

MOCK TRIAL: RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. AIM AND PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

1.1. Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa aims at developing participants' questioning skills, critical thinking, and oratory skills. The mock trial aims nurturing the litigation, evidence establishment and developing knowledge of Trial Courts.

2. LANGUAGE

2.1. Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa shall be conducted in the English language only.

3. DATE AND VENUE

3.1. Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa shall be conducted from April 29, 2022 to May 2, 2022. It will be held online through Cisco WebEx Meetings.

4. DRESS CODE

4.1. The dress code shall be strictly business formals.

4.2. Advocate's gown and white band are prohibited. Participants shall make their own provisions to comply with the dress code.

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5. ELIGIBILITY

5.1. The Competition shall be open to all law students who are pursuing LLB (3 years or 5 years) course in any university authorised by the Bar Council of India.

6. TEAM COMPOSITION

6.1. Each team shall contain two members (speakers) only.

6.2. Each member of the team shall be provided with an Individual team member code. For example: One team with a general code 'A' would have both the speakers assigned codes such as 'A1' and 'A2'.

6.3. Each team member is required to use the team codes assigned to them compulsorily, and are not allowed to disclose their names during any of the rounds under any circumstances.

6.4. Changes in the team composition shall not be permitted, once the Final Registration is confirmed by the organising committee of Fete de la Nomos.

6.5. The participants are not permitted to disclose the identity of their college/university, either directly or through symbolic representation from their dress code or through applications; books; compendiums and any other material submitted or used by the participants.

7. REGISTRATION

7.1. The participation in the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Fete De La Nomos National Mock Trial Competition, 2022 is restricted to 24 teams only. The first 24 teams that confirm and complete the final registration formalities as enumerated under Article 7 of the Rules of the Competition shall be entitled to participate in the said Competition.

7.2. Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the Competition will have to provisionally register by Google Forms as circulated by the organisers.

7.3. The slots shall be reserved based on a '**first come first serve**' basis. The first 24 teams through their respective Official College Email ID to send the duly filled Registration form.

7.4. The Teams shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of INR 708/- (inclusive of 18% GST) by way of payment as specified by the organisers following the registration mail.

7.5 In case of any queries or clarifications, the participants are requested to mail to slucufete.lavasa@christuniversity.in only.

8. COMPETITION ROUNDS

8.1. Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa shall be conducted in the following two phases:

- Procedural Test
- Oral Rounds

8.1.1. Procedural Test

1. The Procedure Test shall be conducted on April 28, 2022. The details of the same would be communicated with the team members.
2. The Procedure Test shall be an objective test of twenty-five (25) MCQs, with each question carrying two (2) marks and there shall be a negative score of 0.5 for every wrong answer.
3. Only one member per team shall appear for the Procedural Test.
4. The Test will be proctored and conducted on Google Forms on the aforementioned date.
5. The Test, as the name suggests, shall be based on the laws of criminal trial in India - Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act

6. If the team member is found using mobile phones, tablets, laptops etc. except from the device via which the test is being taken, it would lead to consequences based on the discretion of the organisers of the competition.
7. The teams shall mention only the 'Team Code' on the question paper.
8. The Procedural Test would be of 50 marks. In case of tie between two teams in the Procedural Test, the following procedure shall be applicable:
 - a) The question numbers: 5, 15 and 25 are the star marked questions. The team which gets the highest number of star marked questions as correct shall be considered to resolve the tie between/among the teams with the same overall Procedure Test score.
 - b) If the tie still exists after considering the result of star marked questions, the highest number of double-star marked questions: 10, 12 and 23 in the Procedure test shall be the second tie-breaker.
 - c) If the tie still exists, the team which gets the highest aggregate of correct star marked and double-star marked questions shall be the final and conclusive tiebreaker.

8.1.2. Oral Rounds: Each team has to prepare for both sides and represent such side they get before a stipulated time of the rounds.

1. There shall be four rounds conducted for the purpose of this Competition:
 - a) Preliminary Rounds- Each team shall argue before a distinct Bench once as the Prosecution and as the Defence.
 - b) Quarter Final Rounds- The top eight scoring teams from the Preliminary rounds shall qualify for the Quarter Final Rounds.
 - c) Semi Final Rounds- The top four scoring teams from each Quarter Final Round (respective Court Hall) shall qualify to the Semi Final Rounds.
 - d) Final Round- The top two scoring teams from each Semi Final Round (respective Court Hall) shall qualify to the Final Round.
2. Each speaker shall have to conduct Examination-in-Chief and Cross Examination of at least two witnesses in each round. Each Speaker shall deliver either the opening statement or the final argument in each round.

3. The Organisers shall provide the teams with witnesses for all the rounds. Teams shall be allowed to brief their witnesses for 45 minutes before the Quarter-final Round and for 60 minutes before the Semi-final Rounds and Final Round respectively.
4. The witnesses are deemed to be under an Oath, and the teams may not administer the same before examining. They shall be seated outside present in the WebEx Meeting during the Opening Statement and the Examinations but may be muted with their videos off.
5. The order of speakers and the examination and statements they would present, is to be intimidated by the teams to the Court Officers before the commencement of the rounds and can be altered only with the permission of the Organisers. The order of Speaker 1 and Speaker 2 may be reversed by the teams, in their oral rounds only with the permission of the Organisers before the start of the respective Round. However, swapping between Speaker to a Researcher and vice versa is allowed only with an email to the organisers of the Fete de la Nomos.
6. The teams may examine all or the minimum prescribed number of the witnesses, within the time allotted to them. No additional evidence or witness may be produced or examined apart from what has been provided by the organisers of Fete de la Nomos.
7. If Team 'A' (Prosecution) against Team 'B' (Defence) fails to examine the prescribed minimum number of Prosecution witnesses in the allotted time, the Judges shall score only according to the witnesses examined and Team 'A' shall be restricted to deliver their closing arguments only on the oral evidence of the witnesses examined during the Trial.
8. The Prosecution shall not conduct Examination-in-chief of any of the Defence witnesses and likewise for the Defence, irrespective of the total time left for the examinations.
9. The time allocated for any of the phases of the Trial, if not utilised, shall not be utilised for any other phase of the Trial, i.e., if Team 'A' (Prosecution) has utilised only two (2) minutes in their Opening statement, cannot utilise the remaining one (1) minute in any other phase, such as Examination-in-chief of Prosecution witnesses or Cross examination of the Defence witnesses.

10. There shall be no re-examination of any of the witnesses from both Prosecution and Defence.
11. The proceedings of the Round, in specific the Examination-in-Chief and Cross Examination shall be recorded by Cisco WebEx Meetings.
12. After completion of evidence, the teams shall take notes of evidence by Prosecution and Defence recorded by the Court. A ten (10) minutes break will be given to the Teams for the perusal of the said notes. The participants shall advance Final Arguments only on the basis of notes of evidence and the exhibited documents so provided to them.
13. If a team submits/refers/files a compendium of cases or cases in-person or any application before the Court, then another copy of the same shall be compulsorily served/given to the opposite party along with the copy to the Bench. Contravention of the same may lead to non-admission of the said document by the Bench.
14. The time allocated for each phase of the Trial shall not be paused during the objections raised, the objection argument, the Court questions to the witnesses in either of their examinations, and the questions posed to the Counsels in both Opening Statement and Closing Arguments. For every extra minute taken by a team, in any phase of the Trial, a
0.5 mark shall be deducted from the total marks by each Judge.
15. Allocation of time (Preliminary, Quarter Finals and Semi-Final Rounds):

Each Team shall get a maximum of 47 minutes in each Preliminary Round. Thus, the total time of each Preliminary Round shall not exceed 110 minutes including the ten (10) minutes break for perusal of notes of evidence and the feedback from Judges.
 - Opening Statement by the Prosecution 03 minutes
 - Opening Statement by the Defence 03 minutes
 - Chief Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses 16 minutes
 - Cross Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses 20 minutes

- Chief Examination of all the Defence Witnesses 16 minutes
- Cross Examination of all the Defence Witnesses 20 minutes
- Closing Statement by the Prosecution 08 minutes
- Closing Statement by the Defence 08 minutes

16. Allocation of time (Final Round):

Each Team shall get a maximum of 62 minutes in the Final Round. Thus, the total time of the Final Round shall not exceed 140 minutes including the fifteen (15) minutes break for perusal of notes of evidence.

- Opening Statement by the Prosecution 05 minutes
- Opening Statement by the Defence 05 minutes
- Chief Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses 20 minutes
- Cross Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses 25 minutes
- Chief Examination of all the Defence Witnesses 20 minutes
- Cross Examination of all the Defence Witnesses 25 minutes
- Closing Statement by the Prosecution 12 minutes
- Closing Statement by the Defence 12 minutes

17. Tie-breaker in the Grand Total score of Preliminary Rounds (out of 1100):

- a) To resolve the tie between/among the teams with the same Grand Total score, the team which secures the highest aggregate of speakers' average score in both the rounds shall be considered first tie-breaker.
- b) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest score in the procedure test shall be considered second tie-breaker.
- c) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest correct star marked questions shall be considered third tie-breaker.

- d) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest correct double star marked questions shall be considered fourth tie-breaker.
- e) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest aggregate of correct star marked and double star marked questions shall be the final and conclusive tiebreaker.

18. Tie-breaker in the Grand Total score of the Quarter-finals; Semi-finals; and Final Round:

- a) To resolve the tie between the teams with the same Grand Total score, the team which secures the highest aggregate of speakers' score in 'Ability to Conduct Examination-in-Chief and Cross Examination' column of the scoresheet in that particular Round shall be considered first tie-breaker.
- b) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest aggregate of speakers' score in 'Understanding of Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act' column of the scoresheet in that particular Round shall be considered second tie-breaker.
- c) If the tie still exists, then the team which has secured the highest aggregate of speakers' score in 'Persuasiveness; deference to the Court; and time management' column of the scoresheet in that particular Round shall be considered third and final tie-breaker.

9. ORDER OF EVENTS

9.1. The order of the events for Fete de la Nomos 2021 would be as follows:

- Opening statements by the prosecution
- Opening statement by defence
- Examination in Chief of PW 1 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 1 by the defence
- Examination in Chief of PW 2 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 2 by the defence

- Examination in Chief of PW 3 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 3 by the defence
- Examination in Chief of PW 4 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 4 by the defence
- Examination in Chief of PW 5 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 5 by the defence
- Examination in Chief of PW 6 by the prosecution
- Cross Examination of PW 6 by the defence
- Examination in Chief of DW 1 by the defence
- Cross Examination of DW 1 by the prosecution
- Examination in Chief of DW 2 by the defence
- Cross Examination of DW 2 by the prosecution
- Closing statement by the prosecution
- Closing statement by the defence

10. WITNESSES

10.1. The witnesses shall be provided by the organisers. The number of witnesses shall depend on the mock-trial case.

10.2. It is mandatory to examine the accused individuals.

10.3. Up to 30 minutes would be allotted to the teams for preparing witnesses. The witnesses are expected to be well-versed with the facts, circumstances and the issues of the case. Nothing outside the course of the facts and circumstances provided by the organisers shall be claimed during the arguments by the witnesses.

11. COURT ROOM ETIQUETTES

11.1. The participants for the team shall address the judge as ‘Your Lordship’, during the course of the arguments. Do not interrupt or argue with the judge, opposite council, witnesses, court clerks. It is mandatory to maintain the court room etiquettes.

11.2. The permission of the Court has to be taken while approaching the witnesses.

11.3. During the course of the competition, leading witnesses is not allowed and would lead to consequences. Do not insinuate facts which your team will not present evidence to support.

11.4. It is mandatory to respect the time allotted for each argument. The timings may be extended at the discretion of the judges and organisers.

11.5. The team members should log in 5 minutes prior to the allotted time. If a team member is not logged in on time, it shall depend on the judge and the organiser committee of Fete de la Nomos as to whether to admit them or not.

11.6. During the course of the argument, the camera and the microphone should be operative. Please ensure that the surroundings are as quiet and professional as possible.

11.7. The witnesses and the councils are expected to be well-versed with the facts and the circumstances of the case.

12. DISQUALIFICATION

12.1. The following circumstances would lead to immediate disqualification of the team:

- a) Any unethical, unprofessional and immoral conduct/behaviour during the trial;
- b) Court etiquettes, if not followed;
- c) Failure to adhere to the rules and regulations of the competition;
- d) Failure to respect the time of the Court.

13. DEFINITIONS

13.1. The following words shall have the corresponding meanings for the purpose of Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa:

13.1.1 **'Trial'**- 'Trial' for the purpose of this Competition shall refer to the Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa.

13.1.2 **‘Organisers’**- ‘Organisers’ mean the Organising Committee of Fete de la Nomos, conducted by the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Lavasa, various subcommittees constituted, and any person appointed by the said Committee.

13.1.3 **‘Disqualification’**- ‘Disqualification’ means that the members of the team will not be allowed to participate in the Competition; they shall not be awarded a Certificate of Participation or any cash prize/award.

13.1.4 **‘Judge’** - ‘Judge’ means any person appointed by the Organisers to evaluate the Trial.

13.1.5 **‘Penalties’**- ‘Penalties’ refers to the points which are deductible on account of nonadherence to limitation on the Court’s time and on any other ground as determined by the organisers.

13.1.6 **‘Participants’**- ‘Participants’ refers to a student representing his/her respective College/University, recognised by the Organizers to participate in the Competition.

13.1.7 **‘Rules’**- ‘Rules’ mean and include the Rules & Regulations of the Competition, any other supplementary Rules notified and issued by the Organisers as and when necessary and the General Code of Conduct of CHRIST (Deemed to be University).

14. MISCELLANEOUS

14.1. The participants would not be provided with presentation rights during their arguments for any reason.

14.2. The decision of the judge shall be final and binding.

14.3. Decisions regarding interpretation of any of the rules shall be taken by the organisers. This decision shall be final and binding on the participants.

14.4. Please follow a proper sense of fairness in competition and remember the spirit of the competition is to provide an engaging educational activity for the participants.