



# MEDIATION COMPETITION RULE BOOK



**20TH , 21ST MARCH 2025**

## **RULE BOOK: MEDIATION COMPETITION**

### **1. REGISTRATION:**

The Competition Sessions shall commence on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (A detailed program schedule shall be provided after successful registration).

#### **A. ELIGIBILITY**

1. Subject to the criteria and conditions laid down by the respective colleges and Institutes, students pursuing their full time **3-year LLB or 5-year LLB** program from a University or Institute recognized by the Bar Council of India, are eligible to apply.
2. Each college/university is allowed to send a maximum of **two (2) teams**.
3. All team members must be bona-fide students of their respective institutions.

#### **B. TEAM COMPOSITION**

1. Each participating team shall consist of a team of **3 students** viz, a Mediating Pair (Client and Counsel) and a Mediator.
2. No participant who registers as a mediator may change their roles and the same member would remain mediator throughout the competition.
3. The members in a mediating pair can switch between the roles of Client and Counsel before each round. However, no change of roles would be allowed after the mediation round begins.

#### **C. REGISTRATION PROCESS**

1. Participants must register for the competition using the **provisional link**:  
<https://forms.gle/odiBohhQmUvC6PqR8>.
2. A **final registration link** will be sent via email to the registered participants..
3. Registrations through any other modes are not acceptable.
4. Registration for the competition is **₹499/- per team**.

5. The organizing committee will provide accommodation for teams on a first-come, first-served basis, charged at **₹500 per person for each day**. Further, an accommodation request can only be made after successful registration of the team for the competition.
6. **Payment details** will be shared via the registered email ID. Confirmation of participation will be granted **only after the payment is successfully received**.
7. Participants are advised to keep the e-copy of all duly filled forms submitted to the organizers and original forms in case the same still needs to be submitted along with the payment receipt of accommodation.

#### **D. TEAM CODE**

1. Each participating team will be allotted a Unique Team Code. The team codes should act as an identity of the team for future references/ correspondence and when communicating with organizers or Adjudicators.
2. **The identity and the college of the team members should be kept confidential during the competition**, if so otherwise, the team will be disqualified.

### **2. COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

#### **A. FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION:**

1. The Competition will consist of Qualifying Rounds and Advanced Rounds. The Qualifying Rounds shall consist of two Preliminary Rounds and the Advanced Rounds shall consist of two knock-out rounds viz, Semi-Final Round and the Final Round.
2. The roles of the Mediating Pair (Requesting/ Responding Party or negotiating parties) shall be decided by a draw of lots. To avoid any conflicts, the Mediators will not be assigned to sessions in which a mediation pair belongs to the same institution as that of the Mediator.

#### **B. LANGUAGE**

The official and only language of the Competition shall be **English**.

### **C. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

1. The competition will be held over a span of 2 days, commencing from 20th to 21st March, 2025. The two Preliminary Rounds will be conducted on March 20th, 2025, followed by the Semi-Final and Final Rounds on March 21st, 2025.

#### **2. Preliminary Rounds**

- Each Team shall once represent the side of Responding Party and once the side of Requesting Party in each session.
- No Team shall compete against the same team more than once in the Preliminary Rounds, nor will they compete before the same panel of judges.
- The Team will be required to only represent the Responding Party or the Requesting Party which will be determined by the Draw of Lots.

#### **3. Semi-Final Round**

The top 4 teams from the Preliminary rounds shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round. The aforesaid round shall be a knockout round and the role of the Qualified teams will be determined by Draw of Lots.

#### **4. Final Round**

- The top 2 Teams from the Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the Final Round.
- In case of a tie between the scores of two Teams in any round, the following component from the score sheet shall be considered as the tie-breaker:
  - For the Mediator – Qualities of a Good Mediator.
  - For the Mediating Pair – Mediation Advocacy.

#### D. TIME PERIOD

The Timing of the Rounds is designated in the following manner:

S. No.	Rounds	Session Time	Caucus Time	Feedback Time	Total Time
1.	Preliminary Round (I & II)	30 Min.	10 Min. (5 + 5)	10 Min.	50 Min.
2.	Semi Final Round	40 Min.	10 Min. (5 + 5)	10 Min.	60 Min.
3.	Final Round	45 Min.	15 Min. (7.5 + 7.5)	10 Min.	70 Min.

**Please Note:** An additional 5 minutes may be granted to each team if they are running out of time, subject to the discretion and prior approval of the adjudicator. However, availing this extra time will result in negative marking.

#### E. ADJUDICATORS

1. Expert Adjudicators are selected by the Organizing Committee who shall score the performance and provide feedback to the participating students helping them move through the Competition rounds.
2. Any chance of conflicting interest between the participating team and the adjudicators shall be intimidated to the organizers before the start of the rounds. Any act contrary to as stated above shall lead to immediate disqualification.

#### **F. MEDIATION PROBLEM**

1. The Mediation Problem(s) for any/all shall be provided on the day(s) of the competition.
2. The teams must rely on the facts mentioned in the problem. Neither the Mediating pair nor the Mediators are empowered to create any new facts. They may make arguments or statements that can be reasonably inferred from the facts mentioned in the problem and may substantiate their claims with general background information.
3. The confidential information of the preceding rounds shall form a part of the facts for the succeeding rounds.

#### **G. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

1. Each Mediating pair will be provided confidential information 20 minutes before the start of each session which will also be considered as their preparation time.
2. The Mediating pair is not permitted to have any contact or communication whatsoever with any person including, the Mediator and the Observers once the Confidential Information has been provided.

#### **H. CAUCUS**

1. The Mediator may conduct a private session, a Caucus, with each of the Mediating Pair. In case the team wants to go for the caucus, the other team shall be escorted out of the room and shall be allowed to re-enter the room once the Caucus is over.
2. A Caucus may be called by a Mediating Pair or the Mediator at his/ her own discretion. Only one caucus shall be conducted with each of the parties during each round.
3. A Caucus may be for a maximum of **5 minutes** for each mediating pair in the **preliminary and semi-final rounds** and will be of **7.5 minutes** for each mediating pair in the **final round**.

4. The Mediator and the Mediating pair, both, shall be responsible for managing and adhering to their time limits. Failure shall attract a penalty against whom the delay is attributable. The penalty will be decided by the Adjudicator assessing the round.

## **I. TIMEKEEPING**

1. A Session Supervisor shall preside over the rounds whose decision on timekeeping shall be final.
2. The Mediating pair and the Mediator are, however, responsible for managing and adhering to their time limit per the rules of the Competition.

## **J. SCORING CRITERIA**

1. Throughout the Competition, the Mediating pairs and Mediators will be evaluated and scored separately and will advance independently of each other.
2. The Mediating pair **may be judged on** (but not limited to) the following criteria-
  - Opening Statement of the Parties
  - Advancing their interests
  - Teamwork
  - Information gathering and ascertaining other party's interests
  - Willingness to collaborate with the other party
  - Generation of options and making offers
  - Making good use of mediator Closing Statement
3. The Mediators may be **judged on** (but not limited to) the following criteria-
  - Opening Statement of Mediator
  - Establishing professional relationships between parties
  - Co-operation between mediators

- Steering the mediation sessions
- Qualities of the Mediator
- Identifying key issues of the dispute
- Understanding the needs and interests of both parties.
- Closing Statement

3. The scores shall not be revealed to the participants but will be directly handed over to the Scoring Committee. All Announcements will be made at the end of the Rounds for the Day.

#### **K. GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

1. There shall be two Teams competing against each other in a room before the Adjudicators.
2. A Mediation Session shall comprise of six people wherein there shall be two Mediators and two Mediating Pairs (each Mediating Pair shall comprise of a client and a counsel).
3. The Mediator(s) shall lead towards a settlement between the two disputing parties.

#### **L. SCOPE OF INTERPRETATION**

Participants shall restrict the interpretation of the problem to reasonable conclusions and are not allowed to create additional facts.

#### **M. AWARDS**

1. In addition to appreciation certificates, the following designations along with the Cash Prize will be awarded to:
  - Best Mediator-Rs.9,000/- (Indian Rupees Nine Thousand Only)
  - Runner-Up Mediator-Rs.6,000/- (Indian Rupees Six Thousand Only)
  - Best Mediating Pair (Client & Counsel)- Rs.9,000/- (Indian Rupees Nine Thousand Only)

- Runner-Up Mediating Pair (Client & Counsel)- Rs.6,000/- (Indian Rupees Six Thousand Only)
- 2. Participation certificates shall be granted to all participants irrespective of their success in rounds, and the same shall be collected by the participants on or before the last day of competition.

**N. No written submissions are required to be submitted for the mediation rounds.**

**O. DRESS CODE**

1. The dress code for the Competition shall be business formals.
2. The above-mentioned dress code extends to the Inaugural and Valedictory Ceremony as well.

**3. CODE OF CONDUCT**

**A. CODE OF CONDUCT APPLICABLE TO THE PARTICIPANTS**

1. Friendly and healthy interaction among the participating teams and with the hostcollege students is encouraged and expected.
2. Use of any electronic gadgets including mobile phones and laptops, smart watches etc. is strictly prohibited during the competition.
3. Carrying, possessing or/and consuming liquor, cigarettes or any other intoxicating substances shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.
4. Electrical appliances are not allowed on campus. Compliance with this rule is mandatory.
5. Any behavior of indiscipline with the Judges, Organizing Committee, any other staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.

6. Participants shall not reveal the identity of his/ her college/ university at any point of time during the competition.
7. Scouting or any other unethical or unprofessional conduct is strictly prohibited.
8. Any attempt to approach the framer(s) of the problem(s) or the panel of Judges of the Competition, prior to the Competition shall lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.
9. Participating teams are advised to carry their college-issued official ID during the competition for security concerns.

Note: *The Organizing Committee, ICFAL Law School, reserves the right to modify, add, or remove any rule at its discretion, as and when deemed necessary.*

