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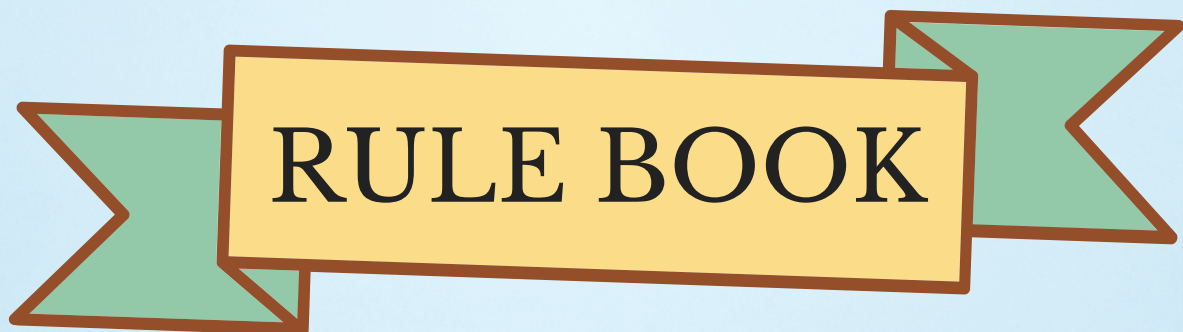


**DR. D. Y. PATIL UNITECH SOCIETY'S
DR. D. Y. PATIL LAW COLLEGE,
PIMPRI, PUNE**

In association with

**VIVANT HOLISTIC SKILL
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PUNE**

Presents



For

**1ST VIRTUAL NATIONAL
MEDIATION COMPETITION 2021**

NOVEMBER 19 TO 21, 2021

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PART 1: ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Mediation is best described as "conflict resolution without the need for a courtroom."

Mediation is a party-centric process and the mediator assists and guides the parties towards their own resolution. The mediator does not decide the outcome but helps the parties understand and focus on the important issues i.e. needs and interests which are needed to reach a resolution. Negotiators set down their talents to the test in a non-conflict setting, in order to protect their interests, while still negotiating the finer points of the deal in order to avoid future conflict and maintain connections. Mediation Competition is a one-of-a-kind format that will assist students in comprehending interest-based negotiation from both a practical and commercial standpoint. To this effect, Dr. D. Y. Patil Unitech Society's Dr. D. Y. Patil Law College, Pimpri, is organizing its 1st Virtual National Mediation Competition in association with Vivant Holistic Skill Development Centre, Pune to offer law students across the country an opportunity to cultivate and enhance their mediation and negotiation skills and provide the participants with an opportunity to test their core mediation skills and experience mediation sessions through rounds of competitive simulations.

PART 2: DEFINITIONS

1. **Assessors:** It shall refer to the professionals invited by the Organizing Committee to evaluate the team's performance during the mediation session in accordance with the judging criteria.
2. **Caucus:** It shall refer to a separate and confidential meeting between the Mediator and a Negotiating Pair.
3. **Clarification:** It shall refer to procedural order or any clarification issued by the Organizing Committee.
4. **Client:** It shall refer to a participant appointed to act as a client i.e., disputing party in a mediation session.
5. **Competition:** It shall refer to the 1st Virtual National Mediation Competition at Dr. D. Y. Patil Unitech Society's Dr. D. Y. Patil Law College, Pimpri, Pune-411018 in association with Vivant Holistic Skill Development Centre, Pune.
6. **Conference Room:** It shall refer to the Zoom Cloud Meeting link of the Mediation Competition Session.
7. **Confidential Information:** It shall refer to the confidential elements to be considered in determining the strategies and tactics of the Negotiation Pair in a given mediation session and which shall not be disclosed to the opposing team.

8. Counsel: It shall refer to a participant appointed to act as a legal counsel in a mediation session.
9. Institute: It shall refer to any University, College, or Institute, providing 3 years and/or 5 years law courses and is approved by the Bar Council of India.
10. Mediator: It shall refer to the member of the participating team who has applied and registered for the Competition as a Mediator.
11. Mediation Proposition: It shall refer to the problem released by the Organizing Committee for resolving disputes for the competition.
12. Mediation Session: It shall refer to the given time frame for each round of the competition.
13. Organizing Committee: It shall refer to the person-in-charge, faculty, and student coordinators of organizing and managing the competition.
14. Participants: It shall refer to only bonafide students of the University/College/Institute who have applied and registered for the competition by complying with the procedure prescribed.
15. Rounds: It shall refer to the Preliminary round, Quarterfinal round, semi-final round, and Final round of the competition.
16. Requesting Party: It shall refer to the party to which the competition has assigned the role of the party which has requested the negotiation.
17. Request for clarification: It shall refer to an official request to clarify the proposition released by the Organizing Committee.
18. Responding Party: It shall refer to the party to which the competition has assigned the role of the party which has to respond to the request of negotiation.
19. Team: It shall mean and include a Negotiating Pair (Client & Counsel) and a Mediator representing their law institute.
20. Team Code: It shall refer to the unique number allotted to the team which will be used to identify it throughout the Competition.

PART 3: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Online Platform:** The National Mediation Competition will be conducted virtually via Zoom Cloud Meeting on 19th, 20th & 21st November 2021.
- 2. Virtual Etiquette:** All the participants are required to have access to a good internet connection. Participants are expected to be in a quiet environment free from any form of nuisance. Participants should join 15 minutes prior to the scheduled round. While in a round, the participants must have their video on all the time.
- 3. Internet Connectivity and contingencies:** Due to bad internet connectivity, if a participant fails to be online in the Competition session for a continuous period of 10 minutes, judges of the competition may take decision with respect to disqualification or reduction of marks of the concerned team depending upon the circumstances. In this case, total time of the Competition session may vary depending upon the decision of the judges of the competition.
- 4. Dress Code:** The dress code of the competition shall be formal and appropriate for the competition preferably white and black formals.
- 5. Language:** The official language of the Competition shall be English.
- 6. Adherence of time:** All the teams shall strictly adhere to the prescribed time limit of each round of the Competition.
- 7. Anonymity:** Each team must represent themselves with their respective team code which is allotted by the Organizing Committee and must not reveal their institute's identity. It is mandatory to join the meeting for the scheduled round with the 'Team code+ First name of Participant + Role of the Participant' as a name.
- 8. Adherence of Rules and Regulation:** Participants must adhere to the rules and regulations prescribed in this document.

PART 4: ELIGIBILITY

All bonafide Students either pursuing 3 years or 5 years law course from any institute recognized by the Bar Council of India are eligible for the Competition.

Each institute shall have a limitation of maximum of two teams for participation.

PART 5: TEAM COMPOSITION

The team shall be made up of 3 members which include a mediator, a counsel, and a client. The role of participants shall remain unchangeable throughout the Competition.

PART 6: CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules mentioned hereunder.

1. Date of the Competition: The Competition will be held virtually on 19th, 20th and 21st November, 2021.
2. Time Limit: The Competition shall consist of the following Rounds. Time Limit of Mediation Session is mentioned against respective round. The Preliminary Rounds: This round will be of 40 minutes + 10 minutes + 2 minutes, The Quarter-Final Rounds: This round will be of 45 minutes + 10 minutes + 2 minutes, The Semi Final Rounds: This round will be of 50 minutes + 10 minutes + 2 minutes. The Final Round: This round will be of 60 minutes + 10 minutes + 4 minutes. Caucus or private session is a part of the mediation session, which can be for 5 minutes.
3. It shall be noted that strategic time break is additional time provided to each team and rules of strategic time break are explained in Part 7.
4. Proposition of the Competition: Each Competition proposition consists of General Information only. Confidential Information for the Requesting Party and Responding Party will be released before one (1) hour of the respective Competition rounds. There will be four (4) separate Competition propositions used during the Competition. The teams must rely only on the facts mentioned in the Competition problem. Neither the Negotiating Pair nor the Mediators are empowered to create any new fact or change any of the fact of Competition proposition, but may make reasonable inference(s) only from the facts given in the proposition.
5. Clarification of Proposition: For clarification of the proposition, a meeting will be conducted as mentioned in Event Itinerary.
6. Release of Confidential Information: Confidential Information will be released one hour (1 hour) before the Competition via email.
7. Amendment of rules: The Organizers may at any time amend the rules of the Competition with due notice to all the participants.
8. Finality of the Result: Decision of the Judges shall be final regarding the outcome of the rounds.

PART 7: STRATEGIC TIME BREAK

- 1.The Negotiating Pair will be permitted one strategic time-break of 1 minute for each team to discuss privately. It is urged that the audio and video be switched off during such breaks.
- 2.For final round, Negotiating Pair will be permitted one strategic time-break of 2 minutes for each team to discuss privately.
- 3.The mediation session time will be paused during such time-breaks. Therefore, the strategic time-break will be in addition to the mediation session time.
- 4.If the cap of 1 or 2 minute/s is exceeded, the exceeding time will be reduced from the mediation session time. It is important to note that there is only one such break allowed per Negotiating Pair i.e., a total of two breaks in the session. The cap of 1 minute cannot be divided into multiple breaks.
- 5.The members are allowed to communicate via call, WhatsApp or messages during the rounds in a way that does not disrupt the mediation session.
- 6.It is advised that the strategic time-break be taken wisely, if and when necessary to confer with their partner.

Part 8: PERMITTED MATERIAL DURING THE MEDIATION SESSION

- 1.In a Competition session, teams are permitted only the use of personal notes and stationery items.
- 2.During each Competition session, Negotiating Pair and the Mediator shall use an Electronic Gadget either a Laptop or a Desktop Computer for the purpose of participating in a Competition Session via video-conference.

PART 9: DISQUALIFICATION

Team may be disqualified from the Competition on the following grounds.

- 1.Violation of rule regarding anonymity during the Mediation Session shall lead to the disqualification of the team. (Disclosure of the identity of the institution is not allowed.)
- 2.Causing delay in the commencement of rounds shall be strictly avoided.
- 3.Misconduct, whether behavioral or otherwise (Cheating or using unfair means) shall lead to disqualification of team.
- 4.The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify the team having unethical, wrongful or unprofessional conduct.

PART 10: CRITERIA FOR JUDGING THE COMPETITION

Criteria for Judging a Mediator shall be as follow:

- 1. Communication Skills:** Under this criterion, mediator will be assessed on the following parameter;
 - Opening statement
 - Demonstrating the skill of active listening
 - Creating trustworthy and neutral atmosphere by using constructive language
 - Effective summarizing &re-framing wherever required
 - Highlighting the key points of the discussion
- 2. Establishment of cordial environment:** Under this criterion, Mediator is expected to possess the following qualities:
 - To establish amiable environment for both the parties to make negotiation a smoother and conceivable process.
 - To demonstrate the skill of building trust in joint and caucus session.
 - To demonstrate the ability to defuse conflicts during the mediation session.
- 3. Co-operation between Mediators:** This criterion will look upon for following skills in the mediators:
 - To have cooperation and healthy relation among the mediators.
 - To effectively divide the work of conveying the mediation process to the party.
 - To support and cooperate to the co-mediator.
- 4. Facilitation Skill:** Under this criterion, participant will be assessed on the basis of his/her skill
 - To assist the parties to separate interests from position.
 - To ask timely and appropriate close ended / open ended questions.
 - To assist/encourage parties to find out more viable options.
- 5. Demonstrating the skill of handling Impasse:** Under this criterion, below-mentioned skills are expected:
 - The skills of resolving deadlocks.
 - Timing and reason for calling for a Caucus .
 - Reality check / Fact check with parties.
 - The ability to prevent mediation process from stalling down.

Qualities of good Mediator: This criterion expects following qualities in a good mediator:

- To possess skills to identify and acknowledge interests, views, emotions and feelings of parties.
- To demonstrate the ability to maintain neutrality throughout the session.
- To make parties focused on the interest-based negotiation.
- To have effective preparation for mediation.

Management of session: Under this criteria following qualities of a mediator may be appreciated:

- To maintain decorum.
- To hold control of the mediation process.
- To monitor the progress of the mediation process time to time.
- To adapt the flexibility as per needs and circumstances.

Criteria for Judging Negotiating Pair shall be as follow:

1. Communication Skills: Under this criterion, negotiating pair will be observed based on following parameters:
 - Opening statement (conveying one's need and interest).
 - Demonstrating the skills of active listening.
 - Effective information gathering.
 - Conveying and clarifying of the core needs.
2. Demonstrating Skills of Identifying and Advancing the Interest: This criterion expects Negotiating Pair to demonstrate following skills:
 - Division of roles and responsibilities between client and counsel.
 - Demonstration of skill to identify the core interest and ability to convey it in the session without any deviation.
 - Ability to identify the interest of other party.
3. Negotiation Skills: Under this criterion, it is expected from the Negotiating Pair to possess below-mentioned skills:
 - To be responsive to the viewpoints of others.
 - To make strategic disclosure of Confidential Information.
 - Assertion of the Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement (BATNA).
 - Effective preparation and strategy.

4. **Dispute Resolving Skills:** This criterion expects negotiating pair to possess following skills:
 - To be of innovative mind and forecast multiple adaptable options.
 - Demonstration of flexibility to the options.
 - Focusing on interest rather than position.
 - Rapport building with the other party.
5. **Professional conduct and time management:** Under this criterion various facets of the Negotiating Pair will be judged i.e.,
 - To be considerate about the needs, interest, emotions and view of the other party.
 - Reality check.
 - Using ethical and professional strategies.
 - Timely conclusion of round.
6. **Effective Use of the Mediator:** This criterion looks upon the Negotiating Pair to demonstrate following qualities:
 - To seek the mediator's help at the right time and in an appropriate manner.
 - Constructive response to mediator's interventions.
 - Effective use of caucus and joint session.
7. **Client Counsel Teamwork and Camaraderie:** This criterion assesses below-mentioned qualities:
 - The effective working of the Client and Counsel together.
 - To communicate subject matter relevant to respective roles.
 - To advocate and protect the client's interest.

PART 11: AWARDS

1. The winning team will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹ 10,551.
(Winning team is a team which has Best Mediator as well as best Negotiating Pair.)
2. The 'First Runner Up' will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹ 8,551.
3. 'The Best Mediator' will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹4,000.
4. 'The Best Negotiating Pair' will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹ 4,000.
5. Appreciation Award (Team from Semi Final Round) will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹3,000.
6. Appreciation Award (Team from Quarter Final Round) will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹2,500.
7. Appreciation Award (Team from Preliminary Round) will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹2,000.
8. "Susamvaad" an Online Dispute Resolution Platform offers free internship to all winning participants from all categories.
9. An e-certificate of participation will be provided to all the participants.

PART 12: Orientation of Participants of the Competition and Handing over Mediation Tool-kit

The Organizing Committee of 1st Virtual National Mediation Competition passionately believes in equal opportunity, and in order to nurture this spirit alongside the Competition, we have planned a training session for all of our eager competitors. These types of sessions expose participants to high-quality training, allowing them to perform very well throughout the Competition.

Understanding how to use various sessions in the mediation process is crucial. Thus, the session will explain to the young participants how private caucus sessions and joint sessions function. Furthermore, the session will hopefully provide the glimpse of the collaborative approach which is important in the mediation process. Dates of Orientation of Participants and handing over of tool kit are mentioned in Event itinerary.

Part 13: REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 1.Registration for the Competition shall be made online by way of Google Form link as given below: [Click here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2tZyBt54GNI4zxCThIdmMpZaH5hXv3b1NrhZjYZFZ6a1E_Q/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2tZyBt54GNI4zxCThIdmMpZaH5hXv3b1NrhZjYZFZ6a1E_Q/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0
- 2.The link shall remain activated till 10th of November, 2021 up to 08:00 PM sharp.
- 3.Registration Fee for the Competition is ₹2000. Details of online payment are provided in the registration form itself.
- 4.Participants shall register only in teams of 3, as per the Rules.
- 5.In any case, registration fee is non-refundable.
- 6.Official email id for all correspondence with respect to the Competition is mediationdypatillawvivanthsdc@gmail.com.
- 7.There are a limited number of seats and the registration of participants will be confirmed on a 'first come first served' basis.
- 8.Any participant who wishes to withdraw from the Competition shall inform the organizing committee well in advance.

Contact Details for solving query from Rule Book:

- **Dr. S. S. Gopakumar:** 98238 08168
- **Asst. Prof. Vanita Mohod:** 95950 42977
- **Asst. Prof. Madhavi More:** 98505 03172
- **Asst. Prof. Anjum Ajmeri:** 96237 86899

Student Coordinators:

1. **Ms. Mrinal Pandey:** 81494 75089
2. **Ms. Aarushi Dubey:** 74708 33114
3. **Ms. Vaishnavi Kashyap:** 97983 61978
4. **Mr. Rishabh Agarwal:** 93355 36240

Annexure 1: Event Itinerary

Commencement of Registration	25th October,2021
Last date for Registration	10th November,2021
Release of Proposition	7th November,2021
Orientation for the Participants	11th November,2021
Handing over of Tool Kit to the Participants	11th November,2021
Demo of Competition	12th November, 2021
Clarification of Proposition	12th November, 2021
Conduct of Preliminary Round	19th November, 2021 and 1st half of the 20th November, 2021
Conduct of Quarter Final Round	2nd Half of the 20th November, 2021
Conduct of Semi-Final Round	1st Half of the 21st November, 2021
Conduct of Final Round	Evening Session of the 21st November, 2021
Valedictory Ceremony and Declaration of result	21st November, 2021

Annexure 2: Time Particulars of Rounds

Sr. No.	Rounds	Session Time	Caucus (Each team gets 5 minutes)	Strategic Time	Feedback	Total time
1	Preliminary	40 minutes	10 minutes	2 minutes	15 minutes	67 minutes
2	Quarter	45 minutes	10 minutes	2 minutes	15 minutes	72 minutes
3	Semi final	50 minutes	10 minutes	2 minutes	20 minutes	82 minutes
4	Final	60 minutes	10 minutes	4 minutes	30 minutes	104 minutes