

# COMPETITION RULES

V RGNUL SEMC

31ST MARCH - 2ND APRIL 2023

Organised by  
**CADR, RGNUL**

**5<sup>th</sup> RGNUL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW MEDIATION  
COMPETITION RULES, 2023**

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law is pleased to organise the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the RGNUL  
Sports and Entertainment Law Mediation Competition

scheduled to take place on

***31<sup>st</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2023***

**Article 1 – General Information**

1. **Language** – The Official Language of the competition, for all purposes, shall be English. All written and oral submissions shall be made in English.
2. **Dress Code** – The Dress Code of the Competition shall be western business formals.
3. **Registration Fees** – The registration fees for the competition shall be Rs. 9,000 + 18% GST per team.
4. **Venue** – The Competition shall be held physically at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab.
5. **Code of Conduct** – CADR, RGNUL reserves the right to disqualify any team for any kind of misconduct on the part of any member of the team or coach, during the dispute. In case of any doubt, the decision of CADR, RGNUL shall be final and binding upon all the interested parties.

**Article 2 – Definitions**

1. **“BATNA”** means the Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement, and refers to what is the most feasible step for a party to take, if the Parties fail to reach an agreement.
2. **“Competition”** means the 5<sup>th</sup> RGNUL Sports and Entertainment Law Mediation Competition, 2023.
3. **“Competition Administrator(s)”** means Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR), RGNUL.
4. **“Competition Date(s)”** means 31<sup>st</sup> March- 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2023
5. **“Competition Rules”** means the rules and guidelines mentioned, herein.
6. **“Confidential Information”** means factual information, given exclusively to one party, in accordance with the rules of the competition.

7. “**Eligible Student**” means a student enrolled in an undergraduate/postgraduate law degree program in any of the universities recognised by the Bar Council of India, as on 1<sup>st</sup> March of this year of the competition.
8. “**General Information**” is the factual information provided to the registered participants by the Competition Administrator(s) which is delineated to be as such.
9. “**Judge**” means a lawyer or an academician nominated and/or selected by the Competition Administrator who evaluates and scores the performance of Participating Team during a Mediation Session in accordance with the Competition Rules.
10. “**Mediator**” refers to a participant who has registered or is designated as a Mediator.
11. “**Negotiating Team**” refers to a team of two participants from a registered university, acting in the capacity of client and counsel for the purposes of the competition.
12. “**Mediation Plan**” means the plan submitted in accordance with Article 6.
13. “**Participating Team**” refers to a team from a recognised law university whose registration has been approved by the Competition Administrator.
14. “**Preliminary Rounds**” stands for the first two rounds of the competition.
15. “**Requesting Party**” stands for the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of negotiation was exercised.
16. “**Responding Party**” stands for the party other than the requesting party in the negotiation proceedings.
17. “**Submission date**” stands for date of submission of the Negotiation Plan for each, as notified by the Competition Administrator.
18. “**WATNA**” means the Worst Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement, and refers to the worst outcome if negotiation fails.
19. “**Website**” means the official website of the Competition Administrator, that can be accessed [here](#).

### Article 3 – Team Composition and Registration

1. Each participating team will consist of three eligible students from the same university, acting as Mediator, Client and Counsel. No changes in the composition will be allowed once the composition has been communicated to the Competition Administrator.
2. The Centre will notify the confirmation of slot, along with the payment link to the selected teams at the earliest.
3. The teams allotted a slot must make the payment of registration fee failing which the slot shall be deemed to have been forfeited.

4. The Centre shall have the right to allot the forfeited slot to other teams.

#### **Article 4 – Release of Proposition**

The proposition for the competition shall be released on the CADR website by the Competition Administrator. Any clarifications in respect to the same can be submitted by the participating teams to the Competition Administrator by filing the Clarifications form available on the website latest by 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

#### **Article 5 - Competition Format**

1. There shall be 2 Preliminary Rounds. The top eight teams of the Preliminary Rounds shall proceed to the Quarter-Final Round. The winning team of each Mediation round in the Quarter Finals shall proceed to the Semi-Final Round. Thereafter, the winning team of each of the Semi-Final Rounds shall proceed to the Final Round. The Ranking and Progression criteria for each round shall be as has been discussed in Article 8. In case of tie between teams during qualification, criteria as prescribed under Article 9 shall be assessed.
2. Each participant shall act as a client and a counsel in the preliminary rounds. Accordingly, after the two preliminary rounds, each participant must have acted as a client and a counsel, individually. For further rounds, the teams shall act as the roles decided originally while registering for the competition.
3. Each party shall be provided with a team code, upon registration, for the purposes of all the rounds of the competition. The participating teams are required to use the team code for all purposes during all the rounds of the competition. The teams must not disclose the names of the team members or their university to the judges of the competition.
4. General Information [GI] for all the rounds of the competition shall be released by the Competition Administrator. Each party will be provided with a set of Confidential Information [CI] for the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final, and final round 30, 35, 40 and 45 minutes, prior to the competition rounds respectively. The parties cannot disclose the CI, to any other party, at any time between its receipt and the conclusion of the concerned rounds, unless disclosure (necessary or appropriate) has been expressly permitted.
5. The participating teams are not allowed to create new facts. Reasonable interpretation of the facts is permissible, and the standard of such reasonability shall be decided by the judges of the competition rounds.
6. Mediators shall not receive any confidential information. While the Negotiating Teams are provided access to the Confidential Information, in the meantime the Mediators match-up [Mediation Duo] can discuss the strategy for the round in their allotted chambers.

7. Time limits are as below:

- i. In the Preliminary and Quarter-Final Rounds, each Mediation Session will consist of 60 minutes, a break-up of which is as follows:
  - (A) 50 minutes for the actual mediation, it shall be inclusive of the maximum of 5 minutes of caucus for each time;
  - (B) 10 minutes (5 minutes per team) feedback by the Judges; and
- ii. In the Semi-Final, each Mediation Session will consist of 70 minutes, a break-up of which is as follows:
  - (A) 60 minutes for the actual mediation, it shall be inclusive of the maximum of 5 minutes of caucus for each time;
  - (B) 10 minutes (5 minutes per team) feedback by the Judges;
- iii. In the Final Round, the Mediation Session will consist of 80 minutes, a break-up of which is as follows:
  - (A) 70 minutes for the actual mediation, it shall be inclusive of the maximum of 5 minutes of caucus for each time;
  - (B) 15 minutes for feedback by the Judges;
- iv. The Judges will have complete discretion to:
  - (A) alter the restriction on time limits set out above; and
  - (B) impose a Penalty for failing to adhere to time limits for the actual negotiation prescribed herein.
- v. Each team will have to mandatorily call for a caucus in a mediation session. When one team calls for a caucus, the mediator shall escort the other team outside. No caucus shall extend beyond 5 minutes.

**Article 6 – Mediation Plan**

1. The parties shall submit a soft copy of the Mediation Plan only for the 2 preliminary rounds in (.doc/.docx and .pdf formats) to the Competition Administrator before the preliminary rounds, on such date and time and in such manner as would be notified by the Competition Administrator. Failure to comply with the Submission Date deadline will attract penalty of 3 marks per day.
2. The Mediation Plan should state the brief facts, core issues, strengths and weaknesses, zone of possible agreements and BATNAs & WATNAs as has been prescribed in the Mediation Plan Outline provided. The teams shall submit one common Mediation Plan for both requesting and responding party for each Preliminary Round and in total two Mediation plans are to be submitted.

3. The Mediation Plan should be covered in 5 A4 sized pages (including the cover page) in the prescribed Plan Outline. The format for the same should be Times New Roman, black ink, size — 12, with 1.5 line spacing. The Plan **should not contain footnotes**, and should not disclose the identity of the team.

### **Article 7 - Judges**

1. The Competition Rounds shall be adjudged by such judges as would be selected by the Competition Administrator.
2. The panel of assessors in the Preliminary Rounds shall comprise of two judges, quarter-finals and semi-finals shall consist of three judges, and the Final Rounds shall consist of five judges.
3. The Criteria for judgement for Negotiating Team shall be as follows –
  - i. **Mediation Plan** – The Mediation Plan shall form the basis for assessing the complexity, strategy, creativity and soundness of solution.
  - ii. **Opening Statements** – The Judges may assess the opening statement in terms of parameters including (but not restricted to) logic, clarity, coherence, analysis, structure, time management, and reference to the problem.
  - iii. **Identification of issues** – The participants must be able to clearly identify and subsequently deal with such issues to establish their argument.
  - iv. **Teamwork and Team Camaraderie** – The teams here shall be tested on areas of mutual support, cooperation, and team chemistry exhibited by both participants in each team during the session.
  - v. **Legal soundness in the arguments of the Counsel; and Commercial prudence in the arguments of the client** – This section shall essentially ensure role fulfilment by participants, and further encourage novel legal and commercial analysis supported by logic.
  - vi. **Question answering ability** – The ability of participants to respond to questions/feedback by judges shall be assessed under this head.
4. The Criteria for judgement for Mediators shall be as follows –
  - i. **Opening Statements** – The Judges may assess the opening statement in terms of parameters including (but not restricted to) clarity, coherence, time management, and reference to the problem, intent to drive the parties to mitigate their conflict.

- ii. **Handling Impasse** – The mediators must be able to handle the deadlocks in the negotiation process and aid the parties in sailing through and moving ahead with their negotiations.
- iii. **Ability to extract Confidential Information** – The mediators shall be tested how creatively and efficiently are they able to extract the confidential information from both the parties and use the same to drive the mediation session.
- iv. **Collaboration with the Co-mediator and the parties** – The mediators shall be assessed on how well they involve the parties and the co-mediator while playing their role. There must be an active collaboration between the participants throughout the season.
- v. **Asking appropriate questions** – The ability of the mediator to assess the situation and ask appropriate question to bring more clarity in the session shall be assessed under this head.

#### **Article 8 - Rankings and Progression**

The preliminary rounds will be conducted on a progression basis. On the basis of the total scores received in the two preliminary rounds, the top 8 teams and mediators will qualify for Quarter-Final Rounds. The Quarter-Final Rounds and the Semi-Final Rounds shall be Knock-Out Rounds and team and mediator winning in each room will qualify for the subsequent stages. The winning teams and mediators from the Semi-Finals Round will advance to the Finals.

#### **Article 9 – Tie-Breakers**

1. Negotiating Teams and Mediators will be ranked and selected on the basis of overall scores in the Preliminary Rounds. In case of tie, total number of score sheets designating ‘wins’ shall be considered.
2. In case of a tie in the score of two or more Negotiating Teams or Mediators in the Knock- Out Rounds (Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals), the team that will advance to the next round or that wins shall be decided on the basis of:
  - i. firstly, the total number of score sheets designating ‘wins’,
  - ii. in the case tie persists, the total number of points scored in that round;
  - iii. and in case there continues to be a tie, their ranking in the Preliminary Rounds of the Competition.

### **Article 10 - Awards**

1. Winner- Negotiating Team (Cash Prize)
2. Winner- Mediator (Cash Prize)
3. Runner-Up- Negotiating Team (Cash Prize)
4. Runner-Up- Mediator (Cash Prize)
5. Best-Negotiating Team [Highest Cumulative score in prelims]
6. Best-Mediator [Highest Cumulative score in prelims]
7. Best-Mediation Plan [Highest average score of the two Negotiation Plans]
8. Certificate of Participation shall be given to all the participants.

### **Article 11 - Disqualification**

For the purposes of the Competition, and subject to the discretion of the Competition Administrator, the following acts shall result in disqualification of the participating team

- i. Change in team composition.
- ii. Disclosure of confidential information, except in the course of the concerned competition rounds.
- iii. Failure to submit Mediation Plan.
- iv. Causing unreasonable delay in the commencement of a round. The evaluation of reasonable limits shall be decided by the judges and the competition administrator and such decision shall be final and binding.
- v. Scouting and unfair conduct.
- vi. Non-compliance with any other rule, mentioned herein.

### **Article 12 - Coaches**

1. Teams are allowed to appoint one and only one individual as their designated “Coach”. The Name, Designation, Relevant Experience in Mediation Competitions, and Contact Details of such individual shall be communicated to the Competition Administrator by 20<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 via email to [adrc@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:adrc@rgnul.ac.in).
2. An appointment will then be confirmed by Competition Administrator on a discretionary basis, and the Competition Administrator is to be informed prior to appointment to ensure there is no conflict of interest, especially with the personnel who are assessing. In case of an occurrence wherein an individual ends up as both a Judge and a Coach, the team they are coaching will be disqualified in case there was no prior intimations.
3. Coaches will be allowed to spectate on the rounds of their teams, and provide guidance only



- i. prior to release of Confidential Information for the round; and
  - ii. subject to conclusion of the feedback session for the round.
4. Coaches are not allowed to engage in scouting of other teams. Such conduct shall lead to immediate disqualification of the team that they are coaching.
  5. Coaches will not be provided accommodation by the Competition Administrator in case they wish to accompany the team to the Competition.
  6. The Competition Administrator reserves the right to notify any future guidelines in this regard.

#### **Article 13 - Miscellaneous**

1. Any information communicated to one of the team members, shall be deemed as information communicated to the whole team.
2. Participants are expected to follow any and all guidelines that may be issued by the Competition Administrator and the University vis-à-vis on campus conduct. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty and/or disqualification.

#### **Article 14 – Saving Provision**

The Competition Administrator reserves discretion in any and all remaining matters, and the decision of the Competition Administrator shall be the final and will not be subject to challenge.



**SCHEDULE I**

**SCORE SHEET (MEDIATION SESSION)**

Negotiating Team Match-up: Team \_\_\_\_\_ v. Team \_\_\_\_\_ Room No: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Expert Assessor's Name:</b>		
<b>Team Code of Requesting Party:</b>		
<b>Team Code of Responding Party:</b>		
<b>Negotiating Parties Scoring Sheet</b>		
<b>Scoring Scale:</b> 1 = Poor 2 = Satisfactory 3 = Good 4 = Very Good 5 = Excellent / Exceptional / Outstanding		
	<b>Requesting Team</b>	<b>Responding Team</b>
<b>Scoring Criteria</b>	Scores	Scores
<b>Communication and Relay of Information (25 pts. max.)</b>		
Clear understanding & narration of facts of the case		
Effective information gathering		
Courteous presentation of opposing perspective		
Efficient use of listening skills and body language		
Appropriate tone and language		
<b>Collaboration and Creating Options (25 pts. max.)</b>		
Allowing scope for flexibility and creativity		
Actively collaborating without compromising on interests		

Generating mutually satisfying solutions		
Building relationship and trust		
Efforts to advancing the process towards resolution		
<b>The Home Stretch (25 pts. max.)</b>		
Using objective criteria in prioritizing interests		
Reflecting interests in outcome		
Weighing up options if Negotiation fails		
Handling emotionally charged moments		
Being respectful of others' interest		
<b>Effective Use of Caucus and Dealing with Impasse (25 pts. max.)</b>		
Strategic revealing of confidential information		
Apt use of mediator during Impasse (not during caucus)		
Productivity of caucus period		
Timing and reasoning for calling caucus		
Positive impact of caucus on immediate conference		
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>		
<b>Minus Points (If any) &amp; Reason</b>		
<b>Final Score out of 100 points</b>		

Winner: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mediators Match-up: Team \_\_\_\_\_ v. Team \_\_\_\_\_ Room No: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Expert Assessor's Name:</b>	
<b>Team Code of Mediator 1:</b>	
<b>Team Code of Mediator 2:</b>	

**Mediators Scoring Sheet**

**Scoring Scale:**  
**1 = Poor 2 = Satisfactory 3 = Good 4 = Very Good**  
**5 = Excellent / Exceptional / Outstanding**

<b>Scoring Criteria</b>	<b>Mediator 1</b>	<b>Mediator 2</b>
	Scores	Scores

**Opening Remarks & Communication Skills (25 pts. max.)**

Effective preparation		
Creating an atmosphere of trust & setting the mood for the first conference		
Delivering an effective opening statement – explaining process and principles		
Use of open and neutral body language and behaviour		
Confirming neutrality, authority and voluntariness		

**Qualities of a good mediator (25 pts. max.)**

Setting guidelines and creating an Agenda for the session		
Identifying and acknowledging interests, views and feelings		
Employing neutral language consistently		
Summarizing, reframing and confirming when needed		

Putting off fires at the table			
<b>Caucus and Dealing with Impasse (25 pts. max.)</b>			
Asking timely and appropriate close ended / open ended questions			
Assisting the parties to separate interests from positions			
Reality check / Fact check with parties			
Encouraging creative options to resolve conflict			
Timing and reason for calling for a Caucus			
<b>Mediation Session Process (25 pts. max.)</b>			
Maintaining decorum and holding control of the mediation process			
Monitoring progress and demonstrating flexibility in adjusting process to the circumstances and needs			
Ability to extract confidential information from parties with aim to take the negotiation forward			
Supporting mediation process by summarizing facts, identifying key information, interests, opportunities and impediments			
Taking active steps to prevent the mediation from stalling and to encourage progress towards resolution			
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>			
<b>Minus Points (If any) &amp; Reason</b>			
<b>Final Score out of 100 points</b>			

Winner: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHEDULE II**

**PENALTY SCORE SHEET (MEDIATION PLAN)**

Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>NATURE</b>	<b>PRESCRIBED PENALTY (IN MARKS)</b>	<b>PENALTY INCURRED</b>
1. A4 Paper Size <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	2	
2. Making up Facts <b>(Ref. Article 5 Rule 5 )</b>	2 per new fact	
3. Exceeding Time <b>(Ref. Article 5 Rule 6)</b>	2 per extra minute	
4. Plain White with Black Ink <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	2	
5. Four-Page Limit <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	5 per extra page	
6. Font Requirements <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3)</b>	2	
7. Spacing <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	2	
8. Margins <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	2	
9. Breach of anonymity <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 3 )</b>	5	
10. Late Submission <b>(Ref. Article 6 Rule 1)</b>	5 per hour	