DEPARTMENT OF LAW

NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY

SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

3rd NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

2026

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RULEBOOK

3rd NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

VIRTUAL ROUNDS :
29th & 30th SEPTEMBER, 2026

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

PHYSICAL ROUNDS :
29th & 30th OCTOBER, 2026

OCTA FINAL , QUARTER FINAL , SEMI FINAL & FINAL ROUNDS

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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW, NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY

The Department of Law, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, established in 2005, has significantly advanced legal education through curriculum reforms, innovative teaching methods, and a strengthened Clinical Legal Education Programme. It organizes the prestigious NEHU National Moot Court Competition and actively participates in national and international moot court events. Committed to academic excellence, the Department fosters free intellectual inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking while promoting a healthy environment for quality legal education and professional development.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The 3rd North-Eastern Hill University National Moot Court Competition, 2026 is a flagship initiative of the Department of Law, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. The Competition provides a national platform for law students to demonstrate their legal research, drafting, and advocacy skills while addressing contemporary legal issues. It aims to promote academic excellence, professional ethics, and healthy competition among aspiring legal professionals.

OBJECTIVES

The Competition aims to strengthen participants' legal research, memorial drafting, analytical reasoning, and oral advocacy skills by providing practical exposure to simulated court proceedings. It also seeks to foster critical thinking, professional ethics, and excellence in legal education.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Competition is expected to enhance the participants' proficiency in legal research, memorial drafting, case analysis, and oral advocacy through practical exposure to simulated court proceedings. It will enable students to develop confidence in legal argumentation, improve their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities, and gain valuable experience in courtroom advocacy.

The Competition also seeks to facilitate meaningful interaction among students, academicians, judges, legal practitioners, and researchers from across the country, thereby promoting professional networking and the exchange of ideas. Ultimately, the event aspires to nurture competent, ethical, and socially responsible legal professionals who are well-equipped to contribute to the administration of justice and the advancement of the legal profession.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

PRELIMINARY

These Rules shall be known as the Rules and Regulations of the 3rd North-Eastern Hill University National Moot Court Competition, 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition Rules").

These Rules shall govern all aspects of the Competition and shall be binding upon all participants, judges, members of the Organising Committee, volunteers, and every other person associated with the Competition in any capacity whatsoever.

All matters relating to the administration of the Competition, including disciplinary proceedings, interpretation of these Rules, and the declaration of results, shall be governed by these Rules. Any issue not expressly provided for herein shall be decided by the Organising Committee in accordance with the applicable laws of India, and the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding on all concerned.

1. DEFINITIONS

The following terms, as used in these Rules, shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

1.1. "Clarifications" mean any clarification or correction issued by the Organising Committee in relation to the Moot Proposition, which shall form an integral part of the Moot Proposition.

1.2. "Competition" means the 3rd North-Eastern Hill University National Moot Court Competition, 2026.

1.3. "Compendium" means a compilation of legal authorities and other reference materials relied upon by a Team during the Oral Pleading Sessions.

1.4. "Identity" means any information capable of revealing the identity of a Team, its members, or the Institution, College, or University it represents, including any name, logo, seal, insignia, or other identifying mark.

1.5. "Moot Problem" means the official Moot Proposition together with any Clarifications issued by the Organising Committee in relation thereto.

1.6. "Organising Committee" or "OC" means the Moot Court Committee of North-Eastern Hill University, together with all persons authorised by it to organise, administer, and conduct the Competition.

1.7. "Oral Pleading Session" means any oral round conducted before a Panel as part of the Competition.

1.8. "Oral Score" means the score awarded by a Panellist during an Oral Pleading Session.

1.9. "OSCOLA" means the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (5th Edition).

1.10. "Panel" means the Bench or panel of adjudicators constituted to evaluate an Oral Pleading Session.

1.11. "Panellist" means a judge or adjudicator appointed by the Organising Committee to evaluate an Oral Pleading Session.

1.12. "Participant" means any member of a duly registered Team who is eligible and has successfully participated in the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

1.13. "Petitioner" means the Team representing the Petitioner during any Oral Pleading Session.

1.14. "Physical Rounds" mean the rounds conducted at the Department of Law, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya.

1.15. "Rebuttals" mean the arguments advanced by the Petitioner against the Respondent's submissions at the conclusion of the main pleadings.

1.16. "Respondent" means the Team representing the Respondent during any Oral Pleading Session.

1.17. "Rules" mean these Rules and Regulations, together with any amendments, notifications, clarifications, or supplementary directions issued by the Organising Committee.

1.18. "Scouting" means the observation of an Oral Pleading Session by any person associated with a Team other than the Team participating in that Session.

1.19. "Speaker" means a Participant who presents oral arguments in a given round.

1.20. "Sur-rebuttal" means the defence presented by the Respondent in response to the Rebuttals.

1.21. "Team" means a team duly registered for the Competition in accordance with these Rules.

1.22. "Team Code" means the unique identification code allotted to a Team by the Organising Committee.

1.23. "University" means North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya.

1.24. **"Virtual Platform"** means the online platform designated by the Organising Committee for conducting the virtual rounds of the Competition.

1.25. "Waiting Area" means the virtual space designated by the Organising Committee where Teams are required to remain prior to the commencement of their Oral Pleading Sessions.

1.26. "Written Submission" means the memorial submitted by a Team in accordance with these Rules.

1.27. "Written Submission Score" means the score awarded to a Team's Written Submission in accordance with these Rules.

2.LANGUAGE

The competition shall be in the **English** language.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1. The Competition is open to bonafide students enrolled in a regular **LL.B. (Three-Year)**, Integrated **LL.B. (Five-Year), or LL.M.** programme during the current academic year at any recognised Institution, College, or University.

3.2. Only one (1) Team from each Institution, College, or University shall be permitted to participate in the Competition.

3.3. Each Team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) members and a maximum of three (3) members.

3.3.1. A Team consisting of three (3) members shall have two (2) Speakers and one (1) Researcher.

3.3.2. A Team consisting of two (2) members shall have two (2) Speakers. Both Speakers shall present oral arguments, and one (1) of them shall appear for the Researcher Test.

3.4. Every Team must have two Speakers for the Oral Pleading Sessions. Any Team failing to satisfy this requirement shall be deemed ineligible to participate in the Competition.

4. REGISTRATION

4.1. General Rules

4.1.1. Teams shall register by completing the online Registration Form and paying the prescribed Registration Fee. The Registration Form can be accessed at:

Registration link: https://forms.gle/PWAyzS93WgxSF3H28

4.1.2. Registration shall remain open from **28th July, 2026 to 28th August, 2026 (11:59 P.M. IST).**

4.1.3. Registration shall be limited to **thirty-six (36) Teams** and shall be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.1.4. Upon submission of the Registration Form, the Team Representative shall receive an automated email acknowledging receipt of the registration. Such acknowledgement shall not constitute confirmation of registration. Registration shall be confirmed only after verification by the Organising Committee. Upon confirmation, each Team shall be allotted a unique Team Code, which shall be communicated via the official email.

4.1.5. Each Team shall upload a duly filled and signed Authorisation Letter, in the format prescribed by the Organising Committee, along with the Registration Form. The prescribed **Letter of Authorisation may be downloaded here.**

4.1.6. Any change in contact details shall be immediately communicated to the Organising Committee.

4.1.7. No change in Team composition shall be permitted after registration except with the prior approval of the Organising Committee. Teams shall maintain anonymity throughout the Competition, and any breach may attract penalties as determined by the Organising Committee. Each registered Team shall be assigned a Team Coordinator as its official person of contact.

4.1.8. On the **29th of October**, there shall be **registration** for the **Physical Rounds** at the Department of Law, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

4.2. Registration Fee

4.2.1. Each Team is required to pay a Registration Fee of **INR 1,500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only).**

4.2.2. Registration shall be confirmed only upon successful payment of the Registration Fee and submission of the Registration Form.

4.3. Mode of Payment

4.3.1. The participant's name shall be correctly mentioned while making the payment under the programme titled "3rd North-Eastern Hill University National Moot Court Competition."

4.3.2. The payment receipt must be uploaded along with the Final Registration Form.

4.3.3. The Registration Fee shall be remitted to the **following bank account:**

Account Number: 45401965380

IFSC Code: SBIN0011627

Account Holder: Ethan Josiah Syiem

Branch: Rynjah Bazar, Shillong

Bank Name : State Bank of India

4.3.4 Alternatively, participants may remit the Registration Fee through the following **UPI ID** or by scanning the **QR Code** provided:

UPI ID: ethansyiem@sbi

4.4. Accommodation and Hospitality

4.4.1. The Organising Committee shall provide complimentary accommodation and meals to all participants for the duration of the Physical Rounds of the Competition. Accommodation shall be

provided at the **University Guest House**(U Tirot Sing Syiem Guest House) on a twin-sharing basis.

4.4.2. Accommodation shall be available from the **afternoon of 28th October, 2026** until the **morning of 31st October, 2026**, along with meals during this period.

4.4.3. Participants wishing to extend their stay beyond the specified period shall bear the additional accommodation and related expenses.

5. ANONYMITY

5.1. Teams shall maintain strict anonymity throughout the Competition and shall be identified only by the Team Code allotted by the Organising Committee.

5.2. Teams shall not disclose, directly or indirectly, their identity in the Written Submissions, Compendium, or during any Oral Pleading Session.

5.3. Any books, legal texts, Compendiums, or other reference materials used during the Oral Pleading Sessions shall also be devoid of any identifying marks. Where any such material contains identifying information, the Team shall ensure that it is completely concealed to the satisfaction of the Organising Committee before the commencement of the round.

5.4. Any violation of the anonymity requirements under this Rule may result in penalties, including disqualification from the Competition, as determined by the Organising Committee. The decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.

6. CLARIFICATIONS

6.1. Teams may seek Clarifications via email to **nehumoot2026@gmail.com** by **25th August, 2026 (11:59 PM IST)** with "Clarification" as the subject.

6.2. All Clarifications shall be released on **27th August, 2026,** on the **Competition Drive** and shall also be conveyed to the teams via email.

7. WRITTEN SUBMISSION

7.1. Memorial Format

7.1.1. Each Team shall prepare Written Submissions for both the Petitioner and the Respondent.

7.1.2. The Written Submissions shall bear only the Team Code and shall not disclose the identity of the Team or its Institution in any manner.

7.1.3. The Team Code should be clearly mentioned on the top right corner of the Cover Page.

7.1.4. Teams shall ensure that all document metadata is removed before submission.

7.1.5. Each Written Submission shall not exceed **30 pages**, exclusive of the Cover Page.

7.1.6. The Cover Page shall be: **Blue for the Petitioner** and **Red for the Respondent.**

7.1.7. Written Submissions shall not contain any annexures, photographs, diagrams, or similar representations.

7.1.8. The Written Submission (excluding the Cover Page) shall conform to the following specifications:

- **Page Size:** A4
- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Font Size:** 12
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **Margins:** 1 inch on all sides

7.1.9. Footnotes shall conform to the following specifications:

- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Font Size:** 10
- **Line Spacing:** 1.0
- **Paragraph Spacing:** 0
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **No additional spacing between footnotes**.

7.1.10. All citations in the Written Submissions shall conform to the **Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 5th Edition.** It may be accessed **here**.

7.2. Memorial Content

7.2.1. Every Written Submission shall contain the following mandatory sections:

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- List of Abbreviations
- Index of Authorities
- Statement of Jurisdiction (not exceeding 1 page)
- Statement of Facts (not exceeding 2 pages)
- Issues Raised
- Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 2 pages)
- Arguments Advanced (not exceeding 20 pages)
- Prayer (not exceeding 1 page)

7.2.2. The Cover Page shall contain:

- Team Code (top right corner)
- Name and Year of the Competition
- Name of the Case
- Side represented (Petitioner/Respondent)
- Name of the Forum

7.2.3. The List of Abbreviations and Index of Authorities shall be arranged alphabetically. All authorities cited in the Written Submission shall be included in the Index of Authorities and vice versa. Failure to comply with this requirement shall constitute a formatting violation.

7.3.Compendium

7.3.1. Each Team may prepare a **single Compendium**, which shall not exceed one hundred **(100) pages**.

7.3.2. Where a Team prepares a Compendium, a soft copy thereof in PDF format shall be uploaded along with the Memorial through the Memorial Submission Form (see Rule 7.5.1.) within the prescribed deadline of **15th September, 2026.** The file shall be named using the Team Code followed by an underscore (_) and the word “Compendium” (*e.g.*, the Compendium of Team Code 06 shall be named as 06_Compendium).

7.3.3. During the Virtual Rounds, the Team shall be responsible for presenting the Compendium to the Judges through screen sharing whenever required by the Judges. A Team that has not submitted a Compendium within the prescribed deadline shall not be permitted to rely upon or present any Compendium during the Preliminary Rounds or any subsequent rounds of the Competition.

7.3.4. For the Physical Rounds, the team that has submitted the soft copy of the Compendium during the Preliminary Rounds shall submit **two (2) hard copies** of the Compendium. The Compendium shall not contain any identifying mark, logo, seal, name, or other information revealing the identity of the Team or its Institution. Any violation of this Rule may result in penalties, including disqualification from the Competition.

7.4. Penalties

Sl. no.	Violation / Non-Compliance	Penalty
1.	Formatting violations in the Main Body Text	1
2.	Formatting violations in Citations and Footnotes	1
3.	Substantive violations in Citations and Footnotes	2
4.	Non-compliance with the prescribed Memorial Submission Format	2
5.	Inclusion of Affidavits, Annexures, Photographs, Sketches, or similar material in the Memorial	2
6.	Non-compliance with the prescribed Page Limit	5
7.	Non-compliance with the mandatory Memorial Contents	3
8.	Late Submission of the Memorial	4
9.	Similarity exceeding 30%	10
10.	Change in Soft Copy and Hard Copy	10
11.	Total	40

7.5. Deadline for Submission of Memorials and Compendium

7.5.1. The soft copies of the Petitioner and Respondent Memorials along with the compendium (if any) shall be submitted through the prescribed online Form on or before **15th September, 2026, 11:59 P.M. (IST).**

Link: https://forms.gle/WocEWQT9wL574vzT8

7.5.2. The file shall be named, in case of Petitioner's Memorial, using the Team Code followed by an underscore (_) and the letter 'P'. In case of Respondent's Memorial, the file shall be named using the Team Code followed by an underscore (_) and the letter 'R'.

7.5.3. Late submission shall attract the penalty prescribed under Rule 7.4.

7.5.4. Memorials submitted more than two (2) days after the prescribed deadline shall not be accepted, and the Team shall stand disqualified from the Competition.

7.5.5. Once submitted, no revision, supplement, or addition to the Memorials shall be permitted.

7.5.6. Teams shall carry **five (5) hard copies** each of the Petitioner and Respondent Memorials and submit them during Physical Registration.

8. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

8.1. General Rules

8.1.1. The Competition shall be conducted in a **Hybrid Mode**, comprising **Virtual Rounds** on **29th & 30th September, 2026,** and Physical Rounds on **29th & 30th October, 2026**.

8.1.2. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

- Preliminary Rounds
- Octa-Final Round
- Quarter-Final Round
- Semi-Final Round
- Final Round

8.1.3. The Octa-Final Round shall be conducted only where the number of participating Teams exceeds twenty (20). Where the number of participating Teams is twenty (20) or fewer, the Octa-Final Round shall not be conducted, and the Teams qualifying from the Preliminary Rounds shall advance directly to the Quarter-Final Round.

8.1.4. The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted online through Google Meet, while the Octa-Final, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall be conducted physically at the Department of Law, North-Eastern Hill University.

8.1.5. A Draw of Lots, with or without the use of a Power Match, as may be determined by the Organising Committee, shall be conducted by the Organising Committee before every Oral Pleading Session to determine the match-ups between Teams and the side (Petitioner or Respondent) to be represented by each Team.

8.1.6. Each Team shall receive the Memorial of its opposing Team prior to the Oral Pleading Session. The identity of the opposing Team or any other participating Team shall not be disclosed.

8.1.7. Questions posed by the Bench shall form part of the Oral Pleading Session. The timer shall remain paused while the Bench is questioning a Speaker and shall resume once the Speaker begins responding.

8.1.8. In the event of a tie between two or more Teams, the Team with the higher Memorial Score shall proceed to the next round. If the tie persists, it shall be resolved by a draw of lots conducted by the Organising Committee.

8.2. Preliminary Rounds

8.2.1. The Preliminary Rounds shall be conducted online on **29th & 30th September, 2026** through **Google Meet.**

8.2.2. Each Team shall participate in two Preliminary Rounds, arguing once as the Petitioner and once as the Respondent.

8.2.3. On 29th September, 2026, the Organising Committee shall conduct the inaugural session, following which the Draw of Lots for the preliminary rounds shall be held. Attendance at the Inaugural Session shall be mandatory for all registered Teams.

8.2.4. Each Team shall argue on behalf of both the Petitioner and the Respondent during the course of the Preliminary Rounds.

8.2.5. Each Team shall compete against a different Team in each Preliminary Round.

8.2.6. Each Team shall, as far as possible, appear before a different Panel of Judges in each Preliminary Round.

8.2.7. Each Team shall be allotted twenty (20) minutes to present its case, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.

8.2.8. The division of time between the Speakers shall be at the discretion of the Team, subject to a minimum of five (5) minutes and a maximum of ten (10) minutes per Speaker (excluding rebuttal and sur-rebuttal). The time allocation shall be communicated to the Court Masters before the commencement of the round.

8.2.9. Oral arguments need not be confined to the Written Submissions, provided they remain within the scope of the Moot Proposition.

8.2.10. The Researcher (if any) may pass notes to the Speakers during the Oral Pleading Session, subject to the discretion of the Bench.

8.2.11. The presence of the Researcher (if any) during the Oral Pleading Session is mandatory.

8.2.12. Each Team shall have twenty (20) minutes for oral arguments. Out of this time, a maximum of five (5) minutes may be reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

8.2.13. Qualification to Advanced Rounds

The sixteen (16) Teams with the highest combined score from both Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Octa-Final Round of the competition.

However, where the number of participating Teams is twenty (20) or fewer, the eight (8) Teams with the highest combined score from both Preliminary Rounds shall qualify directly for the Quarter-Final Round.

8.3. Octa-Final Round

8.3.1. The Octa-Final Round shall be conducted Physically on **29th October, 2026.**

8.3.2. The Octa-Final Round shall be conducted on a knockout basis, whereby the winning Team in each match shall advance to the subsequent round, and the losing Team shall be eliminated from the Competition.

8.3.3. Each Team shall be allotted 30 minutes to present its case, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.

8.3.4. The division of time between the Speakers shall be at the discretion of the Team, subject to a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes per Speaker (excluding rebuttal and sur-rebuttal). The division of time shall be communicated to the Court Masters before the commencement of the round.

8.3.5. Oral arguments need not be confined to the Written Submissions, provided they remain within the scope of the Moot Proposition. The Researcher (if any) may pass notes to the Speakers during the Oral Pleading Session, subject to the discretion of the Bench, and shall remain present throughout the round.

8.3.6. Each Team shall have thirty (30) minutes for oral arguments. Out of this time, a maximum of five (5) minutes may be reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

8.4. Quarter-Final Round

8.4.1. The Quarter-Final Round shall be conducted physically on **29th October, 2026.**

8.4.2. The Quarter-Final Round shall be conducted on a knockout basis, whereby the winning Team in each match shall advance to the subsequent round, and the losing Team shall be eliminated from the Competition.

8.4.3 Each Team shall be allotted 30 minutes to present its case, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.

8.4.4. The division of time between the Speakers shall be at the discretion of the Team, subject to a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes per Speaker (excluding rebuttal and sur-rebuttal). The division of time shall be communicated to the Court Masters before the commencement of the round.

8.4.5. Oral arguments need not be confined to the Written Submissions, provided they remain within the scope of the Moot Proposition. The Researcher (if any) may pass notes to the Speakers during .

The Oral Pleading Session, subject to the discretion of the Bench, and shall remain present throughout the round.

8.4.6. Each Team shall have thirty (30) minutes for oral arguments. Out of this time, a maximum of five (5) minutes may be reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

8.5. Semi-Final Round

8.5.1. The Semi-Final Round shall be conducted physically on **30th October, 2026.**

8.5.2. The Semi-Final Round shall be conducted on a knockout basis, whereby the winning Team in each match shall advance to the Final Round, and the losing Team shall be eliminated from the Competition.

8.5.3. Each Team shall be allotted 45 minutes to present its case, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.

8.5.4. The division of time between the Speakers shall be at the discretion of the Team, subject to a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes per speaker. The division of time shall be communicated to the Court Masters before the commencement of the round.

8.5.5. Oral arguments need not be confined to the Written Submissions, provided they remain within the scope of the Moot Proposition. The Researcher (if any) may pass notes to the Speakers during the Oral Pleading Session, subject to the discretion of the Bench, and shall remain present throughout the round.

8.5.6. Each Team shall have forty five (45) minutes for oral arguments. Out of this time, a maximum of five (5) minutes may be reserved for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

8.6. Final Round

8.6.1. The Final Round shall be conducted physically on **30th October, 2026.**

8.6.2. The Final Round shall be conducted on a knockout basis, whereby the winning Team shall be declared the Winner of the Competition and the losing Team shall be declared the Runners-Up. Each Team shall be allotted 60 minutes to present its case, exclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.

8.6.3. The division of time between the Speakers shall be at the discretion of the Team, subject to a minimum of 25 minutes and a maximum of 35 minutes per Speaker. The division of time shall be communicated to the Court Masters before the commencement of the round.

8.6.4. Oral arguments need not be confined to the Written Submissions, provided they remain within the scope of the Moot Proposition. The Researcher (if any) may pass notes to the Speakers during the Oral Pleading Session, subject to the discretion of the Bench, and shall remain present throughout the round.

8.6.5. Each Team shall have sixty (60) minutes for oral arguments. An additional ten (10) minutes may be provided for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

8.7. Compliance with Rule 8

All Teams shall strictly adhere to the time allotted to them for each round of the Competition and shall comply with the time limits, procedures, and other requirements prescribed under Rule 8. Additionally, each Team shall argue only the side assigned to it by the Organising Committee through draw of lots for the respective rounds. Any failure to adhere to the prescribed time allocation or any violation of the provisions contained in Rule 8 shall constitute a breach of the Rules and may attract such penalties as may be determined by the Organising Committee, as the case may be.

9. RULES FOR VIRTUAL ROUNDS

9.1. The Virtual Rounds shall be conducted through **Google Meet.**

9.2. Each Team shall ensure a stable internet connection, clear audio and video, and a professional background throughout the Oral Pleading Session. The Organising Committee shall not be responsible for providing any technical or infrastructural support.

9.3. The meeting link shall be communicated to all participating Teams prior to the commencement of the Virtual Rounds.

9.4. Teams shall join the meeting at least **10 minutes** before their scheduled Oral Pleading Session.

9.5. Participants shall keep their cameras switched on throughout the proceedings, and their microphones shall remain muted except when addressing the Bench.

9.6. Any participant causing unnecessary disturbance or interruption during the proceedings may attract penalties, including disqualification, at the discretion of the Bench.

9.7. Each Team shall participate from a quiet and professional location with adequate internet connectivity. Participation from public places, open spaces, hallways, cybercafés, or similar locations shall not be permitted.

9.8. Teams shall ensure that their electronic devices are fully charged and have sufficient power backup for the duration of the Oral Pleading Session.

9.9. In the event of technical or internet connectivity issues, teams shall be given a reasonable opportunity to reconnect. If the issue persists, the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.

9.10. If one or both Speakers are unable to join the Oral Pleading Session due to connectivity issues, the Team may be disqualified. No substitution of Speakers shall be permitted.

9.11. If any team fails to join the platform within the allotted time of **5 minutes** then such team(s) shall be considered to have withdrawn from the competition and shall not be allowed to re-join, except with the permission of the Bench.

9.12. During the Oral Pleading Session, Teams shall not use mobile phones, external internet sources, or any electronic device for purposes other than participating in the Competition.

9.13. Participants shall join the virtual platform using only their Team Code to preserve anonymity.

9.14. The sharing of screens during the Oral Pleading Session shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

10. EX-PARTE ROUNDS / DUMMY TEAMS

10.1. In case of last-minute withdrawal / internet connectivity issue of any team during the Physical Rounds / Virtual Rounds, the other opposing team as per the competition fixture will put forth their submissions to the bench and will be accordingly scored as per the parameters.

10.2. In the event of an odd number of registered Teams during the preliminary rounds, the Organising Committee may appoint a Dummy Team from the host institution to facilitate the smooth conduct of the Preliminary Rounds.

10.3. The performance of any Dummy Team shall not be evaluated, and its scores shall not be considered for determining the qualification of Teams to the Advanced Rounds.

11. SCOUTING

11.1. Scouting in any form is strictly prohibited throughout the Competition.

11.2. Any Team found engaging in scouting may attract penalties, including disqualification, as determined by the Organising Committee. Complaints regarding scouting may be made to the Organising Committee or the Redressal Committee. The decision of the Organising Committee on all matters relating to scouting shall be final and binding.

12. EVALUATION CRITERIA

12.1. Evaluation of Memorials

12.1.1. The Memorials shall be evaluated by a separate Panel of Judges who shall not adjudicate the Oral Rounds.

12.1.2. Each Memorial shall be evaluated out of 100 marks on the basis of the following criteria given under the table below:

Sl no	Evaluation Criteria	Marks
1.	Knowledge of Law and Depth of Research	20
2.	Use of Authorities/Precedents	20
3.	Clarity of Thought and Organisation of Arguments	15

4.	Interpretation of Applicable Law	10
5.	Incorporation of Facts into Arguments	10
6.	Originality	10
7.	Style of Presentation	10
8.	Relief Sought	5
9.	Total	100

12.1.3. Marks deducted for violations under Rule 7.4 shall be reduced from the total Memorial Score.

12.2. Evaluation of Oral Rounds

12.2.1 Oral Rounds shall be evaluated on the criteria given in the following table:

Sl no	Evaluation Criteria	Marks
1.	Knowledge of Law	20
2.	Use of Authorities/Precedents	20
3.	Persuasiveness and Advocacy	10

4.	Incorporation of Facts into Arguments	10
5.	Clarity of Thought and Expression	10
6.	Response to Questions	10
7.	Relief Sought	10
8.	Courtroom Etiquette and Mannerisms	10
9.	Total	100

12.2.2. The decision of the Judges Panel regarding the allocation of marks shall be final.

12.2.3. All Panellists shall be briefed on the evaluation criteria before the commencement of the Competition to ensure uniformity in marking.

13. RULES RELATING TO ORAL ROUNDS

13.1. General Rules

13.1.1. The order of oral pleadings shall be as follows:

- Petitioner – Speaker 1
- Petitioner – Speaker 2
- Respondent – Speaker 1
- Respondent – Speaker 2
- Rebuttal by either Petitioner Speaker
- Sur-Rebuttal by either Respondent Speaker

13.1.2. Researchers (if any) shall not address the Bench during the Oral Pleading Session.

13.1.3. Rebuttals shall be confined to responding to the arguments advanced by the Respondent, and Sur-Rebuttals shall be confined to responding to the Rebuttals.

13.1.4. Before the commencement of each round, every Team shall inform the Court Master of:

- the Order of Speakers;
- the Speaker who shall deliver the Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal; and
- the division of time between the Speakers.

Once communicated, these details shall not be altered except with the permission of the Bench.

13.1.5. Any extension of time shall be granted solely at the discretion of the Bench. Unauthorised extension of time may attract appropriate penalties.

13.2. Time Division

13.2.1. Teams shall communicate the division of time to the Court Master at least 10 minutes before the commencement of the round.

13.2.2. Any time exceeded by a Speaker shall be deducted from the time allotted to the succeeding Speaker or from the time reserved for Rebuttal or Sur-Rebuttal, as applicable.

13.2.3. The decision of the Bench regarding the division of time, Rebuttals, Sur-Rebuttals, and extension of time shall be final.

14. RESEARCHERS' TEST

14.1. The Researchers' Test shall be conducted physically on **29th October, 2026**. Only the designated Researchers of Teams qualifying for the Physical Rounds shall be eligible to appear for the Test.

14.2. The Test shall assess the Researcher's knowledge of the applicable law, the Moot Proposition, and the application of law to the facts of the case.

14.3. The Test shall comprise **30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**, including **five (5) Star Questions** that will be mandatory to attempt and will be carrying equal weightage.

14.4. No books, notes, legal materials, electronic devices, or any other reference material shall be permitted during the Test.

14.5. In the event of a tie, preference shall be given to the Researcher securing the higher number of correct Star Questions. If the tie persists, the Researcher who has answered the greatest number of questions correctly in chronological order shall be ranked higher. If the tie still remains unresolved, the Team with the higher Memorial Score shall be declared the winner.

14.6. Any violation of these Rules may attract appropriate penalties, as determined by the Organising Committee.

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15. DRESS CODE

15.1. Each participants shall be in formal attire throughout the competition irrespective of whether virtual or physical.

15.2. The female participants shall wear white or black salwar and white kurta along with black blazer or white shirt and black trousers along with black blazer and black shoes.

15.3. Male participants shall wear white shirt and black trousers along with black blazer and black shoes.

15.4. Non-compliance to any of the sub-rules of this rule shall be regarded as Contempt of Court.

16. PRIZES AND AWARDS

16.1. The Team securing the highest score in the Final Round shall be declared the Winning Team and shall receive a Cash Prize of INR **50,000/-**.

16.2. The 1st Runner-Up Team shall receive a Cash Prize of INR **25,000/-**.

16.3.The Advocate securing the highest aggregate individual Oral Score in the Preliminary Rounds and the Octa-Final Round shall be declared the Best Advocate and shall receive a Cash Prize of INR **11,000/-**. Where the Octa-Final Round is not conducted, the aggregate individual Oral Score from the Preliminary Rounds and the Quarter-Final Round shall be considered for the purpose of determining the Best Advocate.

16.4. The Team securing the highest combined score in the Written Submissions shall be declared the Best Memorial and shall receive a Cash Prize of INR **11,000/-.**

16.5. The Researcher securing the highest score in the Researchers' Test shall be declared the Best Researcher and shall receive a Cash Prize of INR **8,000/-.**

16.6. All participants shall be awarded **Certificates of Participation**, while the recipients of the awards under Rules 16.1 to 16.5 shall be awarded **Certificates of Merit**.

16.7. All participants will get a **10% Scholarship Code** for all the courses of **Lawctopus** and **Lawctopus Law School.**

16.8. Trophies

In addition to the respective cash prizes and certificates, trophies shall be awarded to the following:

- Winning Team
- 1st Runners-Up Team
- Best Advocate
- Best Memorial
- Best Researcher

17. MISCELLANEOUS / INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

17.1. The copyright in all Written Submissions shall vest with the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee shall not be liable for any claims arising out of the contents of the Written Submissions.

17.2. No audio or video recording of any Oral Pleading Session shall be made without the prior permission of the Organising Committee, the Bench, and the opposing Team. The Organising Committee reserves the right to record or reproduce any round of the Competitio

17.3. Any grievance regarding a violation of these Rules shall be reported to the Organising Committee or the Redressal Committee immediately after the conclusion of the concerned round. Teams shall not approach the Bench directly with any complaint.

17.4. Any changes to the Competition schedule or timings shall be communicated to the participating Teams by the Organising Committee through email.

17.5. Scores obtained by the teams/participants shall be kept confidential with the Organising University. Whereas upon receiving official written request from statutory authorities of a participating institution. The Organising Committee may disclose the results of their team to the requesting institution. Such request shall be made within 7 days of the completion of the event, after which no such requests shall be entertained.

18. CODE OF CONDUCT

18.1. A violation of the prescribed Code of Conduct will invite sanctions which will be decided by the Faculty Convenor.

18.2. Teams are expected to behave with other team members and the Judges / Organisers / Volunteers in a dignified manner.

18.3. Teams should not attempt to influence Judges / Organisers in any manner.

18.4. Participants are expected to maintain decorum in the court during the Competition and to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession

18.5. The teams should not engage in any form of unethical, unprofessional, or wrongful conduct during the entire period of the Competition.

18.6. Participants should not indulge in the consumption/carrying of drugs and alcohol/arms or ammunition / immoral/illegal activity or any other form(s) of taste/addiction during the course of the Competition.

19. ACCESSIBILITY AND VIRTUAL MODE ASSISTANCE

19.1. The Organising Committee is committed to ensuring an accessible and inclusive Competition for all participants.

19.2. Teams requiring accessible versions of the Competition documents may contact the Organising Committee at nehumoot2026@gmail.com, and the required materials shall be provided in a screen-reader-compatible format, wherever feasible.

19.3. If the virtual platform used for the Preliminary Rounds is inaccessible to any participant, the Organising Committee shall make reasonable efforts to provide appropriate assistance or a suitable alternative.

19.4. Participants with hearing or speech impairments may be accompanied by an interpreter during the Rounds, subject to prior intimation and approval of the Organising Committee.

20. POWERS OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

20.1. The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, or repeal any of the rules of the Competition. The Committee may adopt any other additional measures for the orderly and smooth conduct of the Competition.

20.2. The Organising Committee shall be responsible for informing all the registered participants within 24 hours about any such amendment, modification, repeal or additional measures. After such information, such decision shall immediately come into effect.

20.3. Any communication made by the Organising Committee to any one member of a Team shall be deemed to have been communicated to the Team as a whole.

21. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

21.1. Any grievance or dispute arising during the Competition shall be addressed to the Faculty Convenor.

21.2. All grievances or disputes shall be submitted via email to nehumoot2026@gmail.com.

21.3. The decision of the Faculty Convenor in consultation with the other Members of the Organising Committee of the 3rd North-Eastern Hill University National Moot Court Competition shall be final and binding.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Faculty Convenor :

Shishir Tiwari

Assistant Professor, NEHU

Student Convenor :

Martin Warjri

Student Co- Convenors :

Rihunlang Basaiawmoit & Ethan Syiem

Student Core Committee :

Mewanshwa Rumnong

Pankhudi Singh

Kumari Syzygy

Rishav Raj

Banshanlang K. Phanbuh

REACH US AT

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