

NUALS Mediation Competition 2025



Official Rulebook

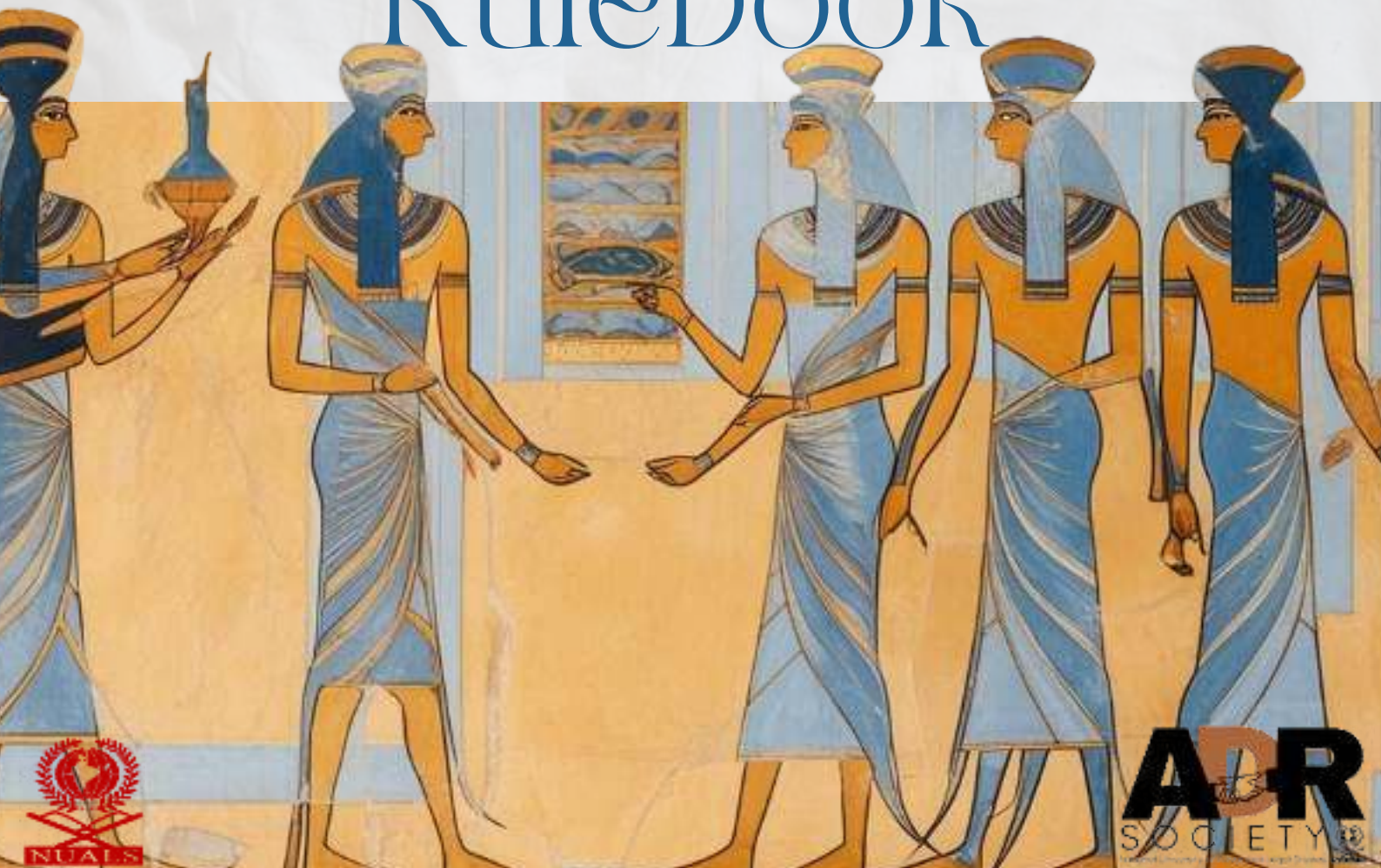


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About NUALS

The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi, established in 2005 by the Kerala State Legislature, is a preeminent institution recognised for its excellence in legal education. Renowned for its distinct approach, it offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs that blend academic rigor with practical training. With its innovative teaching methodologies and unique pedagogy, NUALS fosters an intuitive and dynamic learning environment, shaping future leaders in law.

Nestled within a vibrant 10-acre campus, NUALS boasts state-of-the-art facilities and a student-friendly atmosphere. The University houses over 16 specialised research centres that provide a holistic platform for students and faculty to engage in groundbreaking research. With over 500 vibrant students, the University is a thriving hub of activity, hosting numerous clubs, forums, and societies that encourage both curricular and co-curricular excellence. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Society, which organises the NUALS Mediation Competition, plays a key role in advancing practical skills in mediation and negotiation, reflecting the University's commitment to producing well-rounded, socially conscious legal professionals. NUALS remains dedicated to shaping the future of legal education by cultivating sound legal acumen and promoting innovative approaches to dispute resolution.

About NUALS ADR Society

The NUALS ADR Society (ADRS), established in 2024, serves as the official platform for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) activities at the National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS). As a pioneering body, ADRS is dedicated to fostering a vibrant culture of dispute resolution within the university. It actively organises, facilitates, and promotes student participation in prestigious ADR competitions, both nationally and internationally, equipping them with essential skills to navigate the dynamic and ever-evolving realm of dispute resolution. Hosting the inaugural edition of the NUALS Mediation Competition marks a significant milestone in the Society's journey, underscoring its mission to nurture a culture of excellence in ADR at NUALS.

Beyond competitions, ADRS organises training programs, workshops, and guest lectures conducted by leading practitioners and academicians in the field. These activities aim to empower students with theoretical knowledge and practical insights into mediation, arbitration, and conciliation processes, fostering their ability to contribute meaningfully to the world of dispute resolution. Through its endeavors, ADRS continues to uphold its commitment to nurturing a culture of excellence and innovation in ADR practices at NUALS.

The *Event*

The inaugural edition of the NUALS Mediation Competition (NMC), organised by the NUALS ADR Society is a testament to the rising prominence of mediation as a preferred ADR mechanism catering to the diverse needs of disputing parties. The competition will feature virtual preliminary rounds on February 22, 2025, followed by in-person advanced rounds on March 15-16, 2025.

The NMC serves as a premier platform for aspiring legal professionals to engage with the dynamic field of ADR. Bridging the gap between theory and practice, the competition equips participants with essential skills in mediation and negotiation. By simulating real-world scenarios, it encourages students to develop critical abilities such as problem-solving, effective communication, and creative conflict resolution strategies.

Recognising the increasing importance of ADR in today's legal landscape, the NMC highlights the role of mediation as an efficient, cost-effective alternative to conventional litigation. In an era marked by prolonged judicial processes, ADR methods offer timely solutions, easing the burden on courts and promoting ease of doing business. Participants in the competition gain hands-on experience in dispute resolution while exploring innovative approaches tailored to India's socio-legal framework.

I. *Definitions*

1. "ADR Society" refers to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society established under the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.
2. "Advanced Rounds" refers to the physical rounds consisting of Octa Finals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final Rounds, scheduled for 15th-16th March, 2025 at the campus of NUALS, Kochi.
3. "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.
4. "Caucus" shall refer to a private meeting between the Mediators and a Team. During the Caucus, the overall time of the Mediation Session continues to run.
5. "Clarifications" refers to the queries arising out of the mediation problem that would only be accepted and reverted to in the timeline prescribed.
6. "Counsel" refers to the legal representative of the party/client.
7. "Organising Committee" or "OC" refers to the body of student-faculty-staff, ADR Society and includes any other person, appointed by the Institute for the administration and functioning of the Competition.
8. "Competition" means the NUALS Mediation Competition at NUALS, Kochi.
9. "Competition Administrator(s)" means the ADR Society, NUALS.
10. "Competition Rules" means the rules and guidelines mentioned herein, and shall also include any other document designated by the Competition Administrator as applicable rules for the Competition.

11. "Confidential Information" means factual information, given exclusively to one Negotiating Team, in accordance with the rules of the competition.
12. "Cross-Caucus" refers to a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Counsels or a separate meeting between the Mediator and both Clients.
13. "Dummy Team" refers to the team assigned by the Competition Administrator, in case a registered team fails to appear or withdraws from the rounds to ensure seamless progression of the round.
14. "Eligible Team" refers to any team comprising three members who satisfy the stipulations under Chapter II of the Official Rulebook.
15. "Equity Committee" is the committee established to ensure orderly and fair conduct of the Competition and address any equity-related concerns.
16. "General Information" is the factual information provided to all the registered participants at various stages of the competition.
17. "Institute" refers to the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.
18. "Joint Session" shall mean a session in which both the negotiating teams along with the mediators shall be present and negotiating during a round.
19. "Judge" means the assessor nominated by the Competition Administrator to assess and rate the performance of the Negotiating Team and Mediator(s) in a mediation session, in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the Competition
20. "Mediation Room" refers to the virtual/physical mediation table set-up where the competition shall take place.

21. "Mediator" refers to the neutral participant who shall be acting in the capacity of a mediator for the purposes of the competition.
22. "Moderator" refers to member(s) of the Organising Committee designated as such, in charge of overseeing the smooth conduct of every Competition Session.
23. "Negotiating Team" refers to two participants acting in the capacity of client and counsel for the purposes of the competition.
24. "Participating Team" shall mean any Eligible Team that has completed the Final Registration of the Competition and has not backed out.
25. "Penalty" includes the deduction in marks or disqualification of participants or any other disciplinary action taken by the Competition Administrator on account of any violation of these rules.
26. "Plagiarism" refers to the direct or substantial duplication of the work from the mediation plan of any other team through offline or online source(s).
27. "Preliminary Rounds" refers to the online rounds scheduled for 22nd February 2025, conducted for the purpose of determining the scores and ranks of the participants, based on which teams progress to the Advanced Rounds.
28. "Proof of Enrolment" shall mean to include College Identity Card, Bonafide Certifications, and similar documents.
29. "Qualifying Rounds" refers to Preliminary Round I and Preliminary Round II of the Competition.
30. "Qualifying Teams" refers to the teams and mediators qualifying for Octa-final Rounds.

31. "Registration Fees" refers to the one time amount payable by the participating teams for the online rounds and/or the advanced rounds as the case may be.
32. "Requesting Party" stands for the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of mediation was exercised.
33. "Responding Party" stands for the party other than the requesting party in the mediation proceedings.
34. "Scouting" refers to the act of a person observing the sessions/oral rounds of a team other than the team he/she is a part of.
35. "Soft Copies" of a document includes the document in both PDF (.pdf) and Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
36. "Scoresheets" means the document attached to the Rule book as Annexures 1 & 2.
37. "Scoring Criteria" shall refer to the parameters mentioned in the scoresheet, used by the Assessors to appraise and evaluate the Competing Teams' performances either as Mediators or Client-Counsel Pairs.
38. "Team Code" refers to the unique number allotted to the Negotiating Team, referred to as the Negotiating Team Code, or to the Mediator, referred to as the Mediator Code.
39. "Timekeeper" means a person appointed by the Organising Committee to keep the tab of time during a Mediation/Negotiation Session.
40. "Online Rounds" refer to the Preliminary rounds that will be conducted virtually on the 22 February, 2025.
41. "WATNA" means the Worst Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement, and refers to the worst outcome if negotiation fails.

II. *Eligibility*

1. Only bona-fide students pursuing their 3-year LLB or 5-year LLB program from Law Colleges/Universities recognised by the Bar Council of India are eligible to register for the event.
2. Any Participating Team in the Competition shall comprise 3 members namely, the Client, the Counsel & the Mediator.
3. There shall be no change in the composition of a Participating Team after it has been notified to the Organising Committee. This condition may only be relaxed with the prior permission of the Organising Committee, who may consider the request only under extraordinary circumstances.
4. The Organising Committee reserve the right to define “extraordinary circumstances” on a case-to-case basis.
5. Subject to 2(1), each Law College/University shall send up to two Participating Teams.
6. **Cross-institutional teams are eligible** to register for the event. Provided the Negotiating Team consists of participants from the same Law College/University.

III. Team *Compositión*

1. Any Participating Team in the Competition shall comprise a *Negotiating Team* and a *Mediator*.
2. Each *Negotiating Team* shall comprise of a *Counsel* and a *Client* respectively.
3. In the *Preliminary Rounds*, the same participant shall not take the *role of client or counsel twice*, i.e., they cannot play the same roles for both rounds. However, from the *Advanced Rounds*, the participants shall *choose their preferred roles* for each round.
4. No team shall be accompanied to the competition venue by any *Coach/Instructor*.

IV. *Regístration*

The Competition will be conducted in *two distinct phases*: the *Preliminary Rounds* and the *Advanced Rounds*. The *Preliminary Rounds* will be held in *online mode on 22nd February 2025*.

The top 16 teams from the *Preliminary Rounds* will qualify for the *Advanced Rounds*, which will take place on *15th and 16th March 2025 in offline format*. These rounds will be hosted at the *National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi*.

Participants shall complete the registration by paying the required fees and filling the registration form within the prescribed dates.

Preliminary Rounds

1. Provisional Registrations

- Universities interested in reserving a slot for their team can provisionally register their university through the following link. The form should be duly filed on or before January 20, 2025.
- **Provisional Registration form:**
<https://forms.gle/9ky1E6hmPVtKYnbt5>
- *Dates: 20th December 2024 - 20th January 2025*

2. Final Registrations

- Eligible Teams are required to complete the Final Registration Process by duly filling out the Registration Form on or before 15th February, 2025. The link for the final registration shall be sent to the teams selected via email.
- To complete the Final Registration, the Teams are required to transfer the registration fees of *Rs. 1300 per person*. The mode for payment shall be intimated to the Teams later.
- Once the registration fee is paid, the registration of the team as a Participating Team is confirmed, and such teams will be assigned respective Team Codes.
- Failure to complete the Final Registration process or to submit payment for the Registration Fee may result in the forfeiture of the allotted slot of the applicant team. The Competition
- Administrator reserves the right to replace the team with another from the pool of applicants at their discretion.
- Any amount paid for the purpose of final registration is non-refundable.
- *Dates: 22nd January 2025 - 15th February 2025*

Advanced Rounds

The top 16 teams that qualify the Preliminary Rounds shall complete the second phase of registration within the prescribed dates to participate in the Advance Rounds.

1. Registration for Advanced Rounds

- Participating Teams who have qualified to the Advanced Rounds are required to confirm their offline participation at the campus of NUALS, Kochi by transferring the registration fees of **Rs. 1000 per person** on or before 10th March, 2025.
- Dates: *25th February 2025 - 10th March 2025*

2. Accommodation

- Participating Teams who have qualified to the Advanced Rounds may avail the accommodation facilities provided by the Organising Committee by registering for the same on or before 10th March, 2025.
- The Participating Teams availing accommodation are required to pay a fee of **Rs. 750 per night per person** before 10th March, 2025 to confirm their slot.
- Dates: *25th February 2025 - 10th March 2025*

V. Competition *Format* and *Rules*

1. A mediation session will consist of two opposing client-counsel pairs who will try to resolve a dispute in the presence of two mediators. Each of the two mediators will be marked individually. The client-counsel pair shall be marked as a Negotiating team.
2. The Competition consists of the following rounds:
 - a. Preliminary Rounds (Online)
 - b. Octa Final Round
 - c. Quarterfinal Round
 - d. Semifinal Round
 - e. Final Round

Preliminary Rounds

1. Session Rules

- a. In the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall participate in two rounds, representing both the requesting and the responding parties. The party that a team shall represent during a round will be informed to them beforehand.
- b. Each Preliminary round shall be 60 minutes (including the time for the Caucus).
- c. The Confidential Information for the Preliminary Rounds shall be released 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- d. The Preliminary Rounds will be evaluated and scored by a Judge nominated by the Competition Administrator.
- e. The top 16 Negotiating Teams and Mediators from the Preliminary Rounds ranked based on the standardised scores shall qualify for the Octa Final Round.

2. Virtual Participation Rules

Platform:

- a. The participants are expected to join their respective Cisco Webex rooms 15 minutes before the round starts. The Mediators for the round are expected to join the Webex link or be present in the allocated room half an hour before the round starts and from there, they would be shifted to the break-out rooms, where they can discuss and prepare with their co-mediator.
- b. The Audio and Visual Checking shall take place 10 minutes before the rounds.
- c. If a team fails to join the meeting link on time and there is a delay of over 10 minutes, then the team shall not be allowed to participate in that round. The presence of both members of the negotiating team is necessary for the entirety of the round.
- d. The Participants must keep their cameras ON, for the entirety of the Mediation Session.

Nomenclature

- e. The Naming Convention for the participants shall be their Team Code and Role. It will be written as "TC No._Client" OR "TC No._Counsel" OR "TC No._Mediator". For e.g., TC12_Client, TC12_Counsel, TC14_Mediator. The teams are requested to follow the aforementioned naming convention to name themselves in the Cisco Webex Meeting.

Digital Requirements

- f. Each team member must use a separate device to join the round. If the team joins using the same device, the judges will not mark their participation for that time period.

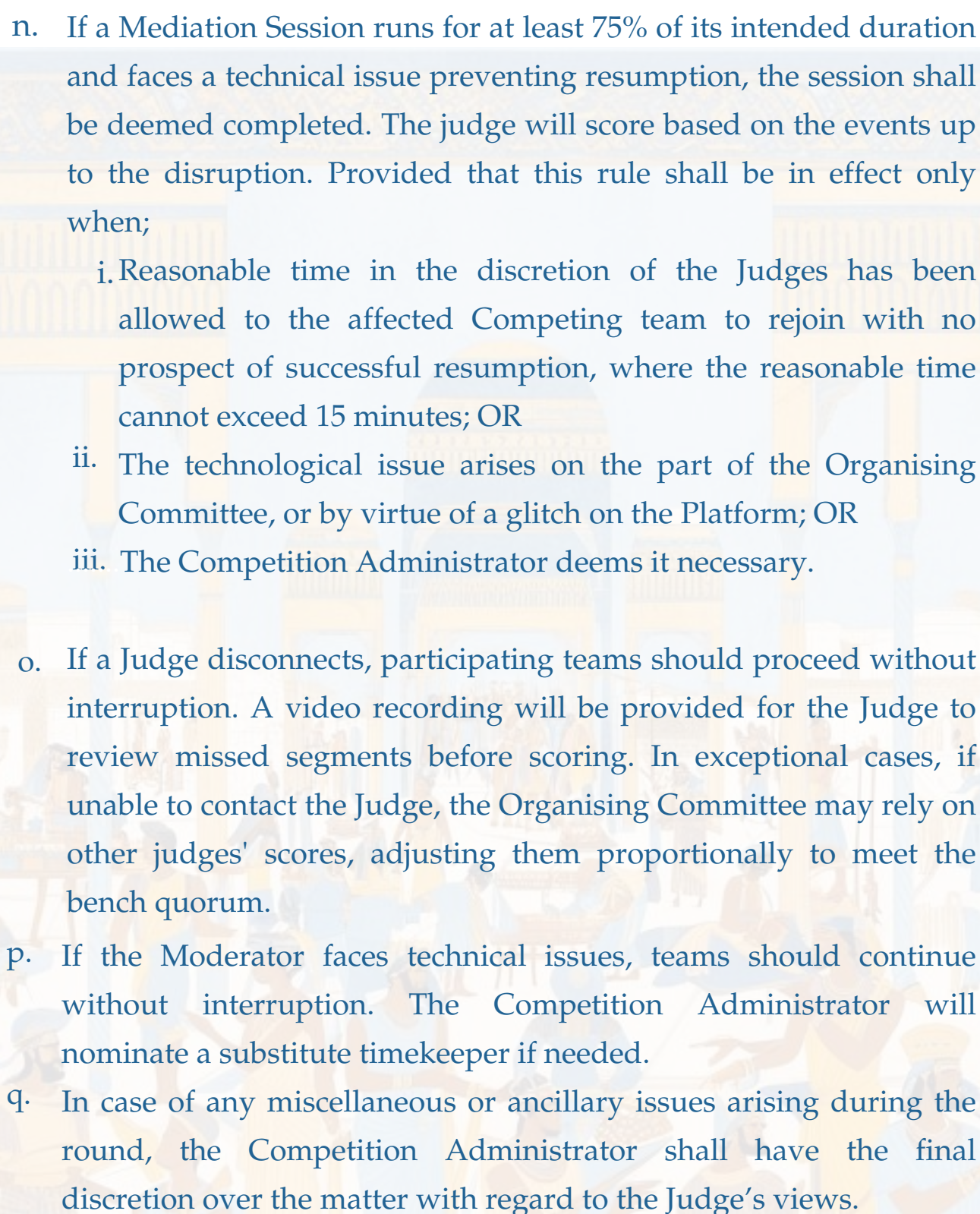
- g. Participants must find a quiet, private location with reliable internet, power, good lighting, and acoustics. They should participate independently without any third-party assistance or presence in the background.
- h. Teams must ensure a **minimum 2 MBPS internet speed**, and have a UPS/Battery Backup for the electronic device (laptop or desktop) used in the competition. A backup internet connection is mandatory in case of primary connection failure.
- i. Only Negotiators and Mediators can speak during the Mediation Session, with Judges providing feedback afterwards. The Moderator may speak in exceptional circumstances. All others must keep their microphones on “Mute” during the session.

Punctuality

- j. Teams are required to **join 15 minutes before** their scheduled rounds.
- k. A delay in joining the rounds of up to 10 minutes due to technical difficulties will be condoned.
- l. Teams that are late for their rounds beyond 10 minutes from the scheduled time shall be disqualified and the opposition team shall be matched with a Dummy Team which will be provided by the Organising Committee. The Competition Administrator shall have full discretion to take any decision in this regard.

Technical Issues

- m. In the event a technical issue encountered by a Participating Team disrupts a Mediation Session, the Mediation Session shall be paused to allow for the technical issue to be resolved.

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- n. If a Mediation Session runs for at least 75% of its intended duration and faces a technical issue preventing resumption, the session shall be deemed completed. The judge will score based on the events up to the disruption. Provided that this rule shall be in effect only when;
- i. Reasonable time in the discretion of the Judges has been allowed to the affected Competing team to rejoin with no prospect of successful resumption, where the reasonable time cannot exceed 15 minutes; OR
 - ii. The technological issue arises on the part of the Organising Committee, or by virtue of a glitch on the Platform; OR
 - iii. The Competition Administrator deems it necessary.
- o. If a Judge disconnects, participating teams should proceed without interruption. A video recording will be provided for the Judge to review missed segments before scoring. In exceptional cases, if unable to contact the Judge, the Organising Committee may rely on other judges' scores, adjusting them proportionally to meet the bench quorum.
- p. If the Moderator faces technical issues, teams should continue without interruption. The Competition Administrator will nominate a substitute timekeeper if needed.
- q. In case of any miscellaneous or ancillary issues arising during the round, the Competition Administrator shall have the final discretion over the matter with regard to the Judge's views.

Advanced Rounds

1. Advanced Rounds include the Octa Final, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final Rounds.
2. In the Advanced Rounds, each team shall participate only in **one round per stage**. The party that a team shall represent during a round will be informed to them beforehand.

Octa Final Round

3. The Top 16 Negotiating Teams and Mediators in the Preliminary Rounds shall Participate in the Octa Final Round.
4. Each Octa Final Round will be for a duration of **60 minutes** (including the time for the Caucus).
5. The Negotiating Teams will be provided with the **Confidential Information 30 minutes** before the commencement of the rounds.
6. The Octa Final Rounds will be evaluated and scored by a Judge nominated by the Competition Administrator.

Quarterfinal Round

7. The top 8 Negotiating Teams and the top 8 Mediators ranked based on the **standardised score in the Octa Final Round** shall qualify to the Quarterfinal Round.
8. From the Quarterfinal Round onwards, the rounds will be held on a **knockout basis**. The match-ups shall be decided by a draw of lots, which shall also decide the side that the parties would be representing in the mediation session.
9. Each Quarterfinal Round will be for a duration of **60 minutes** (including the time for the Caucus).

10. The Negotiating Teams will be provided with the **Confidential Information 30 minutes** before the commencement of the rounds.
11. The Quarterfinal Round will be evaluated and scored by a panel of two Judges nominated by the Competition Administrator.

Semifinal Round

12. The match-ups shall be decided by a draw of lots, which shall also decide the side that the parties would be representing in the mediation session. In any Mediation Session, if the Mediator is of the same Institution/University as the Negotiating Team, then the
13. Mediator shall be swapped with any other Mediator randomly through a draw of lots.
14. The 4 Negotiating Teams and 4 Mediators with higher score in their respective mediation session will progress to the Semifinals.
15. Each Semifinal Round will be for a duration of **90 minutes** (including the time for the Caucus).
16. The Negotiating Teams will be provided with the **Confidential Information 45 minutes** before the commencement of the rounds. The Semifinal Round will be evaluated and scored by a panel of two Judges nominated by the Competition Administrator.

Final Round

11. The 2 Negotiating Teams and 2 Mediators with higher score in their respective mediation session in Semifinals will progress to the Finals.
12. The Final Round will be for a duration of **90 minutes** (including the time for the Caucus).
13. The Negotiating Teams will be provided with the **Confidential Information 45 minutes** before the commencement of the rounds.

14. The Final Round will be evaluated and scored by a panel of three Judges nominated by the Competition Administrator

Interpretation of General and Confidential Information

1. For each round, there will be one set of common facts (General Information) and different confidential information for each of the opposing Negotiating Teams.
2. The Participating Teams must rely only on the facts mentioned in the General and Confidential Information. Participants are not supposed to introduce any new facts or alter any of the facts. But they may make arguments or statements that can be reasonably inferred only from the mentioned facts, provided there is no alteration or contradiction of the original facts in any way.
3. The judges enjoy the discretion to penalise the teams for drawing unnecessary inferences to the convenience of their sides.
4. The Negotiating teams are not permitted to communicate with any person other than their registered coach after the disclosure of confidential Information. If done otherwise, it shall make the entire Team liable for immediate disqualification from the Competition. For an abundance of clarity, any part of the Confidential Information can only be disclosed to the Mediators during the joint session and the caucus.

Opening Statement

1. Every mediation session shall start with the opening statements of Mediators followed by the opening statements of the Negotiating Teams.
2. For the Preliminary Rounds, the Octa Finals and the Quarterfinals, the opening statement of each Mediator shall not exceed 5 minutes. The opening statement of each Negotiating Team shall not exceed 7 minutes.

3. For the Semifinal and Final Rounds, the opening statement of each Mediator shall not exceed 7.5 minutes. The opening statement of each Negotiating Team shall not exceed 10 minutes.

Caucus

1. The caucus is a key component of the mediation process, as it serves as a private and confidential meeting where members of one side of a dispute, are often joined by the mediator(s) to discuss options to find a solution.
2. A caucus may be called by either the mediators or any of the negotiating teams.
3. The timing of the caucus for any of the negotiating teams may not exceed the following limits: Preliminary Rounds (5 minutes), Octa Finals (7 minutes), Quarter-Finals (7 minutes), Semi-Finals (10 Minutes), Finals (10 minutes).
4. Exceeding the specified time limit will lead to a penalty for the Mediators.
5. During the caucus in the preliminary rounds, one party must leave the room or breakout room while the other party is in session. They will rejoin only when instructed by a mediator or a member of the Organising Committee. The time spent on these logistical arrangements may be excluded from consideration at the Judge's discretion.
6. During the caucus in the offline rounds, one party will be escorted out of the room by the mediator, allowing for a private caucus session with the other party, and vice versa. Mediators must ensure that the caucus session is conducted fairly and that neither party gains an undue advantage. It is the mediator's responsibility to allocate equal time to both parties for their respective caucus sessions.

Mediation Plan

1. The Mediation Plan is a preparation tool for teams to outline their interests, goals, strategies, BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement), WATNA (Worst Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement) and assess the other Party's potential interests. It helps teams understand the Problem and their own stakes, as well as anticipate what might matter to the other Party.
2. Each Negotiating Team must submit the Mediation Plan to the Organising Committee on **18th February, 2025**.
3. The Mediation Plan must adhere to the following format: **5 pages max, Times New Roman font, 12-point size, and 1.5 line spacing**.
4. Mediation Plans that do not comply with the Rules shall attract penalty.
5. Mediation Plans are not required for the Advanced Rounds.

Judges

1. The Competition Administrator will select and allocate Judges to evaluate the performance of Participants in the Competition and provide constructive feedback to enhance their mediation and negotiation skills.
2. Each Judge is required to disclose any relationships with Participants, Teams, Coaches, Universities, or Colleges that may cast doubt on their ability to perform their duties in an unbiased manner. This is important to ensure that all Judges are able to carry out their responsibilities impartially and that the integrity of the Competition is upheld.
3. In the Preliminary Rounds and Octa Finals, the participating teams will be assessed by a single Judge.
4. In the Quarterfinal and Semifinal, the participating teams will be assessed by a panel of 2 Judges.

5. In the Finals, the participating teams will be assessed by a panel of 3 Judges.
6. The Competition Administrator reserves the right to alter the number of Judges in any round.
7. The Negotiating Team shall be assessed on the criteria as provided in Annexure 1 (Scoresheet for Negotiating Team) and the Mediators shall be assessed on the criteria as provided in Annexure 2 (Scoresheet for Mediators).

Tie-breaker

Negotiating Team

1. In case there is a tie between two or more Negotiating Teams then the team with higher score in **Criterion 3 - 'Negotiation Strategy'** (Annexure 1) shall be allotted the better rank.
2. In case the tie continues, the tie shall be broken in the following order of precedence:
 - a. **Criterion 8 - Generating Creative Options**
 - b. **Criterion 5 - Effective Use of Confidential Information**
 - c. **Criterion 6 - Use of Mediator**
 - d. **Criterion 7 - Teamwork and Coordination**

Mediator

1. In case of a tie in the score of two or more Mediators, the Mediator who will receive the better rank shall be decided based on the marks secured for **Criterion 5 - 'Mediating Skills'** (Annexure 2).
2. In case the tie continues, the tie shall be broken in the following order of precedence:
 - a. **Criterion 7 - Control over the Session**
 - b. **Criterion 8 - Time Management**

- c. Criterion 6 - Conduct and Demeanor
- d. Criterion 9 - Closing Statements

General Rules

1. In cases of plagiarism or any such activities, the Organising Committee reserves the right to penalise the team(s) after an immediate enquiry.
2. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification after an immediate enquiry. Participants shall not attend any of the sessions of other teams or individuals during the competition or receive information from any person who has attended any previous rounds.
3. Participants shall not reveal their identity or university to the panel of arbitrators/mediators or Judges.
4. If any Team fails to be present in the Competition Room for the mediation rounds for more than 10 minutes even after the commencement of the session, they shall not be allowed to appear for that round.
5. The Organising Committee shall serve as the final authority for the implementation and interpretation of these Rules and of any Supplementary Rules or clarifications.
6. If there is any situation which is not contemplated in the rules, the Organising Committee's decision on the same shall be final and binding.
7. Participants are instructed to maintain mutual respect and decorum while contacting other participants or any members of the Organising Committee. Please refrain from using derogatory, disrespectful, or sexist language and remarks.

VI. *Award and Prizes*

Award	Prize
Winner - Negotiating Team	₹20,000 + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
Runners-up - Negotiating Team	₹12,000 + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
Winner - Mediator	₹12,000 + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
Runners-up - Mediator	₹7,000 + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
Best Negotiating Pair in the Prelims	₹6,000 + Internship Opportunity + Certificate of Merit
Best Mediator in the Prelims	₹3,000 + Internship Opportunity + Certificate of Merit

VII. *Code of Conduct*

General Conduct

1. All participants are expected to adhere strictly to the rules and guidelines laid down for the Competition.
2. Participants shall maintain decorum and conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession at all times during the Competition.
3. Any conduct that is deemed unethical, unprofessional, or immoral by the Organising Committee will attract strict action, which may include disqualification from the Competition.

Rules of Digital Conduct

1. Without any prejudice to other rules, the 'Digital Guidelines' shall be applicable to the online Preliminary Rounds of the Competition scheduled for 22 February 2025.
2. The Official Email and the Official WhatsApp group shall be the standard channel of communication between the registered teams and the Organising Committee
3. Every participant shall, as far as possible, participate in the online Round while being seated in a room with a professional/solid colour background.
4. The camera of the electronic device being used by the team must clearly show the participant and the surroundings of the room they are seated in.

5. In the event of any of the participant(s) in a Round facing technical issues such that they exit the Competition Room or are unable to engage properly, a time of 10 minutes shall be provided for said participants to reconnect to the Round. The affected participant must immediately contact the Organising Committee in case of any such issue and provide updates regarding the problem at their respective end.
6. The use of any electronic device other than the device used to access the Competition's video-conferencing platform is not permitted during the Round. Photographing and screen-recording the Rounds by the Teams is also prohibited.

Attire

1. Participants must be dressed in business formals (Indian or Western) throughout the duration of the Competition.

Interaction and conduct

1. Friendly and healthy interaction among participating teams and with the students of the Host College is encouraged and respected.
2. Indiscipline or inappropriate behaviour towards Judges, the Organising Committee, staff members, or student volunteers may lead to disqualification.

Prohibited Items and Behaviour

1. Carrying, possessing, or consuming liquor, cigarettes, or any other intoxicating substances is strictly prohibited. Any violation may result in disqualification.

2. The institution enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy towards sexual harassment and ragging. Participants engaging in such behaviour will be disqualified without prejudice to any legal actions that may be initiated under applicable law.

Anonymity.

1. Upon registration, each team will receive a unique Team Code, which shall be used for identification throughout the Competition.
2. Participants shall not reveal the name, identity, or affiliation of their College/University at any time during the Competition.
3. Any violation of anonymity will attract strict penalties, including possible disqualification, as determined by the Organising Committee. The decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be final and binding.

Use of Devices

1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the use of any electronic device other than the device used to access the Competition's video-conferencing platform is not permitted.
2. For the Advanced Rounds, the use of any electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the Competition rounds.

Penalty

1. Subject to the discretion of the Judge(s), the Organising Committee reserves the right to penalize teams for any violation of any rule under provided herein.

VIII. *Photography and Filming*

1. By participating in the Competition, Participants, Coaches, and Judges are deemed to have consented to the use of photography and videotaping by the Organising Committee during the entire duration of the Competition.
2. Participants, Coaches, and Judges are deemed to have agreed without any reservations to the use of their photographed images/videos by the Competition Administrator, the Host Institution, the Sponsors, and the Collaborators of the Competition. The images and videos may be used for promotional or any other purposes, on social media or otherwise.
3. Any special requests seeking exclusion(s) to the above may be conveyed to the Competition Administrator by way of an email to nualsnmc@nuals.ac.in, with the subject "Request for Exclusion from Photography/Filming", no later than February 10, 2025.

IX. *Orientation*

1. The Organising Committee shall provide an orientation session to the participants before the Preliminary Rounds.
2. During the Orientation, participants will be briefed about the details of the Competition, and they will have the opportunity to seek clarifications regarding the event.

X. Travel and Accommodation

1. Travel and accommodation arrangements for participants qualifying the Advanced Rounds will be arranged and provided by the Organising Committee, subject to Chapter IV. The travel arrangements provided will be limited to transportation between the competition venue and accommodation.
2. Detailed information regarding these arrangements will be shared with the qualifying teams after the Preliminary Rounds.
3. For any immediate queries or concerns, participants are encouraged to contact the Organising Committee directly.

XI. Grievance Redressal

1. In case of any grievances, the aggrieved party shall approach the Organising Committee or the Competition Administrator, who shall inform the Equity Committee for further actions.
2. All decisions taken by the Equity Committee shall be final and binding

XII. *Timeline*

Events	Dates
Commencement of Provisional Registration	December 21, 2024
Last date for Provisional Registration	January 20, 2025
Commencement of Final Registration	January 21, 2025
Release of General Information for Prelims	February 5, 2025
Last date for Final Registration	February 15, 2025
Last date for seeking clarifications on General Information for Prelims	February 10, 2025
Release of Clarifications on General Information for Prelims	February 15, 2025
Preliminary Rounds	February 22, 2025

Events	Dates
Release of General Information for Advanced Rounds (Octa Finals and Quarterfinals)	March 1, 2025
Last date for seeking clarifications on General Information for Advanced Rounds (Octa Finals and Quarterfinals)	March 5, 2025
Release of clarifications on General Information for Advanced Rounds (Octa Finals and Quarterfinals)	March 10, 2025
Last date for Registration for Advanced Rounds and Accomodation	March 10, 2025
Advanced Rounds - Octa Finals and Quarterfinals	March 15, 2025
Release of General Information for Semifinals and Final	March 15, 2025
Semifinal and Final Rounds	March 16, 2025

XIII. *Miscellaneous*

1. The Organising Committee's decisions on all matters related to the Competition shall be final and binding.
2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of the above rules if deemed necessary.

Contact *Us*

ADR
Secretary

Rahul Joseph Stephen
+91 86065 32655

Convener

Alan James Chittinapally
+9181398 81570

Convener

Sania Haneef
+91 89217 59693

ADR
Joint Secretary

Arvind Monipally
+91 94976 07588

Co-convener

David Ashish Pradhan
+91 99855 77993

Co-convener

Anasuya Suresh
+91 95678 65995

✉ nualsnmc@nuals.ac.in



Annexure 1

Scoresheet - Negotiating Teams

Preliminary Rounds

CRITERION	Requesting Party		Responding Party	
	Client	Counsel	Client	Counsel
Opening Statement (10)	/10	/10	/10	/10
Professionalism (5)	/5	/5	/5	/5
Negotiation Strategy (15)	/15	/15	/15	/15
Effective Negotiation Skills (15)	/15	/15	/15	/15
Effective Use of Confidential Information (15)	/15	/15	/15	/15

CRITERION	Requesting Party		Responding Party	
	Client	Counsel	Client	Counsel
Use of Mediator (5)	/5	/5	/5	/5
Teamwork and Coordination (10)	/10	/10	/10	/10
Generating Creative Options (15)	/15	/15	/15	/15
Time Management (5)	/5	/5	/5	/5
Mediation Plan (5)	/5	/5	/5	/5
Participant's Total (100)	/100	/100	/100	/100

In the advanced rounds, Criterion 7 - Teamwork and Coordination will have 15 marks, as Mediation Plan is not required for the advanced rounds.

Annexure 2

Scoresheet - Mediator

CRITERION	Mediator 1	Mediator 2
Opening Statement (15)	/15	/15
Establishing Working Atmosphere (10)	/10	/10
Mediation Process (10)	/10	/10
Effective Handling of Caucus (15)	/15	/15
Mediating Skills (20)	/20	/20
Conduct and Demeanor (5)	/5	/5

CRITERION	Mediator 1	Mediator 2
Control Over the Session (10)	/10	/10
Time Management (5)	/5	/5
Closing Statements (10)	/10	/10
Participant's Total (100)	/100	/100