



RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

PRESENTS

14TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2026

organised by

**RGNUL MOOT COURT COMMITTEE
&
CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN
CRIMINAL LAW**

Dates:

Online Rounds : 4th April, 2026

**Advanced Rounds : 17th April & 18th
April, 2026**

RULEBOOK



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14th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2026

Definitions

1. **Definitions:** Unless otherwise provided, the words used in the rules shall be construed as hereinafter provided:
 - 1.1. **“Administrator”** means the administration of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab and shall also include the members of the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;
 - 1.2. **“Advanced Round”** means the Final Round, Semi-Final Rounds and the Quarter-Final Rounds, of the Competition;
 - 1.3. **“Bench”** refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the oral rounds, individually or collectively;
 - 1.4. **“Committee”** means the RGNUL Moot Court Committee;
 - 1.5. **“Clarifications”** refer to the explanations to the Proposition issued by the Administration;
 - 1.6. **“Competition”** means the 14th RGNUL National Moot Court Competition, 2026;
 - 1.7. **“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted by each team, submitted according to these Rules;
 - 1.8. **“Oral Round”** means a team’s pleadings, comprising two oralists, submitted orally in front of the bench, on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party;
 - 1.9. **“Participating Team”** means the team which is eligible to participate in the Competition after completion of the registration procedure;
 - 1.10. **“Participating Institution”** shall be the parent institution of the participating teams;
 - 1.11. **“Proposition”** means the hypothetical Moot Proposition of the Competition released by the Administration. Clarifications as defined under these rules shall form a part of the problem;
 - 1.12. **“Penalty”** refers to the deductions imposed on the memorial scores of a participating institution;

- 1.13. **“Petitioner”** means the side that argues on behalf of the Petitioner at any given point in the Competition;
- 1.14. **“Plagiarism”** means the direct or substantial duplication of somebody else’s work, represented as one’s own, without properly acknowledging the same by giving a citation or adding quotation marks;
- 1.15. **“Preliminary Rounds”** means the oral rounds which take place before the advanced round, for the purpose of determining which teams qualify for the advanced rounds.
- 1.16. **“Rebuttals”** refer to the arguments presented by the Petitioner in response to the Respondent’s submissions at the end of the main pleadings of all the oralists;
- 1.17. **“Respondent”** means the side that argues on behalf of the Respondent at any given point in the Competition.
- 1.18. **“Scouting”** means a person observing the Oral Rounds of a team other than the team such person is associated with;
- 1.19. **“Oralist”** refers to a participant who presents oral arguments in any given round;
- 1.20. **“Sur-rebuttal”** refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the rebuttals as defined in Clause 1.16;
- 1.21. **“Team Code”** refers to the code allocated to a participating institution by the administrator after completion of the Registration.

Interpretation

- 2. The Administrators will have the exclusive authority to interpret the Rules in the interest of fairness and equality. The interpretation placed upon these Rules by the Administrators shall be conclusive and the decision of the Administrators regarding the application of these Rules shall be final.

Mode of the Competition

- 3. The Preliminary Rounds & Octa Final Rounds of the Competition shall be held **virtually** on **4th April, 2026** through Cisco Webex Software. The Administrators reserve the right to switch the mode of the Competition. The participants will be notified in advance of the mode of the Competition in case of any modifications.
- 4. The Advanced Rounds of the Competition shall be held **on campus** from **17th to 18th April, 2026**.

Eligibility & Team Composition

5. Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing the three years or five years LL.B. degree course in any institution in India. Students pursuing their LL.M. and Diploma courses are not eligible for participation.
6. A recognized institution shall be entitled to send only **one team** to the competition.
7. Each participating team should have three members. In a team, two members shall be designated as 'Oralists' or 'Speakers' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.
8. Once registered, a team will not be permitted to vary the composition of the team in any manner. Changes, if any, may only be made with the express permission of the Administrators (at their discretion), if due reason is shown for the same.
9. Any changes with respect to the contact details of the participants shall be notified to the Administrators with immediate effect.
10. Each team which has successfully completed the Registration requirements under the Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Once the Code is allotted, every team must use this team code for any further communication(s) with the Administrators during the entire course of the Competition.

Registration

11. The registration for the moot shall open on **24th February, 2026**.
12. All the participating institutions have to confirm participation by filling the registration form via this [registration link](#) on or before **15th March, 2026, 11:59 PM IST**.
13. In furtherance to this, the participating Universities are required to send a detailed mail consisting the details of the participating members along with an Authorization Letter/Mail.
14. There is no cap on the total number of teams. However, if the total number of registrations **exceeds 40 teams**, then a **memorial qualifier round** shall decide the **top 32 teams**, which shall then argue in the Preliminary Rounds.
15. The participating teams are required to pay a registration fee of **INR 3000/- (plus GST)** at the time of registration for the preliminary rounds. The accommodation fee for the Advanced Rounds shall be **INR 6000/- (plus GST)** which shall be paid after qualifying to the Advanced Rounds. This fee shall be inclusive of accommodation for 3 days (16th, 17th & 18th April, 2026).

16. The registration fee of INR 3000/- (plus GST) will **not be payable** in case the memorial qualifier (on registration on 40 teams) takes place. In case of the memorial qualifier only the top 32 teams qualifying for the preliminary rounds shall be required to pay this registration fee. However, in case of the memorial qualifier not taking place, all the teams **shall be required** to pay the registration fee. Therefore, the payment link for registration fee shall be sent to all the teams after the registration for the competition closes.
17. The teams qualifying for the Advanced Rounds will be required to make the payment of the accommodation fee by **10th April, 2026**. Any delay in making this payment shall result in disqualification of the team from the Advanced Rounds and the next team with the highest score in the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the same.

Clarifications

18. The last date for submitting clarifications to the Moot Proposition is 12th March, 2026. All such requests must be submitted through this [google form](#) only.
19. The request for clarifications should be clear and related to the facts of the case and not related to the substantive arguments.

Memorials

20. Each team must prepare one Petitioner and one Respondent Memorial. The language of all the memorials must be English.

21. Submission of Soft Copies of Memorials:

- 21.1. All team shall send a soft copy of Memorials for each side in both MS Word and PDF formats, latest by **11:59 PM IST on 26th March, 2026**. The submission shall be made via this [google form](#) only.
- 21.2. Any submission made after the said deadline, unless extended, shall be considered as late submission and penalized. A penalty of 2 marks per hour, up to 24 hours past the deadline, shall be deducted in case of delay in the submission of soft copy of written submissions. A further penalty of 1 mark per day per side shall be levied in case of delay in submission of hard copy of written submission.
- 21.3. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an P for Petitioner and R for Respondent. For instance, the Petitioner memorial of team code 9 should be named “TC 9P”.

- 21.4. A penalty of 5 marks shall be levied in case the written submission is submitted in any other format.

22. Submission of Hard Copies of Memorials:

- 22.1. Only teams qualifying to the Advanced Rounds are requested to submit hard copies of their Memorials via post and the same should reach the Administrator latest by **12th April, 2026**. Teams will have to provide the Administrators with **five copies** of the memorials for **each side** (Total 10 Copies). The hard copies of written submissions must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted to the Administrators. Any difference in the same will result in penalties including disqualification from the competition.
- 22.2. The following is the address for sending the hard copies of the Memorials and for any official correspondence:

Dr. Jaswinder Kaur

Faculty Coordinator, RGNUL Moot Court Committee

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab

Sidhuwal-Bhadson Road, Patiala, Punjab - 147001

Mobile Number- 9855077842

23. General Conditions for Memorials:

- 23.1. The Memorials shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc. which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the Memorials, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- 23.2. Petitioner's Memorials are required to have a **blue cover page** and the Respondent's Memorials are required to have a **red cover page**.
- 23.3. A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page of the Memorial.

24. Guidelines for the Format of Memorials:

- 24.1. The Memorials must contain the following components in the order listed below:
- 24.1.1. **Cover Page:** The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the Memorial, year of Competition, name of the forum and team Code on top right corner.
- 24.1.2. **Table of Contents**

- 24.1.3. **List of Abbreviations**
- 24.1.4. **Index of Authorities:** The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Memorial. The Index must indicate the page number(s) and/or the paragraph number(s) of the Memorial in which the authority is cited.
- 24.1.5. **Statement of Jurisdiction**
- 24.1.6. **Statement of Facts:** The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page.
- 24.1.7. **Issues Raised**
- 24.1.8. **Summary of Arguments:** The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments. The Summary of Arguments should not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page.
- 24.1.9. **Pleadings/Arguments Advanced:** All legal arguments must be limited to the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section of the written submission. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page.
- 24.1.10. **Prayer:** Non-compliance with respect to clauses (1) to (8) and (10) will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each missing section. Non-compliance with respect to section (9) will result in the Memorial not being considered for evaluation at all.
- 24.2. **Team Code:** The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page. The code must be succeeded by the side for which the Memorial is prepared. The teams must use “P” for Petitioner / “R” for Respondent. For example; in case the Team Code is 36 the team must write “TC 36P” in case of Memorial for Petitioner and “TC 36R” in case of Memorial for Respondent.
- 24.3. The Memorial must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark each side of Memorials.
- 24.4. **Font, size and line spacing:** The text font should be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 12 and must be in 1.5 line spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 0.5

mark per incorrect format of font, size and line spacing with a maximum of 2 marks per page of the Memorial.

24.5. **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10 and singly spaced. Footnotes must conform to the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th Edition in the Memorials throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.

24.6. **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, 1 spacing. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Memorial.

24.7. **Page Limit:** There is no maximum page limit on the Memorial and the Pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be of a maximum of 20 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.

25. Plagiarism: In case instances of plagiarism are found in a certain memorial, the participating institution alleged to have committed plagiarism will be served a show cause notice by the Administrators. If found guilty of plagiarism, the Administrators may impose any sanction that they may deem fit, including disqualification from the Moot.

26. Memorial Evaluation Criteria:

S. No.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Evidence of Original Thought	20
2.	Knowledge of Law & Facts	20
3.	Proper & Articulate Analysis	20
4.	Clarity & Organisation	10
5.	Extent & Use of Research	10
6.	Correct Format & Citation	10
7.	Grammar & Style	10
	Total	100

Oral Rounds

27. The competition shall consist of the following rounds:

- 27.1. Preliminary Rounds;
- 27.2. Octa-Final Rounds and;
- 27.3. Advanced Rounds:
 - 27.3.1. Quarter-Finals
 - 27.3.2. Semi-Finals
 - 27.3.3. Finals

28. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:

- 28.1. Petitioner Speaker 1;
- 28.2. Petitioner Speaker 2;
- 28.3. Respondent Speaker 1;
- 28.4. Respondent Speaker 2;
- 28.5. Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal. Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.

29. Speaker Score: The score shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds. Individual Aggregate Score shall be determined as the sum of the following:

- 29.1. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round I
- 29.2. Score of Speaker in Preliminary Round II
- 29.3. Half of Memorial Score

30. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Bench during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may however, be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at the discretion of the Judges. Such notes shall be passed through the court clerks present in the court room.

31. Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.

32. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding.

33. Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) prior to the commencement of the Rounds. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
34. The Judges, at their discretion, may extend the time limits stated. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to allow Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals shall vest with Judges.

35. Oral Round Scoring Criteria:

S. No.	CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1.	Knowledge of Law	10
2.	Logic & Reasoning	10
3.	Organisation & Clarity	10
4.	Persuasiveness	10
5.	Deference to Court	10
6.	Proper & Articulate Analysis of Issues	10
7.	Understanding of Relevant Legal Principles	10
8.	Knowledge and Use of Legal Authorities & General Principles of National Law	10
9.	Ingenuity, Analogous Reasoning, & Ability to Answer Questions	10
10.	Reference to Written Submissions	10

Structure of Oral Rounds

36. Preliminary Rounds:

- 36.1. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

36.2. The match-up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of draw of lots. Draw of lots shall take place on 3rd April, 2026.

36.3. Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

36.4. ***Scoring:***

36.4.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the speaker scores from which the top 16 teams will proceed to the Octa Final Rounds.

36.4.2. In case of a tie between two or more teams, the memorial scores of the teams shall be used a tie-breaker to determine the top 16 teams for the Octa Final Rounds.

37. Octa Final Rounds:

37.1. The Octa Final Rounds shall take place between the top 16 teams of the Preliminary Rounds on 4th April, 2026.

37.2. A draw of lots shall be conducted to decide the match-ups and sides for the Octa Final Rounds.

37.3. The 16 teams that advance to the Octa Final Rounds shall argue only ONCE for the side allotted by the draw of lots.

37.4. The Octa Final Rounds shall be a knockout round, meaning that the winner of each court room shall qualify to the quarter-final round.

37.5. Each side shall get a maximum of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 12 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.

37.6. ***Scoring:***

37.6.1. For the Octa Final Rounds only the speaker scores of both the teams shall be taken into account. The team with the higher speaker score shall win the court room and shall advance to the Quarter-Final Rounds.

38. Quarter-Final Rounds:

38.1. The eight teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be based on the system of power matchup from the Octa Final Rounds and shall be as follows:

Rank 1 vs. Rank 8 (QF 1)

Rank 2 vs. Rank 7 (QF 2)

Rank 3 vs. Rank 6 (QF 3)

Rank 4 vs. Rank 5 (QF 4)

38.2. Four teams shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Quarter Final Round shall qualify to the Semi Final Rounds.

38.3. ***Scoring:***

38.3.1. The top four teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

39. Semi-Final Rounds:

39.1. The four teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:

Winner of QF 1 vs. Winner of QF IV

Winner of QF II vs. Winner of QF III

39.2. Two teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi Final Rounds shall qualify to the Final Round.

39.3. For the Semi Final Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated forty-five (45) minutes as it deems fit, provided that no oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty-five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments. No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

39.4. ***Scoring:***

39.4.1. The top two teams shall be determined only on the basis of cumulative speaker scores.

40. Final Rounds:

40.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one.

40.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the 'Winning Team'. The other team shall be declared as the 'Runners-Up Team'.

40.3. For the Final Rounds, each team may distribute its allocated forty-five (45) minutes as it deems fit, provided that no oralist is allocated less than fifteen (15) minutes or more than twenty-five (25) minutes for presentation of main arguments. No more than five (5) minutes are reserved for its rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

40.4. ***Scoring:***

40.4.1. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on the basis of the score of the oral rounds only.

Miscellaneous

41. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any of the team members shall result in disqualification.

42. If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

43. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Administrators, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.

44. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Administrators and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Notwithstanding, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.

45. The Administrator reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

46. The Administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.