

Routledge-Cavendish Mooting Skills Guide

SAMPLE MOOT RULES AND PROCEDURES

Rules and Procedures

General

- These Rules & Procedures [the 'Rules'] will apply to the xxx competition. [the 'Moot'].
- The Moot is organised on behalf of zzz University by the organising committee, which comprise: aaa, bbb & ccc. [the 'Committee'].

Eligibility

- All students of zzz University are eligible to participate in the Moot.
- Students are to select their own teams of two members for the competition, but teams must comprise of students currently studying at the University.
- Each team will have two mooters for the competition, but can have supporting members.

Moot Problems

- The Moot Problems will be circulated two weeks in advance to all the participating teams.
- All teams are required to prepare for, and will argue BOTH sides [appellant and respondent] in the preliminary stage of the competition, i.e. a team will represent the Appellant at one moot, then the Respondent at a subsequent moot. The order of mooting is appended.
- As between the teams competing in the knockout stages of Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final, the allocation of the case [i.e. appellant or respondent] will be determined by the toss of a coin, two weeks before the moot.

Organisation

- The competition will be run over the course of academic year 200x/200y.
- The teams will be divided into eight groups for the preliminary stage to be held in semester one.
- Teams will moot against every other team within their group for the preliminary stage.
- A team is awarded 3 points for winning a moot in the preliminary stage, and 0 points for a defeat.
- The team with the highest points total from each of the preliminary stage groups will then progress to the Quarter Finals. A draw will take place to decide on the pairings for the Quarter Finals.
- The winners of the Quarter Finals will progress to the Semi Finals, where a draw will again decide the pairings.
- The winners of the Semi Finals will progress to the Final.
- It is hoped that all teams taking part will come and watch the Final.
- Prizes and certificates of participation will be presented on xxx after the conclusion of the Final.

Heads of Argument

- Each team must prepare Heads of Argument for BOTH the Appellant and the Respondent i.e. one set of Heads of Argument for the Appellant, and a second set of Heads of Argument for the Respondent.
- These Heads must be sent [by email to xxx] to the organisers two clear working days before the Moots.
- The Heads of Argument for each party [1 for the Appellant and 1 for the Respondent] must NOT exceed one side of A4 in length [minimum font size = 8].
- The Heads of Argument must contain a summary of all the arguments the team wishes to raise during the moot itself, and must also contain all cases and other legal literature the team wishes to rely on.
- The number of cases you may rely on for each side of the argument [i.e. the appellant is one side, the respondent is the other side] is restricted to **no more than six per team**, and other legal literature [e.g. statutes, EC Directives, textbooks, etc] is restricted to **no more than four per team**.
- Any arguments and citations not disclosed in the Heads of Argument may NOT be cited in court during the moot.
- Teams may however rely on other authorities when responding to judicial interventions.
- Once Heads of Arguments have been received by the organisers, they will be circulated via email to the opposing team and to the judge.

The moots

- Each team shall prepare arguments for both sides, but you will be allocated a side [i.e. appellant or respondent] before each moot – please see timetable attached.
- The time allotted to each mooter shall be **15 minutes**. That time limit includes time taken for introductions, judicial interventions and questions.
- Any mooter who exceeds his or her time limit will only be permitted to continue with the permission of the judge[s]. However, marks may be deducted by the judge for the excess.
- Time shall be kept by either the judge or a clerk, who shall warn each mooter by silent means when they have:
 - 5 minutes left
 - 1 minute left
 - to conclude
- The order of speaking will be:
 - Senior Counsel for the Appellant
 - Junior Counsel for the Appellant
 - Senior Counsel for the Respondent
 - Junior Counsel for the Respondent
- There will be no right of reply.

Judging

- Judging will be done by members of staff from xxx University Law School.
- The appointment of, and the number of Judges in any round remains at the discretion of the Committee.
- Judging will be based on five criteria:
 - Presentation
 - Content

- Ability to cope with Questions
- Conduct and Court Room Etiquette
- Heads of Argument
- Each criterion is marked out of 10 for each mooter, for each moot. The team with the highest aggregate marks from that day's moots will win the moot. For the Final, the team with the higher aggregate marks will be crowned Champions.
- The decisions of the judges and the organising committee are final, and there shall be no appeal against them.