



M. K. NAMBYAR MEMORIAL

NIMLAC

NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

7TH EDITION

RULEBOOK



7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

The M.K. Nambyar Memorial - 7th NUALS International Maritime Law Arbitration Competition, 2026 (“NIMLAC”) is organised by the Moot Court Society, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (“MCS”). These Rules shall govern the conduct of all Participants throughout the Competition. The MCS shall have the exclusive authority to administer, interpret, amend, and enforce these Rules, to resolve any dispute arising in relation to the Competition, and to impose appropriate sanctions for any violation thereof. All decisions taken by the MCS in connection with the Competition shall be final and binding on all Participants.

AIM AND PURPOSE

The M.K. Nambyar Memorial - 7th NUALS International Maritime Law Arbitration Competition, 2026 was conceived with the aim of fostering academic excellence and practical advocacy skills in the specialised fields of maritime law and international commercial arbitration. The Competition seeks to provide law students with a rigorous and realistic forum to engage with contemporary legal issues arising in maritime trade, shipping, and cross-border dispute resolution.

Through this Competition, the MCS, endeavours to encourage in-depth legal research, structured legal reasoning, and effective oral advocacy, while promoting awareness and understanding of maritime arbitration practice.

NIMLAC further aims to facilitate meaningful interaction between students, practitioners, scholars, and industry experts, thereby contributing to the development of future professionals in the field of maritime law and arbitration.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION	4
1. Definitions.....	4
2. Interpretation.....	7
CHAPTER 2 – PRELIMINARY RULES.....	8
3. Language.....	8
4. Eligibility	8
5. Team Composition	8
6. Registration.....	9
7. Team Withdrawals/Cancellations.....	10
8. Release of Case Study and Clarifications	10
9. Anonymity of Teams.....	11
10. Anonymity of Teams.....	11
CHAPTER 3 – COMPETITION DEADLINES	12
11. Memorial Submission	12
12. Oral Rounds	13
CHAPTER 4 – MEMORIAL RULES	14
13. Structure of the Memorial.....	14
14. Penalty.....	15
15. Evaluation of Memorials.....	15
CHAPTER 5 – ORAL ROUNDS.....	17
16. Structure of the Oral Rounds	17
17. Mode of the Oral Rounds.....	18
18. Code of Conduct	19
19. Format of Oral Rounds	20
20. Assessment Criteria for Oral Rounds	22
CHAPTER 6 – PRIZE AND AWARDS	23
21. Prize Pool.....	23
22. Presentation of Awards.....	23
23. Payment of Prizes	23
24. Release of Results	24
CHAPTER 7 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	25

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

25.	Communication.....	25
26.	Audio and Video Recording.....	25
27.	Privacy and Data Protection.....	25
28.	Intellectual Property.....	26
29.	Food and Accommodation	26
30.	Audio and Video Reproduction.....	26
31.	Supplementary Rules	27
ANNEXURE I - COMPETITION CALENDAR		28
ANNEXURE II - MEMORIAL PROCEDURAL PENALTIES.....		29
ANNEXURE III - MEMORIAL EVALUATION CRITERIA		31
ANNEXURE IV - ORAL ROUNDS EVALUATION CRITERIA.....		31
ANNEXURE V - CONTACT INFORMATION.....		32

CHAPTER 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **‘Advanced Rounds’** refer to the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and the Final Rounds of the Competition, which are conducted after the Preliminary Rounds, where each of the Advanced Rounds shall consist of only one session of pleadings (either as Claimant or as Respondent).
- 1.2 **‘Arbitral Tribunal’** refers to a Tribunal consisting of arbitrators judging the Oral Rounds of the Competition.
- 1.3 **‘Bench Memorandum’** means the confidential document prepared by the MCS for the exclusive use of judges, which details relevant legal principles, issues, case laws, and authorities related to the moot proposition. It shall not be made available to any Participant.
- 1.4 **‘Case Study’** means the hypothetical official case of the competition as released by the MCS. Clarifications as defined under **Rule 1.7** shall form part of the Case Study.
- 1.5 **‘Compendium’** means a compiled set of extracts of statutes, case laws, arbitral awards, scholarly writings, or other legal or technical authorities relied upon by a Team during the Oral Rounds, prepared solely for ease of reference by the Arbitral Tribunal, and submitted in accordance with these Rules.
- 1.6 **‘Competition’** refers to the M.K. Nambyar - 7th NUALS International Maritime Law Arbitration Competition, 2026.
- 1.7 **‘Clarifications’** means the official response provided by the MCS to the questions submitted by Participants seeking further information on the moot proposition, which shall include all explanations, corrections, additions, deletions and/or modifications made to the Case Study and shall form an integral part of the same for the purposes of the Case Study for the Competition.
- 1.8 **‘IST’** means Indian Standard Time.
- 1.9 **‘MCS’** means the NUALS Moot Court Society.
- 1.10 **‘Memorial’** means the written submissions of each team submitted for both the Claimant and Respondent sides of the case, in accordance with the prescribed format and guidelines as per these Rules. Memorials may also be referred to as ‘Written Submissions’.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

- 1.11 **‘Official Team Representative’** means the individual identified by the team during the registration process for receipt of the official team correspondence.
- 1.12 **‘Official Website’** refers to the website of the Competition (<https://nualsmcs.com/nimlac/>).
- 1.13 **‘Offline Rounds’** means those Oral Rounds of the Competition which are conducted in physical presence at the designated venue, as notified by the MCS, wherein the Participants, Judges, and other officials are required to be physically present in the allotted courtroom.
- 1.14 **‘Online Rounds’** means those Oral Rounds of the Competition which are conducted through a virtual platform, as notified by the MCS, wherein the Participants, Judges, and other officials participate remotely in a virtual courtroom setting.
- 1.15 **‘Oral Round’** means a match of oral presentations between two teams, one representing the Claimant and the other representing the Respondent, before their respective Arbitral Tribunal.
- 1.16 **‘Parties’** refer to the parties to the dispute identified in the Case Study as ‘Claimant’ and ‘Respondent’.
- 1.17 **‘Participant’** means any student who has registered for and is competing in the Competition as a member of a Team.
- 1.18 **‘Penalty’** means any sanction imposed by the MCS on a Participant or a Team for violation of these Rules or any addenda introduced by the MCS, which may include the deduction of points or disqualification.
- 1.19 **‘Plagiarism’** refers to any of the following:
- a. Representation of someone else’s ideas or words mentioned in books, articles or any other sources as one’s own;
 - b. To present the content as new and original which is derived substantially from an existing source;
 - c. Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving due credit or acknowledgment;
 - d. Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit;
 - e. Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your Memorial; or
 - f. Plagiarism can also be in the form of duplication of other moot Memorials,

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

irrespective of whether the Memorial is a competing Memorial or not.

- 1.20 **‘Power Match-up’** refers to the type of match-up used in the Advanced Rounds. The team with the highest cumulative score in the previous round shall compete against the team with the lowest cumulative score in the previous round.
- 1.21 **‘Proxy Participation’** means any act whereby a person other than the Participant duly registered with the MCS, directly or indirectly participates in the Competition in the name of such registered Participant, including but not limited to making written submissions, oral pleadings, or representations on their behalf, whether online or offline.
- 1.22 **‘Preliminary Rounds’** means the initial oral pleading rounds of the Competition where each Team shall argue twice, once as Claimant and once as Respondent, against different opposing Teams. The Preliminary Rounds precede the Advanced Rounds of the Competition.
- 1.23 **‘Rebuttal’** refers to the arguments presented by the Claimant in response to the Respondent’s submissions, at the end of the main pleadings of all the Speakers.
- 1.24 **‘Researcher’** refers to that member of a Team who is not a Speaker.
- 1.25 **‘Rules’** refer to the rules postulated in this document and any other rules that the MCS may from time-to-time, issue.
- 1.26 **‘Scouting’** means observing the Oral Rounds of a Team other than the one to which an individual is affiliated, including attending Moot rounds involving future opponents, attending unrelated Moot rounds, or obtaining information about other Teams by other means.
- 1.27 **‘Seeding Match-up’** refers to the type of match-up used in the Preliminary Rounds. Teams shall be seeded on the basis of their Memorial scores and divided into two groups of equal number. Teams from Group 1 shall be power seeded against teams from Group 2.
- Illustratively, where there are **16 teams**, the teams shall be divided into two groups of **eight (8)** each, with **Team 1** having the highest Memorial score and **Team 16** having the lowest Memorial score. Accordingly, **Group 1** shall consist of Teams **1 to 8**, and **Group 2** shall consist of Teams **9 to 16**. The fixtures shall be as follows:

a. **Preliminary Round I:**

Team 1 v. Team 16, Team 2 v. Team 15, Team 3 v. Team 14, Team 4 v. Team

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

13, Team 5 v. Team 12, Team 6 v. Team 11, Team 7 v. Team 10, Team 8 v. Team 9.

b. **Preliminary Round II:**

Team 1 v. Team 9, Team 2 v. Team 10, Team 3 v. Team 11, Team 4 v. Team 12, Team 5 v. Team 13, Team 6 v. Team 14, Team 7 v. Team 15, Team 8 v. Team 16.

- 1.28 **‘Speaker’** refers to that member of the team who will make oral pleadings before the Arbitral Tribunal in the Oral Rounds.
- 1.29 **‘Sur-rebuttal’** refers to the defence presented by the Respondent to the Rebuttals.
- 1.30 **‘Team Identifier’** refers to the unique name assigned to each Team upon registration, which must exclusively be used to represent the Team throughout the Competition. Teams must maintain anonymity by refraining from disclosing their institution or any identifying information to judges, either intentionally or inadvertently. Participants and spectators must not display name tags, logos, or any other identifiers in the courtroom to ensure impartiality and fairness.
- 1.31 **‘Team’** means students from an institution who have registered for and are competing in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

2. INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 The MCS shall have the exclusive authority to interpret and apply these Rules, and to resolve any disputes arising in relation to the Competition. All such interpretations and decisions shall be final and binding.
- 2.2 The MCS reserves the right to amend, modify, or add to these Rules as it deems fit to ensure the fair and orderly conduct of the Competition. Any changes shall be communicated to Teams with due notice.
- 2.3 Headings and subheadings in these Rules are merely for convenience and shall not affect their legal interpretation.

CHAPTER 2 – PRELIMINARY RULES

3. LANGUAGE

3.1 The Competition shall only be conducted in the English language.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 The Competition shall be open to students pursuing an undergraduate degree in law (including B.A. LL.B., LL.B., or any equivalent programme) at any recognised law school, faculty of law, college, university, or higher educational institution. No student who has been licensed or enrolled to practise law before any court, tribunal, or authority shall be eligible to participate.

4.2 Each recognised college, university, or institution shall be entitled to register a maximum of two (2) Teams for the Competition. In the case of a university having constituent or affiliated colleges, participation may be either through separate Teams registered by such constituent or affiliated colleges, or through up to two (2) Teams representing the university, which may comprise students drawn from different constituent or affiliated colleges.

4.3 All team members must be bona fide undergraduate law students of the institution they represent at the time of registration and must continue to be so throughout the duration of the Competition.

4.4 A maximum of sixteen (16) teams shall advance to the Oral Rounds of the Competition. Selection of the teams qualifying for the Oral Rounds shall be based exclusively on the evaluation of the Memorials submitted by the participating teams, in accordance with these Rules.

5. TEAM COMPOSITION

5.1 Each Team shall comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. The roles of the members shall be as follows:

- a. In each Oral Round, a Team shall be represented by exactly two (2) Speakers, who alone shall be entitled to make oral submissions on behalf of the Team in that Round. While a Team may change the individuals designated as Speakers between different Preliminary Rounds, no Oral Round shall be conducted with

more or fewer than two Speakers. **A Speaker shall be eligible for the Best Speaker award only if they have argued for both the Claimant and the Respondent in the Preliminary Rounds.**

- b. In each Oral Round, a Team shall designate exactly one (1) Researcher, who shall assist the Speakers during that Round. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Arbitral Tribunal or make oral submissions. **At no stage shall a Team be represented by more than two Speakers and one Researcher in any given Round, notwithstanding any change in designation between rounds.**
- 5.2 No Team shall seek, receive, or utilise any form of assistance from any other Team or third party. Any form of Proxy Participation is strictly prohibited. Any Team found to be in violation of this Rule shall be immediately disqualified from the Competition.
- 5.3 Each Team shall provide the names and other details of its members at the time of registration. Certificates and other documentation will be prepared based on the information submitted at the time of team registration. Teams shall be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of all information submitted.
- 5.4 Once the composition of a Team has been communicated to the MCS, no change shall be permitted except with the express permission of the MCS in case of any extenuating circumstances. Such extenuating circumstances shall be communicated by the Moot Court Society of the respective institution or by the institutional administration. The MCS shall not be liable for any miscommunication due to the same.

6. REGISTRATION

6.1 Registration Process and Fee:

- a. Teams must complete their final registration through the website of the NUALS MCS. The final registration link can be accessed [here](#). The deadline for the final registration is **11.59 P.M. (IST) on March 7, 2026**, as specified in the Competition Calendar in Annexure I.
- b. Participating Teams: Indian teams shall pay a preliminary registration fee of **INR 3000**, while overseas teams shall remit a registration fee of **USD 50** at the time of registration.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

- c. Oral Round Qualifiers: Teams qualifying for the Oral Rounds shall be required to pay an additional registration fee of **INR 3000** in the case of Indian teams, and **USD 50** in the case of overseas teams.
- d. Finalists: Teams qualifying for the offline Grand Finals shall be required to make an additional payment of **INR 4000** towards accommodation costs.
- e. All payments shall be made **exclusively** through the QR Code or the Bank Account details provided on the official competition website. No other mode of payment shall be accepted. For successful registration, teams shall be required to upload or attach the proof of transaction/receipt in the registration form. Registrations submitted without valid proof of payment shall be treated as incomplete and shall not be processed.
- f. Teams shall, in due course, receive an email confirming the successful completion of their registration and acknowledging receipt of the applicable registration fee. In the event that a Team does not receive such confirmation, it shall be the responsibility of the Team to promptly contact the MCS at nimlac@nuals.ac.in to verify and ensure that its registration has been duly completed.
- g. After the completion of the registration and fee payment, the MCS shall assign a unique Team Identifier to each registered Team, which must be used for all official communications with the MCS.
- h. The MCS reserves the absolute discretion to refuse or cancel the registration of any team.

7. TEAM WITHDRAWALS/CANCELLATIONS

- 7.1 Once the registration process is completed, the registration fee will be non-refundable in case of a team withdrawal. Any withdrawal must be communicated via email to nimlac@nuals.ac.in at the earliest.

8. RELEASE OF CASE STUDY AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 8.1 The Case Study for the Competition shall be released on **February 7, 2026**.
- 8.2 Participants may seek clarifications regarding the moot proposition through the clarification form by **11.59 P.M. (IST) on February 21, 2026**, as specified in the

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

Competition Calendar in **Annexure I**. A team is limited to asking a maximum of ten (10) clarifications.

- 8.3 Request for clarifications sent to any other email ID will not be considered.
- 8.4 All Clarifications shall be notified in the form of procedural order on the Official Website and also via email to the participating teams.

9. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

- 9.1 Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form, except by means of the Team Identifier assigned to them.
- 9.2 Teams shall not, in any way, reveal the identity of the team, its members or the college/ university/ institution represented, in the Memorial or in the course of the Oral Rounds. Teams shall only identify themselves by their Team Identifier. The Memorial shall not bear the logo, name, etc. of the team, its members or the college/ university/ institution represented by the team.
- 9.3 Any material, including the Compendium, carried into the courtroom for the Oral Rounds, whether presented to the Arbitral Tribunal or not, shall be devoid of any identification marks/ seal of the Team or the college/ university/ institution represented.
- 9.4 Any violation of the aforementioned rules shall attract a penalty as determined by the MCS. The decision of the MCS in this regard shall be final, binding and not subject to challenge.
- 9.5 Any attempts by a team or a member of a team to contact, either directly or indirectly, the drafter(s) of the Case Study, for any reason whatsoever, after the release of the Case Study and before the Competition closes shall lead to the disqualification of such team from the Competition.

10. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

- 10.1 The dress code to be adhered to during the online and offline rounds of the Competition shall be business formals.

CHAPTER 3 – COMPETITION DEADLINES

NIMLAC comprises of two main phases: Memorial Submissions and Oral Rounds.

11. MEMORIAL SUBMISSION

11.1 All registered teams must prepare and submit Memorials for both the Claimant and Respondent sides of the case, as per the format and content requirements detailed in Rules 11 and 13.

11.2 Submission of Soft Copy

- a. Memorials must be submitted by **11.59 P.M. (IST), March 10, 2026**, through the memorial submission form, which shall be shared with the registered teams via the email of the Official Team Representative.
- b. All the participating teams are required to submit one copy of each Memorial in .doc/.docx format as well as in .pdf format. All four files (two .doc/.docx and two .pdf) shall be named as follows: “[Team Identifier_Claimant]” and “[Team Identifier_Respondent]”. *Illustratively*, a team with Team Identifier “Poseidon” shall name their file as follows: Poseidon_Respondent.
- c. Irregularities in Submission:
 - i. Memorials submitted twelve (12) hours post the deadline, shall not be accepted and the team shall be disqualified from the Competition. *Illustratively, 11.59 P.M. (submission day) - 11.59 A.M. (next day).*
 - ii. A Memorial once submitted shall be considered final, and the teams shall not be allowed to revoke or revise the same.
 - iii. In the scenario where any Memorial is sent in late, the penalty for late submission shall be imposed on both the Memorials equally as under **Rule 14.1.**

11.3 Submission of Hard Copy

The following provisions shall apply only to Teams that qualify for and are required to physically attend the Offline Rounds of the Competition at the Competition venue:

- a. Such Teams shall submit, upon arrival for the Competition, seven (7) hard copies each of the Claimant and Respondent Memorials, printed double-sided on A4-size sheets, with uniform margins of one (1) inch on all sides. Where a Team has chosen to submit a Compendium, three (3) hard copies of such

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

Compendium shall also be submitted.

- b. Teams are advised to carry printouts of the Memorials and/or Compendiums required by them.
- c. The hard copies shall preferably be spiral bound. Non-compliance with this preference, however, shall not attract any specific penalty.
- d. The hard copies must be exactly similar to the soft copy. Any changes in the hardcopy vis-à- vis the soft copy will entail disqualification. The decision of the MCS will be final in this regard.

12. ORAL ROUNDS

- 12.1 All registered teams shall participate in the Preliminary Rounds.
- 12.2 The Preliminary, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals Rounds, shall be conducted online from **March 27, 2026** to **March 29, 2026** and the Grand Finale shall be conducted offline, at the campus of the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (“NUALS, Kochi”), on **April 18, 2026** as detailed in the Competition Calendar in **Annexure I**.

CHAPTER 4 – MEMORIAL RULES

13. STRUCTURE OF THE MEMORIAL

- 13.1 Each memorial shall contain the following sections in the stated order:
- a. Cover Page;
 - b. Table of Contents;
 - c. Table of Abbreviations;
 - d. Index of Authorities;
 - e. Statement of Facts;
 - f. Issues Raised;
 - g. Summary of Pleadings;
 - h. Pleadings/ Arguments Advanced; and
 - i. Prayer.
- 13.2 The word limit for the Statement of Facts, the Issues Raised, the Summary of Pleadings, the Pleadings/ Arguments Advanced, and the Prayer jointly is 9000 words (exclusive of footnotes).
- 13.3 All the authorities cited in the Memorials shall follow the *21st Edition of The Bluebook System of Citation*.
- 13.4 The Cover page of each Memorial shall contain the following:
- a. Team Identifier: Upper right corner;
 - b. Forum before which the dispute is brought;
 - c. Name and Year of the Competition;
 - d. Cause Title; and
 - e. Party on behalf of which the Memorial is presented.
- 13.5 All parts of the Memorial shall be typed on A4 sized paper/format, with the following mandatory formatting specifications:
- a. Font Type: Times New Roman;
 - b. Font Size: 12;
 - c. Line Spacing: 1.5;
 - d. Margins: 1 inch on each side; and
 - e. Alignment of Body Text: Justified
- 13.6 Mandatory formatting specifications for footnotes:
- a. Font Type: Times New Roman;

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

- b. Font Size: 10;
 - c. Line Spacing: 1.0;
 - d. Margins: 1 inch on each side; and
 - e. Speaking footnotes and endnotes are not allowed.
- 13.7 Index of Authorities:
- a. All authorities shall be properly cited in the Memorial and shall be included in the Index of Authorities. If not so, every instance when it is used in the Memorial or the Index of Authorities, as the case may be, shall constitute a violation of this rule and be subject to a penalty as specified in **Rule 14**.
 - b. The authorities mentioned shall be in alphabetical order within the Index of Authorities.
- 13.8 Any annexure, photograph, graph, diagram or any other representation of a similar nature, in the Memorial, is strictly prohibited.
- 13.9 Plagiarism, as defined under **Rule 1.19**, shall not be permitted in the Memorials. Any Memorial found to contain plagiarism exceeding fifteen percent (15%), at any stage of the Competition, including during the evaluation of Memorials, shall result in disqualification of the team from the Competition.
- 13.10 The usage of Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) tools in the preparation of Memorials shall be regulated. Any Memorial found to contain AI-generated content exceeding twenty percent (20%), at any stage of the Competition, including during the evaluation of Memorials, shall result in disqualification of the team from the Competition.

14. PENALTY

- 14.1 If the Memorial violates any of the specifications mentioned under **Rule 13**, it shall incur penalties according to the scheme outlined under **Annexure II**.
- 14.2 Appeals regarding penalties shall lie before the MCS and its decision shall be final and binding.

15. EVALUATION OF MEMORIALS

- 15.1 Each Memorial shall be assessed individually and independently by two (2) judges.
- 15.2 Every Memorial will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) marks by

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

each judge on the basis of the criteria mentioned in the Rules. Negative marks will be imposed in the manner detailed in **Rule 14** and **Annexure II**.

15.3 The marks distribution for the Memorial shall be as specified within **Annexure III**.

CHAPTER 5 – ORAL ROUNDS

16. STRUCTURE OF THE ORAL ROUNDS

16.1 General

- a. The Oral Rounds shall be in English only.
- b. The Competition shall consist of Preliminary Rounds and Advanced Rounds. Each team will argue in two (2) Preliminary Rounds, once on behalf of each Party.
- c. The Advanced Rounds shall consist of three knock-out rounds – the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and the Final i.e. each of the Advanced Rounds shall consist of only one session of pleadings (either as Claimant or as Respondent).

16.2 Preliminary Rounds

- a. Each Team shall argue once as Claimant and once as Respondent in the Preliminary Rounds, in accordance with the Fixtures, and both rounds shall be conducted on the same day.
- b. Each Preliminary Round shall be judged by a panel of two (2) Judges.
- c. For each Preliminary Round, the final score of a Team shall be calculated as follows: 80% of the Oral Round score awarded to the Team + 20% of the Memorial score of the respective side (Claimant or Respondent).
- d. The cumulative score of a Team for the Preliminary Rounds shall be the aggregate of its final scores from both Preliminary Round slots.

16.3 Qualification to Advanced Rounds

- a. The top eight (8) Teams shall qualify for the Advanced Rounds on the basis of their cumulative scores in the Preliminary Rounds.
- b. Where more than eight (8) Teams secure two wins in the Preliminary Rounds, the eight (8) Teams with the highest cumulative scores among such Teams shall qualify.
- c. Where fewer than eight (8) Teams secure two wins, the remaining slots shall be filled by Teams with one win, selected on the basis of their cumulative scores in the Preliminary Rounds.
- d. In the event of a tie in cumulative scores for qualification, the Team with the higher aggregate Speaker score in the Preliminary Rounds shall qualify.

16.4 Advanced Rounds

- a. The Advanced Rounds shall consist of the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Grand Finale, all of which shall be conducted on a knock-out basis.
- b. **Quarter-Finals**
 - i. The Quarter-Final Rounds shall be judged by a panel of two (2) Judges and shall be knock-out rounds.
 - ii. The eight (8) qualified Teams shall compete in the Quarter-Finals in accordance with the Fixtures determined under these Rules.
- c. **Semi-Finals**
 - i. The Semi-Final Rounds shall be judged by a panel of three (3) Judges and shall be knock-out rounds.
 - ii. The winners of the Quarter-Final Rounds shall advance to the Semi-Finals.
- d. **Finals**
 - i. The Final Round shall be judged by a panel of five (5) Judges.
 - ii. The winners of the Semi-Final Rounds shall advance to the Final Round.

17. MODE OF THE ORAL ROUNDS

17.1 The preliminary, quarter final and semi - final rounds shall be conducted online, in a virtual courtroom setup and the finals shall be conducted offline, at the campus of NUALS, Kochi.

17.2 Online Rounds

- a. Participants are expected to have stable internet connectivity and a disturbance-free environment during their rounds. The virtual courtroom will be set up through the Google Meet platform.
- b. The teams are requested to be present at the meet at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the rounds. Any issues with the connection or any technical glitches shall be reported to the organizing committee within such time.
- c. Participants shall ensure that they are renamed on the platform to display their team identifier along with the capacity in which they are participating (Speaker/Researcher) on their video screens at all times. Illustratively, they shall rename as: *Poseidon_Speaker 1*, *Poseidon_Speaker 2*, *Poseidon_Researcher* respectively.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

- d. During the rounds, the participants are requested to ensure that they are within the camera's view.
- e. The teams shall keep their cameras switched on throughout the course of the proceedings and shall remain muted unless it is their turn to speak.

17.3 Offline Rounds

- a. Teams shall not be permitted to use any electronic devices, like laptops, projectors, video cameras, mobile phones, etc. during the Oral Rounds. Non-compliance with the same will lead to immediate disqualification.
- b. All teams shall report to the allotted courtroom at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of their round. Any team or team member arriving more than ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time may be disqualified, at the discretion of the MCS.
- c. Any Compendium of legal or technical authorities that a Team seeks to rely upon during the Oral Rounds may be submitted along with the Memorials at the time of their submission. Submission of a Compendium is entirely optional and shall not result in the award of any additional marks, nor shall the absence of a Compendium attract any penalty or adverse inference.

18. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 18.1 Teams are expected to behave in a dignified manner with other teams and the Judges, Organizers, and Volunteers of the Competition.
- 18.2 Teams shall not attempt to approach or influence the Judges, Administrators, Organisers of the Competition in any manner whatsoever.
- 18.3 All participants are expected to maintain the decorum of the Arbitral Tribunal during the Competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.
- 18.4 The teams shall not engage in any form of unethical, unprofessional and wrongful conduct during the entire period of the Competition.
- 18.5 Any compendium of legal or technical authorities that a team seeks to rely upon during the Oral Rounds shall be submitted to the courtroom officer/ timekeeper prior to such Oral Round.
- 18.6 Participants shall not consume or carry narcotic drugs/ psychotropic substances/

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

alcohol/ arms/ ammunition or indulge in any immoral/ illegal activity immediately prior to, during, or post the course of the Competition either within the premises of NUALS, Kochi or at any accommodation provided.

- 18.7 Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited and punishable by law. Any incident involving such misconduct will be dealt with accordingly.
- 18.8 A violation of the prescribed Code of Conduct shall invite sanctions as prescribed by the Equity Policy of the Moot (“Equity Policy”) or at the discretion of MCS.

19. FORMAT OF ORAL ROUNDS

19.1 Order of Presentation

- a. Prior to the beginning of a particular Oral Round, Parties should try to agree on the order of presentation of oral arguments to be followed in that round. The same has to be informed to the Arbitral Tribunal at the beginning of the round.
- b. Notwithstanding the agreement that the teams may have reached, the final authority to decide the order of presentation rests with the Arbitral Tribunal.
- c. If there is no agreement between the Parties, the Arbitral Tribunal shall decide upon the order of presentation.

19.2 Fixtures

- a. In the Preliminary Rounds, Seeding Match-up system shall be used to determine the fixtures.
- b. In the Quarter-final and Semi-final rounds, the Power Match-up system, with the help of scores, shall be used to determine the match-ups.
- c. Determination of sides for Advanced Round shall be decided as per **Rule 19.6**.

19.3 Rebuttal and Sur-Rebuttal

- a. Teams may reserve time for Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals as per **Rule 19.7**.
- b. The Rebuttals or Sur-rebuttals, as the case may be, shall be presented by one Speaker of the Team for Procedural Issues and the other Speaker of the Team for Substantive Issues.
- c. The Rebuttals for the Claimant shall be limited to responding to the oral pleadings of the Respondent. The Sur-rebuttals for the Respondent shall be limited to responding to the Rebuttals by the Claimant.
- d. If a team fails to reserve time for a Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal at the beginning

of an Oral Round, it shall not then request that such time be added during the course of the round.

19.4 Non-Attendance

a. Preliminary Rounds:

Where a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Preliminary Round, the Round shall be conducted *ex-parte*. The appearing Team shall be evaluated and awarded marks as per the prescribed criteria, and the non-appearing Team shall be deemed to have lost the Round and shall be awarded zero (0) marks for that Round.

b. Advanced Rounds:

Where a Team fails to appear for a scheduled Advanced Round, such failure shall amount to an automatic forfeiture of the Round, and the opposing Team shall be declared the winner of the Round and shall advance to the next stage of the Competition.

- c. In both cases, the MCS reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action, including disqualification from the Competition, where the non-attendance is found to be wilful or without sufficient cause.

19.5 Communication during Oral Rounds

a. Online Rounds:

During Online Oral Rounds, communication amongst members of a Team, if required, shall be restricted to written communication through private chat or other non-verbal means, and shall not be audible or visible to the Arbitral Tribunal or the opposing Team.

b. Offline Rounds:

During Offline Oral Rounds, communication amongst members of a Team, if required, shall be restricted to written notes exchanged within the Team, and no verbal communication shall be permitted while the proceedings are underway.

19.6 Determining Sides in Advanced Rounds

- a. Where the same two Teams that opposed each other in the Preliminary Rounds are matched against one another again in any of the Advanced Rounds, they shall argue for the opposite Party to that which they represented in their

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

Preliminary Round encounter.

- b. In all other situations arising in rounds post-Quarterfinals, including instances where the Teams did not face each other during the Preliminary Rounds, or where any uncertainty or ambiguity exists regarding the allocation of Parties, the determination of sides shall be made by a draw of lots.
- c. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the MCS shall have the final and binding authority to determine the allocation of sides in the Advanced Rounds in the event of any contingency, ambiguity, or administrative exigency.

19.7 Time Allocation

- a. Prior to the beginning of the Oral Round, the team must inform the timekeeper of the manner in which the team wishes to divide its total time between its:
 - i. first Speaker,
 - ii. second Speaker, and
 - iii. the Rebuttal (for Claimant) or Sur-rebuttal (for Respondent).
- b. Preliminary Rounds**
 - i. Each side shall be allotted thirty (30) minutes, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
 - ii. Out of the total time allotted, one (1) to two (2) minutes shall be reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
 - iii. The total duration of each Preliminary Round shall be sixty (60) minutes.
- c. Advanced Rounds**
 - i. Each side shall be allotted forty-five (45) minutes, inclusive of rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
 - ii. Out of the total time allotted, two (2) to four (4) minutes shall be reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal.
 - iii. The total duration of each Advanced Round shall be ninety (90) minutes.

20. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ORAL ROUNDS

- 20.1 The Oral Rounds will be marked on a scale of 100 marks per Arbitrator as per the criteria specified within **Annexure IV**.

CHAPTER 6 – PRIZE AND AWARDS

21. PRIZE POOL

- 21.1 The following prizes shall be awarded in the Competition:
- a. Winners: The team that wins the Grand Final round of the Competition shall be awarded Rs. 1,00,000, a trophy and a Certificate of Merit.
 - b. Runners-Up: The team that secures the second place after the final round of the Competition shall be awarded Rs. 75,000, a trophy and a Certificate of Merit.
 - c. Best Memorial: The memorial with the highest average of the Claimant and the Respondent memorial scores shall be awarded Rs. 25,000.
 - d. Best Speaker (Preliminary Rounds): The speaker with the highest average score in the final rounds. Prize: Rs. 15,000 and a certificate of merit.
- 21.2 All participants shall be awarded e-certificates of participation.

22. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- 22.1 The awards shall be presented at the Valedictory Ceremony of the Competition, to be held after the conclusion of the final round.
- 22.2 The MCS shall announce the winners of the awards and present them with their prizes. The video-conferencing link of the ceremony shall be circulated to all participants.

23. PAYMENT OF PRIZES

- 23.1 All monetary prizes shall be paid by way of bank transfer after the completion of the Competition.
- 23.2 The prize money shall be sent to the bank account nominated by the winning team or individual, as the case may be.
- 23.3 The final amount credited shall reflect an amount that is payable after any applicable taxes, charges or fees.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

24. RELEASE OF RESULTS

- 24.1 The results of the Grand Final Rounds of the Competition shall be announced at the Valedictory Ceremony.
- 24.2 The MCS shall also publish the results on the official website of the Competition within 24 hours of the Valedictory Ceremony.
- 24.3 The e-certificates of merit and participation shall be sent to the respective teams via email after the completion of the Competition.

CHAPTER 7 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

25. COMMUNICATION

- 25.1 All official communication regarding the Competition shall be sent to the registered email address of the teams. All communications shall be through the competition's official email id: nimlac@nuals.ac.in.
- 25.2 Teams must designate one member as the official point of contact for all communication with the MCS.
- 25.3 Any communication not sent from the registered email address or by the designated point of contact shall not be considered official communication.
- 25.4 Teams may reach out for any clarifications or queries to the official email id: nimlac@nuals.ac.in.

26. AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING

- 26.1 By registering for the Competition, all teams consent to the audio and video recording of their participation in the Competition.
- 26.2 The MCS reserves the right to record, stream, or publish any audio or video of the oral rounds, both online and offline.
- 26.3 The MCS reserves the right to take photographs of the participants during the Competition and use them for promotional or educational purposes.
- 26.4 All audio, video, and photographic rights related to the Competition vest with the MCS.
- 26.5 All Participants are strictly prohibited from audio recording or videotaping oral pleadings during the competition.

27. PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

- 27.1 All personal information collected from the participants shall be used solely for the purpose of administering the Competition.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

28. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 28.1 All memorials submitted as part of the Competition shall be the exclusive property of The National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.
- 28.2 The MCS reserves the right to publish the memorials in any form or medium.
- 28.3 The MCS shall not be responsible for any intellectual property violations by the participants.

29. FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

- 29.1 Accommodation and food shall be provided to participating teams only for the official dates of the Competition. Teams arriving prior to, or departing after, the specified dates shall be required to make their own arrangements at their own expense.
- 29.2 Any additional member accompanying a team, including coaches, observers, or support staff, shall not be entitled to accommodation, food, or any allied facilities provided by the Organising Committee.
- 29.3 Teams shall be responsible for making their own travel arrangements from their point of arrival to the designated accommodation, and from the accommodation to their point of departure.
- 29.4 Transport facilities shall be provided by the Organising Committee between the designated accommodation and the Competition venue on all official dates of the Competition.
- 29.5 Accommodation shall be provided from **19:00 hours on April 17, 2026** until **12:00 hours on April 19, 2026**. Teams requiring accommodation beyond the prescribed period shall be required to make independent arrangements or submit a prior request for an extension of stay, subject to availability and such additional charges as may be determined by the MCS.

30. AUDIO AND VIDEO REPRODUCTION

- 30.1 Teams, team members, or any person associated with a team shall not be permitted to be present at, observe, or hear any oral round in which their team is not

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

participating. This restriction shall not apply to teams or individuals whose teams have been eliminated from the Competition and who wish to attend the Grand Finale Round thereafter. Any form of scouting or attempted scouting in contravention of this rule shall entail immediate disqualification of the concerned team.

- 30.2 No audio recording, video recording, live streaming, or any other form of audio or visual reproduction of oral pleadings shall be permitted without the prior permission of the MCS. The MCS reserves exclusive rights over audio and video recording, live streaming, or any other form of reproduction of any oral round or part thereof.
- 30.3 The MCS exclusively reserves the right to disseminate and reproduce the Memorials submitted by the participating teams, for any purpose in relation to the Competition. Submission of Memorials in this Competition shall constitute ipso facto consent of the teams for such dissemination and reproduction.

31. SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

- 31.1 The MCS reserves the right to supplement, amend, modify, or clarify these Rules by way of addenda at any time prior to or during the conduct of the Competition.
- 31.2 All such addenda, amendments, or supplementary rules shall be communicated to the registered teams through official channels and shall be binding upon all participants.
- 31.3 Any addenda or supplementary rules issued shall be deemed to form an integral part of these Rules, and compliance with the same shall be mandatory.
- 31.4 In the event of any dispute, ambiguity, or question arising out of the interpretation or application of these Rules, the decision of the Moot Court Society shall be final and binding on all participants.
- 31.5 The MCS reserves the right to vary, amend, modify, or repeal any of the above Rules, in whole or in part, without prior notice, if deemed necessary for the smooth and fair conduct of the Competition.

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

ANNEXURE I - COMPETITION CALENDAR

Unless otherwise specified, all timings mentioned in these Rules shall be in Indian Standard Time (IST).

DATE	PARTICULARS
January 12, 2026	Release of Invite and Provisional Registration
January 25, 2026	Last date for Provisional Registration
February 7, 2026	Release of the Case Study
February 7, 2026	Commencement of Final Registration
11.59 PM, March 7, 2026	Last date for Final Registration
11.59 PM, February 21, 2026	Deadline for asking clarifications from teams
February 23, 2026	Release of set of clarifications
11.59 PM, March 10, 2026	Deadline for submission of soft copy of memorials
March 20, 2026	Result declaration of Memorial Qualification
March 27, 2026	Inaugural Ceremony (Online)
March 28, 2026	Preliminary Rounds (Online)
March 29, 2026	Quarter-Final Rounds and Semi-Final Rounds (Online)
April 18, 2026	Grand Finale (Offline)

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

ANNEXURE II - MEMORIAL PROCEDURAL PENALTIES

Non – compliance with the rules concerning memorial format and content shall result in a deduction from the allocated points. These penalties shall be individually applied to each side of the memorial.

RULE	VIOLATION	PENALTY (EACH SIDE)
14.1.a	Delay in submission of Memorials	(-) 0.5 per side, for every hour after the deadline <i>Illustratively, 12.00 A.M. - 12.59 A.M. [1 mark penalty], 1.00 A.M. - 1.59 A.M. [2-mark penalty], etc.</i>
14.1.b	Exceeding word limits	(-) 1 mark (1-200 words over)
		(-) 3 marks (201-500 words over)
		(-) 5 marks (above 500 words)
14.1.c	Exclusion of items from Memorial	(-) 1 mark per specification
14.1.d	Non-adherence to the font style of the components of the Memorial	(-) 0.5 mark per specification per page

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

14.1.e	Non-adherence to the font size of the components of the Memorial	(-) 0.5 mark per specification per page
14.1.f	Non-adherence to the citation style for footnotes	(-) 0.25 mark per citation
14.1.g	Addition of Annexure, Diagrams etc.	(-) 1 mark for each side

7TH NUALS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION COMPETITION

ANNEXURE III - MEMORIAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

PARAMETER(S)	MAXIMUM MARKS
Knowledge of Law and Procedure	25
Knowledge and Application of Facts	25
Use of Authorities and Precedents	20
Clarity, Logic and Organisation	15
Language, Presentation and Formatting	15
Total	100

ANNEXURE IV - ORAL ROUNDS EVALUATION CRITERIA

PARAMETER(S)	MAXIMUM MARKS
Knowledge of Law and Facts	25
Application of Law to Facts	25
Accurate Articulation of Legal Issues and Use of Authorities	20
Response to Questions & Ability to Answer	20
Overall Presentation (Style, Articulation, Time Management)	10
Total	100

ANNEXURE V - CONTACT INFORMATION

Ms. Alina Sujith

Secretary, MCS NUALS

+91 70340 12345

Ms. Aadia Nair

Joint Secretary, MCS NUALS

+91 99952 29094

Mr. Bliss Joseph Saigi

Programme Coordinator, MCS NUALS

+91 91885 92055

Webpage: <https://nualsmcs.com/nimlac/>

Mail: nimlac@nuals.ac.in