
RULES OF THE PRE-MOOT | SRI LANKA 2021

22 January 2021

1. VENUE

- 1.1 Pre-moot | Sri Lanka 2021 will be held remotely and NOT as hearings in-person in Sri Lanka.
- 1.2 The **General Rounds** will take place on Monday the **1st of March** (Sri Lankan Time). The **Semi-Final Rounds** and the **Final Round** will take place on Tuesday the **2nd of March** (Sri Lankan Time).
- 1.3 The Pre-moot | Sri Lanka will be conducted in English.

2. RULES

- 2.1 The Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules are supplementary to the Vis Moot Rules. The 28th Vis Moot Rules can be found [here](#).
- 2.2 In the event of any ambiguity or apparent contradiction between the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules and the Vis Moot Rules, these Rules shall prevail for the purpose of the conduct of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka.

3. TEAM REGISTRATION

- 3.1 Participation in the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka 2021 is free of charge.
- 3.2 Each academic institution can only delegate one team to participate in the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka, and all teams must be affiliated with academic institutions.
- 3.3 Each registered team must have a minimum of two students, but there is no limitation on the maximum number of students in each team. The same Vis Moot Rules that determine the composition of a team are applicable to teams registering for the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka 2021.
- 3.4 To register a team, please complete the online registration form accessible on the Moot Court Bench webpage which can be found [here](#).
- 3.5 Upon approval of registration by the Organising Committee, the principal contact person from the registered team will receive an email confirming participation in the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka 2021.
- 3.6 The nominated contact person in completing the registration form is also confirming that they have the authority of the university or other higher educational institution to register a team on behalf of the university or institution.
- 3.7 Following Rule 85 of the 28th Vis Moot Rules, all participating teams are required to disclose their team pairings to the Organising Committee of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka as soon as the Vis Moot and Vis (East) Moot pairings are released to avoid any conflicts of interest.
- 3.8 The participating teams must raise any potential conflict of interest by no later than Monday, **15th February 2021, 23:59 (GMT+5:30)**. The Organising Committee of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka is not responsible for any breach of the Vis Moot or Vis (East) Moot Rules by the teams participating in the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka.

4 REFUSAL OR CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

- 4.1 The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse or cancel the registration of any team, and such refusal or cancellation is in the absolute discretion of the Organising Committee deciding jointly.

5 WRITTEN MEMORANDA AND OUTLINES

- 5.1 Teams are not required to submit any written memoranda as only their oral advocacy skills will be taken into account for the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka.

6 REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- 6.1 The following hardware and software are required for teams to access the various Pre-moot | Sri Lanka online sessions:
- Hardware: Mac or PC with minimum screen resolutions of 1024 x 786
 - Broadband connection: Minimum speed of 2mbps for video communication
 - Accessories: Webcam for video communications, microphone / headphones for audio communication
- 6.2 All teams are responsible for ensuring that they have access to the suggested hardware and software and test their connectivity to the system prior to their scheduled argument.
- 6.3 It is best to be stationary during the session and have a direct line to your connection (instead of wireless), if possible. Additionally, arbitrators' and teams' webcam and microphone should be firmly positioned throughout the argument to ensure voices are clearly audible.
- 6.4 Each team and arbitrator are responsible for finding a suitable venue from which to participate. The venue must be a quiet location which can be closed and private and which has adequate and reliable internet connection. Locations in open spaces or hallways or cybercafes or similar areas are NOT permitted.
- 6.5 Teams and arbitrators should ensure that their respective equipment has sufficient power supply to last for at least two hours without interruption.

7 PROCEDURAL RULES OF VIRTUAL HEARINGS

In addition to the Vis Moot Rules the following Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules will apply:

- 7.1 The Pre-moot | Sri Lanka organizers may assign for each argument a 'moderator' to ensure abidance by the present Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules;
- 7.2 Teams shall mute their microphones when not speaking and ensure there is no rustling of papers and extraneous noise throughout the arguments; for the avoidance of doubt, the presiding arbitrator and/or the moderator (designated by the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka organizers) will monitor extraneous noise, and reserves the right to stop an argument if the pleading becomes impossible to hear;

- 7.3 Each round will be recorded and timed. The recording of the pleading may be provided upon request. Sharing of the recording, if provided, is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule may affect the institutions' participation in future Pre-moot | Sri Lanka.
- 7.4 Teams who fail to participate in their scheduled argument without providing a valid reason 24 hours prior shall be deemed to have forfeited from the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka, and all their scheduled arguments shall be cancelled.
- 7.5 If counsel does not appear for a round by 15 minutes after the scheduled time, the arbitrators should proceed to hear arguments from the counsel present. Arbitrators are to regard absent counsel as having forfeited their opportunity to present arguments and may not grant any points.
- 7.6 However, if the absence is due to technical connectivity issues, then the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka organizers may reschedule the session further to consultation with the Arbitral Tribunal.
- 7.7 If during the hearing, any party or arbitrator incurs a technical problem that delays the proceeding by more than 5 minutes, then the arbitrators reserve the right to extend the overall pleading time for the impacted party. The Pre-moot | Sri Lanka organizers reserve the right to reschedule the hearings to another time, if such delays impact the hearing for more than 15 minutes.
- 7.8 At the end of the argument, the teams will remain in place. Arbitrators may offer immediate verbal feedback to teams.

8 SCORING

- 8.1 Scoring of teams participating will follow Rule 73 of the 28th Vis Moot Rules.
- 8.2 Scores may vary from 50 to 100 as per the following:
 - a. Excellent: 91-100;
 - b. Very Good: 75-90;
 - c. Good: 60-74; and
 - d. Improvement needed: 50-59.
- 8.3 Each arbitrator is expected to make an individual decision as to the score to be awarded. Nevertheless, a widely divergent score, whether higher or lower than the others, raises questions as to the criteria used by the arbitrator in question. As such, arbitrators are encouraged to confer with a view to having scores that are within the same band ((50 - 59 = improvement needed); (60 -74 = good); (75 - 90 = very good); (91 - 100 = excellent)) or otherwise generally within 10 marks.
- 8.4 There is no requirement that the arbitral panel agree on the scores to be allocated to each pleader. However, the arbitral panels may, and are strongly encouraged to, discuss scoring at the end of a hearing and prior to submitting the scores through the link. Arbitrators are also encouraged to consider a few words of constructive advice that they can give to the students as feedback to help them improve their arguments.
- 8.5 The Pre-moot | Sri Lanka organizers shall notify teams as soon as practicable after the general rounds of those teams who have qualified to the elimination rounds.

9 DISCLAIMERS

- 9.1 By participating in the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka, arbitrators, team members and coaches agree to disclose their personal information specified in the registration form to the Organising Committee of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka, members of the arbitral tribunal and the opposing team.
- 9.2 This information is necessary for scheduling and technical purposes. All personal information will be stored by the Organising Committee of the Pre-Moot and will not be shared with anyone except for the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Working and Organising Committee involved in the organisation of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka.
- 9.3 The Organising Committee has the right to set, amend and/or revise these Rules without prior notice and/or release any supplemental or amending regulations which shall be made available to the public within 2 days of such amendment on the Moot Court Bench Website. The amendments shall take effects upon being made accessible on the website.
- 9.4 The interpretation of the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules is within the sole discretion of the Organising Committee.
- 9.5 By agreeing to participate in Pre-moot | Sri Lanka, all teams and arbitrators acknowledge that the Organising Committee have full and final discretion in managing the Pre-moot Sri Lanka.
- 9.6 All questions about the Pre-moot | Sri Lanka Rules should be directed to the Organising Committee at premoot@themootcourtbench.com. Any decision made by the Organising Committee is final and binding.