



**THE ADR CELL**  
Government Law College

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**2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT**  
**LAW COLLEGE NATIONAL ADR**  
**TRIATHLON: RULES OF THE**  
**COMPETITION**





**I. GENERAL:**

**1. The Competition**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Government Law College National ADR Triathlon (GLC-NAT) [**“Competition”**] shall be conducted by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell, Government Law College, Mumbai [**“ADR Cell”**] in accordance with the following rules.

The Competition shall take place virtually, on Zoom Meetings, or any other platform that shall be announced by the ADR Cell.

The Competition shall consist of three rounds, in the following order:

- a) The Client Counselling Round
- b) The Negotiation Round
- c) The Mediation Round

The General Flow of rounds shall be as follows:

- a) Each team will participate in every round regardless of their performance in the previous round.
- b) Each team may decide on the roles to be chosen by its members for the various rounds of the Competition, provided that each member of a team must participate in a minimum of 1 round.

**2. Eligibility Criteria**

- a) Each team shall comprise 3 members only.
- b) Participation is limited only to *bona-fide* law students who are currently pursuing an undergraduate, dual law degree (5 Year Course), or an LL.B. (3 Year Course), at a recognized college and/or university in India.
- c) It is clarified that no student shall be eligible to participate, who on the date of the commencement of the competition, has ceased to be a student of the qualifying degree programme.



### 3. Registration

a) In order to confirm participation for the GLC-NAT, the registration fee must be furnished by the stipulated date to the ADR Cell, in the manner directed.

b) The registration fee is **Rs. 3,000/- per team**. It must be paid by NEFT/IMPS/UPI to:

**Name- The ADR Cell Government Law College Account**

**Number- 36742972873**

**IFSC Code- SBIN0004283**

**Bank- State Bank of India**

**Branch- PBB Churchgate, Mumbai**

c) Upon making the payment, the team must fill up the google form circulated by the ADR Cell and upload a scanned copy/receipt of the payment, containing the requisite transaction details in the form itself.

d) The ADR Authority of the participating college/university must provide an "Authority Letter", indicating that all participants are *bona-fide* students authorized to represent the college/university. The Authority Letter must be uploaded in the google form.

e) The google form must be submitted on or before **30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**. If a team fails to do so, the provisional registration shall be deemed to be forfeited.

### 4. Code of Conduct

a) A team may be disqualified for any kind of misconduct on the part of any team member during the competition. In any such dispute, the matter is to be settled as per the procedure laid down in Section 5 (Grievance Redressal).

b) Misconduct includes, but is not restricted to:

i. Disclosure of one's identity and the identity of the institution they represent to any assessor of the competition or other participant.

ii. Scouting and sharing of Confidential Information or particulars of the problems.



- iii. Any attempt to obtain Confidential Information with regard to the problems of either Negotiation or Mediation, or to obtain problem particulars with regard to the Client Counselling segment.
- iv. Any other *mala fide* or unfair conduct which may give a team an unfair advantage over the other teams or disadvantage a team against another.
- c) All teams, participants, and assessors are bound by the ADR Cell Equity Policy. Any violation of the same will result in strict action as per the Policy.

**5. Grievance Redressal**

- a) Any violation of the code of conduct in Section 4 herein, shall be addressed to the Professors In-Charge and the General Secretary of the ADR Cell. Their decision regarding the same shall be final and binding.
- b) Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance at the earliest.
- c) Each aggrieved party shall have an adequate opportunity to be heard.
- d) Grievances other than those regarding equity policy violations shall have a reasonable limitation period.

To clarify, a grievance of such nature must be communicated to the ADR Cell within the earliest possible time and no later than the valedictory ceremony of the Competition.

**6. Rules of Participation**

- a) The teams shall receive a confirmation mail from the ADR Cell confirming their registration and will be provided with a team code.
- b) The introductory orientation and the draw of lots shall take place on **25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**. The Client Counselling Round and the Negotiation Round shall take place on **26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**. The Mediation Round and the Valedictory Ceremony shall take place on **27<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**. All participants have to be present on all three days of the Competition. Absence on any of the days of the Competition, without providing a just cause, may lead to disqualification.



- c) On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the teams shall be assigned a party based on the draw of lots. They shall represent the same party for the entire duration of the competition. *Provided* that, upon the failure of the team to choose up a side during the draw of lots, the ADR Cell reserves the right to allot a side to such a team.
- d) After the Client Counselling Round, the team matchups for the Negotiation and Mediation Rounds, shall be released on the basis of allotted team codes.

**7. Additional Rules of Conduct for the Virtual Round**

- a) A member of the ADR Cell shall create one WhatsApp group chat per team for ease of communication.
- b) All communication and information regarding the Competition including the Meeting ID and password shall be sent on the said group chat in addition to the e-mail address provided by the team.
- c) All participants are advised to be active on the WhatsApp group 30 minutes before their respective round is scheduled to begin.
- d) The participants are required to use laptops or PC. They are not permitted to log into the meeting through mobile phones, unless prior permission is sought from the ADR Cell.
- e) The participants must join the meeting 15 minutes before their respective round is scheduled to begin.
- f) The participants must join the meeting using the team codes assigned to them and not their own names.
- g) For the Mediation Round, Mediators must join the meeting 40 minutes before the round is scheduled to begin.
- h) The participants must keep their videos on throughout the round.
- i) The participants must ensure that they have a good internet connection with good audio and video facilities.
- j) The participants must ensure that any noise or audio other than the voice of the participant should not cause any disturbance in the round.
- k) The participants must not leave the meeting before the end of the round.



- l) Any team member getting disconnected shall be provided 5 minutes to reconnect. If they are unable to reconnect, the round shall continue irrespective of the absence of the disconnected member.

#### **8. Miscellaneous**

- a) The Competition shall take place online. Therefore, the ADR Cell will not provide accommodation to any participant.
- b) Coaches: No team coach/advisor shall be permitted to be present with the team during the Competition.
- c) Dress Code: Members of the Participating Teams shall be dressed in formal attire for the duration of the competition. Both Western and Indian Formals are permitted.
- d) Official Language: The Official Language of the competition shall be English.
- e) Tie: In the event of a tie between two teams, the tie shall be resolved on the basis of the aggregate points of certain components in the score sheets of all assessors assessing the round. The aforementioned components shall be notified in the score sheet, which shall be released to the participants in advance.
- f) All final decisions regarding the scoring and ranks shall be taken by the assessors who have judged that particular round. Their decision shall be final and binding.
- g) Scoresheets: Participants shall be provided with their scoresheets after the completion of the competition.
- h) Equity Policy: The Competition shall have an Equity Policy. The Equity Policy operates separately from these Rules. An equity policy briefing shall be provided to the teams on the day of the introductory orientation, i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022. An equity committee shall be entrusted with all matters governing, relating or arising in relation to the Equity Policy.
- i) Photography and Videography: Participants agree to be photographed and their rounds videotaped during the Competition. These photos and videos shall remain the property of the ADR Cell.



**9. Awards**

- a) Best Team: The team acquiring the highest cumulative score across all three segments of the Competition.
- b) Runner's Up Team: The team acquiring the second-highest cumulative score across all three segments of the Competition.
- c) Best Client Counselling Pair: The team acquiring the highest score in the Client Counselling segment of the Competition.
- d) Best Negotiating Pair: The team acquiring the highest score in the Negotiation segment of the Competition.
- e) Best Mediating (Client-Attorney) Pair: The negotiating team acquiring the highest score in the Mediation segment of the Competition.
- f) Best Mediator: The mediator acquiring the highest score in the Mediation segment of the Competition.

**10. ADR Cell – Residuary Rules**

- a) The ADR Cell may take such other measures as are required for the orderly and fair conduct of the Competition.
- b) The ADR Cell's interpretation as to the implementation of the Rules shall be final and binding. The ADR Cell reserves the right to amend the rules as and when deemed necessary.
- c) The ADR Cell's decision on any matter before and during the Competition shall be final and conclusive i.e. no appeals shall lie from any decision of the ADR Cell.



## **II. CLIENT COUNSELLING**

### **1. Nature of the Segment**

The segment seeks to simulate a law office consultation, in which two participating members of a team, acting as lawyers are approached by a client with a specific matter for legal advice. The client for the specific round shall be provided by the host college.

### **2. Team Composition**

This round will consist of only two members of the participating team, acting as Counsels consulting a Client. The non-participating team member may only spectate the round.

### **3. Time Limits**

The teams shall have a maximum of 45 minutes- of which 35 minutes are for client interviewing and counselling, while the remaining 10 minutes are for a post-consultation session.

### **4. Rounds**

- a) The lawyers should elicit relevant information about the problem from the client. "Relevant information" may include matters that affect the client considerably but may not be "legally" relevant. They should develop a reasonably complete and reliable description of the problem and reflect this understanding to the client.
- b) It is clarified that participants shall render legal advice to the client, referring to the laws prevailing in India.
- c) The client consultation session shall be followed by a post-consultation session during which the participants, in the absence of the client, shall be expected to legally analyse the various issues that the case presents, and discuss the future course of action. They shall further be expected to discuss the recommendations made by them to the client and whether an alternative approach could be or have been adopted to attain a better outcome from the session. The assessors may also question the teams on their discussions.
- d) Participants are advised that they must keep in mind professional rules of ethics and





conduct as applicable to lawyers, and act accordingly during the round. It is clarified that all participants shall be deemed to be subject to professional rules of ethics and conduct as issued by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act, 1961.

**5. Area of Law**

The broad areas of law shall be released on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 in the form of an Office Memo written by the Office Secretary for the concerned lawyer.

**6. Reference Material**

- a) The team members may consult any book or notes they carry along with them.
- b) No props, presentation charts, equipment or slides shall be permitted during the rounds.



### **III. NEGOTIATION (Client – Attorney)**

#### **1. Nature of the Segment**

- a) This round seeks to simulate a negotiation between teams based on the General Information and different sets of Confidential Information privy to each side.
- b) Each team will represent the same side as allotted during the client counselling round.

#### **2. Team composition**

This round will consist of two teams comprising of one client and one attorney each, negotiating with the opposing pair. The non-participating team member may only spectate the round.

#### **3. General Information & Confidential Information**

- a) The General Information will be based on all the facts that would have been disclosed by the Client in the Client Counselling Round.
- b) A copy of the factsheet shall be provided after the Client Counselling Round.
- c) The Teams shall receive the Confidential Information corresponding to the side they are representing, 60 minutes prior to the Negotiation Round.
- d) The amount of time that has been given to a team after the release of the Confidential Information may be increased or decreased as per the discretion of the ADR Cell, considering unforeseen circumstances and the same shall be notified in advance.

#### **4. Time Limits**

Each Negotiation Round will span over 45 minutes.

#### **5. Props & Reference Material**

- a) The team members may consult any book or notes they carry along with them.
- b) Presentation charts, white-board or slides shall be permitted during the rounds, subject to the approval of the assessors. However, it is clarified that it will carry no weightage in the marking criteria.



#### **IV. MEDIATION (Client – Attorney and Mediator)**

##### **1. Nature of the Segment**

A Mediation session shall consist of two competing teams, with two team members on each side representing both the parties to the dispute, aiming to negotiate a transaction or the resolution of a dispute facilitated by two mediators.

##### **2. Team Composition**

- a) All members of the team shall participate in this round as a client, an attorney and a mediator respectively.
- b) No Mediator shall mediate in the room wherein their team members are participating as a Negotiating Pair.

##### **3. General Information & Confidential Information**

- a) The general set of facts shall remain similar but further enhanced compared to the prior rounds. The Confidential Information from the Negotiation round shall form part of the General Information and an updated copy of the fact sheet shall be provided.
- b) The party that a team shall represent during a round will remain the same.
- c) Each round shall have a set of common facts and different sets of Confidential Information for each side. Mediators shall only be entitled to common facts, and the Confidential Information shall not be shared with them at any time before the round.
- d) The General Information will be released after the Negotiation Round.
- e) The Confidential Information will be released 60 minutes prior to the rounds.
- f) The amount of time that has been given to a team after the release of the Confidential Information may be increased or decreased as per the discretion of the ADR Cell, considering unforeseen circumstances and the same shall be notified in advance.



**4. Caucuses**

- a) A Mediation Round may be aided by a caucus or private session. A Caucus is an individual session in which only one party converses with the Mediators in the absence of the opposing party.
- b) The Mediators or any member of the team may call for a Caucus.
- c) A Cross Caucus is permitted. Cross Caucus is one in which the Clients from either side talk to each other in the absence of their attorneys, but in the presence of the Mediator; or the Attorneys in the absence of the Client, but in the presence of the Mediator.
- d) Each Caucus or a Cross Caucus may last no longer than 5 minutes.
- e) Each Competing Team has the right to call for one Caucus and one Cross-caucus during Mediation.
- f) The Mediator is responsible for ensuring the time limits of the caucus are not violated.

**5. Time Limit**

The round will span over 60 minutes.

**6. Props & Reference Material**

- a) The team members may consult any book or notes they carry along with them.
- b) Presentation charts, white-board or slides shall be permitted during the rounds, subject to the approval of the assessors. However, it is clarified that it will carry no weightage in the marking criteria.