



**EIGHTH SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL,
PUNE - INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION
[SICTA - 2023]**

APRIL 20, 2023 – APRIL 23, 2023

RULEBOOK



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**1. DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE –
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2023 (SICTA-
2023)**

The following terms have the corresponding meanings:

- 1.1 “**ADMINISTRATORS**” mean Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune; Student Bar Chairperson and the SLSP - Student Bar Association of Symbiosis Law School, Pune and / or any other person(s) appointed to administer the Competition by the Director and /or Student Bar Chairperson and /or the said Association.
- 1.2 “**COMPETITION**” means Eighth Symbiosis Law School, Pune– International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023.
- 1.3 “**DISQUALIFICATION**” means that the team will not be allowed to participate in the competition and therefore, shall not be awarded a Certificate of Participation or any Prize. Further, the participating Law College / School / University may not be allowed to participate in any of the future Mooting and other inter alia events organized by Symbiosis Law School, Pune.
- 1.4 “**JUDGE**” means a person appointed to evaluate a Participants’ Memorial / Oral Pleadings.
- 1.5 “**STUDENT BAR CHAIRPERSON**” means the Faculty In-Charge of the SLSP – Student Bar Association of Symbiosis Law School, Pune.
- 1.6 “**MOOT PROPOSITION / COMPROMIS**” means the official Compromis including the annexures as well as the evidences and testimonies of the Competition supplemented or corrected by any Compromis Clarifications or Corrections as published by the Administrators.
- 1.7 “**MEMORIAL**” means the written submission by each participating Law College / School / University submitted pursuant to the Rules of the Court.
- 1.8 “**PENALTIES**” mean Point(s) deducted for violation of Rules by the Participants, pursuant to

- 1.9 “**COMPROMIS CLARIFICATIONS**” mean the official clarifications of the Competition Compromis and of the Rules, as published by the Administrators.
- 1.10 “**PARTICIPANTS**” mean student representatives from eligible Law College / School / University, recognized by the Administrators, participating in the Competition, pursuant to Rule 3.
- 1.11 “**RULES OF THE COURT / RULES**” means the Official Rules of the Competition and any applicable supplementary rules.
- 1.12 “**SCOUTING**” means that participants must only attend rounds in which their team is pleading. Upon the commencement of the oral pleading rounds, participants will not be allowed to interact with the public before they enter their court room and shall be seated in a separate room assigned to them by the Administrators.

2. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 2.1. Symbiosis Law School, Pune is hosting the Eighth Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023 on International Criminal Law in accordance with the procedure of the International Criminal Court, The Hague, Netherlands based on the Rome Statute, 1988.
- 2.2. The Competition has been conceived with the aim of creating awareness for International Criminal Law Jurisprudence and providing a platform for development of advocacy skills which shall further the interest of justice in the domain of International Criminal Law.
- 2.3. The *Eighth Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023* is scheduled from **April 20 to April 23, 2023**. The Competition will be conducted via an online platform. The details regarding the online platform shall be intimated in due course.
- 2.4. The *purpose* of organizing the *Eighth Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023* is to:
1. Help participants to understand the nuances of International Criminal Justice System;

2. Encourage participants to consider careers in the International Justice System;
3. Give a real-time simulation of ICC Trial Proceedings;
4. Develop participant's understanding on the different roles and planning techniques, etc. employed by the Office of the ICC Prosecutor, defense and victim(s);
5. Develop analytical argumentative skills and production of evidences effectively.

3. **ELIGIBILITY**

This competition shall be open to all students actively enrolled in Bachelor (Five-Year Course & Three-Year Course) and Masters Programme of Law. Exchange students may participate on behalf of their host university.

4. **COMMUNICATION MEDIUM OF THE COMPETITION**

The competition shall be organized and conducted in the English language.

5. **TEAM COMPOSITION**

- 5.1. The maximum number of participants per team shall be restricted to 3 wherein only 2 of them can be Speakers. A team may also consist of only 2 Speakers. Only the Participant who is a Speaker in all the three Preliminary Rounds shall be eligible for the award of the Best Speaker.
- 5.2. The identity of the team [name of the Law College / School / University] must not be disclosed to the *Judges* as well as to the other *Participating Teams*. Any such disclosure shall lead to disqualification under Rule 11.
- 5.3. No Team Coach or Assistant or any other person shall be accompanying the Team other than the specific registered participants.

6. **REGISTRATION**

- 6.1. It is an INVITE ONLY Competition.
- 6.2. The Registration fees is **INR 5000** per team [not more than 3 members].
- 6.3. **The Registration Fee shall be Non-Refundable.**
- 6.4. No change in the names of the participants shall be permitted after the receipt of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the Administrators.
- 6.5. Only one Team is allowed per Law School / College / University.
- 6.6. There will be a three-tier Registration Procedure.

6.6.1. **Invite Only**

Only the Law School / Colleges / Universities which have been sent the Invite for the Competition are eligible to register for the Competition. **All other Law Schools/Colleges/Universities seeking participation in the competition shall do so by sending a request to the Administrators. Decision upon the same shall be the sole prerogative of the Administrators.**

- 6.6.2. The registration is only on the basis of *First-come- first-serve* basis and is reserved for only 27 Teams.

6.6.3. **Provisional Registration**

- 6.6.3.1. The Teams should reply to the Invite sent by the Administrators to book a slot for the Competition by **February 20, 2023 (Monday)**.

- 6.6.3.2. **The team shall not transfer any amount at the stage of Provisional Registration.**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune holds no responsibility for any transfer of registration fee made thereto without the permission of the Administrators.

6.6.3.3. On confirmation of the Team Slot by the Administrators, the Team should complete the Registration with Symbiosis Law School, Pune by sending the following duly filled documents via email along with the proof of payment of registration fee at symbiosismoot@symlaw.ac.in before February 28, 2023:

- A. *Registration Form;*
- B. *Authorization Letter from the participating Institute; and*
- C. *Proof of Payment of Registration Fees.*

6.7. Registration Fee:

The mode of payment and corresponding details for the registration fee shall be conveyed to the participants along with the official confirmation of their provisional registration.

6.8. Any delay in completion of the final registration process within the stipulated deadline may result in cancellation of your confirmed provisional registration upon the sole discretion exercised by the Administrators.

7. MEMORIALS

7.1. Each team must prepare Memorials for the Prosecution, the Defense and the Victim(s).

7.2. The soft copies of the memorials must be emailed to symbiosismoot@symlaw.ac.in and the subject of the mail should be marked as “Memorial Submission by Team Code for Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023” by **April 10, 2023 (Monday) before 09:00 P.M. IST (2100 hours).**

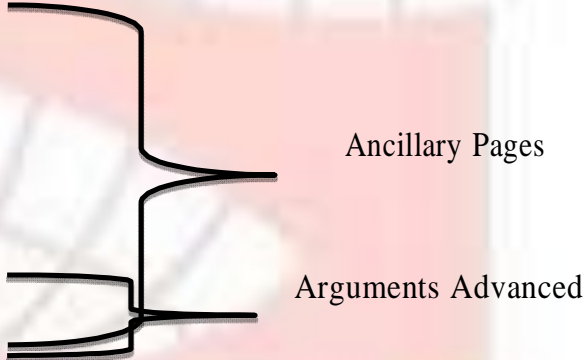
7.3. The *soft copy of the memorial* for each side shall be a **single file** (*All parts of each memorial must be in a single document i.e., Separate Ancillary Pages and Arguments in Detail are NOT allowed*), and should be sent in both **PDF (*.pdf)** and **MS – Word (*.doc / *.docx)** versions. The Memorials for the Prosecution, the Defense and the Victim(s) should be *sent in the same email.*

7.4. *Soft copy of Memorials submitted after the stipulated time i.e. [April 10, 2023 (Monday) after 09:00 P.M. IST (2100 hours)] will attract a penalty of Five (5) marks for each hour of delay and Ten (10) marks for delay of each day i.e. [from April 11, 2023 (Tuesday) 12:00 Midnight IST (0000 hours)]. The Memorials will only be accepted till 09:00 P.M. IST (2100 hours) on April 11, 2023.*

7.5. *The ‘Arguments in Detail’ and the ‘Prayer’ in each memorial should not exceed more than 7,500 words excluding Footnotes.*

7.6. The memorials should not contain the name of the participating Law College / School / University, name of the participants, name of the country of the participating Law College / School / University or any identification in any part thereof. *No logo or any mark of identification should be made in the memorials. Non-compliance with this rule will lead to immediate disqualification.*

7.7. *The memorials must contain the following:*

- A. Cover Page;
 - B. Table of Contents;
 - C. Index of Authorities;
 - D. Statement of Facts;
 - E. Issues Presented;
 - F. Summary of Arguments;
 - G. Arguments in Detail;
 - H. Prayer
- 
- Ancillary Pages
- Arguments Advanced

7.8. The Cover Page of the Memorial must have the following color scheme:

Blue: Prosecution Cover Page

Red: Defense Cover Page

Yellow: Victim(s) Cover Page

7.9. The Cover Page of each memorial must contain the following information:

- A. The Team Code should be mentioned in the upper right-hand corner. For instance, if the Team Code of the Participating Team is SICTA_150; the Memorial Code on behalf of Prosecution would be “SICTA_150_P”, for the Defense would be “SICTA_150_D” and for the Victim(s) would be “SICTA_150_V”.
- B. Name of the Competition.
- C. Year of the Competition.
- D. Name of the Case [Name of the Parties].
- E. Party for which the Memorial has been prepared.
- F. Name of the Forum resolving the dispute.
- G. Word count.
- H. Charges against the Accused.

7.10. The Memorial **SHALL NOT** contain any Annexure / Photographs / Sketches / Exhibits / Affidavits etc.

7.11. The Memorial shall be formatted according to the following specifications:

- A. Typed on standard *A4 size page*.
- B. *Font type:* Times New Roman
- C. *Font size for body text:* 12
- D. *Font size for footnotes:* 10
- E. The text of the *Memorial* and *Text of Footnotes* should be **1.5 lines** spaced.
- F. *Font size* for the *cover page* may be 14 or 12.
- G. *Margin:* 1 inch or 2.54 cm margin on each side of the A4 size page.

- H. Quotations of sources of 50 words or more in any part of the memorial should be block quoted, indented.
- I. The participating teams should include Header and Footer in their memorials to the effect that the *Header should mention the full Name of the Competition and the Footer should mention the page number and the side on whose behalf the memorial is submitted.*
- J. The **Page Number** should be mentioned at the **bottom left corner of the page.** The Ancillary Pages should be numbered in *Roman Numeric* and the Arguments in Detail should be numbered in *Alphanumeric*.
- 7.12. The footnotes must follow the *Harvard Bluebook Method of Citation, 20th Edition*.
- 7.13. The memorials will carry a *maximum of 100 marks each*. The marks scored by the teams in the memorials will be added only to the three preliminary rounds. The weightage of Memorial Marks shall be **30%** of the Total Scores in each Preliminary Round.
- 7.14. **PARAMETERS FOR JUDGING THE MEMORIALS ARE:**
1. Logical development of ideas;
 2. Novelty in analysis and arguments;
 3. Variety & depth of research (new points and unique interpretation of fact/law);
 4. Understanding pertinent legal issues;
 5. Clear, concise and unambiguous writing style;
 6. Integration of facts into legal argument;
 7. Appropriate inference of the facts from the Evidence;
 8. Understanding of strengths and weaknesses of the case;
 9. Discussion of viable alternative arguments;
 10. Proper use of citations and citation form;
 11. Effective use of authority to support arguments;
 12. Ability to distinguish adverse cases &
 13. Neatness, legibility and formatting.

8. ROUNDS

8.1. Advocate Attire / Dress Code:

8.1.1. The dress code during the competition rounds shall be Formal Wear.

8.2. Number of Rounds:

8.2.1. Three Preliminary Rounds

8.2.2. Semi-Final Rounds and

8.2.3. Final Round

8.3. Orientation Program:

8.3.1. There will be an Orientation Program for all the participants on *April 20, 2023*.

8.3.2. It will be followed by a draw of lots & exchange of memorials.

8.3.3. Thereafter, Sides for Pleadings will be allotted.

8.4. *Preliminary Rounds:*

8.4.1. There will be three preliminary rounds of arguments per team, one on behalf of the Prosecutor, other on behalf of Defense & another on behalf of Victim(s).

8.4.2. The teams will be allotted the sides mentioned in Rule 8.4.1. based on the draw of lots and fixture. No team shall appear before each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds. Each team will face a different Bench in their Second and Third Round of the Oral Pleadings.

8.4.3. Preliminary Rounds will be held from *April 21-22, 2023 (Friday-Saturday)*, and the top nine teams will qualify for the Semi - Final Rounds.

8.4.4. The top nine teams shall qualify on the basis of rounds won (three wins), wherein each round shall carry **70% weightage** of Each Oral Round Marks of the Team and **30% weightage** of the Total Marks secured in the Memorials submitted by the Team. **In case of a tie, the team with the highest Preliminary Oral Round Marks shall qualify for the Semi- Final Round.**

8.5. *Semi-Final Round:*

- 8.5.1. The Semi-Final Round shall be a **Knockout Round** and will be organized on **April 22, 2023 (Saturday)**.
- 8.5.2. The Teams winning the Semi – Final Round in their respective Trial Chamber shall qualify for the Final Round.
- 8.5.3. The roles of the top nine qualified teams shall be determined through the selection of side by the teams through draw of lots.

8.6. *Final Round:*

- 8.6.1. The winner from each Trial Chamber of the semifinal round shall qualify for the Final Round.
- 8.6.2. The roles of the teams shall be determined through the selection of side by the teams through draw of lots.
- 8.6.3. The final round will be conducted on **April 23, 2023 (Sunday)**.

8.7. *Results:*

- 8.7.1. Results of Preliminary Rounds and Semi-Final Rounds will be announced **within 180 minutes** after the completion of these Rounds.
- 8.7.2. The result of the Final Round and the winners of the various categories will be announced only during the Valedictory and Prize Distribution Ceremony scheduled on **April 23, 2023 (Sunday)**.

9. ORAL PLEADINGS

- 9.1. All the participating teams shall report at the link provided by the Administrators on **April 21, 2023 (Friday) at 08:00 A.M. IST (0800 Hours)**.
- 9.2. There will be an Orientation Session for all the participants on the aforementioned date followed by a draw of lots & exchange of memorials.
- 9.3. The oral rounds will commence on **April 21, 2023 (Friday)**.

9.4. The procedure of the Trial is in the following Chronological Order:

1. Registrar Calls to Order, Calls Case and Counsels Introduce Themselves
2. Victim Counsel's Application for Recharacterization of Facts
3. ICC Prosecutor's Opening Statement
4. Defense's Opening Statement
5. Examination-in-Chief of **PW-1** by ICC Prosecutor
6. Examination of **PW-1** by Victim(s) Counsel
7. Examination of **PW-1** by Defense Counsel

Note: The same shall be repeated for PW – 2.

8. Examination-in-Chief of **VW-1** by Victim(s) Counsel
9. Examination of **VW – 1** by ICC Prosecutor
10. Examination of **VW – 1** by Defense Counsel

Note: The same shall be repeated for VW – 2.

11. Examination-in-Chief of **DW - 1** by Defense Counsel
12. Examination of **DW – 1** by ICC Prosecutor
13. Examination of **DW – 1** Victim(s) Counsel

Note: The same shall be repeated for DW – 2.

14. Prosecutor's Closing Statement
15. Victim's Closing Statement
16. Defense's Closing Statement

9.5. MARKING CRITERIA FOR ORAL PLEADINGS:

The judges will assess the performance under the following heads:

1. *Knowledge of the facts;*
2. *Proper and articulate analysis of the issues arising out of the facts;*
3. *Understanding of the international legal principles directly applicable to the issues;*
4. *Ability to explain clearly international legal principles in general adherence to the time allotted;*
5. *Knowledge and use of legal sources: treaties, custom, general principles of international laws;*
6. *Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy from related aspects of international law);*
7. *Logic and reasoning;*
8. *Organization and clarity;*
9. *Persuasiveness and Deference to the court;*
10. *Understanding of Law of Evidence and Procedure related to the ICC;*

10. ANONYMITY

- 10.1. Participants may introduce themselves to the court by their individual code only.
- 10.2. The team's college name should not be mentioned at any time.
- 10.3. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors and observers shall refrain from identifying a team's school/college at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing and carrying any identifying items, such as badges, blazers, or pins or carrying identifying material (such as a book with a college logo, or college seal).

11. PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATION

Notwithstanding anything written as a part of the abovementioned rules, the following penalties shall be levied on the participants:

A. Disqualification of the Team on the grounds of:

i. SCOUTING.

ii. Breach of the ANONYMITY as provided under **Rule 10** in any of the following circumstances:

- a. During the Oral Proceedings, either before the Judges or other participants, or
- b. Through passing of any note or research material during the Oral Proceeding, or
- c. Through any such identification of team's Law School / College / University at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing and carrying any identifying items, such as badges, blazers, or pins or carrying identifying material (such as a book with a college logo, or college seal), or
- d. In any manner through the Memorial Submitted by the Team, as provided under **Rule. 7.6.**

B. Submission of Soft copies of the Memorial in two parts i.e., Separate Ancillary Pages and Arguments in Detail is not allowed. The memorials should be sent in the same first mail. Pursuant to **Rule 7.3**. Non-compliance shall attract a penalty of **Ten (10) Marks** from each side.

C. The "*Arguments in Detail*" including the "*Prayer*" in each memorial should not exceed more than **7,500 words** excluding Footnotes. Pursuant to **Rule 7.5**, failure to comply with the Word Limit shall attract a penalty of **Two (2) Marks per 100 words.**

D. Non - Compliance on mentioning the pages contained in the memorial under **Rule 7.7** except **Rule 7.7[A]** and **Rule 7.7[G]**, shall attract a penalty of **Half (0.5) Mark** from each side.

E. Non-compliance of **Rule 7.8** providing for color scheme of the Cover page (hard copy) shall attract a penalty of **One (1) Mark** from each side.

- F. Non-compliance with the rules under 7.9[B], 7.9[C], 7.9[E], 7.9[F], 7.11[A], 7.11[C], 7.11[D], and 7.11[G] shall attract a penalty of **Half (0.5) Mark** from each side.
- G. Non-compliance with the rules under 7.9[D], 7.9[G], 7.11[B], 7.11[E], 7.11[I] and 7.11[J] shall attract a penalty of **One (1) Mark** from each side.
- H. Non-compliance with the rules under 7.12 shall attract a penalty of **Two (2) Marks** from each side.
- I. **Non-Adherence** to any of the Rules of the Competition or any Rules of the Organizing College and misbehavior or unlawful conduct by the participating team from any College / University / Law School will result in disqualification of the team from the Competition.

12. DECISION

- 12.1. Decision of the Judges shall be final and binding.
- 12.2. Decision of the Administrators shall be **BINDING** in interpretation of any rules of the procedure or for any query except as mentioned under clause 12.1.

13. FOR QUERIES REGARDING THE COMPROMIS

- 13.1. All queries and clarifications regarding the competition Compromis shall be collected via a google form. A separate mail with the google form link will be circulated in due course of time and the clarifications may be sought latest by **March 03, 2023 (Friday)**.
- 13.2. A list of all the clarifications, if any, will be mailed to all the participating teams by **March 13, 2023 (Monday)**.

14. PRIZES

SR. NO.	AWARDS	PRIZE MONEY (INR)
1.	Winning Team	Rs. 60,000/-
2.	First Runners Up Team	Rs. 30,000/-
3.	Second Runners Up Team	Rs. 15,000/-
4.	Best Student Advocate	Rs. 10,000/-
5.	Second Best Student Advocate	Rs. 6,000/-
6.	Best Student Advocate of Final	Rs. 6,000/-
7.	Adv. Manan Sanghai Best Defence Advocate Award – International	Rs. 12,000/-
8.	Adv. Manan Sanghai Best Defence Advocate Award –India	Rs. 6,000/-
9.	Best Memorial	Rs.10,000/-
10.	Second Best Memorial	Rs. 6,000/-
11.	Shree P.V. Ramanayaa Memorial - Best Prosecutor Award	Rs. 5,000/-
12.	Best Witness Award	Rs. 5,000/-
13.	Second Best Witness Award	Rs. 3,000/-

15. CONTACT DETAILS

STUDENT ORGANIZERS:

Mr. Gaurav Lalwani (Convenor, SICTA - 2023):

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