe, North-
East Europe, Northern Europe, the Americas, the Middle East
and Africa**

1. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ROUNDS

1.1 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- a) Due to continued 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 online running of the Regional Rounds and International Rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2021/22.
- b) The Moot will take place online with the use of videoconferencing software for oral 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 year.
- d) This Addendum governs the Virtual Rounds of the Price Moot 2021/22. Where something is not prescribed in this Addendum, the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition Rules 2021/22 will apply.

2. ORAL PLEADINGS: PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

2.1 SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY ROUND ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) The Preliminary Rounds will take place on videoconferencing software that is most convenient to both the teams and the judges in the round. The online courtrooms will be set up by the PA and secure links will be sent in advance along with the schedule.
- b) If PA determines that videoconferencing cannot be used, the PA may facilitate team participation by way of video recording or similar way in order to enable oral pleadings.
- c) We suggest you set up a suitable venue as follows:
 - i) As much as possible, participants must be located in a quiet space that enables audible oral argument.
 - ii) As much as possible, participants are obliged to secure an adequate and reliable internet connection and reliable hardware for videoconferencing 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 per round. We suggest participants previously test all equipment and connections in order to avoid possible technical problems.
 - iii) The camera should be positioned in a way to see the participant clearly.
 - iv) Participants should ensure that the microphone is set up close to the oralist and that it works properly. In any event, if there is no additional microphone available, the oralist must be audible during the presentation of oral argument.

- d) Each team will argue at least two (2) Preliminary Rounds.
- e) Each team shall have **thirty (30) minutes** to present their arguments with an additional **three (3) minutes** for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal respectively.
- f) 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 the main pleadings. The Respondent team may only use their sur-rebuttal time 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.
- g) 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 seventeen (17) minutes for the oral pleadings. This must be communicated to the Bailiff at the start of the session, before the round begins.
- h) The order of the pleadings in the Virtual Round of the Competition will be: Applicant 1, Applicant 2 and then Respondent 1, and Respondent 2, and then Applicant rebuttal speaker followed by the Respondent sur-rebuttal speaker.
- i) Only two (2) team members shall present the arguments during an Oral Round on a team's behalf.
- j) The judges are empowered to intervene with questions during the presentation of Oral Pleadings.
- k) Teams will be required to provide bailiffs / clerks to keep time.

3. JUDGING ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) For each Preliminary Round, the PA shall employ at least two (2) judges and at the most three (3) judges.

4. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING WINNER OF MATCH AND QUALIFYING TEAMS

- a) The same procedure (including memorial scores) prescribed in the 2021/22 Price Media Law Moot Competition Rules in rule 8.2.1 Procedure for Winning a Match will apply with the following modifications where only 2 judges score an oral round.
- 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 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.

5. ADVANCED ROUNDS

- a) The Rules for Oral Pleadings of the Semi Finals and Finals are the same as the Preliminary Rounds in Rule 2.1 above except for the following differences:
 - o 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 their matches in Preliminary Rounds before the advancing Semi Finals or 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.

6.4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) By participating in the Price Moot, participants undertake to behave in a manner that demonstrates mutual respect for fellow participants.
- b) The Price Moot has a zero-tolerance policy for harassment or bullying of any kind. Should any person involved in coaching, participating, or judging the Price Moot be found to be engaging in online harassment, they will be immediately excluded from the Competition and, where applicable, their team will be disqualified.

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