

**CHRIST (Deemed to be University)  
Pune Lavasa Campus  
SCHOOL OF LAW**



**THEMIS  
NATIONAL MOOT COURT  
COMPETITION, 2023**

**RULEBOOK**



1. Short Title:

The Competition shall be called the 'The THEMIS' 23 National Moot Court Competition'.

2. Definitions:

Unless otherwise stated following shall be construed herein under as-

i. "Administrator" shall mean Moot Court Society, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Campus.

ii. "Appellant" shall include Appellant, Plaintiff, Petitioner, Complainant, Prosecution, Informant, etc.

iii. "Bench" refers to the members duly invited to adjudge the oral rounds, individually or collectively.

i v. "Clarifications" means an explanation published by the Host University to the moot problem regarding a query posed by any participating competition team within the given deadline.

v. "Compendium" means a compilation or collection of legal or other authorities that a participating team seeks to rely upon during the round of oral pleadings.

vi. "Competition" means The THEMIS 2023 National Moot Court Competition

vii. "Moot Proposition" means the Proposition released by the Organizers on the date specified in Rule II (2) and shall include any subsequent clarification(s) as and when released by the Organizers.



viii. “Oral Score” means the scores given by the judge to a particular orator/speaker of the participating team pleading before the bench during the round of oral assessment.

ix. “Orator” means one of the two designated speakers in a participating team.

x. “Organisers'” means the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa Pune Campus, Moot Court Committee.

xi. “Participating Team” means the team eligible to participate in the said Competition after completing the registration procedure.

xii. “Participating Institution” shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating teams.

xiii. “Respondent” shall include Defendant, Respondent, Defense, etc.

xiv. “Rules” means the rules of "The THEMIS 2023 National Moot Court Competition".

xv. “Team Code” means a unique code assigned by the Host University to the registered participating team.

xvi. “Written Submissions” means the memorandum of written submissions (memorials) submitted by any participating team according to the Competition rules.



## GENERAL RULES

### 1. Date and Venue of the Competition:

- The 'THEMIS 2023 National Moot Court Competition' will be held from 10th March 2023 to 12th March 2023 at the campus building (Offline Mode) of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Campus, Christ University Road, 30 Valor Court, Dasve, Lavasa, Maharashtra - 412112. The organizers reserve the right to switch the mode of the Competition to Online/Virtual based on the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Government of India, enforceable at the time. The participants will be notified in advance of the Competition mode in case of any modifications.

### 2. Date of Release of Moot Proposition:

- The Moot Proposition will release in the third week of January 2023

### 3. Team Eligibility and Composition:

- Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students pursuing the three- or five-year LL.B. degree course in any recognized institution in India. Students pursuing their LL.M. and Diploma courses are not eligible for participation.
- Only one team shall be allowed to represent each participating institution.
- Each participating team should have three participating members. In a team, two members shall be designated as 'Speakers,' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher.'



#### 4. Registration Procedure

- **Provisional Registration:** The provisional registration for the moot shall open in the third week of January 2023. A total of 32 slots are available for the moot, meaning that registration for the moot shall take place on a first-come-first-serve basis. Provisional Registration may be done by sending an official confirmation of the registering team from the official email address of the moot court society of the registering institution. Provisional registration received after 10th February 2023 may not be considered. Confirmation of Registration of the teams will be duly communicated. Upon receiving the acknowledgment of the provisional registration, participants are requested to complete the payment process and fill out the final registration form.
- **Final Registration:** Please note that Final Registration would be confirmed after the confirmation of provisional registration of the registering team. Final registration shall require a *Letter of Authorization* signed by the Head of the Institution/Head of the Moot Court Committee/Society/Association in the format attached below.

Link for form - <https://forms.gle/26ddRWWjdMnFettQ9>



1. Release of Moot Problem	January 23, 2023
2. Last Date for Early Bird Registration	February 05, 2023
3. Last Date for Registration	February 10, 2023
4. Last Date for Clarifications	February 15, 2023
5. Last date for the Memorial Submissions - Softcopy	February 25, 2023
6. Last date for the Memorial Submissions - Hardcopy	March 02, 2023
7. Draw of Lots	March 10, 2023
8. Researcher's Test	March 10, 2023
9. Preliminary Oral Rounds	March 10, 2023
10. Octa Finals/Quarter-Finals/ Semi-Finals	March 11, 2023
11. Final Oral Rounds and Valedictory Ceremony	March 12, 2023

Note: The Organising Committee of THEMIS National Moot Court Competition, 2023, reserves the right to amend the dates according to reasons deemed fit for the smooth execution of the Competition. The Organising Committee shall be bound by the dates so communicated, and any amendments in the proposed timeline shall be communicated to the participating teams within a reasonable time.

- Allotment of Team Code: Each team that has completed the Registration requirements under the Rules shall be allotted a unique Team Code. Once the Code is assigned, every team must use this team code for any further communication(s) with the Organisers during the entire course of the Competition.



- Change in Team Composition: Any change in team composition must be intimated to the Organizer at the earliest. Any change must be accompanied by a freshly filled registration form and an authority letter/mail duly signed by the faculty coordinator of the MCC/MCA.
- Registration Fees: The participating teams must pay INR 4,500/- (for early bird registration) and INR 5,000/- as registration fees at the time of registration. This shall include all the accommodation facilities.

The Link for the payment of Registration Fees:

<https://lavasa.christuniversity.in/e-services-online-payment-portal>

- The last date to deposit the registration fees is 10th February 2023. Non-payment of Registration Fees shall result in the cancellation of Registration of the Participating Team. In such a scenario, the next team in line shall be given the available slot.

#### 5. Travel Plan

- The duly filled Travel Form is to be submitted by the teams on or before 25th February 2023.

Link for form - <https://forms.gle/JEhAPTnd4dca9bix8>

#### 6. Dress Code:

- The Participants are expected to be appropriately attired for the rounds of the Competition. Robes and collar bands are not permitted.
- The Dress Code for the Inauguration, Researcher's Test, Oral Rounds, and Valedictory & Prize Distribution shall strictly be as follows:



1. For Gentlemen - Western Formals (White formal shirt with formal black pants and a black blazer); and
2. For Ladies - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer).

#### CLARIFICATIONS -

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought through an email to [mootcourts.lavasa@christuniversity.in](mailto:mootcourts.lavasa@christuniversity.in) - on or before 15th February 2023. Clarification requests sent after this date shall not be entertained.

#### WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS -

1. Strict Adherence to Rules Regarding Written Submissions. All requirements must be strictly followed. Non-adherence to the same will attract penalties as provided under the Rules.
2. Written Submissions are to be prepared from Both Sides of the dispute.

#### 3. Submission of Soft Copy of Written Submissions:

- The submission of soft copies of the written submission from each side would be through A. Google Form (in both .docx and .pdf format). The deadline for the same is 25th February 2023 before 5:00 PM.
- The link to the Google Form is: <https://forms.gle/ioCNDBGpTueQVXccA>
- The name of the files shall be TCT - 01A/TCT - 01R
- A penalty of 1 mark shall be levied in case: a. the written submission is submitted in any other format and/or; b. multiple files are submitted by the team.





- A team submitting the soft copies 48 hours after the deadline shall stand disqualified from the Competition, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Organizers.

#### 4. Submission of Hard Copy of Written Submissions:

- The teams have to submit five (5) copies of the written submission from each side via post on or before 30th February, 2023.
- No Difference between Soft Copy and Hard Copy of Written Submissions: The hard copies of written submissions must be an exact replica of the soft copies submitted to the Organizers. Any difference in the same will result in disqualification from the Competition.

#### 5. Penalty For Late Submission:

- A penalty of 1 mark per hour per side, up to 24 hours past the deadline, shall be deducted in case of delay in the submission of soft copies of written submissions.

#### 6. General Conditions for Written Submissions:

- The Written Submissions shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code. If any such identification or mark, symbol, etc., which has the effect of identifying the team is found on the written submission, then it shall result in instant disqualification of the participating team.
- The appellant's Written Submissions are required to have a Blue cover page and Respondent's Written Submissions are required to have a Red cover page.
- A penalty of 1 mark per side shall be levied in case the team uses the wrong cover page of written submission.



## 7. Guidelines for Formatting:

- **Written Submissions Structure:** The Written Submissions must contain the following contents:
  1. **Cover Page** – The cover page shall contain the case title, side of the written submission, year of Competition, name of the forum, and team Code in the top right corner;
  2. **Table of Contents;**
  3. **List of Abbreviations;**
  4. **Index of Authorities:** The Index of Authorities must list all the authorities cited in the Written submission. The Index must indicate the page number(s) and/or the paragraph number(s) of the Written submission in which the authority is cited;
  5. **Statement of Jurisdiction;**
  6. **Statement of Facts:** The Statement of Facts must contain a concise statement of the relevant facts of the dispute. As far as may be, the Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and legitimate inferences which can be drawn from those facts. Argumentative facts are prohibited. Statement of Facts shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page;
  7. **Issues Raised;**
  8. **Summary of Arguments:** The Summary of Arguments should contain a summary of the substance of the arguments and should not merely be a reproduction of the various headings and subheadings of arguments. The Summary of Arguments shall not exceed 2 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each exceeded page;



- 9. Pleadings / Arguments Advanced: All legal arguments must be limited to the written submission's Pleadings/Arguments Advanced section. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 2 marks. 2. The Pleadings/Arguments Advanced and Prayer must not exceed 20 pages. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per exceeded page;
- 10. Prayer.

Non-compliance with respect to sections (a) to (h) and (j) will result in a penalty of 1 mark for each missing section. Non-compliance with respect to section (i) will result in the Written Submission not being considered for evaluation at all.

- Team Code:
  1. The team code must be ascribed to the top right corner of the cover page. The code must be succeeded by the side for which the written submission is prepared. The teams must use “A” for Appellant / P for “Petitioner” / D for “Defendant,” / R for “Respondent.”
  2. For example: in case the Team Code is 36 the team must write “TCT-36A” in case of written submission for Appellant and “TCT-36R” in case of written submission for Respondent.
- Margin: The Written submission must maintain an equal margin of 1 inch on all sides. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark on each side of Written Submissions.
- Font, size, and line spacing: The text font should be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 12, and must be in 1.5 line spacing.



- **Footnotes:** The footnotes must be in font Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, and singly spaced. The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20th Edition) should be followed in the written submission throughout. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page. Substantive/Speaking footnotes are strictly prohibited. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per substantive citation.
- **Header and Footer:** The font used for the header/footer, if any, shall be Times New Roman or Garamond, size 10, and 1 spacing. Noncompliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Written Submissions. **Page Limit:** There is no maximum page limit on the Written Submissions but the pleadings/Arguments Advanced shall be a maximum of 20 pages. No annexures, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the written submission.
- **Binding of Written Submission:** Since the University encourages eco-friendly 10 practices hence, it is recommended that the teams bind their written submission with thread or staple the pages and tape the same or use any eco-friendly method of binding. Non-compliance will result in a penalty of 1 mark per page of the Written Submissions.



## ORAL PLEADINGS -

### 1. General Procedure:

- Teams are requested to bring five (5) hard copies of the Written Submissions for each side to be submitted via post on or before 30th February, 2023.
- The language used during the Oral Pleading Rounds shall only be English.
- The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
  - Preliminary Rounds
  - Quarter-Finals
  - Semi-Finals
  - Finals
- During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
  - Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 1;
  - Appellant/Petitioner Speaker 2 ;
  - Respondent Speaker 1;
  - Respondent Speaker 2;
  - Rebuttal: Appellant - Any one of the two Speakers;
  - Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers.(Rebuttals shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Bench.)
- The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may, however, be allowed to pass notes to the Speakers at the Judges' discretion. Such notes shall be passed through the court clerks present in the courtroom.
- Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Written Submissions.



- The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the Oral Rounds, subject to the discretion of the judges. (Subject to the condition that the rounds are conducted on campus in Offline Mode.)
- Participants may use their own bare acts, printouts, and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
- The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final and binding

## 2. Splitting of Time between Speakers:

- Teams shall notify the Court clerks of the time division between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals as the case may be. This rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded at the discretion of the Judges to not be deducted from the time of the subsequent Speaker.
- While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.
- The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with Judges.



### 3. Exchange of Written Submissions:

- The exchange of Written Submissions shall take place prior to the Oral Pleading Rounds.
- Teams are prohibited from making any marks on the opponent's Written Submissions thus exchanged. Teams are also prohibited from making any copies of the opponent's Written Submission, electronically or otherwise.
- The opponent's Written Submissions shall be returned to the Court clerks after the completion of each Round.

### 4. Preliminary Rounds:

- Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Appellant and once for the Respondent.
- No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.
- The draw of Lots: The match-up of teams in Preliminary Rounds shall be determined on the basis of the draw of lots. The draw of lots shall take place on March 10, 2023.
- Each side shall get a maximum time of 25 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 10 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for a Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute. Each speaker is required to speak for a minimum of 08 minutes exclusive of time taken for Rebuttals and Sur-rebuttals.



## 5. Scoring in the Oral Rounds

- The Preliminary Rounds-
  1. There will be only one (1) Preliminary Round to ensure that each team is given the opportunity to argue from one side of the Proposition. The fixtures for the Preliminary Round shall be determined by the draw of lots. For the Preliminary Round, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the criteria of evaluation of the memorials scores and the speaker scores.
  2. The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds, as determined by the scores of the Preliminary Rounds, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.
  
- The Octa- Final/Quarter-Final Rounds:
  1. For the Octa-Final/Quarter Final Rounds, each team shall argue ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.
  2. The four (4) teams shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds on a knock-out basis, i.e., the winner of each Octa-Final/Quarter Final Round shall qualify for the Semi Final Rounds. The knockouts will be decided on the basis of the rules mentioned above, i.e. based on the score of the oral rounds only.
  3. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with the higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties shall be ranked higher.





- The Semi-Final Rounds:
  1. The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:
  2. Two (2) teams shall qualify for the Final Round on a knock-out basis, i.e., the winner of each Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the Final Round.
  3. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with the higher gross memorial score, i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties, shall be ranked higher.
  
- Final rounds:
  1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rules above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.
  2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the 'Winning Team.' The other team shall be declared as the 'Runners-Up Team.'
  3. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined based on the rules mentioned above, i.e., based on the score of the oral rounds only. The bench strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one (1).
  4. In case of a tie, the team with higher aggregate speaker scores will be declared the winner for that round. If the aggregate speaker scores of the teams are the same, then the team with the higher gross memorial score i.e., the score of the memorial without deducting penalties, shall be ranked higher.



#### 6. Scouting -

- Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organizers. iii. Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.

#### 7. Ex-parte Proceedings:

- Delay in Appearance/Presentation: If a team scheduled to participate in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit an ex-parte.

#### RESEARCHERS TEST -

1. The Researcher's Test shall be conducted on March 10, 2023.
2. In a team consisting of three members, the member designated as the Researcher shall take part in the test.
3. Participants are requested to write only the Team Code on the question paper.
4. The Researcher's Test shall be objective, with questions based on the applicable law, precedents, and facts about the Moot Proposition.
5. The duration of the Researcher's Test shall be 30 minutes.
6. The Researcher's test shall consist of 50 (fifty) objective-type questions carrying 2 (two) marks each. Each wrong answer would lead to a deduction of .50 marks.
7. No additional material, such as the bare text of Acts, Written Submissions, etc., apart from stationery may be brought by the participant to the test, and no such material shall be provided by the Organizers.



## FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION -

1. Accommodation shall be provided to the participating teams for the duration of the Competition.
2. All facilities shall be provided only to the registered members of a team and no additional members, parents, observers, coaches or faculty advisors shall be accommodated.

## MISCELLANEOUS -

### 1. General Etiquette

- Participants are expected to behave dignifiedly and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizers, the Judges of the Competition, or any of the other participants.
- The Organisers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional, or immoral conduct.
- Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Organizers and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Irrespective, participants are requested to make their arrangements for the same.
- The administrator shall not be responsible for any loss of belongings of the team during the Competition.



### INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS -

1. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents, or other decisions in the administration of the Competition, are at the complete discretion of the Organizers.
2. Any decision made by the Organizers shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

### CONTACT DATA -

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