

DNC INTER-UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT COMPETITION

MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. DNC Inter-University Moot Court Competition is a competition which aims at assisting students in familiarising themselves with some of the most pertinent legal issues in Malawi and improving their analytical, presentation, research and advocacy skills.

2. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

2.1. Participation in the competition is limited to law students from the University of Malawi and the Catholic University of Malawi.

2.2. Students who wish to take part in the competition must constitute themselves in pairs without regard to year of study.

3. ORGANISATION

3.1. There shall be a DNC Chambers Moot Court Competition Committee [hereinafter referred to as the Committee] which shall have the sole authority of organising and conducting the competition.

3.2. Without prejudice to the generality of Rule 3.1. the Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) to interpret or amend any of the provisions of these Rules:

(b) to disqualify a mooter for violating these Rules:

(c) to receive and determine any complaints relating to the conduct of the competition:

(d) to give any such directions to mooters for the proper conduct of the competition: and

(e) to perform any such power or function as may be necessary or incidental to the discharge of the Committee's authority.

4. REGISTRATION AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

4.1. The Committee shall register mooters interested in taking part in the competition from 23rd March 2023 to 25th March 2023 at 6 pm.

4.2 The interested teams shall be divided into an equal number of either Claimants or Respondents.

4.2. All teams shall submit four copies of printed memorials and an electronic copy in pdf format. Teams at the University of Malawi shall submit the printed memorials to the Secretary of the Practical Legal Studies Department, Faculty of Law, and electronic copies of the memorials to **akamangila@unima.ac.mw**. Teams at the Catholic University of Malawi shall submit the printed memorials to the Secretary of the Faculty of Law and send electronic copies of the memorials to **carnisius@kadyampakeni@gmail.com**. The deadline for submission of the memorials by **Tuesday, 28th March 2023, at 5pm**.

4.3. Registration shall be done through the Chairperson of the Students Law Society. The Committee shall assign team numbers to all registered mooters/teams.

4.4. The Committee reserves the right to reject receipt of any memorials submitted beyond the time frame stipulated in Rule 4.2.

4.5. On receipt of the memorials, the Committee shall engage Judges who shall select eight best written memorials for Claimants and eight best written memorials for Respondents from each University.

4.6. The outstanding sixteen [16] memorials from each University and the names of the said mooters/teams shall be announced by the Committee on **Friday, 31st March, 2023 by midnight**.

5. MEMORIALS

5.1. The memorials shall be written in clear and concise terms. Mooters are strongly discouraged from being pedantic or embracing unnecessary legalese in the writing of the memorials.

5.2. The Committee shall conduct a preliminary exercise to ascertain if a submitted memorial complies with these Rules and shall have power to subtract penalty points for any noncompliance.

5.3. A team's memorial shall be presented in the following order:

- Standard front cover
- Summary of arguments
- Introduction
- Legal Issues for determination
- Arguments
- Conclusion/Prayers
- List of authorities

5.4. In addition to the provision in Rule 5.3 above, each memorial for the first and second rounds shall comply with the following mandatory requirements:

- (i) Not exceed a maximum of 10 pages [excluding the front cover and list of authorities]:
- (ii) to be written in Microsoft word format (but **submitted** in pdf format) in the following terms:
 - (a) Times New Roman
 - (b) Font 12
 - (c) Spacing 1.5
 - (d) Margins: Top, 2cm, Bottom, 2cm, Left, 2cm, Right, 2cm.

5.5 Each memorial for the final round shall comply with the following mandatory requirements:

- (iii) Not exceed a maximum of 15 pages [excluding the front cover and list of authorities]:
- (iv) to be written in Microsoft word format (but **submitted** in pdf format) in the following terms:
 - (e) Times New Roman
 - (f) Font 12
 - (g) Spacing 1.5
 - (h) Margins: Top, 2cm, Bottom, 2cm, Left, 2cm, Right, 2cm.

5.5. The memorials for teams shall be graded out of a maximum of one hundred [100] points.

5.6. In scoring the memorials, the Judges shall utilise the following pointers:

- (a) Organisation, structure, and analysis of the issues: twenty [20] points:
- (b) Use of facts and legal principles: twenty [20] points:
- (c) Persuasiveness, ingenuity, logic and reasoning: twenty [20] points:
- (d) Grammar, style and clarity: twenty [20] points: and
- (e) Use of authorities and citations: twenty [20] points.

5.7. The final score for a memorial shall be the sum of the points awarded by the Judges minus any penalty points meted out by the Committee, on a team.

5.8. The grade scored on memorials shall constitute 40 % of the final score.

6. MOOTERS' BRIEFING/ORIENTATION

6.1. The members of the Committee in the respective Universities shall conduct a briefing session/orientation for participants not later than Wednesday, 23rd March 2023.

6.2. During the briefing session, the Committee shall engage the mooters in a range of matters, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) The competition -Judges and the criteria for the selection of such Judges:
- (b) The scoring criteria for the mooters during the oral submissions:
and
- (c) Any such other pertinent matters relating to the proper conduct of the competition.

6.3. The Committee shall further utilise the briefing session to appreciate the expectations of the mooters from the Committee.

6.4. The mooters shall be entitled to raise with the Committee, any crucial matters relating to the proper conduct of the competition.

6.5. The Committee shall conduct a random draw for the teams in order to come up with a schedule of appearance for the preliminary rounds. The said draw shall be released by 1st April 2023 at 6 pm.

7. ORAL PLEADINGS AND SCOPE

7.1. Preliminary Rounds

7.1.1. There shall be preliminary rounds where the teams, by random draws done in accordance with Rule 6.5, shall appear for either party [as Claimant or Defendant] to the case only once. The said preliminary rounds shall take place on **Friday, 6th April 2023** from **1:30pm** at the University of Malawi and on **Tuesday, 11th April 2023** from **1:30pm** at the Catholic University of Malawi.

7.1.2. Every team shall be allocated a maximum period of 15 minutes to argue their case either Claimants or Respondents and no mooter per team shall be entitled to plead for more than 7.5 minutes.

7.1.3. The scope of the teams' pleadings shall be limited to their memorials, provided that teams shall serve on each other their respective memorials by 2nd April 2023.

7.1.4. Failure to serve memorials on the adverse party shall lead to automatic disqualification of a team.

7.1.5. During rebuttal, the scope of the Claimant's rebuttal shall be limited to the Defendant's oral pleadings.

7.1.6. The grade scored on oral submissions shall constitute 60 % of the final score.

7.1.7. The best four [4] teams from each University shall advance to the semi-finals of the competition as Claimants.

7.1.8 The best four [4] teams from each University shall advance to the semi-finals of the competition as Respondents.

7.2. Semi- Final Rounds

7.2.1. During the semi-final rounds of the competition which shall take place on 21st April 2023 the top four [4] best teams from each University shall appear as Claimants. Likewise, the top four [4] best teams from each University shall appear as Respondent.

7.2.2 The grade scored on memorials shall constitute 40 % of the final score and the grade scored during the first round shall stand.

7.2.3 The grade scored on oral submissions shall constitute 60% of the final score.

7.2.4. In the semi-final rounds, each team shall be allocated a maximum period of 30 minutes to argue its case as Claimants or Respondents and no mooter per team shall be entitled to plead for more than 15 minutes].

7.2.5. The mooter with the highest average score on oral submissions in the semi-final round shall be the best oralist of the competition.

8. FINAL ROUND

8.1. The best team from the semi-final round at the University of Malawi shall advance to the final round of the competition as Claimants.

8.2 The best team from the semi-final round at the Catholic University of Malawi shall advance to the final round of the competition as Respondents.

8.3 The Claimants shall serve memorials on the Respondents by 23rd April 2023 at 6pm. The Respondents shall serve on the Claimants memorials by 25th April 2023 at 6pm. Both teams shall further be obligated to send electronic copies of the memorials to **carnisius@kadyampakeni@gmail.com** by the given deadlines.

8.4 The grade scored on memorials shall constitute 40% of the final score.

8.5 The grade scored on oral submissions shall constitute 60% of the final score.

8.6 Each team shall be allocated a maximum period of 45 minutes to argue its case as Claimants or Respondents and no mooter per team shall be entitled to plead for more than 22.5 minutes].

8.7 The final round shall take place on 28th April at the High Court of Malawi, Principal Registry in Blantyre from 1:30 pm.

8.8 The final round shall be presided over by experienced Judges and Legal Practitioners.

9. PRIZES/AWARDS

9.1. The following prizes shall be presented at the end of the competition:

- (i) Winner
- (ii) Runner-up
- (iii) Third Place
- (iv) Fourth place
- (v) Best Oralist [based on the final round]
- (vi) Best Written Memorial [based on the preliminary assessment]

10. CONSENT TO BE BOUND

10.1. All mooters registering for the competition, consent to be bound by these Rules and further subject themselves, without reservations whatsoever, to the general jurisdiction of the Committee to conduct the competition in accordance with these Rules.

Adopted this 22nd March 2023