

## **The Senior Moot Rules 2016 (as amended for 2019 competition only)**

1. These Moot Rules apply to the Senior Moot 2019 for which, subject to Rule 2 and any specific ruling by the Moot Director, students on the following programmes are eligible, namely BPTC (full-time and both years of part-time students), LPC, GDL, LLM and GE LLB.
2. All 64 of the available slots for 2019 have been allocated.
3. The 64 competitors will be reduced at the conclusion of Round 1 whereby one winner per Round 1 moot is entered for Round 2.
4. The 16 Round 2 competitors will be reduced at the conclusion of Round 2 whereby the top 4 competitors will be entered for the Finals in Round 3.
5. On entry by correct and full completion of an available slot, a competitor will have been informed of the identity of the relevant moot judge. It is the responsibility of each competitor to obtain and use the email details of each relevant judge, co-counsel and opposing counsel correctly and for the proper purposes of the moot in accordance with these Rules and any Instructions or Timetable placed on the Moot Module.
6. The moot problem will remain the same for each Round. This will appear on the mooring section of Moodle before 24<sup>th</sup> December.
7. In respect of each Round, there is a Documents Submission Period which is inflexible. For the semi-final this will be **between 3 and 6 pm on Tuesday 5 February (this is the same for all competitors regardless of the date of their moot)**. Submissions which are too early or too late are equally out of time. Moot judges are not able to grant extensions. Moot judges are not required to notify competitors as to compliance or non-compliance with the Documents Submission Period.
8. During the Documents Submission Period each competitor must submit by email in electronic form only to the judge (1) his typed Skeleton Argument and (2) a maximum of 5 authorities (meaning cases reported or text extracts) they rely on including any mentioned in the Problem (preferably with passages relied on clearly specified in the Skeleton Argument) and (3) any statutory materials or EU law relied on which must also be supplied by email at the same time but which do not count as part of the limited 5 authorities. There is no set length for a Skeleton Argument and the skill shown in drafting that document is something that the judge may take into account.

9. During the Documents Submission Period each competitor must submit by email to co-counsel and opposing counsel the documents required by Rule 8 to be submitted to the judge. The relevant email for these purposes is that supplied by the other competitors to the Moot Module, being the City University-assigned student email.
10. Non-compliance with Rule 8 and Rule 9 without good reason may result in the competitor being debarred from the competition. Competitors should inform the Moot Director of any non-compliance immediately upon the closure of the Documents Submission Period. The judge will be entitled to take into account any failure to comply with the Documents Submission on the part of any competitor.
11. Subject to rule 10, non-compliance with Rule 8 and 9 must be rectified within 48 hours of the expiry of the Documents Submission Period, failing which the competitor will be debarred from the competition.
12. At the hearing of the Moot each competitor shall bring for the judge a suitable Bundle comprising own Skeleton and a copy of any authority or other materials required to be submitted by Rule 8. Competitors are required to use their common-sense about this.
13. Where a competitor is debarred, the Round shall, subject to any ruling of the judge, continue otherwise unaffected.
14. The Rounds take place in public.
15. No Counsel shall concede a point of law.
16. In respect of each Round, the judge will hear each competitor in accordance with the following order: Leading Counsel for the Appellant (5 mins opening the facts if so requested by the judge plus) 10 mins; Leading Counsel for the Respondent (10 mins); Junior Counsel for the Appellant (10 mins); Junior Counsel for the Respondent (10 mins). The roles of Counsel will be definitively assigned on sign-in at the Moot Module or thereafter by the Moot Director without obligation to consult with competitors.
17. The judge may ask questions of each competitor, and lengthy additional time resulting therefrom will, subject to the judge's ruling, not form part of the assigned address time. Time-keeping is the responsibility of each competitor but the ruling of the judge is final in the event of any disagreement.
18. There is no right of reply. Counsel must address the judge confined to the notified authorities permitted under Rule 8 and may comment upon the authorities referred to in Skeletons by opposing counsel but must do so during the original 10 mins time allotted for their own address.

19. The judge will at the conclusion of each Round announce which person has won. The decision is final. The judge is not obliged to supply reasons and will not deliver judgment on the merits of the case. He may in his absolute discretion choose to give feedback on performances to the competitors.
20. The moot performance criteria for the judge are in his absolute discretion but are likely to include: quality of submitted Skeleton, quality of legal argument, persuasiveness, quality of oral presentation, courtesy to all participants. All submitted Skeletons must be the original work of the competitor.
21. The dress code for the Moot Finals in Round 3 is formal, meaning suitable for non-robed court appearance. Earlier rounds are also in public and the same dress code advised but not required.
22. Prizes may be awarded to the Finals Moot Winner and to the Second Place Winner and to the other Finalists.
23. This Moot does not create legal relations and proceeds on a grace and favour basis. Competitors are expected and required to behave in a courteous and ethical manner at all times.
24. All matters relating to these Rules shall be finally decided by the Moot Director in her absolute discretion and without any obligation to consult with any person. The Moot Director is entitled at any time in her absolute discretion to change the Moot Rules and /or the Instructions and/ or Timetable and/ or operating terms of the Moot Module including in every case with retrospective effect. The overall benefit of the competition as opposed to the interests of an individual competitor is a primary concern of the Moot Director.
25. The current identity of the Moot Director will be on the Moot Module. Until otherwise notified on the Moot Module, the present Moot Director for the Senior Moot and for the purposes of these Rules is Lynne Townley.
26. Competitors are responsible for their own reading of these Rules and may only in exceptional circumstances request guidance from a moot judge or the Moot Director. There is no obligation on the part of the moot judge or Moot Director to respond to any such request.