

**3<sup>RD</sup> RGNUL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW MEDIATION  
COMPETITION, 2021**

**COMPETITION RULES**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. GENERAL</b> _____	<b>3</b>	[B] CAUCUS	8
[A] DEFINITIONS _____	3	[C] CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ____	9
[B] LANGUAGE OF VERBAL COMMUNICATION	4	[D] TIMEKEEPING _____	9
[C] TOPIC _____	5	[E] ASSESSMENT _____	9
[D] PARTICIPATING TEAM _____	5	[F] FEEDBACK _____	9
[E] COACH _____	5	[G] SCORING _____	10
[F] STRUCTURE _____	5	<b>4. TIE-BREAKERS</b> _____	<b>10</b>
<b>2. COMPETITION FORMAT</b> _____	<b>5</b>	<b>5. REFERENCE MATERIALS, GADGETS, &amp; HANDOUTS</b> _____	<b>10</b>
[A] COMPETITION PROBLEM(S) _____	6	<b>6. DRESS CODE</b> _____	<b>11</b>
[B] CLARIFICATIONS _____	6	<b>7. MODE OF COMMUNICATION &amp; TECHNICAL ORIENTATION</b> _____	<b>11</b>
[C] PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: _____	7	<b>8. ELIGIBILITY</b> _____	<b>11</b>
[D] KNOCK-OUT ROUNDS _____	7	<b>9. REGISTRATION &amp; PARTICIPATION</b> _____	<b>11</b>
[E] FINAL ROUND _____	7	<b>10. VIOLATION OF THE RULES</b> _____	<b>12</b>
<b>3. LOBBY, COMPETITION ROOM, &amp; BREAKOUT ROOM(S)</b> _____	<b>8</b>	<b>11. AWARDS</b> _____	<b>12</b>
[A] COMPETITION ROOM COMPOSITION DURING MAIN ROUND _____	8	<b>12. RESIDUARY RULES</b> _____	<b>13</b>
		<b>13. CONTACT DETAILS</b> _____	<b>13</b>

## 1. GENERAL

### [A] DEFINITIONS

1. **“Breakout Rooms”** refers to the online sub-meeting rooms on the Zoom/WebEx Platform(s) [as decided by the Organizing Committee] to be used for the Main Round, Confidential Information distribution, and Caucus Breakout Sessions. [Download links provided]
2. **“Competition Problem”** refers to a problem framed by the Problem Committee, to be used in the Competition Sessions.
3. **“Competition”** refers to the 3<sup>rd</sup> RGNUL Sports and Entertainment Law Mediation Competition 2021.
4. **“Confidential Information Session”** refers to the time period in which Negotiating Teams are provided access to Confidential Information. During this time the paired Mediators [Mediation Duo] can discuss the strategy for the round.
5. **“Confidential Information” [CI]** refers to the key points of information provided to Negotiating Teams regarding the party they represent [Requesting or Responding Party].
6. **“Expert Assessor/s”** refers to persons(s) nominated and/or selected by the Organizing Committee, who evaluates and scores the performance of the Negotiating Team and the Mediator(s), during a mediation session in accordance with the Competition Rules. All assessors shall provide to the Organizing Committee a Statement of Trust declaring their neutrality, impartiality and independence to assess the teams of the competition; and disclosing any conflict of interests with the participants, or the university, if it may cause a hindrance to the assessment of the round.
7. **“Feedback”** refers to the critique provided by Expert Assessors to the Competition Session Participants, in relation to each of their performances in the Main Round.
8. **“General Information”** refers to factual information related to a Competition Session, which shall be accessible to all Participating Teams.
9. **“General Lobby”** refers to the Zoom room [as decided by the Organizing Committee] where all participants and assessors will gather before the Main Round begins and to which a Negotiating Team reports to during a Caucus. The Session

Supervisors and all members providing technical assistance to participants and assessors will remain present in this General Lobby throughout.

10. **“Host Institution”** refers to Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab.
11. **“Institution/s”** refers to all Colleges and Universities across India.
12. **“Main Round”** refers to the stage of Competition Session immediately following the Confidential Information Session, where the Teams are tasked to mediate on the Competition Problem.
13. **“Mediator”** refers to a participant who has registered or is designated as a Mediator.
14. **“Negotiating Team”** refers to a team comprising of two participants - one Counsel and one Client - from the same institution.
15. **“Official Website”** refers to the official website of the Competition, @-----
16. **“Organizing Committee”** – The Organizing Committee for the Competition refer to members of the ‘Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR-RGNUL)’ and select members of ‘The Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution Team (PACT)’.
17. **“Penalty”** refers to the subtraction in marks or disqualification of participants or any other disciplinary action taken by the Organizing Committee on account any violation of these rules.
18. **“Problem Committee”** refers to Krida Legal and select members of CADR-RGNUL, responsible for drafting and contributing to the Competition Problem(s).
19. **“Registration Fee”** refers to the fee to be paid by Selected Teams for participation in the competition.
20. **“Room Coordinator”** refers to a member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of a particular Competition Room.
21. **“Rule”** refers to a particular individual rule contained in this Rulebook, along with the sub-rules/ points thereunder. The Participants are deemed to know and accept these rules on the account of their registration in the Competition.
22. **“Session Supervisor”** refers to the member/s of the Host Institution designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.

## **[B] LANGUAGE OF VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

The official language of the competition shall be English. Communication in any other international, national, or regional language during the competition rounds shall not be permitted.

The use of any other language besides English is forbidden during all Mediation Sessions.

**[C] TOPIC**

The competition shall be based on ‘Sports and Entertainment Law’.

**[D] PARTICIPATING TEAM**

Each participating team shall consist of one student as Client, one student as Counsel and one student as the Mediator. No participant who registers as a mediator may change their roles and the same remains the mediator throughout the competition. The members of a Negotiating Team 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.

**[E] COACH**

Each Participating Team may register up to one Coach who may be:

1. A Professor from their Institution, OR
2. A Qualified Lawyer, OR
3. An ADR Professional.

**[F] STRUCTURE**

1. The Competition will be held virtually over an online platform.
2. Four Participating Teams will participate in one Competition Round: Two Negotiating Teams (the Requesting and Responding Parties respectively), and two Mediators (Mediators duo) from two different Participating Teams.
3. The Team Members of a Negotiating Team need not be physically present in the same room for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session.
4. To avoid any conflict of interest, the Organizing Committee will attempt to ensure that the Mediators are not assigned to Competition Sessions in which any Negotiating Team belongs to the same Institution as that of the Mediator.

**2. COMPETITION FORMAT**

1. The competition shall consist of two Preliminary Rounds, followed by the Octa-Finals, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final round.
2. Each Competition Session will last for 130 minutes, and consists of the following stages:

- i) Reporting to the General Lobby – 10 minutes
- ii) Access to CI – 30 minutes
- iii) Audio-Visual Check in the Main lobby – 10 minutes
- iv) Main Round – 60 minutes [including Caucus, Breaks etc.]
- v) Scoring by Expert Assessors – 10 minutes
- vi) Feedback for Session Participants – 10 minutes

**[A] COMPETITION PROBLEM(S)**

1. Each Competition Problem consists of General Information, distributed to all Teams, and Confidential Information for the Requesting Party and Responding Parties distributed before the respective Competition rounds.
2. There will be six (6) separate Competition Problems used during the Competition:
  - i) One Problem for the Preliminary Round 1
  - ii) One Problem for the Preliminary Round 2
  - iii) One Problem for the Octa-Final Round
  - iv) One Problem for the Quarter-Final Round
  - v) One Problem for the Semi-Final Round
  - vi) One Problem for the Final Round
3. The General Information of Competition Problems will be made available on the Official Website.
4. The Teams must rely only on the facts mentioned in the Competition Problem. Neither the Negotiating Teams nor the Mediators are empowered to create any new facts or change any of the fact of Competition Problem, but may make reasonable inference(s) only from the facts given in the problem.
5. Teams will have to email requests for clarifications to at [adrc@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:adrc@rgnul.ac.in) within a timeline stipulated by the Organizing Committee.
6. The Problem Committee and the Organizing Committee, have the sole authority to interpret any Competition Problem.

**[B] CLARIFICATIONS**

7. Each Team may ask for up to three requests for clarifications per Competition Problem. Requests for clarifications may be made only to General Information of any Competition Problems. Clarifications are only to be requested for ambiguity or possible errors, and not for further information as each Problem is self-contained.

8. The Clarifications will be released by the Organizing Committee on the Official Website in accordance with the schedule.
9. Requests for clarification can only be made through email to [adrc@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:adrc@rgnul.ac.in).

**[C] PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

1. All Negotiating Teams and Mediators will participate in two Preliminary Rounds.
2. 34 different negotiation teams and 34 individual mediators shall compete in the preliminary rounds. They shall be divided into 4 groups, with 3 groups consisting of 8 Negotiating Teams/Mediators, and 1 group consisting on 10 Negotiating Teams/Mediators.
3. During each Preliminary Round, 2 negotiation teams and 2 mediators shall participate. No mediator shall be allowed to participate in a match-up involving their negotiation team.
4. Each session will be evaluated and scored by two Expert Assessors assigned by the Host Institution.

**[D] KNOCK-OUT ROUNDS**

1. The Octa-Final Rounds, Quarter-Final Rounds, and the Final Rounds shall be Knock-Out Rounds and each Negotiating Team/Mediator winning in each room will qualify for the subsequent stages.
2. The roles played by the Negotiating Teams (Requesting /Responding party) and the pairings will be decided by draw of lots.
3. The Host Institution reserves the right to make any changes to the fixtures in order to avoid the Mediator and Negotiating Team from the same team in the same Mediation Room.

**[E] FINAL ROUND**

1. The winning Negotiating Team and winning Mediator from each Competition Session of the Semi-finals Round will advance to the Final Round.
2. The Roles (as Responding Party and Requesting Party) of the two Negotiating Teams will be decided by a draw of lots.
3. The Final Round will be evaluated and scored by Three Expert Assessors, assigned by the Organizing Committee.

### **3. LOBBY & BREAKOUT ROOM(S)**

1. The Negotiating Teams and the Mediators will receive links to the General Lobby **1 Hour** prior to the start of each Competition round.
2. Breakout rooms will be used by the teams during the release of Confidential Information, Preparation time, for the Mediation session, Breaks and Caucuses.

#### **[A] COMPETITION ROOM COMPOSITION DURING MAIN ROUND**

1. During the Preliminary Rounds, there shall be 8 people present for each Main Round of a Competition Session - 4 negotiators [two from each Negotiating Team], 1 mediator duo (2 mediators from 2 different teams), and 2 Expert Assessors. Additionally, a Room Coordinator may enter the room at times to assist during the caucuses or in case any participant or assessor face any technical difficulty.
2. Coaches registered by the Participants, if any, are only permitted to communicate with them during the CI Session. Once a Competition Session begins, communication between a Coach and a Negotiating Team / Mediator is prohibited. This prohibition also applies during Breaks and Caucuses in the course of the Competition Session. To this end, the audio and video of the Coach/es will be switched off once a Competition Session begins.

#### **[B] CAUCUS**

1. A Caucus (i.e., a private session) may be called by a Negotiating Team or by the Mediators.
2. During the duration of the Main Round, the Breakout Room allotted for the Rounds shall function as the Caucus Breakout Room.
3. The Competition Session Participants that are not part of the Caucus will be required to leave the breakout room during that time, and enter the General Lobby. The prohibition on Coach communication will be applicable during a Caucus.
4. The Room Coordinator will facilitate the movement of parties to the General Lobby from the breakout room and vice-versa.
5. A Caucus may last for a maximum of 5 minutes. The Mediators will be responsible for managing the Caucus and adhering to the time limit. However, in case the caucus goes on beyond the designated time period, participants will be assessed on the timing, reason, and productivity of the extension.



6. There is no limit on the number of caucuses called. Similarly, it is not mandatory to call for a caucus. It is up to the discretion of the negotiators and mediators to call for a Caucus. They will be assessed on the timing, reason and productivity of the caucus, if called for.

**[C] CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

1. Prior to the Main Round, the Breakout Room for a Negotiating Team shall be where the CI is made available to the Team. At least 40 minutes prior to the start of the Main Round, each Negotiating Team shall join their designated Breakout Room.
2. At the scheduled time, the Confidential Information shall be emailed to the participants on the email ID's provided, and the Negotiating Teams shall have access to the CI for 30 minutes only.
3. Each Negotiating Team along with its Coach, if any, shall use their own communication channels to discuss and prepare one the basis of the Confidential Information. The Negotiators and the Coach are not permitted to have any contact or communication whatsoever with any other person/s once the CI has been provided.

**[D] TIMEKEEPING**

1. The Negotiating Teams and the Mediators are responsible for managing their time and adhering to their time limit as according to the rules of the Competition.

**[E] ASSESSMENT**

1. Expert Assessors will be selected and assigned by the Organizing Committee to score the performance and provide feedback to the Participants to help them move through the Competition rounds and improve their mediation and negotiation skills.
2. The Organizing Committee will, as far as possible, make sure that in each Competition Session, Expert Assessors do not have conflict of interests with the assigned Teams, in particular that Expert Assessors and Teams do not belong to the same Institution.

**[F] FEEDBACK**

1. Each assessor may provide feedback to the competing negotiation teams and the mediator.

2. If an assessor decides to impose a penalty upon a competing team, they should inform the competing team concerned about the same and explain it to them. The competing teams are not allowed to show dissent as the assessors' call is final. The assessor should, however, explicitly indicate the rule violated, but shall not indicate the number of points subtracted.
3. The assessor shall not reveal to any Team the results of their individual determinations and any Team's scores. During the feedback, assessors may refer to the Confidential Information.

#### **[G] SCORING**

1. Throughout the Competition, the Negotiating Teams and Mediators will be evaluated and scored separately and may qualify for the subsequent Competition Sessions, independently of each other.
2. The scoring criteria for Negotiating Teams and Mediators may be found in the Scoring Sheets. (See Annexures)

#### **4. TIE-BREAKERS**

1. Negotiating Teams and Mediators will be ranked and selected primarily on the basis of overall scores.
2. In case of a tie in the score of two or more Negotiating Teams in the Preliminary Rounds or the Knock Out Rounds, the Negotiating Team that will advance to the next round shall be decided on the basis of (i) firstly, the total number of score sheets designating 'wins', and (ii) secondly, greatest number of points scored during the joint session.
3. In case of a tie in the score of two or more Mediators in the Preliminary Rounds or the Knock Out Rounds, the Mediator who will advance to the next round shall be decided on the basis of (i) firstly, the greatest number of scores secured during Caucus and (ii) secondly, greatest number of points scored in the Opening and Closing Statement.

#### **5. REFERENCE MATERIALS, GADGETS, & HANDOUTS**

1. In a Competition Session, teams are permitted only the use of personal notes and stationery items.

2. During each Competition Session, the participating Negotiating Teams and the Mediators shall use an Electronic Gadget [either a Laptop or a Desktop Computer] for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session via video-conference.
3. Apart from the devices used for the purpose of participation in the Competition Session, participants are prohibited from using any other Electronic Gadget that allows for any form of communication other than the use of the chatbox and zoom features, including, but not limited to: laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart bands, smartwatches, etc.

## **6. DRESS CODE**

The Dress code for 3<sup>rd</sup> RGNUL Sports and Entertainment Law Mediation Competition 2021 is Western Business Formal.

## **7. MODE OF COMMUNICATION & TECHNICAL ORIENTATION**

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to notify a Virtual Protocol detailing the conduction of each round.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY**

1. All law students (5 year integrated or 3-year course) registered in any University in India for the academic year 2020-2021 are eligible to register for the Competition. LLM students are not eligible to participate in the competition.
2. Each university may nominate a maximum of two teams.
3. By applying for the competition, the teams shall be deemed to have accepted the rules, terms and conditions of the conditions as stated in this document.

## **9. REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION**

1. The teams shall be registered on a the basis of expression of interest through the registration process as notified by the Organizing Committee and on the basis of prior experience in ADR. The Organizing Committee may further make provisions for accommodating teams which have not participated in the prior editions of the Competition. The same is to make the Competition accessible to teams and Universities and increase exposure to ADR, a fundamental goal behind this Competition.
2. The registration is restricted to a maximum of 32 teams for this competition.
3. A maximum of 2 teams from the Host Institution (i.e., RGNUL, Punjab) shall compete at the competition, thus making the maximum number of participating teams 34 in total.

4. The Organizing Committee for this competition has no conflict of interest to declare.
5. No separate fees shall be charged for the Coach registered by the Teams, if any.

## **10. VIOLATION OF THE RULES**

1. Any violation of the rules will be penalized by the Organizing Committee, either by way of deduction of points or by disqualifying the whole Team from the Competition.
2. Non-compliance with the instructions of the Organizing Committee by the member/s of any Selected Team shall result in a penalty, which be decided by the Expert Assessors assessing the respective Main Round.
3. Any Penalty for any violation of the rules may be imposed on Teams by the Organizing Committee. The concerned Team will be given a fair chance to show cause why penalty should not be imposed on it. The decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final.

## **11. AWARDS**

1. The Organizing Committee shall acknowledge the participation of all the teams and assessors at the competition with appropriate tokens of appreciation. Certificates shall be provided to all those who have registered with the Organizing Committee and are present for the Valedictory function
2. The Prizes are as follows:
  - i) Winning Negotiating Team
  - ii) Runners-up Negotiating Team
  - iii) Winning Mediator
  - iv) Runners-up Mediator
  - v) 'Best Negotiation Team' in the Preliminary Rounds
  - vi) 'Best Mediator' in the Preliminary Rounds
  - vii) 'Best Mediation Plan' in the Preliminary Rounds
  - viii) Two Meritorious Teams – the Winning Negotiation Team and Winning Mediator, along with a Negotiation Team and Mediator selected by The PACT jury at the competition will be awarded automatic qualification to represent India in Singapore, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of International Mediation Competition to be hosted by SIMI in 2021.
  - ix) The Winning Mediator will be awarded an internship opportunity for up to 6 weeks with the Pepperdine School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution.

- x) Global Academy for Advocacy in Dispute Resolution will also be providing scholarships to the Winners and meritorious participants to attend the GAADR Programme.
3. All Teams are entitled to receive digitally signed participation Certificates, which will be sent to all the teams by e-mail. The Winners and Runners Up will be sent Award Certificates in the same manner.
4. The Cash Prize shall be electronically transferred to a bank account specified by the award winners.

## **12. RESIDUARY RULES**

1. The above rules are subject to change and modification as decided by the Host Institution and the Rules Committee. All measures will be undertaken for fair and orderly conduct of the Competition. The decision of the Organizing Committee in all matters regarding the Competition shall be final.
2. Time and deadlines will follow Indian Standard Time (IST). Rounds will be adjusted/scheduled, as far as possible, to avoid extreme inconvenience/ problems to teams and judges across different time zones.
3. All Communications, Queries and Clarifications in relation to the Competition may be emailed to [adrc@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:adrc@rgnul.ac.in). Any such queries and clarifications by Selected Teams must mention their Team ID in the subject of the email.
4. The Host Institution, through the Rules Committee and the Organizing Committee, has the sole authority to resolve ambiguities or inconsistencies involving the Rules, if any.

## **13. CONTACT DETAILS**

All queries and requests for information can be directed to the Organizing Committee at our official email-id: [adrc@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:adrc@rgnul.ac.in).

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