

JONATHAN COOPER LGBTQ+ MOOTING COMPETITION RULES

1. Competitors and eligibility

- (1) The competition is open to all matriculated students of, and all visiting students at, the University of Oxford.
- (2) Competitors enter the competition and compete in teams of two.
- (3) Competitors in a given team need not be from the same College or reading the same degree.
- (4) Competitors must conduct all research and preparation for the competition without assistance from any other person.
- (5) To enter the competition, teams must comply with the instructions and deadlines in the Call for Applications.

2. Skeleton arguments and selection to compete

- (1) The Competition Organising Committee will select the 8 teams that submit the best skeleton arguments in accordance with rules 1(5), 2(3), and 2(4) to compete in the oral rounds of the competition.
- (2) Skeleton arguments will be used for selection purposes and will also be provided to the judges and competitors.
- (3) All teams should be prepared to argue either side of the mooted problem. For the purpose of selection, one skeleton argument will be considered, though both skeleton arguments have to be submitted by the date noted on the mooted schedule.
- (4) Each of the skeleton arguments must be no longer than two pages of A4 paper (size 11 font; text single-spaced; character spacing normal; margins of 2.5cm on all sides of the page). Citation of additional legislation and academic material is permitted. Citation must comply with OSCOLA.
- (5) Each of the skeleton arguments must set out:
 - a. the court and the names of the parties;
 - b. the party on whose behalf the skeleton argument is submitted;
 - c. the major arguments that counsel intends to make, accompanied by appropriate reference to authorities;
 - d. counsels' names.
- (6) The skeleton arguments need not include a summary of the facts.

3. Format of the oral rounds

- (1) The competition will be held in person on Saturday, 11 February 2023.

- (2) It is intended that 8 teams will compete in the Quarter Finals, 4 teams in the Semi-Final, and 2 teams in the Grand Final. The Organising Committee has discretion to increase the team numbers should the written submissions of commendable quality exceed 8 teams.

Quarter-final stage

- (3) In the Quarter Finals, each team will argue the moot problem only once. Each team will be randomly allocated as counsel for one of the parties. Teams will be notified of the outcome of this allocation shortly after the second skeleton argument is submitted.
- (4) The judge of each moot in the Quarter Finals will award each team a score out of 100. No draws will be permitted.

Semi-final stage

- (5) In the Semi-Finals, a coin will be tossed by a member of the Organising Committee to determine which team argues on behalf of which party.
- (6) The judge of each moot in the Semi-Final will award each team a score out of 100. No draws will be permitted.
- (7) In each Semi-Final moot, the team with the higher score will qualify for the Grand Final.

Grand Final

- (8) A coin will be tossed by a member of the Organising Committee to determine which of the two qualifying teams will argue on behalf of which party.
 - a. The Grand Final will be judged by three to five judges.
 - b. The Grand Final judges will award each team a score out of 100.
 - c. No draw will be permitted.
 - d. The team with the higher score will be the winner of the Mooting Championship. The other team will be the runner-up.

4. Conduct of moots

- (1) Any case law may be cited during the moots, as well as academic writing or other material, provided the materials were listed in the relevant skeleton argument.
- (2) It is permissible to refer to legislation.
- (3) A member of the Organising Committee will keep time in the moots.
- (4) Time and duration: In each of the competition's rounds, each oralist has a maximum of 10 minutes per speech, and circa 5 minutes allocated for questioning. There is a maximum of 15 minutes per oralist.